

Rev. Marla Brown says "Thank you & Farewell Maumee Watershed"

Even though my husband, Len, was born and raised in Toledo, I was personally unfamiliar with the Maumee Watershed District when I was appointed as your District Superintendent six years ago. The district staff helped me visualize the district by putting a northwest Ohio map on a large bulletin board and placing push pins where each of the churches is located. The bulletin board stands on a large easel in my office. I have used the map repeatedly as I talked with staff, pastors and visitors about the uniqueness and the connectedness of the congregations across the district.

Now when I look at the push pins I see, in my mind's eye, places and faces. And I remember passionate worship services; joyous celebrations of church anniversaries, baptisms, confirmations and holy communion; ice socials and church dinners; meetings with S/PPR committees to discuss pastoral needs and to introduce new pastors; charge/church conferences filled with reports of faithfulness and fruitfulness; community outreach events; district training events for clergy and laity; and special church conferences when decisions were made to take steps of faith into the future. I remember meeting with pastors one-on-one to discuss joys and concerns of ministry. I remember meeting with persons discerning God's call upon their lives. I gratefully remember the blessings of being in ministry with you all in times of great joy and excitement, and in difficult and painful times.

Thank you for the privilege and honor of serving as your District Superintendent. Thank you for your cards, emails and gifts as I retire. Your thoughtfulness has touched me and my family deeply. I am so thankful for your collective gift of over \$9,500 for the PK Scholarship Fund for pastors' kids' education in the Oriental Conference, Mexico. Many PKs will complete high school, college and seminary because of your gift. I am honored and humbled by your expressions of love.

My prayers continue for the congregations, represented by the push pins, that you will faithfully make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world! "Always be joyful. Never stop praying. Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus." I Thessalonians 5:16-18

Soon, I will not be able to look at the push pins but that's okay because I see and know those precious places and faces by heart!!