

# THE CHIMES

DIXBORO UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH  
NEWSLETTER

APRIL, 2007

## AN OPEN LETTER FROM REV. JOHN PARK

*“Spring is here  
Grass is riz’  
Wonder where  
The birdies is”*

So recited one of my fourth grade friends the day Miss Hornung made us all write a poem. Years later I discovered that good friend Eddie didn't write his poem; someone else did.

Still the thought remains reminding me that I expect something to be different and renewed in the spring. How about you?

Are there tulips poking their heads up in your life? Will the forsythia be especially bright yellow? Grace is ours everyday from the hand of the Planter of All Good Things. The flowers will grow and the birds will sing in praise to God.

And the only things we have to do is to love God and our neighbor. Jesus said something about all this for you in Matthew 6:24-33. Read it this week.

All in all, God's way is a great way to begin our spring at Dixboro.

*The Preacher*

### **GRANTS FOR THE RENOVATION:**

Dixboro has applied for a Technology grant and a Connectional Church grant through the United Methodist Church for the work in the sanctuary. Already we have received an accessibility grant from the Detroit Conference. Look for good news and we'll keep you posted.

### **THE GREAT LAKES CONFERENCE:**

*John G. Park, Preacher*

Conversations are under way about uniting the Detroit Annual Conference and the West Michigan Annual Conference to bring the whole state into one Conference by 2009.

“The vision of the Great Lakes Conference is to create and nurture healthy congregations that will make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

You can read about the journey at [www.umc-detconf.org](http://www.umc-detconf.org).

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CORNER:**

*Stephanie Cloutier, Dir. of Education*

### **EDUCATION CALENDAR:**

Sunday, April 1st - Palm Sunday - cherubs sing  
- palm parade - all youth invited to participate!

-- look for information to come home.

Sunday, April 8th - Easter - no Sunday School  
- Egg Hunt at 10:30AM

Sunday, May 27th - Memorial Day weekend -  
no Sunday School

Sunday, June 10th - Confirmation Sunday

### **WHAT'S HAPPENING IN EDUCATION??**

In February our youth sent lots & lots of valentines to Mott Children's Hospital and spent some time making prayer magnets for our own congregation. I hope you are enjoying your magnets and remember to keep praying for our kids!

Special Thanks to Spence BeMent who taught our March 11th Confirmation class about the Holy Spirit and what that means.



### **FROM THE YOUTH DIRECTOR:**

***Sandy Bowers, Youth Director***

I receive a monthly youth publication called "Group Magazine". It is a great place to find new ideas for youth group, and interesting articles about youth ministry and youth culture in general. A recent article, "Why Kids Come to Christ", caught my attention because it is so relevant to our youth program. (Copies on Ministries Table to read.)

The article reports on a study to identify the factors involved in a young person's decision to be a Christian. The top reason given by teenagers was a church camp or retreat, and the most important influence on their decision was a friend, specifically the non-verbal behavior of a friend (actions, rather than words, of a friend). The article then offers suggestions for helping youth reach this decision:

- offer camps and retreats
- encourage teenagers to invite their friends.

In March DUMY attended a Christian camp called Spring Hill for a Junior High Winter Retreat. It was an action-packed weekend that delivers a powerful message. Our youth love Spring Hill and look forward to this retreat all year. The senior high

### ***Here's a fun & meaningful way to celebrate Easter with your family...***

During Easter week use a basket of prayer eggs to encourage your family to spend time together in prayer.

Place slips of paper with prayer topics inside plastic eggs. Make enough eggs for each family member to open one per day. Include praise and gratitude and prayers for your church, and the community. Open the prayer eggs at meals or bed time and pray as a family for the opened requests.

### ***Put this on your things to see this Spring!***

The Frederick Meijer Gardens in Grand Rapids in their Lena Meijer Conservatory has the nations largest butterfly exhibit! There are literally thousands of butterflies flitting around! It is an absolutely beautiful place and such fun for the family. The exhibit runs through April 30th. Check out their webpage for more information [www.meijergarden.org](http://www.meijergarden.org) or call at 1-888-957-1580. Enjoy!

youth are busy making plans for their potential June mission trip to Mountain T.O.P., a Christian service project in Tennessee. There our youth will be given the opportunity to grow as Christians and accept the challenge to become "fishers of men". Mountain T.O.P. has been a signature activity of our Youth Ministry for many years and has numerous "graduates" that will willingly witness to the impact that their experience had on their spiritual development.

