

THE CHIMES

DIXBORO UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH
NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2008



AN OPEN LETTER FROM REV. JOHN G. PARK

"Hello Church,"

Another John – John the Revelator - wrote that, but not those exact words, way back when. As the story goes, John was on the "...Island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus." (Revelation 1:9) That's where he heard a voice telling him to write to seven churches about the dream or the vision he saw.

Chapters 2 and 3 of Revelation describe John's writing to each of the seven churches and that's where it sounds like my *"Hello Church."* Then, he says to each, *"I know,"* and describes their corporate life and ministry for Christ.

We spend a lot of time in Church today talking about the individual; one person's way of serving Christ or what God call you (one by one) to do, to be, to say.

But, *"Hello Church,"* is appropriate, too, when we ask, *"How's it going for us?"*

"I know..." your faith (collectively) is growing. If you add the pluses and deduct the minuses, still you'll see an increase in our faith.

"I know..." you look (together) for ways to love your neighbor in action not just words and provide food and help and support especially for those in need. The Missions Committee keeps us posted on the monthly amount we add to Food Gatherers. God bless this food and the hungry.

"I know..." the Covenant Offering we gave at Annual Conference in May to help in Haiti and Liberia does help. I know Roberta King just returned from there having seen the work of God being done by you and me, to the glory of God.

"I know..." how generous you are and how you seek out ways and places to give even more to help in every need. *"I know..."* how you and I see the work yet to do as this year draws to a close. Our Treasurer reported that we will need \$50,000 contributed during November and December to cover our needs and commitments. That's a lot but we can do it and we will. You'll help because you are part of it all here at Dixboro Church.

"I know..." you can count on me – and I can count on you – for prayer, presence, gifts and service. And, *"I know..."* that we lean heavily on the sixteenth century prayer of Thomas More, *"The things, good Lord, that we pray for, give us the grace to labor for."* (Hymnal 409)

"I know..." yes, "I know..." we have some work to do. Even that first John I mentioned knew that about his seven churches.

Early Methodists talked about, ...*going on to perfection.*" And that didn't mean being perfect in every part of anything but it meant being made perfect in love for God and our neighbor.

That's God's work. This December as the year draws toward a close, we are doing it, together and we still have a lot to do.

There's time and we have the resources of God!

The Preacher

OUR SESQUICENTENNIAL YEAR – BISHOP KEATON TO VISIT

By Ardith King, Sesquicentennial Task Force Chair

Our year of sesquicentennial celebrations is coming to an end. Our church building began on December 10, 1858 and was completed in February of 1859.

On December 7, 2008, to celebrate this, our present Bishop, the Rev. Jonathan D. Keaton will speak at our 9am and 11am worship services. There will be a reception in the Fellowship Hall from 1:00-11:00 am. Please make a special effort to come at 10:00, meet the Bishop, share in our tasty refreshments and enjoy a slide show of our year's commemorations.

Put this important date on your calendar and we look forward to seeing you there.

This is a very important time and it is you, the people of Dixboro Church, who make it important. Come celebrate with us.

ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE ON DECEMBER 3

By Pastor John Park

This year's Annual Church Conference with District Superintendent, Rev. Tom Macauley, will be Wednesday, December 3, at 7:30 pm. All committee chairs are expected to attend and all church members are encouraged to attend. This is a great opportunity to review the many successes from the past year and to make commitments on how we will continue to do God's work for the next year.

MISSIONS – CHRISTMAS GIVING

By Carol Huey, Missions Committee



Our Missions Committee is collecting Christmas gifts for the young residents of the Methodist Children's Home Society. The children are boys ranging in age from 5-17. The wish lists for each of the boys are posted on a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall. Please think about choosing a children and buying him a gift. Just sign your name on the Christmas gift poster, do your shopping, and bring the gift - unwrapped and labeled with the child's name - to the parlor. We need to ask you to have your gifts to the church by Sunday, December 7 so that they can be delivered to the Methodist Children's Home that week.

WORSHIP DURING DECEMBER

By Cathy Freeman, Pastoral Assistant

Worship is always a special time for the congregation of Dixboro UMC but even more so during this special season of Advent and Christmas.

