

THE CHIMES

DIXBORO UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH
NEWSLETTER

APRIL. 2005

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK:

Sanctuary Renovation

After years of wishing, hoping, planning and "going back to the drawing board", Dixboro Church is poised to go forward with Phase I of our sanctuary renovation.

The Assessment and Implementation Committee has reached a consensus about the scope of the project and the order in which its various pieces need to be undertaken. This will be presented as a motion for approval to the Administrative Board on Tuesday, April 5, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. This meeting is open to any and all interested persons in the congregation, though only Board members are allowed to vote.

Kenn Scheffer, Committee Chairperson, has been working with an estimator and the two of them have spent considerable time walking around our nearly-150-year old church building, poking through the catacomb-like basement and even ascending into the steeple. (Seek Kenn out: he has some remarkable photographs showing both the intricate construction of the edifice and the ravages of time.) The result of their work is an estimate of \$508,100 which is in the ballpark of the limit imposed by Charge Conference action last Summer.

Nine general project areas are included in the finished estimate. The recommendation for Phase One consists of the first five which addresses problems in the steeple (bell tower), the balcony and the

Narthex, and replaces the antiquated (and dangerous) electrical system.

I'm sure most of you will agree with me that getting to this point has been a long and frequently frustrating process. We have experienced false starts and unexpected setbacks.

But now the time has come for all of us to get behind this project and make it happen. Kenn and his committee have taken the unanimous directive of the congregation "to renovate the sanctuary, replace or recondition the bell tower and other prioritized structural changes to the church..." The plan they have developed, I am convinced, is a good one.

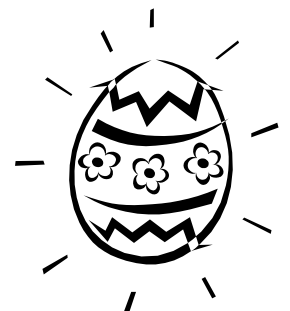
The next step is for the Dixboro congregation to step forward with financial support. Some of you have been waiting for something tangible to give to. Come to the Administrative Board on April 5 and see it being presented. This is waiting to be asked to give. I am asking. The Assessment and Implementation Committee is asking. And, I would suspect, as of April 5th, the Administrative Board of Dixboro Church will be asking.

150th Anniversary

With the 150th anniversary of Dixboro Church approaching (December, 2007), I am looking for people willing to serve on a Task Force to plan the celebration for this significant milestone. Historian Ardith King has already agreed to be a member. Who else has an appreciation

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for what this congregation has meant for a century and a half to the community and to the generations who have worshipped and served Jesus Christ here?

Ardith has a good working knowledge of what was done on previous occasions. And, as Tom Freeman remarked at a recent meeting, there are many people in the Dixboro congregation – himself included -- who have living memories of

both the 100th and the 125th anniversary. Hmmm, does anyone remember the 75th? That would have been in, let's see, now...1932.

Since some of us won't be around for the 175th anniversary in 2032, let's start now to make the 150th a celebration to remember!. Shalom, John



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

4/1	Peter Gale SpenceBeMent
4/2	Cynthia BeMent
4/4	April Connell
4/7	Margaret Frederick
4/8	Anne Judson
4/9	Michael Huey
4/10	Alice Hawkins Rebecca Anderson
4/11	Alex Rudelich Cari Carson Teresa Cochran
4/12	Mary Taggart
4/14	Sara Smith
4/16	Will Ottosson
4/19	Betty Mitchell Claudia Billings
4/20	Joanne Latvala
4/21	Eric Woodward Bill Jarrett
4/22	Katie Wilcox
4/24	Kelley Hubbard
4/26	Christopher LaLonde
4/29	Jennifer Johns
4/30	Charles Engle

WORSHIP COMMITTEE TASK FORCE UPDATE:

Working with the Worship Task Force this Lenten season has been fulfilling and interesting. The lectionary inspired John Ferris to preach on readings from Romans, selecting especially the capstone "The Spirit is Life." A bare tree was selected as representing that spiritual life as yet un-awakened.

A pyramid of building blocks represented Romans 5:3-5 and the voices throughout the ages that brought righteousness, justification and grace. From these, the contributions of many people bloomed and enthusiasm spread beyond the committee. Debra Breeding brought photos of bare trees, Linda Coffey did the same on the power point, Betty DeWolf found a lovely tree to go on the Lenten Calendar, Becky Horvath did a

sketch for the bulletins and the devotional booklet.

Watch for that tree to bloom on the bulletins after Easter. Sandy Bowers did an excellent job of editing the Lenten Devotional Booklet. Mary Baird prepared the blocks for the pyramid and Becky did the lettering. Peggy Moran came up with several ideas to make the scripture and the services more dramatic. Janice Clark came up with three "Tree" anthems and "There's a Spirit Here" to fit in with the theme. Beth Little joined to help carry over the discussion into the Brunch. Most importantly the sharing and testing of ideas helped us come up with a cohesive theme. A number of people have said that working on this committee and preparing the visuals for the altar have made the season more meaningful. I know I will never look at a tree the same. *R. Horvath*

HERITAGE SUNDAY

We are re-running this article which appeared in last month's CHIMES. We invite you to come and celebrate our church heritage at both services on Sunday, April 24. We want to present a slide show of memories, some of which will make you laugh, cry or fill you with a renewed sense of our church family.

