



# Maynard Messenger

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December 2014

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Web Site:

[www.maynardav.org](http://www.maynardav.org)

Services:

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.  
 Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.  
 Sacred Time Out Tuesday:

7 p.m.

Pastor:

Rev. Patricia Wagner

Music Director:

Bryan Babcock

Custodian:

Connie Bloor

Secretary and Editor:

Claudia Erlenbach

## “Good News to All People”

*by Pastor Patricia*

Last night I talked to a remarkable young man named Tay. This gentle, gracious young man is an army veteran, who loves his current work as an aide to a disabled church member. We spoke about the events in Ferguson. I had been surprised by the decision of the Grand Jury, but Tay had not expected any other outcome than acquittal, nor had any other African American he knows. They have come to assume that their lives are not considered as valuable as other Americans.

It is the sort of thing I would have expected to hear when I was a child, growing up in a pretty segregated little Ohio town, where the Black kids lived, literally, on the other side of the railroad tracks. Yet, here we are 50 years later, and that feeling of being second class, and expendable, endures.

We heard the same thing from Ata Manasra, another gentle gracious man, who spoke in church on November 16. Ata's family has lived for many generations in a small village outside Bethlehem, called Wadi Foquin. The little bit of Palestine that is left, is being occupied by hundreds of thousands of Israeli settlers. Ata's family farmland is drenched with the raw sewage from the settlement's toilets. Their olive trees have been cut down so the settlers can have more space to grow their own crops.

The message is clear: Palestinians are second class, and expendable.

As he shared with us, you could hear Ata's desperate longing for his family to be secure and happy, what every father wants for his children.

Now amidst this desperation, here and abroad, comes the message — “Do not be afraid, for I bring good tidings of great joy.”

The message of Christmas is that God is aware of us. That God brought one man into the heart of a holy land to preach the word of peace and justice. And these good tidings, said the angels to the shepherds of Bethlehem, are “for **all** the people.”

“All the people” ... How shall we believe that? How shall we live that?

I invited Tay to come and share with us during a special Sacred Time out on December 9. He is grateful that we are interested. So is Ata, who said of those Christians who care so much about his village and Palestine: “I think you really recognize that we are all the children of God. The words, the teachings of Jesus, are always in my mind. Jesus encouraged us to do things for others, no matter who they are or where they come from.”

That we, by our listening and loving action, can be a gift of the Christ Child to those who suffer, is a wondrous thing, isn't it?



### Kroger Community Reward Program

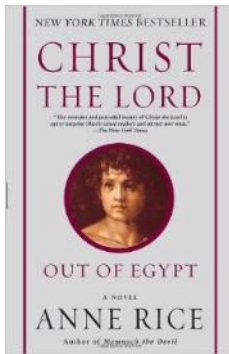


Kroger donated **\$516.93** to Maynard just because 31 households shopped at Kroger between August 1 and October 31, 2014. All they did was swipe their Kroger Plus Card!

Remember that this community reward program in no way affects your savings while shopping or your gas rewards.

Thank you for your continued support of the Kroger Community Reward Program.

### New Small Group: Maynard Book Club



Are you a person who loves to read and talk about what you read ... or are you looking for spiritual growth through small groups ... could you be a seeker who appreciates the new ideas and perspective that come from connecting with others? Then the Maynard Book Club may be the group for you!

sample discussion questions on the author's website, for example:

What is the significance of Rice's focus on Jesus as a Jew? What insights does it give into Jesus' teachings and his ultimate mission on earth?

If you would like to check out Anne's website, visit: <http://www.annerice.com/ChristTheLord-OutOfEgypt-Editions.html>

We will meet 7-9 p.m. on Monday, December 8 and December 15 to talk about the Anne Rice novel "Christ the Lord: Out Of Egypt." We plan to use the

future readings.

