

ASSISTANT PASTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT: 2009-2010

As I complete my eighth year of ministry here at Houghton Wesleyan Church, I'm grateful to God for the privilege of serving with and among you here in Houghton. As always, God has been faithful; it's been a good year of ministry.

COLLEGE MINISTRIES

The College Ministries Committee provided invaluable support and encouragement throughout the year. Special thanks to the members for their hard work and consistent support.

- Students experienced significant spiritual growth as a result of our **LOGOS Bible studies** this year. One student, in particular, commented that her LOGOS Bible study is what keeps her consistently in the Word of God. First semester we studied Revelation and second semester we studied Esther. We had 20-25 students participating in these studies throughout the year.
- **Koinonia** continued to flourish; average attendance for the year was between 275 and 300.
- **The Nursing Home Ministry** Team continued to serve the residents and staff at The Absolut of Houghton, averaging 7-8 students each week. A committed core of students regularly attended and many more came once, twice or every now and then.
- Our two **College Student Dinners** this year connected students with other members of our church in order to show students we love them, need them, and value their participation in the life of our church. The fall dinner combined our students with our Senior Saints; the spring dinner paired over fifty students with eighteen host individuals. The response to these dinners was extremely positive; students expressed their gratitude not only for a delicious meal, but also for the opportunity to connect with and get to know other members of the congregation.
- Other highlights: Our two **Student Hospitality Sundays** connected at least 45 students with members of our congregation for fellowship and a meal; 10 students and 3 CMC members joined together for a **service project at Wellspring Ministries** in the fall; and the CMC sent care **packages to 14 students/military personnel** in other places with direct ties to our congregation.

We can look back and say confidently that it's been a good year of college ministry; we've had a great ministry team, with a number of solid leaders returning. I look forward with anticipation to this next year as we continue to connect with and serve the college students in our midst.

SMALL GROUPS

Small groups provided wonderful spiritual growth opportunities for many in our congregation. Nine groups met weekly throughout each semester. Special thanks to our great group of hosts and leaders this year. Your time, energy and efforts made these groups successful.

OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES

I am grateful to Pastor Wes for the opportunity to preach on a number of occasions this past year. I also organized Sunday evening activities, served with the Missions Committee, and contributed a brief article to Houghton Highlights each month. Pastor Wes, Pastor Laurie and I shared leadership of the Wednesday evening prayer meeting in a rotation throughout the year. Along with the rest of the pastoral staff, I have had a number of opportunities this year to provide pastoral care to members of our congregation and community.

The Missions Committee had a productive year of updates from, interaction with, and ministry to our numerous missionaries, both long-term and short-term. We had a good "Faith in Action" Missions Conference, focusing in large part on Haiti, with John Croft as speaker.

Thank you for the privilege of serving with you in this Kingdom venture. We continue to be blessed by you and are grateful for the opportunity to serve Christ with you and among you.

Pastor Todd Leach

YOUTH PASTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT: 2009–2010

This year we began by separating the Middle School Ministry from the High School Ministry which has been overall a very positive development. This change has made it possible for us to be age specific in our programming and discussions, and has promoted valuable growth in both groups.



YMA CONSULTATION

We were blessed to have Mark Devries and his company called “Youth Ministry Architects” do a consultation with us in October. Their assessment was encouraging, helpful, and challenging. They spent three days with us and compiled a detailed report that includes many ways to improve HWC ministry to young people. Please see me if you would like to read a copy of their report.



As usual, our year was packed full with fun activities, learning, and service opportunities. We talked about things like personal devotions, scripture memory, accountability, purity, prayer, service and lots more. More than 200 different students came through our doors at some point throughout the year. We averaged 82 unique students each month. Prayer breakfast on Tuesday mornings has grown this year and continues to be a highpoint in our week as we spend a few minutes opening our hearts to the Lord. Other highlights from the year included the December trip to Baltimore for the Wesleyan Youth convention called “Love Mercy”, the winter retreat, the “Life Unplugged” retreat, and the 30 Hour famine in April where we raised more than \$1800 for starving children! These events gave time for us to seek God and to focus our lives on Him and His Word.



As we look to the upcoming year, pray that God will make our church a place where young people are drawn into a transforming relationship with Jesus and that our youth will experience God in personal and powerful ways as we worship and serve together! Pray that God will enable each of us as adults to live out our lives with Christ in such a way that the young people in our



church and community can't help but be drawn to Him. Finally, pray that as we study God's Word, that this solid foundation will result in our youth ministry producing effective, lifelong, servants of the Gospel!

Pastor Jon Cole

DISCIPLESHIP PASTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT: 2009-2010

Thank you to all who have been involved in our Discipleship Ministries this year and for allowing me to serve in this place at this time. A special thank you to our Discipleship Ministry Leaders:

Donnie Stockin (Library)

Casda Danner (Valley PreSchool)

Jan Schilke (Nursery)

Mary Anne Majoros and Kathy Bogdan (8:20 Children's Church)

Bitsy Mayhle and Karry Beardsley (11:00 Children's Church)

Robin Pawling (Sunday School)

Donna Blew and Jessica Mullen (AWANA Puggles & Cubbies)

Heather Hannan and Kerri Lord (Girls' AWANA Club)

Stephanie and Chad Wittenrich and Emily and Brandon Hoffman (Boys' AWANA Club).

