This is not an article about a need to air-condition the church.

It is about wonderful worship during the summer here at Brecksville United Methodist Church. Here are some sizzlers already experienced:

Summer is lemonade season! Thanks to Jeff Hastings, we have lemonade fellowship every week after the 10:00 service. AND we now use plastic, washable cups instead of Styrofoam!

Summer is graduation season! Our first summer schedule Sunday was a day to recognize graduates from High School and college.

Summer is singing season! We get to blend voices and musical styles on summer Sundays, led by Craig Kotnik’s acoustic guitar at 8:30 and our worship band (Bob Hudacek, Brandon Calovini, and Laina Culley), at 10:00. We’ve seen familiar and new faces as music leaders and soloists, and summer choir is an intergenerational opportunity the last Sunday of each month.

Summer is a green season! Our theme for this summer is “The Earth is the Lord’s” and we have been able to explore all sorts of ideas about our theology of living as part of God’s created world.

Summer is family season! This summer a different family each week is taking on the task of ushering/greeting at the 10:00 service. Make sure to say hello and support them. There are still a couple of Sundays left for your family to try this out.

Summer is a fun season! We get to try some different worship elements in the summer, like guided meditations for Calls to Worship and praying holding hands at 8:30. In August, we will hear from those who attended the Youth Service Project on August 8 and have a pet blessing on August 15, at both services each time.

Come to worship this summer and enjoy a unique season of prayer, music, and friendship. Bring a friend or neighbor. Summer is also a season to share.
A headline in today’s paper (July 14) caught my eye; President Obama has announced a new, national HIV/AIDS policy. I was surprised to learn that this is the first nation-wide policy instituted to combat AIDS. I was also heartened to hear that the policy contains plans and funding not only for treatment, but also prevention, education, and support for those living with HIV/AIDS. The president spoke of the justice issue related to the treatment of infected persons. I found all of this encouraging. But not new.

The United Methodist Church has been involved in such activities for many years now. Global health has indeed become one of the cornerstones of UM action and mission in the world. At the 2004 General Conference the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund was established, a funding arm of the United Methodist Committee on Relief—UMCOR. Projects to receive funding were identified around the globe. At the same time, there was recognition that AIDS is also a crisis in the United States. 25% of the funds raised are to be used locally by the conference raising them, wherever that locally is.

I went through and reviewed some of the projects listed as part of this initiative. They included education, prevention, and treatment. Many projects include care for widows and orphans left behind in the wake of AIDS devastation. Some provide education and support for those stigmatized by the disease. This is even more of a problem in other countries than in the US. Justice, indeed. In other words, we are already engaged in the struggle against HIV/AIDS. But it is a struggle that requires national and international scope.

We read again and again of the way Jesus dealt with the sick. He did not ask how they became sick, or treat diseases differently. He touched, he healed, he had compassion. As in all things, he showed us the way.

The church, by which I mean all Christians everywhere, remains a vital, relevant force for justice and healing in the world today. While I believe in the strength of this nation, I also believe in the united strength of the followers of Jesus. We are called, constantly, to be about the business of God in the world.
Thank You, Committee Members

As we work to finalize our committee rosters for the upcoming year, we want to take a moment to thank those who have served this past year:

Chairpersons:
Leslie Miller, Ad Board
Amy Hazelton, Commission On Education
Craig Czarnota & Becky Gezze, Evangelism
John Scott, Finance Committee
Catherine Vastartis & Donna Sibits, Missions
Lucy Fesler, Staff Parish Relations
Bob Lundholm, Trustees
Bev Huber, Worship Committee

Committee Members:
Sally Becker  Kathy Holmes
Kelsey Hogan  Nancy Lundholm
Joe Holmes  Melissa AuWerter
Leslie Selig  Robin Wilson
John Dietrich  Phil Hines
Jeff Hastings  Gretchen Mates
George Sendrey  Bryan Miller
Carol Wilson  Michelle Orr
John Falko  Kendall Lancaster
Gail Huth  Ruby Ludwig
David Brown  Cathy Buttolph
Kristi Eberhardt  Greg Decker
Mary Jane Matts-Slifcak  Brian Culley
Doug Huth  Donna Culley
Amy Piorkowski  Jeff Schillo
Dick Hayes  Tish Kwiatkowski

Look for new committee lists in the next issue of the Good Word!