Sunday, December 7 – Bishop Jonathan D. Keaton will preach at both the 9am and 11am services as part of our sesquicentennial celebrations.

Sunday, December 14 – The Chancel Choir and the Dixboro Players will present a musical drama, “A Christmas Carol in Bethlehem” at both the 9am and 11am services.

Sunday, December 21, 7:00 pm – Cathy Freeman will lead a “Longest Night Service” in the Fellowship Hall. This service is meant to provide a quiet time during the hustle and bustle of the holiday season. If you need a time to remember loved ones who are no longer with us, if your heart is heavy for any reason, or if you just need to experience quiet and peace during a busy time, please join us for this service. Gingerbread and cider will be served by the Worship Committee after the service.

Wednesday, December 25, 5:00 pm – A Christmas Eve service especially meant for families and children.

Wednesday, December 25, 7:00 pm – A Christmas Eve candlelight service with Holy Communion.

Wednesday, December 25, 11:00 pm – A Christmas Eve candlelight service with Holy Communion.

COME AND GET IT – PULLED PORK DINNER

By Barbara Scheffer, Divas

Home-made Take Home Pulled Pork Dinner Returns on Sunday, December 14, 2009

Menu: Delicious Pulled Pork with Bun
 Home-made coleslaw
 Huge Brownie dessert

\$8.00 per dinner - Orders will be taken during Fellowship time between and after services on Sundays or by calling Meredith Burr at 487-5673.

MORE FROM THE DIVAS

By Barbara Scheffer, Divas

The other part of our planning has to do with a name change of "Divas" to avoid the gender issue and be more inviting to the men who would like to participate. Here are some ideas we are tossing around:

Dixboro Chefs
Dixboro Cookers
Dixboro Dinner Chefs
Dinner Chefs of Dixboro

Let us know what you think.

We thought we should have a clear "mission statement" of this group:

"The (new name) is a fundraising arm of the DUMC Trustees Committee dedicated solely to the beautification of church properties. Our goal is to assist in funding activities that will help create an inviting and attractive environment for members of the church and the surrounding communities."

Again, let us know what you think.

THE COOKIE WALK IS BACK!

By Patty Fragner, Women of Dixboro



Back by Popular Demand! The Women of Dixboro will sponsor the "Cookie Walk" this year on Sunday, December 21. For those of you who don't know about this time-honored DUMC tradition, here's how it works: Wonderful homemade Christmas cookies are lovingly baked by women (and children and men, too, I bet!) and brought to church to sell to the members during fellowship hour on a designated Sunday in Advent. An interested customer will purchase a can to fill, and then walk through the cookie display, choosing the cookies of his/her choice along the way, until the can is full. It's great fun and a super fundraiser for the committee in charge of the event. Please plan to participate and join in the fun!

Any cookie donations will be gladly accepted by the Women of Dixboro! Just bring your contributions by 8:45 a.m., December 21. In the meantime, please drop off empty coffee cans in the church kitchen, if you've got them!

Please contact Patty Fragner if you have questions. Thank you in advance for your support.

COATS NEEDED

By Chris Martin

Rhinehart Realty is collecting used coats and giving them directly to people who need them. They will even dry clean the donations, if necessary. Please bring your used coats to the church anytime during the month of December. There is a collection box outside the church office.

SUNDAY SERVICES GREETERS

By Lori Brandt

Let's try a new Greeters System for our Sunday services - you agree to be a greeter and you also agree to find someone to take your place the following Sunday. That person greets and, in turn, finds someone to greet the next Sunday – and so on, and so on..... An easy way to welcome all to our church! Please volunteer when asked. We can do this!

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN UPDATE

By Phebe Judson, UMW President

The main purpose of the *United Methodist Women* is to grow as persons and in community in their understanding of and willingness to help and give to missions both globally and at home.

Our income has been from two main activities – the Ham Dinner earned \$887.63 and the Turkey Dinner earned \$1,193.19. There have also been individual donations that were given to help in the numerous projects.

Our giving went to:

UMW District Pledge - \$1000

Assistance to a Mali family - \$400

Methodist Children's Village - \$100

Church Women United - \$50

Prayer and Self Denial - \$75

Peace Neighborhood Center - \$100

Donation to Roberta King's Haiti Trip - \$350

Health Kits - \$49.29 and \$26.15

Seeds & tools for Church World Service - \$210

Food for Dixboro Heritage Sunday - \$77.05

The end of 2007 money was given to our own church for renovation and to the church to help meet the apportionments.

