

Fillmore Free Methodist Church

2011-2012 CONFERENCE YEAR PASTOR & DELEGATE REPORT

Pastor Mike Hopper; Associate Pastor Janet Hopper; Delegate: Scott Rain

Jesus told His followers: "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field." (Matthew 9:37-38) The equipping and deployment of workers and leaders to serve Christ is an important part of our mission "to plant spiritual seeds through evangelism, cultivate spiritual growth, and harvest dedicated workers and leaders for Christ." Please join us in celebrating some of what has been accomplished toward this mission during this past conference year.

(1) Planting Spiritual Seeds (Outreach and Evangelism): During the past year, over 70 persons (mostly children) have committed their lives to Christ; other persons have taken forward steps in their faith. Two individuals gave testimony and were baptized in the nearby Root River. Outreach to children has been a priority. 173 children attended our Vacation Bible School – staffed by 80 adults and youth – and 60 children prayed to accept Christ in their lives. Several babies have been born and dedicated. Eleven new families have begun attending worship services regularly, and attendance is at an all-time high.



Our "World Missions Celebration" included a procession of national flags from the countries where Fillmore persons have served or provided finances over the past 12 months. These included the U.S., Haiti, Honduras, India, Kenya, the Philippines, and Zambia. The Fillmore Church raised over \$2,000 to put a roof on the Free Methodist Church in Buruma, Kenya. In January, a team of 11 individuals traveled to the Christian Orphanage in Azacualpa, Honduras. Ministry there included various construction projects, distributing food to nearby needy families, and Vacation Bible School - resulting in 17 boys and girls accepting Jesus Christ in their lives.

Our church has financially supported missionaries Jim & Deb Wilson in the Philippines and two children (one in Haiti and the other in Kenya) through the childcare sponsorship ministry. Around Christmas, our children and adults filled 53 shoe boxes with new toys that were delivered to children in India and Zambia through "Operation Christmas Child." In addition, the children of Vacation Bible School raised over \$1,000 for food for needy families in Honduras.

About 50 men attended an outreach game, pizza, and movie ("Courageous") night at the Fillmore Church. The prayer quilt ministry has reached out to hurting families. The Fillmore Church supports the Olive Branch Mission in Chicago.



Our church also prayerfully supports persons serving away from the church. Attenders of this church have been encouraged to share their faith wherever they go; and many are doing it.

(2) Cultivating Spiritual Growth (Spiritual Growth Encouragement): Spiritual growth has been encouraged in the lives of children and youth through Sunday School. In addition, about 10 Bible quizzers competed this season in tournaments in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Illinois; brought home several trophies; and memorized many Bible verses. Our quiz team placed 3rd in their division at the National Bible Quiz Finals in Spring Arbor, MI. In addition, about 10 children and youth benefited from the ministry of our conference Sky Lodge Camp. Several children's social events were held including a movie / game / dinner night at the church; a Harvest Hoe-Down with Trunk R Treating; and a Christmas program / potluck activity.



Opportunities for spiritual growth for adults have included Sunday School, home Bible studies, and our contemporary and traditional worship services. Five different Bible studies provide spiritual encouragement and instruction for about 55 adults. Four men are meeting regularly with the Pastor for mentoring / discipleship. New persons are participating in Bible studies, in Sunday School, and in the worship services. Each week those who missed the worship services receive a copy of the Sunday message (sent by e-mail or the postal service).

Between our two morning worship services, a monthly Friendship "Donut Day" Time encourages persons to get to know one another. Other social events to build relationships have included a Harvest-Time Dinner, a winter "Cabin Fever" Party, and Easter breakfast. Periodic "Girlz Nite Out" activities encouraged women in their relationship with the Lord and provided great times of fellowship. The Fillmore Church hosted a Women's Retreat Weekend at Ironwood Springs Camp with 64 local women participating. Experiencing God's Grace was the theme of this event which included uplifting worship; Bible instruction; good food; and fun activities.



(3) Harvesting (Worker and Leadership Development): An important focus of the Fillmore Church is on involving individuals in ministry. Attenders have been regularly challenged to take a spiritual gift questionnaire and explore opportunities to serve God in ministries that match their giftedness and passions. Over 125 persons are serving in some church ministry. In October, our church was stunned by the sudden logging death of one of our most active members. A number of individuals stepped forward to help cover the many ministries in which he served.

About 35 persons participated in a 4-session evangelism training seminar entitled "Share Jesus without Fear" to help them learn how to effectively lead someone to faith in Christ. Two men

attended a Men's Ministry Leadership training event for launching a men's one-to-one discipleship. Training was provided for the women who work in the church kitchen. And our pastor participated in a pastors' training event at Sky Lodge Camp. In addition, one adult was received as a full member this year

To assist the Fillmore Church in moving forward in ministry and in having a greater impact for Jesus Christ, the Fillmore Church Board of Administration created the position of "Executive Assistant to the Pastor" and hired Kelli O'Byrne who has effectively assisted in a variety of ways including organizing children's ministry and expanding the outreach of our church's ministry.

(4) Equipment for Harvesting: (Resources): On June 26, 2011, the Fillmore Church broke ground for the most recent addition – the second phase of what was designed in 2006. The Building Committee served as the overseers of this Christian Life Center expansion which includes a large (80 x 50) fellowship / recreation hall; entryway; and storage room. This new facility was dedicated on April 22nd and has already been an important tool for ministry to children, youth, and adults.



Our greatest resource is God--Whom we have approached through prayer in a variety of ways. These included the Emergency Prayer Network (about 80 persons praying), prayer in the Bible studies, pre-service prayer times in the church office, and prayer in the worship services. In addition, a prayer network of persons around the country has regularly prayed for the pastoral family and ministries of the Fillmore Church.

Over the past 18 years, Pastor Mike and Janet have enjoyed being a part of the Fillmore Church team, and are thankful to God for so many serving in some kind of ministry. As we seek to faithfully serve the Lord, we pray that the Fillmore Church will regularly send persons into the harvest fields that many lives might be transformed by the power of God. May God help the Fillmore Church team to continually honor Christ as we "plant spiritual seeds through evangelism, cultivate spiritual growth, and harvest dedicated workers and leaders for Christ."

