



(With Bishop John Schol and passionate GNJ Clergy & Laity)

Pastor's e-Note

Morristown United Methodist Church (10/25/2017)

Dear Morristown Church Family and Friends,

Greetings. Hope this note is finding you and your loved ones well in God's grace.

Over this last weekend, 34 leaders and I from GNJ attended "The All People Conference" at the Church for All People UMC in Columbus, OH. This is the church which was organized by Rev. John Edgar 14 years ago who had the vision of developing a vital inner city mission and ministry in the heart of Columbus. While serving as the D.S. of the area, he was given an opportunity to develop it as its "new church plant" pastor.

He and a small band of new church members began with a simple "free store" for anyone in the community to come and shop for clothing for free! And, it grew and grew. Soon, they began to develop affordable housing in partnership with the city and construction companies. We saw many homes that have been renovated and condominium buildings that have been newly built as a part of their affordable housing ministry for people. So far, they have generated 60 million dollars for this housing ministry. They now have a bike shop because so many people in the neighborhood use bicycles as the primary means of transportation.

We attended several workshops to gain more hands-on insights and information on how to develop a healthy church with mission and how to develop community. Their worship services were filled with joy and love.

This church is guided by the following three principles:

- **Build up RELATIONSHIPS.**
- **Build up THE BODY OF CHRIST.**
- **Build up THE FRONT PORCH OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD.**

As a church located between a poor section and a rich section of Columbus, Rev. John and his congregation are building up an all-inclusive multi-cultural and multi-class faith community. I was proud to see the sign of their church that read: "United Methodist Church THE CHURCH FOR ALL PEOPLE." Indeed, that is who they are and what they do.

I have been doing a lot of reflection on what I have seen, experienced, and learned from this mission study trip. I will be sharing more about it with you on some of the possibilities for our church and our beloved Morristown community.

I heard that we had a great worship service last Sunday – Laity Sunday. My thanks to Kris Hansen for sharing God's Word and all the laity who participated in the service.

"WE LOVE OUR CHURCH" PLEDGE DRIVE for 2018 will kick off on Sunday, November 5th. We will dedicate our pledges on Thanksgiving Sunday/Consecration Sunday, November 19th. You and I love our church. We believe in what God is calling us to do for all God's people in the community and the world. Let's show our love for our church by: praying for it, its people and its ministry; and stepping up in our pledges by faith.

This coming Sunday is REFORMATION SUNDAY. This year marks the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation Movement. Our choir has prepared a special musical presentation to commemorate this special occasion. I will give the best sermon in town in less than 7 minutes! So, come on down and join us in worship.

Have a blessed weekend and see you in Church.

Joyfully Serving With You,

Pastor Brandon