You are cordially invited...

...to the wedding ceremony of Lisa Drew and Tony Kropinak on September 4 here at the church! All church members are welcome, but the bride and groom need your help. If you are planning to attend the wedding and/or the reception, please sign the RSVP clipboard in the Parlor by August 8. Lisa says, “Tony and I love you all and are grateful for your love and support!”
What a great time we all had at VBS this year! So many adult and youth volunteers came forward to make this an enjoyable week for the children. We played games, sang songs, had spacey snacks, made crafts and learned some science while we built stronger personal relationships with God. The Middle Schoolers met in the park and reflected on the beauty of God’s natural world and our duty to be good stewards of the land. More than 60 kids took part in VBS this year and, I think all would agree, it was a “blast”. - Jenny Gee

The focus of the VBS Mission project this year was collecting money to eventually purchase a well for the Camphor Mission in Liberia. We talked about water and water filtration during the science sessions in VBS. We were able to reflect on how blessed we are to have clean fresh water come out of our tap anytime we desire. We looked at maps and a globe to see areas of the world which do not share in this abundance of fresh, potable water.

In the past few years the United Methodist Church has taken a strong interest in helping the people of Liberia secure the basic necessities for life, including safe, potable drinking water. Please have a conversation with your family at the dinner table and prayerfully consider what you would be willing and able to donate to this worthy cause. If you are able to donate, please mark your envelope “Blessed to have Fresh Water”. Checks can be made payable to Brecksville United Methodist Church. We will keep you updated on the progress of the collection.
Thank you for your donation to the Midwest Mission Distribution Center.

The work at the MMDC continues to go well and the volunteers are busy with preparation of flood buckets and health kits, sewing school bags and children’s hospital gowns, filling school bags, and preparing mailings. In response to the January 12 earthquake in Haiti, the Center has shipped 3,571 health kits, 288 layette kits and 4,2023 school kits to UM-COR. In 2009, shipments of supplies were also sent to Afghanistan, Africa, West Africa, Cambodia, Congo, Cuba, Honduras, Haiti, Jamaica, Kenya, Liberia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Philippines, Sierra-Leone, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia.

Many lives have been touched throughout the United States and in developing countries around the world. Your gift will allow this work to continue.

Find current information concerning MMDC’s activities on our website:

www.midwestmissiondc.org

June 25, 2010
Calling all parents! On Sundays, August 29 and September 5 we will have tables set up in the Narthex. Stop by before or after service to update your child’s information so we can get everything ready for Sunday School. Remember ALL new classes, for ALL ages, start on September 12.

**Green Shift**

By Doug E. Barr

Environmental green shift plans
Are all the present rage.
The fight to clean up where we live;
A war that we must wage.

It is no doubt a worthy goal
To be pollution free;
But we can't save our Mother Earth
And not humanity.

Although clean up is not in vain
The focus is misplaced.
We should look for the reason why;
A source that can be traced.

To save ourselves we must clean up
The reasons why we live.
It's only when we take from them
That to life we can give.

The "why" we live which dominates,
That's left our earth destroyed;
With money and the stuff it buys
We try to fill the void.

It is a task, that can't be done
No matter how we try.
If we persist then it will be
The reason that we die.

Removing from our lives this waste
Will not just leave them clean.
Environmentally we'll make
A major shift to green.

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**H.O.P.E. Fund Established**

As a way of supporting church members and their families in crisis, we have chosen to HOPE. The name stands for *Hospitalization or Personal Emergency*.

The HOPE Fund will be used as a pastoral discretionary fund to help in situations where health care does not cover major illness or surgery, or where there is some sort of catastrophe or emergency requiring immediate assistance. HOPE does not take the place of insurance, but can help where insurance falls short or in the time period before it is available.

