

Legislative Committee 6: Missions

THE LIGHTHOUSE: A UNITED METHODIST COMMUNITY CENTER

Margaret S. Butler, Director

On September 4, 2009, The Lighthouse will be ten years old. Over the years, we have grown and we have become a solid voice and presence in the Newburg/Norfolk communities. As new families move into the community, it is our work to see that they know about the opportunities here at The Lighthouse. I Corinthians 3:6-7, (paraphrased). As co-workers with God, we plant the seeds and water. God is the only one who can cause growth. Our work here at The Lighthouse is to help children and youth improve socially, academically, and grow spiritually in Christ.

Two additional programs are now available to reach the adult members of the families academically and socially. Through partnerships with Jefferson County Public Schools and R. L. Administrative Technology, we are able to offer adults the opportunity to earn their GED and complete computer training in Microsoft.

This eight week Microsoft course offers much more than just computer training. It helps you prepare a resume, perfect your writing skills, and through mock interviews, helps you seek employment in the real work world. Appropriate dress to wear on job interviews is discussed. Critiques of each other's work help build self esteem and confidence as you progress through the course.

Last fall we were fortunate enough to get a network engineering student from Daymar College as a tutor in mathematics. Mr. Mohammad had great rapport with the children. In addition to helping with math, he also gave them a lesson in geography. He had them find his home of Senegal in Africa.

Seventeen of our twenty students read more than ten books last summer. We were fortunate enough to have the bookmobile weekly on site. As an endorsed site for Every-1-Reads, I was extremely proud of our reading success.

Between 4H camp and Camp Lucon, we sent nine young people to overnight camp. This was our first experience with 4H camp. We received two partial camperships and were able to register a male and female youth.

We had twenty young dancers to participate in the ArtsReach Showcase for Community Centers. They performed on stage at the Bomhard Theater. They were sensational.

Many activities are offered to the children and youth of these communities, and perhaps one of the most important is Camp Shakespeare. Last summer's production was *A Midsummer's Night Dream*. Performers in Camp Shakespeare must use all their abilities. They must learn their lines, make their props and costumes, and present the play. Twenty young people commit to two weeks of hard work.

We have had great success in our music program. By the end of the spring semester, we hope to have a small orchestra. It will consist of strings, percussion, and a wind instrument.

I have Rev. Trish Smith to thank for conducting a two day Bible Camp using *The Way of The Child*. The main emphasis was on teaching children to pray. They learned to find the quietness within. What a blessing.

After ten years, I can still say it is a joy to be involved at The Lighthouse. It is not easy. It is not difficult. It is a joy. Please pray that God will continue to use us here at The Lighthouse. Pray that we will indeed be that light that our children and youth need.

For information only