We hope to continue our financial commitments in the coming year. We have always had very good cooperation from the people of the church and we hope it will continue as the Ham and Turkey Dinners are scheduled for 2009.

THAT SECOND CUP OF COFFEE

By Madeline Kingston-Park, Nurture Committee Chair



What is more fun than talking with friends over a cup of coffee? It's an American institution and it's happily practiced at our church. The Nurture Committee thanks all of you who have provided goodies for our fellowship times and wants you to know the opportunity still exists for any and all who would like to serve in that way.

The coffee hour is held on Sunday morning from 10-11. The refreshments need not be elaborate and may be store-bought. The point is that we get together and share of our time and ourselves. The sign-up sheet remains on the table in the hallway by the office. Thank you very much for your willingness to serve in this way.

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

By Tom Freeman, Administrative Board Chair

The new front doors to the church are being constructed and will be hung soon.

The Staff Parish Relations Committee shared a revised Job Description and salary structure for the Christian Education Director position. The hours and recommended pay for this position are 12 hours/week at the rate of \$15.00/hour. The committee recommended 5.25% salary increases for the Pastor and Pastoral Assistant, most of this rate is a merit increase as established by the Detroit Annual Conference's Clergy Compensation Guidelines with a small amount added to account for the cost of living increase.

The SPRC has also revised the Staff Policy and this will be shared with all staff.

The proposed 2009 budget is being developed and should be finalized at the November 20 Finance Committee meeting.

Tom Little (Finance Chair), Tom Freeman (Ad Board Chair) and John Park (Pastor) were authorized with a Power to Act to make any financial decision that might be necessary at year end.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

By Ingrid Sheldon, Treasurer

Your generosity continues to be amazing. General collections are up \$8500 compared to one year ago at this time. Special collections and designated giving for special projects are up \$18,000 compared to a year ago. The biggest project was the remodeling of the kitchen to bring it up to code. Unfortunately, other church related expenses are up this year creating a \$5000 greater deficit for the year compared to 2007. Some savings have been realized but church maintenance, janitorial service, utilities, snow removal, and lawn care have increased substantively from one year ago. Our previous organist also donated her services leading to payroll savings in 2007.

As we approach the end of the year, there will be much competition for your gifts. It is our hope that your relationship with Dixboro Church strengthens your relationship with God and what we can do together to build a community that supports and sustains its members. It is our hope that your continued giving will allow your church for fulfill all its obligations.

Many of us were treated to a reflection from Marilyn Pobanz that, in turn was distributed by Pastor John Park.

“Dixboro has that old love that warms and makes you feel comfortable and safe. It is a place that makes you want to contribute your time, talents and resources to make it a place that honors God and lasts forever. It is like home. It is my home.....”

May Dixboro be your home!

	October	YTD 2008	Budget	Difference	YTD Actual as % of Budget	YTD 2007
REVENUE						
General Giving	13,520.47	151,336.80	227,600.00		66.49%	142,798.85
Special Collections, Designations, Other	2,937.70	48,736.55				30,460.59
TOTAL REVENUE	16,458.17	200,073.35	227,600.00	27,526.65		173,259.44
EXPENSE:						
Conference/District Related Apportionments	4,238.20	34,673.60	42,950.00	8,276.40	80.73%	34,533.40
Church Related						
Missions including special collections	375.00	4,094.00	2,000.00	0.00		4,926.25
Payroll	3,787.54	34,597.70	45,200.00	10,602.30	76.54%	28,864.25
General church operations Committee	3,134.45	37,319.73	48,297.00	10,977.27	77.27%	33,883.43
Scholarship, PHP	96.14	5,045.84	6,000.00	954.16	84.10%	4,250.75
Special Project:	0.00	2,759.46	0.00	0.00		3,470.90
Total Pastor related expense	2,190.41	36,555.74	0.00	0.00		15,245.86
Total Parsonage Related	6,046.00	60,963.49	77,400.00	16,436.51	78.76%	58,227.08
Total Schoolhouse expense	1.16	3,521.37	6,225.00	2,703.63	56.57%	2,930.59
Total Schoolhouse expense	73.22	505.03	1,975.00	1,469.97	25.57%	1,370.24
TOTAL EXPENSE:	19,942.12	220,035.96	230,047.00	51,420.24		187,702.75
CHURCH RELATED INCOME (LOSS)	-3,483.95	-19,962.61	-2,447.00			-14,443.31