The Group Magazine article reinforces what I've learned about our kids. They want to be Christians but they need help in figuring out what that means. They want to know Jesus in a real and authentic way. Authentic means that they are hearing a relevant message, they are seeing the message of Jesus in action, and that their friends share this experience with them. Kids need to be comfortable with their faith, and a faith that is isolated from their friends is not real. That is why it is so important to provide opportunities like Mountain T.O.P. and Spring Hill to our teenagers.

I am grateful that our congregation values our youth and supports our youth programs. On behalf of all of our young people, thank you for your continued prayers and support!

## **YOUTH GROUP NEWS:**

Dixboro's 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Youth Group meets on Wednesday evenings in the schoolhouse. Our new Youth Worship Team has been meeting on Saturdays. This month we have lots of great stuff planned. Why don't you join us?

### **April Calendar:**

Monday, April 2	6:30-9:00	Skating Party
Saturday, April 7	6:00 p.m.	Sunrise Service Sleepover
Sunday, April 8	7:00 a.m.	Easter Sunrise Service
Wed., April 11	SPRING BREAK.....NO D.U.M.Y.	
Wed., April 18	7:30-9:00	Lesson – Earth Day
Sunday, April 22	11:00-1:30	Earth Day Celebration
Wed., April 25	7:30-9:00	Lesson – Labyrinth

### **“EARTH DAY” CELEBRATIONS:** *Paul Carson, Chairman*

Sunday, April 22 is designated as EARTH DAY, the center of several events at Dixboro United Methodist Church to recognize the importance of the environment to human life and of our reverence to and stewardship of it. Our celebration will include the following three events:

- April 14, 8:00 a.m., in Fellowship Hall, at the Men's Club Saturday Breakfast, we will show Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth". (Youth are welcome to attend and participate; what else is going on at 8:00 a.m. Saturday?)
- Sunday, April 22 – Earth Day Services at the usual times.
- Sunday, April 22, 12:05 p.m. – "Soup Sunday" and a discussion of climate moderation and human response to climate change.

Sponsored by the Earth Advocacy Committee and the Youth Group.

To contribute to these activities, particularly the Soup Sunday, call or e-mail Paul Carson, Earth Advocacy Chairman ([pcarson@umich.edu](mailto:pcarson@umich.edu)) or Sandy Bowers, Youth Director ([ekbsmbkeb@aol.com](mailto:ekbsmbkeb@aol.com)).

### **FROM THE NURTURE COMMITTEE:** *Phylis Brandon, Chairperson*

Please remember Anne & Will Ottosson in your prayers. They are both doing so well in school and in life. Anne especially needs our help as she is attending college and we all know how much tuition, room and board, books, fees, etc. are. But what about all the other items a young gal needs. She doesn't have a Mom to take her out and stock up on necessities such as shampoo and socks!

Please think about whether you can help Anne with a donation that can be given through the church and which is tax deductible. Just specify that it is for Anne, and either mail it to the office, put it in the collection plate or given the John Park or any Nurture Committee member. She is a good investment! Thanks!

### **APRIL BIRTHDAYS:**

4/1	Peter Gale Spence BeMent Karl Benson
4/2	Cynthia BeMent
4/4	April Connell
4/7	Ann Frederick
4/8	Luke Nickerson
4/10	Alice Hawkins Rebecca Anderson Griffin Charnetski
4/11	Cari Carson Theresa Cochran Alex Rudelich
4/12	Mary Taggart
4/14	Sara Smith
4/16	Will Ottosson
4/19	Betty Mitchell Claudia Billings
4/20	Joanne Latvala
4/22	Beth Woodward Katie Wilcox
4/23	Aiden McCormick
4/24	Kelley Hubbard
4/26	Christopher LaLonde Jan McCormick
4/29	Jennifer Johns
4/30	Charles Engle

### **APRIL BIBLE READINGS:**

#### **April 1**

Luke 19: Zachaeus  
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

#### **April 8**

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
John 20:19-31

#### **April 15**

Psalm 150  
John 20:19-31

#### **April 22**

Psalm 30  
ohn 21:1-19

#### **April 29**

Psalm 23  
John 10:22-30

### **FROM THE KITCHEN!** *United Methodist Women*

#### **“PLEASE TAKE US HOME!”**

We are the pie tins, cake pans, serving dishes and platters that come to the many potlucks and dinners our church is famous for. However, after we are empty we have been left in the kitchen for such a long time we are forgetting who we belong to or who brought us!

