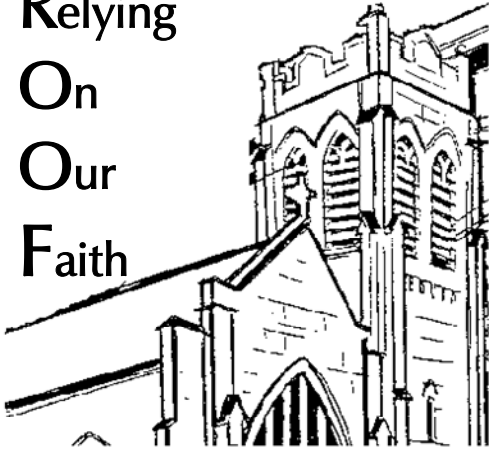


Relying On Our Faith



Gay Street United Methodist Church
18 North Gay Street ♦ Mount Vernon
Ohio 43050

July 16, 2010

Dear Church Family,

We have all experienced times of transition and change in our personal lives. These times can produce many different feelings: anxiety, uncertainty, excitement, joy, and the list goes on. Everyone deals with these situations differently, but we, as Christians, have the security of knowing that God is always watching over us. While we know this, we sometimes have to consciously remember (or be reminded) to rely on our faith during the more difficult situations.

As part of the Gay Street United Methodist Church family, we are currently going through a time of transition together - saying goodbye to Reverend Baker and welcoming Reverend Marikis. This is a change that has happened many times in the past and will continue to happen in the future. Likewise, some of the neighbors that sit beside us on Sunday mornings change over time; new faces coming, others mov-

ing on. And every year, it seems like the young adults being honored on graduation Sunday were just singing in the children's choir the week before.

One easily recognizable constant throughout these changes is the church building. In its eighty-four years, it has seen many changes, some directly affecting it. Throughout, it has provided a safe, dry place for us to worship, baptize, marry, and bury. Just as our homes are filled with memories, so is this building – our church home. So that we can continue to worship and make new memories for many years into the future, and for future generations, it will take everyone's prayers and support.

As you've been hearing for the past couple of months, the severity of last winter caused substantial damage to the roof, eaves, and gutters. After asking for recommendations and pricing from several companies, the Trustees made the difficult decision to replace the roof. The slate will be replaced with a standing seam metal roof, the flat roof will be replaced with a PVC membrane, and all gutters and downspouts will be replaced with steel. We have contracted with Meade Construction out of Fredericktown to do the work and they will be ready to start later this summer.

With the size of our church, replacing the roof is a large undertaking, in square footage and monetarily. The roof covers an area of 20,000 square feet and its replacement is estimated at \$304,500, provided there is no underlying damage. This amount is nearly 57% of this year's total budget, so it is necessary for this project to have a capital funds campaign, separate from that of the annual budget. The ROOF (Relying On Our Faith) Campaign will run for the next three years. An informational brochure and pledge card are included.

We ask that you prayerfully consider your financial support for this project as you complete your pledge card. Please join us at either service on August 8, where we will worship together and collect pledge cards. If you cannot join us on August 8, a self addressed envelope has been enclosed for your convenience.

Finally, please accept the ROOF magnet as a small reminder, not just of the campaign, but of God's directive to trust in him.

Relying On Our Faith,

Robert W. Ronk
On behalf of the Roof Campaign Steering Committee