2009 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

By Tom Little, Finance Committee Chair

Blessed Be the Lord God (Luke 1:68)

The Finance Committee mailed out 234 stewardship requests. As of 11/9/08, 39 responses were received which is 43% of the goal of 90 responses. The total amount pledged was \$82,331 which is 47% of the goal of \$175,275. Three electronic giving forms have also been received.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday	Dec 2	7:00 pm	Communications Task Force
Wed	Dec 3	6:30 pm	Worship Committee
		6:45 pm	SPRC Committee meets with District Superintendent
		7:30 pm	Annual Church Conference
Saturday	Dec 5	8:00 pm	Measure for Measure Concert sponsored by Women of Dixboro
Sunday	Dec 7		Bishop Jonathan Keaton at 9am and 11am worship
Tuesday	Dec 9	7:00 pm	Missions Committee
Thursday	Dec 11		Women of Dixboro – cancelled for social event
Saturday	Dec 13	8:00 am	Men's Breakfast in Fellowship Hall
		10:00 am	Preparation for Take Out Dinner in Kitchen
Sunday	Dec 14		Special Choir Presentation at 9am and 11am worship
			Shelter Meal Ministry
			Chimes Deadline for January Issue
		10:00 am	Distribute Pulled Pork Take Out Dinners
Monday	Dec 15	1:00 pm	United Methodist Women
Wed	Dec 17	6:30 pm	Nurture Committee
		7:00 pm	Trustees Committee
Thursday	Dec 18	7:00 pm	Finance Committee
Sunday	Dec 21	10:00 am	Cookie Walk sponsored by Women of Dixboro
		7:00 pm	Longest Night Service in Fellowship Hall
Wed	Dec 24	1:00 pm	King Family Party in Fellowship Hall
		5:00 pm	Worship Service
		7:00 pm	Worship Service
		11:00 pm	Worship Service
Thursday	Dec 25		Christmas Day – office closed
Friday	Dec 26		Holiday – office closed
Sunday	Dec 28		No Sunday School

RECURRING EVENTS

Mondays	10:00 am	Northeast Seniors Exercise Class
Tuesdays	4:30 pm	Dance Class in Fellowship Hall
Tuesdays	7:30 pm	Joyful Noise Band Practice
Wednesdays	10:00 am	Northeast Seniors Exercise Class
Wednesdays	7:30 pm	Chancel Choir Practice
Thursdays	7:00 am	Men's Breakfast at Flim Flam Restaurant
Thursdays	10:00 am	Bible Study in Small Conference Room
Fridays	10:00 am	Northeast Seniors Exercise Class

Saturdays	8:30 am	Prayer/Meditation Group
Sundays	8:00 am	Service of Word and Table Worship Service
Sundays	9:00 am	Contemporary Worship Service
Sundays	10:00 am	Sunday School Classes
Sundays	11:00 am	Traditional Worship Service

First Sunday		Holy Communion celebrated
Second Sunday		Shelter Meal Ministry
Second Sunday		Chimes articles due for next issue
Third Sunday		Bring canned goods to worship
Third Monday	1:00 pm	United Methodist Women
Second Tuesday	7:00 pm	Missions Committee
Third Wednesday	6:30 pm	Nurture Committee
Third Wednesday	7:00 pm	Trustees Committee
Second Thursday	7:00 pm	Women of Dixboro
Second Saturday	8:00 am	Men's Club in Fellowship Hall
Third Thursday	7:00 pm	Finance Committee



DECEMBER LECTIONARY READINGS

Sunday, December 7
Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8

Sunday, December 14
Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Psalm 126
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

Sunday, December 21
Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Luke 1:47-55
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

Sunday, December 28
First Sunday after Christmas

Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Psalm 148
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:22-40