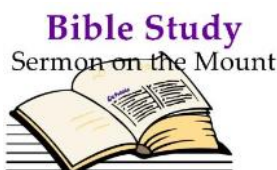
by Dennis Gong and Hope Roberts

### New Small Group: Maynard Adult Nurture

Do you want to explore different aspects of faith in our lives? Adult Nurture will be restarting in early 2015, and we are thinking of an opening topic of visual representations of Jesus and how they have developed over

time. Let us know what subjects you most want to share with others, and we will make this your program!

by Dennis Gong and Hope Roberts



**Bible Study: Sermon on the Mount  
Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.  
Now through December 17, 2014**



### Baptisms and New Members—What a Month!

Early in November we welcomed Jozzy Kane as a new member of Maynard. She has been attending and helping with visual arts for several years. But that was not all for Jozzy, as she and her son Nathaniel Shane Kane were both baptized while Nate looked on. Rory and Lauren brought Lorelai Kathleen Hazel Smith for baptism also. Please welcome Jozzy and these babies into Maynard’s loving arms!



On Thanksgiving Sunday, we welcomed six new members into the Maynard family. Welcome to newly baptized Dennis Gong, along with (l to r) Michael Lindner, Karen Mitchell, Dennis, Amy and Ben Hannah, and Barbara (B.J.) Jackson.

They have already been a blessing to Maynard, and we are thankful they chose to be members in our ministry of faith.



Pictures by Stacy Brannan-Smith!  
Thank you!





## Fourth Annual A Touch of the Holidays Craft Fair



In just a few short weeks, Maynard Avenue will truly bring in the holiday season with A TOUCH OF THE HOLIDAYS: Fourth Annual Holiday Craft Fair. What had started with just a few vendors early one Saturday afternoon in 2011, has now grown to featuring almost 50 vendors stationed throughout the whole church, a Kids' Room with Kid Vendors, visits from Santa, Kids' Crafts and face-painting, a bake sale, and holiday raffle to rival no other.

From 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., our humble church will be turned into a holiday wonderland with holiday crafts, presents, treats, and more. With handmade crafts from local vendors, artists, and fellow Maynardites, this is an event not to be missed. Featuring jewelry and accessories, candles, coasters, wood crafts, yummy homemade baked goods, and more, you will find the perfect present for everyone!

**Raffle???** *Did I see the word Raffle?!* Why yes you did, holiday reader! This year's fair will feature a holiday raffle for baskets of special gifts from each vendor. Tickets will be sold for less than a dollar, and for that you will have a chance to win a special TOUCH OF THE HOLIDAYS Basket of your very own.

**And you meant Kids' Room, filled with baby goats, right?!?** No, silly goose! A Kids' Room is for our favorite little ones that is filled with great holiday kids' crafts, kid specific vendors, face-painting and Kid Vendors. We have a lot of little ones, who have been working hard to sell their wares to you! And a special long distance call has

been made to the land to the far north to see if we can line up a special HO-HO-HO-Holiday guest! I am thinking we might be in for a treat!

Thinking of a crafter, artist, or vendor who would be a great addition to our event? Don't worry, we still have some spots available; just have them contact our A Touch of Holidays team at [maynardholidayfair@gmail.com](mailto:maynardholidayfair@gmail.com) and we can provide them with all the information!

Wanna be a part of this event? Great, you don't have to be crafty to join the team. We need willing, volunteers to help the kid vendors, decorate, help serve food, organize and just be there to make the day a success! Can't be there on Saturday, December 13? No problem you can still help! Make a yummy bake sale treat or pick up some food supplies for us to sell!

Wanna be a part of the event but not put so much effort into it? Well, I still have a job for you! Just tell your friends, your family, your coworkers, your neighbors, that person who you always smile at in the grocery store but don't know their name about the amazing time that they could have at our festive event! Contact the TOUCH OF THE HOLIDAYS team for flyers or with suggestions on how we can get this event out to the world!