If you have any church-related photos you would like included in the slide show, please do the following:

- Bring your well-labeled photos to the church office not later than Apr 14.
- Bring a self-addressed envelope with your photos so that we can make sure they get returned to their rightful owner.

We are looking for all kinds of pictures! Funny, sad, family, black & white, bad hair day, good hair day, photos from way back or from the 70's...whatever! Let's make this a really fun show.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR APRIL 24. WE PROMISE IT WILL BE A DAY TO REMEMBER!

SHARING GOD'S GIFTS OF TIME & TALENT WITHIN THE CHURCH...

We continue to recognize donations of time and talent that are important for the church but are given "behind the scenes" and might go unnoticed or perhaps are taken for granted...

This month we shine the spotlight on Connie and Bob Amick for all their leadership and dedication through the years! We particularly applaud their longstanding leadership, participation in and promotion of mission projects. They have been involved in so many ways -- participating in various mission initiatives, leading the decision-making about which charities the church should support, sug-

gesting mission speakers, offering opportunities for cultural exchanges, and, of course, leading local Habitat for Humanity efforts. We also especially appreciate their dedication to our church's longstanding Kuwadin relationship, organizing the wonderful gift-giving effort year after year. Thanks, Connie and Bob, for all the time and talent you've contributed through the years to make the world a better place!

Do you know of other donations of time and talent that should be recognized? Please contact anyone on the Nurture Committee or the office (665-5632).

Thank you...

"To my church family: Thank you! That seems so weak and inadequate to express my gratitude for the strength and courage you have given me. The prayers, hugs, kind words, cards and phone calls kept me going through a trying time. May God bless each and everyone one of you...." *Grace*

Judson

NEW COUNTYWIDE INFORMATION AND REFERRAL SYSTEM FOR HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

A new countywide information and referral system for health & social services called the "211 Initiative" has been introduced. This system is being spearheaded by the Washtenaw United Way for this county and is already in place in over a quarter of the US. When this system is fully operational, consumers will be able to simply dial the number "211" from any phone within Washtenaw County (anytime - 24/7) and they will be connected to a specialist who will assess their health and/or social service needs and then help to connect them with the appropriate community service. Specialists will have at their disposal access to a comprehensive services database consisting of federal, state, local government and nonprofit resources to help in the process of matching them with these

services. At this time, this new "211" information and referral service is in the introductory stage -- it is being offered Monday through Friday 8 am to 5 pm using the phone number 477-6211. During this introductory stage, certification for the "211" phone number is being applied for through the Michigan Public Service Commission. It is expected that the "211" phone number for this information and referral system will be approved by this summer. Once it is approved, the system will be offered simply by dialing the "211" phone number anytime (24/7) within the county. The intent is also to develop linkages of this "211" system throughout the state. It is projected that nearly 60% of the state will have operational "211" systems within a year.

**Note:
Corrected Phone
number is
734-477-6211**



MISSIONS COMMITTEE

P.E.A.C.E. for Youth at Central

35 people attended the Lenten Potluck on February 17 and heard Edwin Rowe and two student speakers describe the P.E.A.C. E. (Programs for Education, Athletics, and Creative Endeavors) for the Youth Program at Detroit Central United Methodist Church.

Middle school age youth are engaged in practical tutorial programs, offered conflict resolution training and a safe environment to express, relate to and respond to the often-violent circumstances in which they live. The program offers practical education to youth and families who seek to learn and implement non-violent resolutions to systematic institutional and often racially motivated inhibitors to non-violent living.

We will be supporting this program as part of our 2005 Ministry Jubilee pledge. A free will collection of over \$200 was given to that organization in addition to an honorarium.

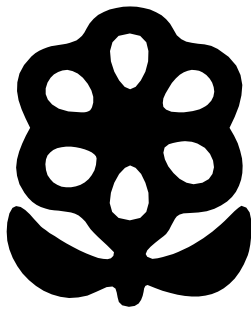
Mother's Day Flower Sale

May 8

The Missions Committee will be taking orders for flowers. Forms are on the Ministries Table. Prepaid orders are due by April 23.

Flats are \$13 for 36 plants of a single color and \$18 for 18 larger plants (geraniums, etc.)

Hanging baskets are also available to purchase the day of the sale.



Habitat Good News House

The Habitat For Humanity "Good News House" this year is a 3-bedroom ranch on Monroe St. in Ypsilanti. It is to be construction according to Energy Star standards and is expected to cost close to \$60,000. We will try for a Saturday work day in late June or anytime in July, and will need 12-15 volunteer workers on our work day

Mother's Day Flower Sale

A Mother's Day Flower Sale will be held to raise funds for the "Good News House".

