



instead of trunks.

Frankie Weaver is the Christian Education Director and mother of three children who attended the event. She said, "I am so impressed with the number of people who have come out despite the horrible weather. Yesterday, we made the decision to hold this indoors because of the weather forecast and people had no problem switching gears to decorate doorways instead of trunks."

Frankie added, "This event seems to grow every year. Last year we had over 200 and I am so glad that this year, we have over 500 so far."

The Baldwinsville Police Department decorated the final doorway of the trick-or-treating stops. Sargent Chrissy Allen and Police Officer Bob Thibault represented the department. Officer Thibault said, "This is such a

great event. I love seeing the different costumes and people are just so kind and thankful for our participation."

Frankie also explained the Baldwinsville First youth were a big part of making the event so successful. In addition to over 20 trick-or-treating stops throughout the hallways of the church, there were games and crafts held in Fellowship Hall as well as church members serving delicious homemade cookies, treats, and apple cider.

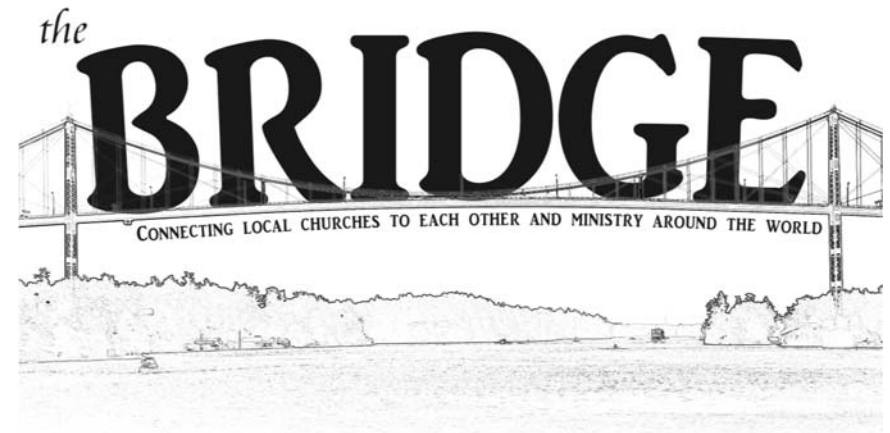
Baldwinsville First also hosts a Christmas Bazar leading up to Christmas for children to shop for their parents and they host an Easter egg hunt before Easter.

Does your church welcome your local community to fun and creative events? Let us know by writing us at news@unyumc.org.

The Bridge is a Conference Communications Ministry tool that delivers to local churches news and stories of ministry from around the Upper New York Conference and the world. For more news and stories visit:

www.unyumc.org

Visit <http://www.unyumc.org/mission/mission-central> to learn how you can help in the United Methodist response to Hurricane Florence, Hurricane Michael, and more.



The Upper New York Conference's vision is to live the gospel of Jesus Christ and to be God's love with our neighbors in all places.

A look inside!

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Dr. Christopher calls for stewardship every day of the year



By Shannon Hodson, Writer/Editor

At the 2018 Bishop's Retreat, held Oct. 23-25 in Syracuse, Dr. J. Clif Christopher, founder of Horizons Stewardship Company, provided inspiring insights to Upper New York clergy on how they can improve stewardship in their congregations.

Dr. Christopher emphasized the fact that people are bombarded with messages from the media that they need the next new car or gadget.

He explained, "The greatest sin your people have is their love of material things...we love money more than we love God... We have an enemy constantly telling us that stuff will save us... the message is constantly there."

Sadly, people's spending habits have translated into no longer tithing.

Dr. Christopher presented a chart that illustrated total giving as a share of income by religious affiliation. Every religion gave their place of worship less than 5 percent of their income—Methodists gifted their churches a mere 1 percent of their income.

The pastors present at this retreat were encouraged to promote stewardship every Sunday. Why? Because stewardship is part of discipleship.

Dr. Christopher told attendees, "Your plan is for two weeks in October, you talk about it and then you go on to other things. There is no plan for the first of the year or for Lent, or for the summer, or Christmas. The plan is for two weeks in October. You'll preach a sermon and maybe send out a letter and that's it."

Dr. Christopher reiterated the problem with materialism and said that the stewardship committee needs to meet all year long because materialism is a sin that is happening every month of the year.

He said, "Every single Sunday is Stewardship Sunday. Stewardship is part of discipleship."

When you invest in your church, you are investing in God. You are investing in the United Methodist mission "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

from putting on a successful trick-or-treating alternative event. For nearly a decade, Baldwinsville First UMC has put on a trunk-or-treat event and has wel-

Missional Budget

First Church 2015 Budget
"Changing Lives for Christ"

Your church leadership has constructed a bold plan of ministry to continue our mission of changing lives for Christ. We celebrate a wonderful past year but commit ourselves to even more lives coming to Christ in the new one. Join us in this journey of being God's people in Cityville.

Our Plan of Ministry

A. To provide meaningful, life changing worship every week of the year.

Last year we held 112 worship services where, on an average week, 190 persons gathered to praise God and hear His Word. Fourteen persons gave their life to Christ for the first time in those services and nine rededicated themselves to serving the Master. The Special Music events of Easter and Christmas Eve had over 100 persons in attendance who were unchurched. One young man joined the church after one of these special services and was baptized. He said it was only the second time he'd been in a church in his life. Today he's volunteering time with our high school students.

Next year we plan to add a junior choir with at least twelve 3rd through 6th graders. Already, we're planning on their singing on Palm Sunday. A new praise team is being trained and a second service is tentatively planned to begin in September. We want to increase our attendance to 220 and double the number of first time commitments of faith.

Budget Total - \$80,000

(% of pastor's salary, pastor's utilities, pastor's expenses, pastor's insurance, secretary, music director, continuing education, janitor, children's ministry, music, janitor supplies, telephone, copier, insurance maintenance, utilities)

B. To nurture persons in their faith journey

Budget Total - \$37,000

C. To witness to our faith in service beyond ourselves

Budget Total - \$83,000

Total needed to fulfill our mission of "Changing Lives for Christ" - \$200,000

- A detailed line item budget is available in the church office for any who wish to review it.

The pastors were advised to present their missional budget to the church. Dr. Christopher provided the example pictured above of a church's missional budget.

The key point is to focus on the ministry not on the cost.

In addition to annual giving, Dr. Christopher discussed planned giving and capital campaigns. Planned giving can greatly help a church fulfill its mission;

when planning your will, consider your church like you would a charity you support. Regarding capital campaigns, churches were encouraged to save toward anything they envision they may need in the future and that it doesn't need to be a building feature they foresee in the immediate future.

As a church member, your service and stewardship are instrumental in your church's vitality today and for the future.

Baldwinsville First welcomes 600 community children

By Shannon Hodson, Writer/Editor

Sunday Oct. 28 was rainy and cold in Central NY, but that did not stop Baldwinsville First United Methodist Church

comed the community to come to the church for trick-or-treating at decorated car trunks in their parking lot. When the weather calls for rain, they simply

change plans and bring the trick-or-treating inside and decorate doorways

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