So join us SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2014, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. for the Fourth Annual A TOUCH OF THE HOLIDAYS CRAFT FAIR! Bring the whole family, buy some presents (for yourself or others, no judgment!) and have a great day with your friends at Maynard Avenue!



## Holiday Cookie Exchange Fundraiser

I will start this off with a **BOLD** statement... Are you ready?? One of the best things about the Holidays is **COOKIES!**

Yep, I said it, I wrote it! Thankfully, I am not the only one who thinks so. In honor on one of our favorite holiday treats, Maynard Avenue UMC and the Capital Campaign Team are sponsoring a **HOLIDAY COOKIE EXCHANGE FUNDRAISER!**

What is a **HOLIDAY COOKIE EXCHANGE FUNDRAISER**, you ask? Well, let me tell you. A Cookie Exchange is where everyone makes a batch of their favorite holiday cookies, and then shares them with each other.

As a special fundraiser for the church, we will be selling festive holiday tins to fill up with cookies of all shapes, sizes and deliciousness. Tins will be sold for \$5, will fit one dozen cookies, and all proceeds will go towards the Maynard Avenue Capital Campaign.

Have a delicious cookie recipe that you are dying to make? Are you busy whipping up some holiday cookies right now? Are you willing to make an extra batch?

Bring in your favorite cookies on Saturday, December 20, between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., for the big exchange on December 21, 2014.

Wanna pick-up some delicious cookies for Santa to eat on Christmas eve? Have a Holiday Party planned and don't have the time to make some treats? Wanna watch some fabulous holiday movies with a delicious tin of cookies by your side?

Enjoy Maynard Avenue's Annual Holiday Musical worship service at 10:30 a.m., then stay after worship to pick up a Holiday tin to celebrate the season the only way — with delicious cookies!!!!

*by Lyndsey Johnston*



**Game Night fourth Saturday  
each month at 6:30 p.m.  
Mark your calendars!**

**Play Euchre, bring a favorite game, share a snack!**





### Learning More about Israel and Palestine

November brought three special guests to Maynard Avenue.

Janet Lahr Lewis has been serving as a United Methodist missionary in the Holy Land for 20 years. She is currently the Methodist liason for Palestine and Israel, helping our church connect deeply to the people and issues there.

Janet shared in worship on November 16, as did Ata Manasra, a man of peace from the village of Wadi Foquin (pronounced Wah-dee Fu-keen), outside Bethlehem. Ata brought us the stories of the difficulty of life under Israeli occupation. He spoke with sadness, but also with courage, maintaining his loving, open spirit. Their presence was an early



Christmas Gift. Check out our “Alternative Christmas Guide” for a way to help build a playground in Ata’s village.

On Friday, November 21, people from around Columbus gathered at Maynard to hear Alison Weir, an internationally recognized writer on Israel and Palestine. It was an illuminating evening.



Thanks to Connie Hammond who worked so hard to bring all these special guests to our church.

*by Pastor Patricia*

### Christmas Card Shower for Missioners

In November, our missioners, Revs. Beth and Ben Weisbrod, said goodbye to their colleagues (left) and took over as the Regional Representatives for West and Central Africa for the Mennonite Central Committee. They report loving their work at supporting all kinds of good work in the five nations they are serving.

If you would like to send a Christmas card to Beth and Ben, bring one to the office, and we will bundle them up and ship them on **December 15.**





## Alternate Christmas Giving for 2014

Consider celebrating  
the birth of Christ  
by offering hope to one in need

✧ **The Giving Tree**  
Some families close to our congregation are really struggling this Christmas. Karia Karia would also like us to reach out to those at the YWCA Homeless Family Shelter.

**How to Help:** Check our Christmas tree, take an ornament marked for “Local Family” or “YWCA,” and return with the requested gift card for groceries or department store. Bringing this in by December 14 will help us ensure they can use it for Christmas.

