

The Harmony Grit

Robert Fletcher Hardy, IV, Pastor

December, 2007

"Nothing But Nets" Campaign a Success!

African children are dying at a rate of one every thirty seconds from malaria. The disease is transmitted by mosquitoes and infects nearly 500 million people each year. Ninety percent of the deaths by malaria occur in Africa. Survivors often experience life-long health complications. While the disease has been controlled or eliminated in most of Asia, Europe and the Americas, malaria infections have increased in Africa over the past three decades. "Nothing But Nets" is a global campaign to address this serious problem. A \$10 donation will purchase and distribute an insecticide-treated bed net and educate the recipient on the proper use of the net. In addition, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation will match each donation. Can you say "Two for the price of one"? Danville District Superintendent Bruce Tuttle challenged each pastor to donate \$100 to the campaign, (our pastor met that challenge) and agreed to get his hair cut off if the district raised \$10,000. If each of the 75 churches in the district raised \$134, the goal would be met. It was announced at the District Conference on November 17th that \$10,185 had been raised. This news was greeted with glee as the assembled crowd watched the D. S. locks of hair fall to the floor. Harmony contributed \$280, double the average needed. Thanks for your support of this cause.

The December District Newsletter also included a statement that 76% of the district churches were "paid up" on the district and conference apportionments through October. In fact, Harmony has been "paid out" since February! No need waiting till the last minute to pay your bills!

District Conference Held

November 17th was the date for pastors and church leaders to gather at First UMC in Martinsville for the annual District Conference. The session opened with a time of worship in the sanctuary. There was congregational singing, special music and a message from our D.S. before the business session began. There were reports given and elections conducted. Pretty fast paced for an activity that used to last for days (50 years ago).

The conference was followed by a Leadership Training Event. There were 13 different sessions held for the pastors and local church members to attend. Topics included: Pastor Parish Relations Committee, Local Church Finances, Creation Care, Prison Ministry, Conflict Resolution, Scouting, Twelve Misconceptions about Ministry to the Unchurched, Marketing - Another Word for Evangelism, Senior Issues, Stewardship, Endowment/Planned Giving & Investment of Church Funds, and a session labeled "So I'm the Lay Leader - Now What?". Harmony was well represented in these sessions and our church should benefit from this training during the coming years. Thanks to all who attended.

Youth Meetings Galore!

Have you looked at the church calendar lately? There are meetings for our middle school youth and our high school youth at 6:30 p.m. every Sunday night at Harmony. These programs just started this fall, but are already well established and well attended. Another group is scheduled to open in January for our kindergarten to 5th grade students. There is also an Adult Bible Study class that meets at 7 p.m. on Sunday. Special thanks to our Children's Ministries team of Lauren Betterton, Dusty Williams, Debbie Flint, Kendra Hardy and Sherri Hayward.

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Here are some dates for your December Calendar!
(See the complete calendar at www.harmonyumchurch.org)

Sunday, December 2 nd @ 11 a.m.	Communion Service, 1 st Sunday of Advent
@ 12:15 p.m.	Christmas luncheon meal
Sunday, December 9 th @ 8 a.m.	Men's Breakfast and Meeting
Friday, December 21 st @ 7 p.m.	Harmony Christmas Play and Refreshments
Tuesday, December 25 th @ 11 a.m.	Worship Service
Sunday, December 30 th @ 7 p.m.	5 th Sunday Song Service @ Cascade Baptist
Monday, December 31 st @ 7 p.m.	Worship Service (and Communion)
@ 8 p.m.	Fun and Games

These events are in addition to the regular Sunday night 6:30 p.m. Youth Meeting and 7 p.m. Bible Study and the Thursday Night Meal (7 p.m.) meal Worship Service (7:30 p.m.).

December Birthdays:	4 th Allen Purgason	12 th Elmo Boaz	16 th Bobby Hardy
19 th Butch Salmons	27 th Sylvia Gray	30 th Jordan Atkinson	31 st Ann Reese

Have you seen the list of church officers and committee members for 2008? Harmony UMC adopted a slate of 94 positions at our church conference in September. There are 41 different people in leadership positions for next year. Do you know how impressive that is? We are talking about a church with less than 80 members (including children). Over two-thirds of our adult and youth congregation is helping in the work of the church. Aren't you proud to be part of such a team? Look out 2008!

Want your Grit via e-mail? How about a mp3 audio file of a Sunday Service? Send a note or request information to jrfinney99@yahoo.com, or visit our web site at www.harmonyumchurch.org.

Merry Christmas!

Happy New Year!



This is a photo from our 2006 Christmas Program. If you look closely, you will see Three Wise Men, Shepherds, Angels, Mary and Joseph, a Guiding Star and an All-Star Staff of Narrators.

Photo Courtesy of Carole Salmons