The HOPE Fund was inspired by an anonymous gift of $5,000. The giver felt moved to give for the glory of God, and encourages others to give for the same reason. That is the other reason that hope is involved. Asking for large donations in a still uncertain economy seems doubtful, but we hope! We would love to at least match the $5,000 by the end of 2010.

The emergency of Lisa Drew’s family when their home was destroyed by fire, and the concern for Joy Fenton’s sister Noel inspired love offerings. There are other situations which ask for our love, and this would be a way to respond quickly.

The HOPE Fund does not replace the Corinthian Fund, which provides gifts in smaller amounts for emergencies within our family and in the community.

Simply identify an amount in your offering to go to the HOPE Fund, or make a separate gift marked accordingly.

As Paul says, “HOPE does not disappoint us.”

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**Think "Alpha"**

Thinking of signing up for Alpha this fall? You should! Some comments shared after this spring’s session included: “*We loved the presentations.*” “*We enjoyed the fellowship and making new friends.*” “*Group discussion helped solidify my beliefs-- there were no wrong answers!*” “*The food was fantastic!*”

Each Sunday on the ten week journey, Alpha presents core truths of the Christian Faith. The format is simple; we begin with sharing a simple meal, followed by a time of music and worship. Next, a well constructed talk is presented, followed by a round table discussion centered on the talk of the evening.

*Our next class will begin on Sept 12 and end on Nov 14.* This includes a Saturday retreat on Oct 30th. We will meet Sundays from 5-7:30pm. A donation of $5 per week covers food and materials. Child care will be provided.

If you have questions contact anyone from the spring class or call the office. Registration will begin in August. Those interested in being part of the next Alpha team, watch for information on our first planning meeting. Check your calendars... Bring a friend!
Save the Date!

The Music Board is excited to announce a unique evening in support of our Concert Series here at Brecksville United Methodist Church. On Saturday, November 6, we will enjoy an evening of Latin American-themed music and entertainment at West 78th Street Studios on the near west side.

78th Street Studios is an art community that houses local artists, providing both living and gallery space. Attendees will have the opportunity to enjoy art by area talent throughout the evening. In addition, the event will feature:

- Live music by Noel Quintana and his 11-piece band
- FREE salsa and merengue lessons offered on the hour by instructor Joe Fornadel
- Plenty of Latin-themed food and drinks
- A silent auction to run throughout the evening

The BUMC Concert Series is fully self-supporting. It does not operate out of the regular music budget, and we rely on these special events in order to bring you such gifted ensembles as ETA3 and Manhattan Piano Trio, seen here last season. Mark your calendar, and begin to invite friends and family for what will be a fabulous evening of music and celebration!

Auction Items Needed

In preparation for our fall fundraiser, the Music Board is requesting donations of substantial items to be auctioned off in support of our BUMC Concert Series. Perhaps you have season tickets to a professional sporting event. Perhaps you hold a subscription series to the Cleveland Orchestra or Apollo's Fire. Perhaps you own a cottage or getaway home that is available for occasional use. Or you may manage a local restaurant, hotel, or other business whose goods and services would be desirable to our guests. If so, consider making a donation of your resources in support of our music program.

Thank you for your consideration!

Want to read more? Go to www.brecksvilleumc.com

2010 – 2011 Concert Series Announced!

We are pleased to welcome the following ensembles into our series this year. Please mark your calendars!

Saturday October 2
7:30 pm
Jay Krasnow 
Sons of Bach: A Concert in Recognition of the Birthday of W. F. Bach
Organ & Piano

Saturday, November 20
7:30 pm
The Cleveland Brass Quintet

Sunday, December 12
3:00 pm
Brecksville Community Chorus & Youth Chorus Concert
Gloria! A Concert Featuring Selections from the Vivaldi Gloria

Saturday, March 5
7:30 pm
The Merling Trio from Western Michigan University – Piano, Cello & Violin

Saturday, April 2
7:30 pm
The Noteworthy Duo from Vanguard University of Southern California – Guitar & Flute

June 25, 2010
MILESTONES

News of the Fellowship

If you have a special anniversary, birth, retirement, wedding, special honor or other news you would like to share, please call or e-mail Melanie.