✧ **The Root of Things**  
Anna “Shyne” Borsick’s non-profit, “The Root of Things,” reaches out to persons caught up in human trafficking and offers healing and hope. Anna creates health kits, makes special soaps and healing oils, helps women find work, and offers classes.

**How to Help:** Anna will use donations for supplies. Put cash or check (made out to “The Root of Things”) and leave it in the offering plate or send it to the church.

✧ **Love One Another Mission (LOAM)**  
Reaching out to the homeless in our community.

**How to help:** Sunday, December 7, bring in cookies and canned food with meat/protein, batteries (sizes AA and C), and candles. Place on table outside the sanctuary (marked for LOAM). Join us on a visit with our friends. Meet at the church at 2 p.m., December 7.

✧ **Neighborhood Services, Inc.**  
Feeding our hungry neighbors.

**How to help:** Canned fruit, vegetables, and pasta. Place on table in entryway (marked for NSI).

✧ **The Gift of Song**  
We will be caroling for several of our home-/nursing home-bound members and friends this season. Meet at the church.

**Saturday, December 20,  
at 6 p.m.**

✧ **A Taste of the Holidays Craft Fair:**  
**Saturday, December 13**  
from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
for beautiful handmade gifts from dozens  
of local artists.

✧ **Donna B’s, Thrift Store & Boutique**  
Saturdays, 10 to 4, and Sundays after  
worship in December.

✧ **Playground Equipment for the  
children of Wadi Foquin**  
Just outside Bethlehem is an ancient village where Palestinian families are trying to survive the occupation of their land. They are seeking to establish a playground as a place of joy and safety for the children of their little village.

**How to help:** Make a check out to “Maynard Avenue UMC,” and put the notation “Wadi Foquin” on the memo line, or go online and make a direct donation to the village through the United Methodist Church at [www.umcmision.org](http://www.umcmision.org). Look for “Advance Special” project #3021565.

**If you make a donation to one of  
these ministries in the name of a  
loved one, we will be happy to  
send them a card, thanking them  
for inspiring the gift!**





## Children's Sunday School Update

Drum roll please...

The Children's Class (Ayden, Victor, and Lyndsey... ) has completed Genesis! Yeah! What an accomplishment!

So many stories and people to remember! From Adam and Eve to Joseph of the many-colored coat, we read the stories. And we discussed and questioned.



Joseph Forgives His Brothers

We didn't understand some of the decisions people made. Why were Abraham and Jacob rewarded for lying? How could Laban deceive Jacob like he did? How could Rachel encourage her son, Jacob, to lie to his father and betray his own brother? At what price? Why did Jacob love Joseph more than all of his other brothers?

And yet, it was proven that everything happened with a purpose. Imagine, Esau forgave Jacob betrayal and welcomed him and his family home again. Joseph spent time as a slave in Egypt but he eventually was almost as powerful as Pharaoh. Because the life he had was God led, he was able to forgive

his brothers for selling him into slavery, and he was able to save his entire family from starvation and ruin when the famine came.

We learned that forgiveness was and is one of the most important things we can offer. Certainly it is not easy to do sometimes, but it is always the best decision.

What's next? Well, Advent is here. The Church year begins anew. The wonderful Adventure starts all over. The stories and people are the same ones we've read about before. But that is OK. They always stir your heart.

In the New Year we will begin Exodus and learn about Moses and Aaron. The words will ring out to "Let my people go!" But for now, let the people go and wonder at the Nativity Stories and celebrate the Birth of Christ all over again.

Blessings,

*Natalie Snarr*



*Here's Going Caroling*

*We're Going Caroling!!*

Saturday, December 20 at 6 p.m.

Meet in the Church Parlor

Donna B's at Maynard, a thrift shop and boutique, hours:

Every Saturday: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

All Sundays in December following worship

*Donna B's*  
Thrift Store & Boutique





## Consider Boycotting These Products

### WHAT'S IN YOUR SLEIGH?

This Christmas, you can help bring a just and lasting peace to the Holy Land with careful shopping. The UM General Conference has called on *all* nations to boycott products made in illegal settlements on occupied land. (This is **not** a boycott of Israel or Israeli goods.) It is a boycott of products made outside Israel's internationally recognized borders. The UMC opposes Israel's occupation of that land.