If we are not picked up pretty soon, we will be put into the Rummage Sale or even worse, thrown away!

Please look for us and find us so we can go home again to be once more filled with tasty treats. We love our job!

**ALL YOU CAN EAT SPAGHETTI DINNER:**

*"The Dinner Divas"*

**April 21, 2007, 4:30-6:30 p.m.**

**Adults: \$8.50 Children: \$4 Under 5: free**

**TAKE-OUT AVAILABLE**

**Reservation are helpful Call 665-5632 for more information**

**THE WISDOM OF YOUTH – Our young resident philosopher has this piece of wisdom to share:**

**"The only things you are too busy to do are the things you really don't want to do."**

**Right on, Laura Knutilla!**

**DIXBORO RUMMAGE SALE: April 27th and 28th!**

*Sandy Bowers, Youth Director*

The annual rummage sale will be held on April 27th from 9-6:30 and April 28th from 9-12:30 in the Dixboro Church Fellowship Hall. Why not do your "Spring cleaning" early and donate to our sale? All donations can be dropped off at the church on Wednesday, April 25th and Thursday, April 26th between 4 and 8 p.m. If you are available to help with the rummage sale please call Sandy (663-8344). All proceeds from the sale will benefit the youth for their summer mission trip to Mountain T.O.P. Don't forget to stop by and shop for treasures!

**DINE OUT AND SUPPORT OUR YOUTH!:**

Tired of cooking? Sure you are! You deserve a break so why not eat out instead? Go to Applebee's Restaurant on April 17th for a great meal - and help out a great cause at the same time! Our youth group will receive a percentage of all meals sold all day for their trip to Mountain T.O.P. Simply present a coupon when you order your food and we'll receive a check. Pretty nifty! The youth will be passing out coupons during church, and you can also find copies on the Ministries Table. Please call Kate (677-2934) if you would like more coupons and we'll make sure you

get them. Enjoy your dinner and go ahead, order dessert - after all, it is helping the youth!

**PARENTS NIGHT OUT:**

Hey, Parents! Its time to go out! We mean a night out without the kids!!!! The youth are offering a Baby Sitting Service on April 28th from 4:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. at the church. We'll provide dinner, snacks, and loads of fun for your children while you enjoy an evening out! Please call Jenny (663-3755) or Rachael (657-8624) to make reservations.



**NEW WOMEN'S GROUP UPDATE: Phylis Brandon & Cathy Freeman, Co-Chairs**

The Women's Group met on March 8 and had fun talking about options and ideas for our future and here's what we came up with:

- We will meet as a full group on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 with a short program developed by one or two of the members and a short business meeting.
- The meeting on May 10 will be a special dinner event for females of all ages, sizes, denominations, affiliations, and educational levels (that means all females). Stay tuned for more information about this fun event which is being chaired by Mary Berry and Phylis Brandon.
- Cathy Freeman will develop and lead a retreat.
- Beth Little will lead a Bible Study. Let her know if you want to participate because the time and subject of the study will be determined by the participants.
- Cathy Freeman will lead a prayer/meditation group. Again, let her know if you would like to participate as the format and time will be determined by the participants.

We had many other ideas of things to do as a group so different or more small groups will be developed as time goes on and interests change. We will discuss how and when to do this at future monthly meetings.

The Women of Dixboro Church are excited by this new opportunity to be in sisterhood and to grow together in the life of Jesus Christ. We hope you can join us.

**CHANCEL DECORATING COMMITTEE NEWS:** Cathy Freeman, Chairperson

The Chancel Decorating Committee met for the first time on Thursday, March 15. As our work progresses, I will do short updates via email and the Sunday bulletin as well as the CHIMES.