We are so grateful for the 197 volunteers involved in our Discipleship Ministries this year. Without these Ministry Leaders and volunteers it would be impossible to have our Discipleship Ministries. There is so much work that goes on behind the scenes and even sometimes unnoticed, yet without it, we could not effectively share God's Word or His love with all those involved in our Discipleship Ministries.

Thank you, too, to our Discipleship Committee members, our Valley Preschool Committee members, our Library Committee members, and our Prayer Chain Leaders as well as those who give leadership in our women's ministries. All of these have given much time and energy to each of these areas of ministry.

Once again this year has been filled with some great experiences as well as some challenges but through it all God has been faithful. What a blessing it is to see our children excited to come to church whether on Sunday morning or Wednesday evenings, to see them learning and absorbing God's Word, as well as interacting with their teachers and the other students. It is so encouraging when parents or school teachers share what they are hearing from their child/students about coming to church and learning about God. It is thrilling to hear from our volunteers who are so blessed because they are working with our children and adults and to see the relationships that are forming between them.

We are so grateful for the wonderful response from our Adult Sunday School class members who are willing to teach or help teach one of our children's Sunday School classes one Sunday during the course of the next year. With the eleven college students who regularly teach Sunday School gone for the summer, this list of volunteers is a tremendous help but we also realize that we will go through this list fairly rapidly.

In the midst of this praise we do have void in the leadership to our children's ministries for this coming year. We still have six openings for Ministry Leaders as well as a need for many volunteers to help with Children's Church and for some volunteers with the Nursery this summer. The stark reality is that if people are not willing to be involved in our children's ministries, we as a church family will need to make some difficult decisions concerning these ministries in the next couple of months. We desperately need adult volunteers willing to invest themselves in the lives of our children so our children feel loved and valued – so our children know they have a special place in the household of God; as they continue to develop lives of faith and grow in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you.

Pastor Cindy Oden

MUSIC DIRECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT: 2009-2010

It is my privilege to be finishing my seventh year here working as your Music and Worship Director. The Lord has continued to provide His guidance and wisdom, and I have been so blessed to serve Him here in this church and community. He helps me each and every day as I look for new and old ways to lead His people in worship each week.

One new aspect of worship that we have added this year is the element of global emphasis, both in song and in other aspects of the worship service. We have had the privilege of hearing the Gospel Choir sing for us, and several of our congregation have had the opportunity to read scripture in a foreign language, whether as a second language for them, or, in some cases, as their first language, the heart language in which they communicate with God. It is such a blessing for us to hear God's Word in the languages of the world, as we are reminded of how He is working and how those in other places are worshipping. We learn about them, and we learn from them.

In our early worship services, I continue to work to involve musicians and readers from all parts of our community. I work with approximately fifty different singers and instrumentalists from the college and from the community in various age groups, in several rotating ministry teams. I have especially appreciated having those who are younger come in and join the team with those who have more experience, and seeing the more experienced come along side the younger, encouraging and mentoring them.

I have also been pleased to work for a seventh year with the Church Choir. This year we had several new members join our group, and we were blessed to have both adults from the community and college students as well. I would also like to thank Eileen DeBoer for her assistance with the church choir and with our 11am services – her skill and beautiful playing are greatly appreciated. The choir enjoyed singing a “Magnificat” at Christmas this year, and we look forward to singing Handel's Messiah next year.

Susannah Smith has done a great job with the Children's Choir this year, and they have ventured into singing songs not only in English, but also in other languages. Susannah has stretched the choir in the songs that they sing, and the children have continued to improve their blended sound. We have enjoyed hearing them sing in Sunday morning services and in the Christmas Celebration.

As we wrap up another year here at the church, I look forward to new challenges in the future. I want to thank each of you again for your love, your encouragement, and your prayers. May God bless you.

Amanda Cox

VOLUNTEER OUTREACH PASTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT: 2009-2010

I am about to start my 7th year as volunteer Outreach Pastor. One of the joys I have is to work with the senior citizens of our church. It is a privilege to visit with many of you and share lunch with our senior saints once a month when our church hosts the monthly luncheons. The senior members of our church family bless us in so many ways, with the hours of volunteer work that they put in here at the church as well as things like driving for Meals on Wheels and donating to the food pantry, sitting at the desk during staff meetings, putting together the bulletins, and countless other ways. The thing I most appreciate about our seniors is their faithful prayers for our church and our staff.

Some of the other ministries I am involved with in the church include leading the Wednesday morning Bible study, helping with Wednesday evening prayer meetings, pre-marital and financial counseling, as well as mentoring college and high school students. This year I had a college senior student intern for a semester which was a wonderful experience.

I would like to thank the many students that have helped with lighting the candles at our worship services on Sunday mornings and all those that have been willing to help with serving communion. Your service to our church is so valuable and appreciated.

Our church has the unique opportunity to minister to students from many areas of the world – especially Asia – and several of these students come here without any knowledge of the Lord or the Bible. We see these students on a weekly basis at our worship services, Sunday school classes and occasionally at Youth Group. Many of you have welcomed these students and have helped them feel more comfortable on Sunday mornings as well as encouraged them to become involved here at the church. Your kindness to them has made a difference in their lives.

I continue to enjoy working with our wonderful pastors and staff and feel blessed to be able to serve the Lord and our church family. I would like to thank the congregation for your love and support and especially your prayers. My family and I have appreciated the many ways that you show Christ's love to us throughout the year. May the Lord richly bless you.

Pastor Laurie Smalley