The town of Bethlehem is in occupied territory. Bethlehem's people are suffering and imprisoned. They have asked for our help because inside Bethlehem today are watchtowers, checkpoints, refugee camps, and walls. Bethlehem is surrounded by expanding Israeli settlements built in violation of international law.

Products made in illegal settlements and industrial zones support oppression: confiscation of Palestinian land and water; home demolitions; building of new illegal settlements; pollution of Palestinian farmland; health problems, including cancer, due to soil and crop contamination; theft of resources from occupied territory. Israel has destroyed over 25,000 Palestinian homes and countless orchards that families depend on. Hazardous waste flows from settlement industries onto Palestinian land.

Please consider boycotting settlement goods, including:

- SodaStream which has its main manufacturing plant in Ma'ale Adumim, an illegal settlement.
- Ahava products are made in Mitzpe Shalem, an illegal settlement, with minerals and mud from the Dead Sea.
- Keter Plastic Products, including plastic containers, tool boxes, furniture, toys, outdoor and indoor storage containers.
- Ram Quality Toys which are made in Barkan, an illegal settlement. They are sold by Edushape as Interstar and Toys and Toys R Us as part of its Imaginarium Discovery Line.
- Royalife Linens, labels read "Made In Israel" but some are from the illegal settlement of Barkan inside the West Bank.
- Smart-Fab Disposable Art & Decorative Fabric used by schools. Made by Dispobud in the settlement of Barkan.

So what *should* we buy?

- DO BUY Fair Trade Products: from Caanan Fair Trade—[canaanfairtrade.com](http://canaanfairtrade.com) — olive oil and other delicacies come from Jenin, Palestine;
  - from Ten Thousand Villages — [Tenthousandvillages.com](http://Tenthousandvillages.com)— Phoenician Glass from Hebron;
  - from Diyar in Bethlehem — [www.annadwa.org/ecommerce](http://www.annadwa.org/ecommerce);
  - from Sunbula at [sunbula.org](http://sunbula.org).
- Remember: Our buying decisions can make a difference! Please keep this in mind as you shop this holiday season.

For more information, contact [info@kairosresponse.org](mailto:info@kairosresponse.org).



Answering the call from  
Palestinian Christians





### Neighborhood Services, Inc., Thank You!

Dear Friends,

Thank you for all of your hard work, prayer, time, gifts and efforts on behalf of our neighbors in November. We had 502 families visit the pantry, gave 9 “go-bags” to the homeless, 28 families used the clothing room and we gave out 405 families a Thanksgiving Basket! this in an increase of 67 families over last year.

Happy Thanksgiving and Christmas is coming! Respectfully,  
Martin Butler  
Executive Director



Neighborhood Services, Inc.  
Bring Your Hunger

✂

NSI pantry is in need of:  
peanut butter; canned vegetables – spinach, peas, corn, canned fruit, dried beans, rice, and soups (please, no tomato or vegetable); and personal items such as toilet paper, deodorant, feminine products, toothbrushes, and toothpaste.

✂

### More on the Capital Campaign

These first few months of the “We Believe in Maynard” Capital Campaign have been fun, eye-opening and inspiring. With great events like the Kickoff Potluck and Neighborhood Cookout, we got a chance to share food and laughter together; and with our neighbors; with the Campaign brochures and informational packets, we have learned about the importance of Maynard, and with the each testimony, we have learned about the how inspirational and life-changing Maynard can be.

Thank you to those who have stood in front of our community and shared your personal stories with us! The courage to speak and the hearts that have been displayed is breathtaking! And we have more opportunity to share. We will be accepting our fellow members, past and present, friends, building users, to share what Maynard means to them. It is important that in this Campaign we think about the effect

that Maynard has on ourselves and community.