In the meantime, the members of the committee have been identified and I want to thank everyone for their eager and willing participation (really!). The committee members are: *Linda Aldrich (representing the Sanctuary Decorating Committee), Janice Clark (representing the Choir), Ardith King (member at large), Beth Little (representing The Joyful Noise), Lee Mein (member at large), Kenn Scheffer (representing the Building Committee), Ingrid Sheldon (member at large), Joann Sherman (representing the Altar Guild), Helen Snedeker (member at large), Carol Weigel and Sandy Bowers (alternately representing the Worship Committee), and a member from the Trustees who is yet to be named.*

This committee represents a wonderful cross-section of Dixboro Church. I am excited to work with all of them as we explore the many options for meaningful decoration of our worship space and decide which one will best meet the needs of our Dixboro church community.

As always, we want to hear your ideas for questions to ask, people to ask, resources to explore and anything else you want to share with us about this project.

**LOOKING FORWARD** ∇∇

**LADIES SALAD & DESSERT BUFFET & PROGRAM:**

The United Methodist Women's Group would like to invite you to gather at the church on Thursday, May 10, 2007 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. to partake of your favorite donated salads and desserts followed by a program to be announced. Cost is \$3 a person.

LAST NAME:           A – L = Bring a salad  
                              M – Z = Bring a dessert

Invite all of your favorite women friends. Consider decorating a table. Make reservations with Mary Berry at 663-5269 or Phylis Brandon at 327-0245.

**DECORATE A TABLE:**           Mary Berry,  
*Organizer*

Each table will have a white tablecloth and be decorated in a garden theme. You will need to bring china place settings for eight.

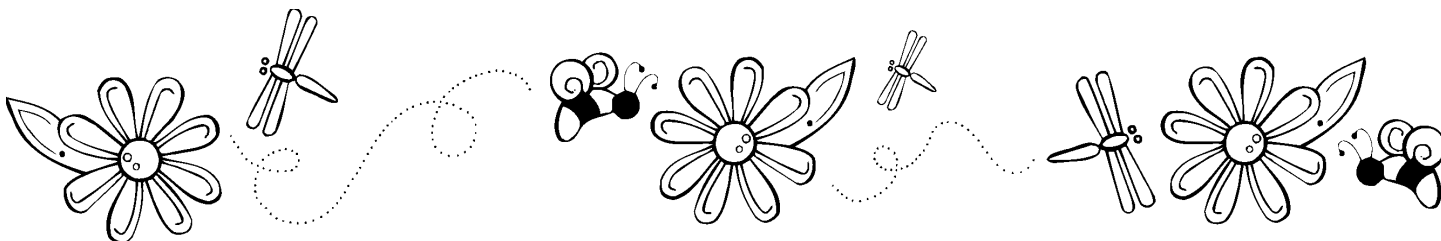
- 8 dinner plates
- 8 coffee mugs or tea cups
- 8 salad forks
- 8 dinner forks
- 8 knives
- 8 spoons
- A box large enough to carry & take home your dishes
- Decorations for a garden theme table. The tables will have a central theme to decorate around.

**YOU ARE INVITED!**

Please join us on Saturday, **May 12** from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall to celebrate Grace Judson's 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday! **No gifts, please.**

Just come , enjoy some cake and fellowship, and help us to celebrate!

*The Judson Family*



**ANNUAL MOTHER'S DAY FLOWER SALE  
TO BENEFIT THE 2007 "GOOD NEWS HOUSE":**

The Missions Committee is again holding its Annual Spring Flower Sale. Flat orders (prepaid) will be taken through Sunday, May 6 and available on May 12 and 13, Mother's Day weekend. Willow Greenhouse will again be our provider. Order forms will be available at the church and the prices will be the same as last year, resulting in a profit of \$3.50-\$4.00 per flat. All profits will be donated to the local Habitat for Humanity Good News House to

help satisfy our \$2800 pledge to this organization. It is our goal to raise at least \$1500 with this sale. Monetary donations will be also appreciated. All checks should be made out to DUMC with a Good News House designation. Contact any member of the Missions Committee for further information. (Lori Kempf, Roberta King, Gail Hubbard, Linda Aldrich, Spence BeMent, Carol Huey, Carol Guregian, Emily Vincent.)

**Spence BeMent, Missions Comm.**

**RENOVATION DEDICATION:**

***John G. Park, Preacher***

Save Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3:00 p.m. for a Ceremony of Dedication and Thanksgiving. We'll celebrate, dedicate and offer our thanks to God for all that's been done over the years in renovating and renewing. Help us invite all the people we should by giving names and address to the office for the ones you know.