Last year we raised \$800 and hope to do better this year. Information and order forms/lists are available at the Ministries Table in the Fellowship Hall.

Prepaid orders are due by April 23 for delivery on May 7. Most flats cost \$13 for 36 plants with larger geraniums and petunias available for \$16 in flats of 18. A variety of colors are available for each species, each flat is a single color. Hanging baskets will be available on Mother's Day, May 8.

U.M.W. NEWS

The Annual Ham Dinner was a great success again this year. A big "thank you" to all the people who volunteered their time. We couldn't have done it without you. The profit was \$972 and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves – either working or eating!

SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE DINNER!!

The Nurture Committee invites you to the next "Saturday Night Live" dinner on Sat. April 16 for fun and fellowship as well as dinner! (Hopefully, by that time, we'll be enjoying a bit of Spring weather as well!) We'll meet at the church about 5:30 and then head over to the Creekside Grill (Jackson Rd, just west of Zeeb) to arrive about 6 pm. If you'd rather meet us at the restaurant, that's fine too. Like the other restaurants we've been to in the past, Creekside Grill has a reasonably priced, varied menu.

The restaurant would like an approximate count a couple days in advance so please let someone on the Nurture committee or Joanne in the office know if you'll be joining us.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ON APRIL 16TH!!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CORNER: HELP!

We are asking again this month – *are you interested in helping with FROG Week? I would really like to have FROG Week this year but without your help...it may not happen. Contact Stephanie Cloutier at sdcloutier@sbcglobal.net or at 449-4630 for more information*



Youth News

The 2005 Mountain Top'ers announce plans for a Rummage Sale!!! The all-new Mountain T.O.P. Rummage Sale will be held in the Fellowship Hall on April 30th from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The youth are seeking donations of rummage sale items! Please bring any items you would like to donate to the church or call Sandy to arrange a pick-up. Drop off times for donations are:

Sunday, April 24th, after both services
Thursday, April 28th, between 5-7 p.m.
Friday, April 29th, between 3-6 p.m.

This is a new endeavor for the youth to raise money for their summer mission trip to

Mountain T.O.P. Tennessee. Did you know that it costs over \$450.00 for each person to go to Mountain T.O.P.? As a group we try to fundraise the majority of this cost so that as many youth as possible can attend. So, we really need your help to make this a successful event!

We need DONATIONS & HELP! If you would be able to help with the sale in any way (during drop-offs, set-up, during the sale, or clean-up) we would be very appreciative. Please let Sandy Bowers know if you would like to help! Thank you for your support.

Church Retreat

Mark your calendars for Oct 28-29!

We will be having a "Fall Retreat" at Fa-HoLo Camp and Conference Center in Grass Lake.

There are activities and themes for all ages. Look for more information in the coming months!

Help our youth with the Rummage Sale!

More Youth News...

30 Hour Fast for Hunger

“Let my heart be broken by the things that break God’s heart.”

29,000 children die every day from hunger...

On April 16th and 17th, we will be participating in World Vision’s 30 Hour Famine. During the famine we will fast for 30 hours to raise money to fight world hunger. During the 30 hours we will also be participating in community service, including volunteer work with The Food Gatherers, a locally based food bank.

We are doing the famine because we care. We care that 29,000 children die every day from hunger and hunger-related causes. (That’s more than 10 million children each year.) We care and dream of a better world.

The 30 Hour Famine allows us to act on this dream. It empowers us to make a very real difference by saving the lives of children. For each \$30 pledge we re

ceive, a child is fed for a month. Our goal is to collect at least 10 pledges from sponsors who, like us, dream of a better world. A world where children do not die from hunger.

Prior to the fast, we must acquire sponsors. We are asking that you support our endeavor as generously as you can. All of the money donated to World Vision for the 30 Hour Famine is used directly in hunger relief. *Your contribution will save a child from starvation.*

World Vision has challenged young people like us to follow Christ’s teachings by feeding the hungry, clothing the naked and caring for the sick. We have accepted this challenge. Please help us change the world.

The Senior High

Check out our changes on the website...there are new additions weekly at www.dixboro.com

Also, looking for news about United Methodists? Check the UMC website at www.umc.org. A featured article is a story on “Remembering the Central Jurisdiction”

Comments Anyone?

As we’re sure you have noticed, the format of the newsletter has changed. Now we’re looking for some comments from you. We’re not fishing for compliments. What we really want is criticism. Can you read it? Do you read it? Do you like the format? Is there anything we could do to make it better?

The Communications Committee has been reviewing newsletters and discussing formats for several months. None of us are professionals (as you probably guessed!) so since we don’t have all the answers, we need some from you, the readers...

Please direct your comments to Barb Scheffer, Chairperson of the Communications Committee or Joann Hocking in the church office.

Thanks!