Has Maynard been special to you? Have you found comfort, belonging, love within these walls when you needed it? Has your life been changed by the people that you have met? Has Maynard touched a special place inside of you, of your family? Please share your journey with us. Now, we understand that it can be difficult to get up and speak in front of everyone, so we will be accepting written testimonies that can be shared by a member of the Capital Campaign team anonymously. While it can be hard to share, it is important that we connect through our shared blessings and what a blessing we have in Maynard Avenue UMC.

Are you ready for more Capital Campaign shenanigans?? Then Stay Tuned. The Campaign “We Believe in Maynard Avenue UMC” is just getting started!

**CAPITAL  
CAMPAIGN**



## Advent Letter from Bishop Palmer

December 1, 2014

### Advent greetings beloved.

Thanksgiving 2014 is over with all of the attendant opportunities for great consumption. Whatever needs we have for over-consumption that are not satisfied at the table, the in-person and cyber shopping opportunities are there to pick up the slack. We think it is about the food and the stuff but it is really about relationships and the opportunity to deepen them.

And to the extent that we had plenty to eat over the Thanksgiving observance, and even money to shop, I pray that our awareness of the food insecurity and poverty of so many of our neighbors near and far has been heightened. If per chance your need to give is on the hunt for fulfillment [Giving Tuesday](#) on December 2 may be a great portal for you to walk through. Your and my need to give is unending. In the giving of ourselves and our resources we join God in the healing of this world and we are transformed.

December 1 is [World AIDS Day](#). There are some specific giving opportunities worthy of our participation in the elimination of death from this killer disease. ([United Methodist Global Aids Fund](#), [West Ohio Healing Weekends](#)) In addition to any financial gift please make yourself available for [relationship and advocacy](#). While things have improved across the last thirty plus years those with HIV/AIDS are often still stigmatized and isolated. We can do better. We must do more. We are called to be the difference and make a difference that changes the narrative. Paragraph 162U of our Book of Discipline reminds of our calling:

¶ 162 U) *Persons Living with HIV and AIDS—Persons diagnosed as positive for Human Immune Virus (HIV) and with Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) often face rejection from their families and friends and various communities in which they work and interact. In addition, they are*

*often faced with a lack of adequate health care, especially toward the end of life. All individuals living with HIV and AIDS should be treated with dignity and respect. We affirm the responsibility of the Church to minister to and with these individuals and their families regardless of how the disease was contracted. We support their rights to employment, appropriate medical care, full participation in public education, and full participation in the Church. We urge the Church to be actively involved in the prevention of the spread of AIDS by providing educational opportunities to the congregation and the community. The Church should be available to provide counseling to the affected individuals and their families. From *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church - 2012*. Copyright 2012 by The United Methodist Publishing House. Used by permission.*

Finally I want to commend you again for the many ways that you wading into the deep waters of prayer, dialogue and relationship and trust building especially as it relates to communities that live with pain and tension about gun violence. In the long haul it matters little who pulls the trigger. Gun violence kills, destroys relationships and undermines community. I simply cannot accept that God's dream for humanity is that people will need to live in fear for their mortal lives whether from institutions of authority, their neighbors or family members. I am however seized by the promise and the hope that God continues to be at work for good and God asks me with every breath I have to join God in this at-workness.

Jurgen Moltmann reminds us all: *So God's great promise in the last book of the bible, the book of Revelation is: "Behold I make all things new." (21:5)* Let this be our guide as we watch and wait this Advent.