**150TH YEAR DIXBORO U.M.C. CELEBRATION:** ***Spence BeMent***

A committee consisting of Ardith King, Garvin Smith, John Park, Phoebe Judson, Peggy Moran, Tom Freeman, and Spence BeMent has formed to begin planning events and publicity for the 150th year Celebration of the founding of our church. This celebration will begin in earnest next Fall and continue into 2008, somewhat in parallel with the original founding. In this kick-off article, we present the following excerpt from Carol Willits Freeman's book, "Of Dixboro, Lest We Forget":

*In September 1857 Ira W. Donaldson, an appointed minister to Ann Arbor, came to Dixboro and started revival meetings. They were well attended, and "society took a different tone." Interest was aroused in building a church, and on December 10, 1857, a meeting of the residents of Dixboro and the surrounding area was called "for the purpose of taking into consideration the location and form of a church to be erected in said place." It was "resolved that a church be erected not to exceed in cost \$2,500, and to be located within 25 rods of public square." " It was resolved that a lecture room, of practical, be attached to the church"; this was not found practical.*

*Thus it was that our church came into existence and we will recognize this and other happenings as part of our 150th celebration.*

**Special request:** If you have an interest in participating in the planning of the celebratory activities, please contact Ardith King. Your participation on the committee, your ideas, and/or your provision of artifacts, photos and other historical items will be greatly appreciated.

**CHURCH SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE...**

***Garvin Smith, Chairperson Scholarships***

**Barbara Morris Academic Achievement Award:** \$500 scholarship based on the high school cumulative grade point average for a beginning college student.

**Ivan Parker Academic Achievement Award:** \$500 scholarship based on cumulative grade point average for a continuing college student.

**Suzanne Smith Memorial Scholarship:** Two \$500 scholarships based on overall commitment to family, school, church and community, while maintaining highest possible grades, for beginning OR continuing students enrolled in a post-secondary educational or training program.

**APPLICATION FORMS AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE**

***Completed Applications MUST be returned by JUNE 1.***

**SATURDAY AUGUST 4, 2007 -- ANNUAL ARTISAN'S SHOW AND CRAFT FAIR:**

The Dixboro Fair Planning Committee is off to a great start with many new ideas for the fair this year.

The Fair Committee appreciates the volunteer's hard work. Everyone who contributes their time and energy helps to share Dixboro Church with the community. This Fair is a wonderful day and would not be possible without your help.

The organizers of each committee are asking for your assistance again this year.

Food tent -- Meredith Burr needs an assistant; she can plan and organize but won't be there the day of the Fair. Call her @ 487-5673.

Artisans and \*FLEA MARKET\*-- Beth Woodward needs booth sitters. If you feel you can no longer help with the physical work of the Fair, sitting at a booth while the artist takes a break would be a great way to contribute your time. Beth's phone number 248-486-3893

Parking -- Bob DeWolf needs assistance in the morning hours and then again during clean-up for organizing the scout cabin. Bob's phone number 668-7168

Children's Games -- Beth Little needs an assistant the day of the Fair. Her number is 480-2525.

**OUR "THANK YOU" BOX:**

From Carol Guregian -- "I want to thank my church family for the many expressions of love sent my way during my recent illness -- the cards, visits and food that came to cheer me on. What a blessing to have such a great cheering section when you are going through a tough time! With my love to you all."

From Phebe Judson, Chairperson of United Methodist Women -- "I wish to thank the many volunteers who worked to make the annual Ham Dinner a success. The food was delicious and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves (even the workers!). The dinner made a profit of \$656 and all monies go to the Renovation Fund. Again, thank you for helping with another successful dinner."

From Carol Weigel, Worship Committee Chairperson -- "Thank you to the writers of the Lenten Devotional booklet. The time, thought, and meaningful messages were much appreciated. The assistance of Worship Committee members Sandy Bowers, Stephanie Cloutier, and Becky Horvath in preparation of the booklet was invaluable. It is that the writings, scripture, prayer and reflection experienced during Lent will help in making the Easter season a time of joy and hope in eternal life."

**DETROIT ANNUAL CONFERENCE -- Will be held in Adrian, Michigan on Mary 17-20. Cathy Freeman, who is our Lay Member, will be attending. Attached is a letter from the Bishop.**

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