We are sad to report that Robert Anderson has been moved into hospice care. Please keep Mr. Anderson, his daughter Katie, son Robert and their families in your prayers.

Congratulations to Laurie Riccardi who is retiring at the end of July from the Brecksville Nature Center of Cleveland Metroparks. Laurie’s looking forward to having more time to spend with her husband, Karl; her mother; and her five grandkids.

In celebration of their ten year wedding anniversary, Jeff and Kelli Buttolph will renew their wedding vows on August 7. We wish you many more years of happiness, Mr. and Mrs. Buttolph!

Take out those membership directories and grab a pencil. We’ve got some updates, as several familiar faces have moved recently.

Dorothy Jordan
200 Laurel Lake Dr Apt. W227
Hudson OH 44236-2169

Nancy Knowlton
7537 Hillbrook Oval
Brecksville OH 44141

Anne Christiansen
Pearl Crossing
19205 Pearl Rd, Unit 341
Strongsville OH 44136
440-268-9555

www.brecksvilleumc.com

Back to School Special

Time to Begin Reflecting

Although the start of the new fall Sunday School schedule is a long way off; we are asking you to take some time this summer to prayerfully consider offering yourself to others and sharing your talents. Some areas to consider:

- Help by watching our littlest family members in the crib and toddler room. We need you during first and second service as well as during the Sunday School hour.
- Have you ever considered spending time with preschoolers during Sprouts or Godly Play? These little ones are thoughtful and delightful!
- Our Rotation aged children range from 1st graders through 5th graders. The curriculum is well written and training is always available.
- 6th and 7th graders meet and discuss curriculum that goes along with the lectionary. The curriculum is interesting because it asks them to apply the lessons of the bible to their everyday life.
- 8th graders meet weekly as they prepare for their Confirmation. It is a special gift to spend time with these young people and be a part of their faith journey. The curriculum provided is well written and engaging.
- Senior High students meet and discuss current topics that are significant in their day to day life. Studies range from current events, to book studies to bible studies.
- We are always looking for interesting adult education classes. Have you read a book that really spoke to you or have a subject matter that you would like to lead a study on? We would love to have you join the teacher ranks!

Do you hear the call to teach others and be touched by the experience of discussing and sharing your faith? Contact Jenny if you are interested in leading any classes this year. We can discuss the scheduling options.

Fall is just around the corner and we are already planning amazing opportunities! We know that September shocks everyone with how fast it arrives. Here are some dates you can add to your calendar right now!!!!

- Sept 12-- 12:30 8th Grade Parent Meeting
- Sept 15-- Quest Begins
- Sept 19-- Middle School Bike Ride and Picnic
- Sept 26-- Middle School Fall Fun Day at Camp Asbury
- Sept 26-- High School Fall Fun Day at Camp Asbury

Save the Date! Our YSP reunion celebrating 20 years of service will be held Dec. 29th. We are looking for alumni of ASP/YSP so we can celebrate! Please give addresses and email addresses to Melanie ASAP. We will be looking for photos and memories from alumni as well as a few people to help organize the party. Let Lisa know if you’d like to help.

Soul Quest is a new program beginning this Fall for all 9-12 graders. More information will follow, but it will begin the week of Sept 12. Games, Bible study, snacks, and laughter will be included. Friends will be welcome and this will be a great chance to invite friends who don’t have a church family of their own. Watch your mail in the upcoming weeks for more information. Lisa is looking for help with the program so let her know if you are an adult willing to work with teenagers!
August

**BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH**

1 John Dietrich
1 Daniel Jaszczak
1 Sally Jones
1 Letitia Kwiatkowski
1 Austin Smith
2 Susan Hurst
2 Katrina Orr
2 Nicholas Orr
2 Kaitlyn Robinson
3 Bennett Eberhardt
3 Karen Fisher
3 Jeffery Hastings
3 Steven Vastartis
3 John Zawada
4 Kristi Eberhardt
4 Joan Filips
4 Judith Novak
5 Karen Walburn
5 Franklin Pasek
6 Dean Campbell
6 Megan Filips
7 Joan Martin
7 Mary Jane Opatrny
8 Jeffrey Mihalich
8 James Rollins
9 Laina Culley
9 Elizabeth Monnin
10 Valorie Bender
10 Allison Engler
11 Beth Dadas
11 Maddie Holt
11 Heather Manocchio
12 Trey Shively
12 Brad Toman
12 Mark Vastartis
13 John Galik
14 Lue Andree
14 Aleyna Gee
14 Lois Markley
14 David Meek
14 Karen Oehl
14 Barbara Tereshko
15 Kathleen Auble
15 Charles Gezze
15 Wayne Bilek
17 Matthew Johnson
17 Karin Meyer
17 Anastasia Welchel
18 Laverne Ahrens
18 George Diver
18 Nancy Lundholm
18 Sarah Lundholm
18 Robert Tschannen
19 Robin Engler
19 Joa Olszo
20 Roger Wadsworth
20 Robert Wilson
21 Gracie Auble
21 Mark Robinson
21 Nathan Robinson
21 Rebecca Urso
21 Jill Zawada
22 Patricia Fowler
22 Ann Zupanc
24 Margaret Anderson
24 Chelsea Croy
24 Andrew Dorman
24 Helen Lee
24 Christopher Nurre
24 Bridget Gee
27 Amelia Guell
27 DianePidwell
28 Nancy Cunningham
28 Janet Nelson
28 Donald Southam
29 Kristin Bisco
29 James Hocutt
30 Margaret Haseley
30 Patricia Neville
31 Andrew Scott

**Too Hot?**

Has the hot summer weather been keeping you home on Sunday mornings? While we don’t have air conditioning in the Sanctuary, we do have air conditioning in The Parlor. Starting this Sunday and throughout the summer, the air conditioner will be in use in the Parlor for those who need a cool place to sit during worship.

**Zumba Fitness**

Free Zumba classes are coming to BUMC in August, each Saturday from 9:30 to 10:30 in Fellowship Hall. Zumba is a high-energy aerobic routine, which includes a little bit of everything: dance and interval and resistance training, all set to Latin music. Bring a friend and try it while the classes are free in August. The instructor will charge a small fee for each class beginning September 11.

**Window Replacement**

Replacement of our sanctuary windows began on July 19, with the west wall. If all goes according to plan, all of the windows will be replaced by the end of July!

Want to read more? Go to www.brecksvilleumc.com  
June 25, 2010
### August 2010

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<th>Sun</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 Outdoor Worship</td>
<td>6:30 Women’s Emmaus</td>
<td>9:30 Staff Mtg</td>
<td><strong>Dawnbreakers is on vacation this month. See you in September!</strong></td>
<td>7:30 Band Practice</td>
<td>7 Emmaus Reunion</td>
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<td>10 Sanctuary Worship</td>
<td><strong>Super Tuesday!</strong></td>
<td>9:30 Staff Mtg</td>
<td><strong>1-7 BLOOD DRIVE</strong></td>
<td>7 Taizé Prayer Service</td>
<td>7 Emmaus Reunion</td>
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<td>9:30 Northeast Ohio Chrysalis</td>
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<td><strong>8 YSP Sunday</strong></td>
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<td><strong>August 29—Consider.</strong> Psalm 1:3; Leviticus 23:39-43; Matthew 6:25-33</td>
<td>29 Rally Day</td>
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<td>7:30 Staff Parish Relations</td>
<td>7 Council on Education</td>
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**Summer Church Office Hours:** Monday - Thursday, 8:30 - 4:30. Friday, 8:30 - 12:30.

www.brecksvilleumc.com  
*Need more information? Check the on-line calendar for details!*