Your servant in Christ Jesus,

Resident Bishop, Ohio West Area





## A Christmas Meal in Nigeria Makes a Difference

Submitted by Beth Weisbrod



Beth Weisbrod

*Margaret Ahmed, a Nigerian woman trained in peacemaking by Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), became a “mommy” to young men who congregated near her house to do drugs. With love, a nonjudgmental listening ear and skills training, she helped them turn their lives around.*

### Christmas meal starts ministry to Nigerian drug users by Dave Klassen

*Editor’s Note: This story is reported by Dave Klassen as told to him by Margaret Ahmed.*

Margaret Ahmed’s house in Jos, Nigeria, was a few hundred yards from a former cotton-ginning warehouse where as many as 100 Christian and Muslim young men went to hang out and use drugs. She feared for the safety of her two teenage daughters.

Three days before Christmas 2011, she decided to intervene. She went to the warehouse to meet the youth, some of whom were high. Flies buzzed around excrement in the building. In this totally strange and unfamiliar environment, Ahmed, who is rarely at a loss for words, did not know what to say. Eventually, the words came — “I want to be a mommy to you.”

The young men stared. Ahmed kept talking. She suggested that the reason they were doing drugs in these squalid conditions and the reason they believed their lives were hopeless was because society

and politics were playing havoc with their aspirations for education and because of hopeless family situations. As she talked, she caught the attention of more and more youth curious to hear what she was saying.

She asked them if they wanted to learn some skills that could give them something useful to do with their lives. They acted like they liked her idea, but they did not really believe what she was saying, she learned later.

To start, she told them, she would bring them Christmas dinner and they agreed on 2 p.m. Christmas Day. She returned home, feeling gratified and excited that she had followed through on a conviction and desire she had been considering for more than a year.

Her desire to do something to help the youth grew out of her experience at West Africa Peacebuilding Institute in September 2011. MCC paid for her to attend to strengthen her peacebuilding skills.

Ahmed was and still is executive director for Home Makers, an MCC Nigeria partner that has worked with 2,300 women across Nigeria and other west African countries, empowering them with small business skills needed to support their families. She uses her new understanding of interfaith togetherness and other peacebuilding skills to address the root causes of the violence that has wracked Jos since 2001.

(cont’d page 13)



## A Christmas Meal in Nigeria (cont'd)

At the peacebuilding institute, she watched the film, “The Worst Slum in the World,” which talked about the Kibera slum in Nairobi, Kenya. In the film, a woman worked with youth who were using drugs and was able to impact their lives, giving them hope for their futures.

When Ahmed returned, she kept thinking about the film and the ever present challenge she faced with these “drugging youth,” as she called them, until the day she resolved to engage the youth herself.

The youth at the warehouse were skeptical about this unusual visitor, so they determined to find out what was really behind the visit of “Mommy.” They suspected she was a front for a security clearance operation, but a community leader assured them that Ahmed was genuine and had no devious intentions.

On Christmas Day, Ahmed did not go to church. She worked all morning preparing food for 50 people — rice, chicken, cake, sodas, water, and trimmings. By 1:30 p.m. Ahmed returned to the warehouse, which the young men had “cleaned” by brushing the feces to one corner. Ahmed carried the food into the warehouse and prayed for God’s grace to manage the smell and the flies.

When the youth saw Ahmed and the food she was carrying, some of them wept as they started to understand that this might be genuine generosity and love with

no hidden agenda. Even those who had been coming to the warehouse for 10 years said they had never experienced anything like this before.

Ahmed has met with these youth more than 120 times since. She determined that if she was going to make a difference in the lives of these children of God, it would demand a heavy commitment on her part. They told her that when she is with them, their desire to do drugs is reduced. She loves them without judgment, they say, unlike society or even the church.

At least 40 of them have quit drugs, Ahmed said, and some of them have influenced young men in a nearby town to stop using too. The former users have now learned new skills or have returned to studies at the university and a nursing school. One supports himself by farming on land he rents.

The Bible is a critical piece of Home Makers’ drug addiction program. Margaret engages the youth through Scripture to show the value of life and hope for the future. Besides the skills she has introduced to them, Bible studies are part of her weekly program with them.

No one comes to the warehouse anymore, so the warehouse has been closed and locked.

