

PLATTSBURG

New kitchen added at BUMC in name of Susan Hageman

By JIM BONEBRAKE
LEADER REPORTER

The family of a beloved woman who passed away far too soon has honored her memory in a way that will benefit the community for decades to come.

On April 1, 2021, Susan Lynn Hageman left her earthly body and went to be with her Heavenly Father.

She was married to Bruce Hageman, and was the mother to Nicole, Amanda, and Sara. She and Bruce were active members in the Broadway United Methodist Church in Plattsburg.

Everyone who knew Sue knew that she loved to cook, especially for her family but also, just to see the smiles on those who en-

joyed her talent in the kitchen. She instinctively knew that food brings all people together.

As a way to honor Sue and to keep her spirit alive in their minds and hearts, Bruce and his daughters decided to start a memorial to her. The memorial fund they set up was to be used

Continued on A2

A Fitting Memorial, *Continued from Page A1*

to provide a new, improved kitchen at Broadway United Methodist Church so the church family could prepare meals for the less fortunate in the community. Those meals will also be open to anyone who wishes to participate in a good meal and the fellowship that comes from sharing food with others.

Bruce talked with the Pastor of Broadway, Cassie O'Brian Graham, as well as the church board, and all were supportive of the idea.

Bruce put out the word and to his amazement, donations started to roll in. In just a little over nine months, the donations had reached far beyond his wildest dreams - nearly \$50,000. The donations came from near and far. People from the community donated, as did those from foreign countries where Bruce had traveled for his work. They even received donations from some whom the family

had never met - a tribute to the goodness of humanity.

"I was amazed," Bruce said. "There were dollars coming in from people I didn't know, had never heard of. It was unbelievable! There were others that heard of the idea and asked if they could make contributions for passed loved ones, as well, and did."

Construction of the new kitchen started in June of 2022. The first chore was to take out the old, and members of the church pitched in to accomplish this. Then construction on the new and improved kitchen started, with its completion coming in November 2022.

The new kitchen sports a large gas stove with 10 stove-top burners and two ovens. It isn't commercial but still mammoth. There is also a commercial-style dishwasher, a couple of stainless-steel sinks, an ice machine, refurbished

cabinets, counter space for preparation, and a large open space for people to move around easily and prepare hot, full-course meals. The kitchen also has two freezers and one refrigerator.

The freezers have been put to good use, providing extra space for frozen foods that come in as donations for the Plattsburg Food Pantry.

A committee is currently working on plans for the first community dinner, which Bruce hopes will be held in January. They are inviting leaders in the Plattsburg municipal and school communities to attend to ensure all are aware of the church's intention with this beautiful new asset. The meal will be offered free of charge. A specific date will be announced after the first of the year.

"This was an answer from Heaven, with angels and heroes



all working in unison," Bruce said. He did not name the angels, but was especially appreciative to Mark Noe and Fred Vanderau, who both stepped up and did most of the work remodeling the kitchen and making sure it met city codes. Without the commitment of these dedicated and talented profession-

als, they would not have the functional space they now enjoy. Bruce said they will forever be a part of the project. He also said many church members contributed time and effort on the project, along with the church's board, kitchen committee and Pastor Graham.