*Mennonite Central Committee:  
Relief, development and peace in the  
name of Christ*

























—END—



2014

# DECEMBER

2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>7 Remember Pearl Harbor Day</p> <p>9:30 —Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 —Worship</p> <p>12—Donna B's open</p> <p>12:30 —Martial Arts</p> 	<p>1 5 p.m.—Tutoring</p> <p>6 p.m.—Caring and Sharing Group</p> <p>7 p.m.—Alcoholics Anonymous</p>  	<p>2 7 p.m.—Sacred Time Out at the Indianola Church of Christ</p> 	<p>3 10:30 a.m.— Bible Study: Sermon on the Mount</p> <p>12 p.m.—Alcoholics Anonymous</p> <p>7 p.m.— Choir</p> 	<p>4 7 p.m.—Leadership Team Meeting</p> <p>7 p.m.—Hand Bells</p> 	<p>5 8 p.m.—Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>6 10 a.m. — Donna B's</p> 
<p>7 Remember Pearl Harbor Day</p> <p>9:30 —Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 —Worship</p> <p>12—Donna B's open</p> <p>12:30 —Martial Arts</p> 	<p>8 5 p.m.—Tutoring</p> <p>7 p.m.—Book Study Group</p> <p>7 p.m.—Alcoholics Anonymous</p> 	<p>9 7 p.m.—Sacred Time Out</p> 	<p>10 10:30 a.m.— Bible Study: Sermon on the Mount</p> <p>12 p.m.—Alcoholics Anonymous</p> <p>7 p.m.— Choir</p> 	<p>11 7 p.m.—SoHud Block Watch Meeting</p> <p>7 p.m.—Hand Bells</p> 	<p>12 8 p.m.—Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>13 9 a.m.—A Touch of the Holidays Craft Fair</p> <p>10 a.m. — Donna B's</p> <p>6 p.m.—Youth Group</p> 
<p>14 9:30 —Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 —Worship</p> <p>12—Donna B's</p> <p>12:30 —Martial Arts</p> 	<p>15 5 p.m.—Tutoring</p> <p>7 p.m.—Book Study Group</p> <p>7 p.m.—Alcoholics Anonymous</p> 	<p>16 7 p.m.—Sacred Time Out</p> 	<p>17 10:30 a.m.— Bible Study: Sermon on the Mount</p> <p>12 p.m.—Alcoholics Anonymous</p> <p>7 p.m.—NO Choir</p> 	<p>18 7 p.m.—Hand Bells</p> 	<p>19 8 p.m.—Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>20 10 a.m. — Donna B's</p> <p>10 a.m.— Lum Flux Babysitting</p> <p>11 a.m.—Drop off cookies</p> <p>6 p.m.—Caroling</p> 
<p>21 9:30 —Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 —Worship</p> <p>12- Cookie Exchange</p> <p>12—Donna B's open</p> <p>12:30 —Martial Arts</p> 	<p>22 7 p.m.—Alcoholics Anonymous</p>	<p>23 7 p.m.—Sacred Time Out</p> 	<p>24 12 p.m.—Alcoholics Anonymous</p> <p>7 p.m.—Candlelight Service</p> <p>7 p.m.—NO Choir</p>	<p>25 <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b></p> 	<p>26 8 p.m.—Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>27 10 a.m. — Donna B's</p> <p>6 p.m.— Youth Group</p> <p>6:30 p.m.—Game Night</p> 
<p>28 9:30 —Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 —Worship</p> <p>12— Trustees Meeting</p> <p>12:30—Martial Arts</p> <p>3 — National FOB</p>	<p>29 7 p.m.—Alcoholics Anonymous</p>	<p>30 7 p.m.—Sacred Time Out</p> 	<p>31 12 p.m.—Alcoholics Anonymous</p> <p>7 p.m.—NO Choir</p>	<p>January 1, 2015 <b>NEW YEAR'S DAY</b></p>		