

THE CHIMES

DIXBORO UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH
NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2007

AN OPEN LETTER FROM REV. JOHN G. PARK:

Christmas – she comes!

The greatest gift is Jesus, the Christ. “For God so loved the world that He gave His Son...” (John 3:16). Christmas is the time we celebrate the coming of Jesus – first in Bethlehem’s Manger to Mary and Joseph, then to each one of us in turn as we hear the Good News and open our hearts and lives. This gift of Jesus I already have been given.

Like Apostle Paul, and John Wesley and each preacher appointed to Dixboro over the last 150 years, I believe God has called me to preach – “To testify to the good news of God’s grace.” (Acts 20:24).

I cannot ask for more than Jesus, who preached:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has chosen me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free the oppressed and announce that the time has come when the Lord will save his people.”

(Luke 4:16-19):

This gift of a place to preach Bishop Keaton has already given me in Dixboro Church. I will celebrate its 150th Anniversary all year long. This is a good church, a good place, a good people – open, caring, listening, working together to make disciples for Jesus Christ.

I need the gift of someone to love me and help me – “A helper as his partner” (Genesis 2:18). This gift I already have in Madeline, my beloved. This Christmas I celebrate the gift of Madeline and soon we will mark Anniversary #10 – my, how time flies!

God’s steadfast love, mercy and grace is already gifted to me so much every day that I am surely blessed and need nothing more. How about you?

William Booth, the founder of the Salvation Army, used to send a Christmas note to all the officers world-wide. One year his message was one word: “Others”.

I don’t need more gifts. I want to give more to others.

Help me express God’s love by hope and help in Jesus’ name: Food for the hungry through Food Gatherers, shelter for the homeless working through Cathy Freeman each month. Improvements to our building, the kitchen, the school house, through Gary Harrison and the Trustees, providing needed ministry supporting others in mission by paying our apportionments as we work for Christ in the United Methodist Church world-wide. We have much to give – each one of us.

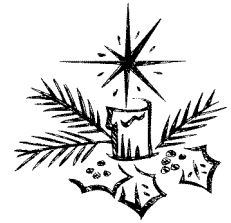
Christmas – she comes! And God blesses each day.

The Preacher



DECEMBER HOLIDAY EVENTS AND WORSHIP SERVICES:

- December 8 -- 7:00 p.m. You are invited to a presentation of the play “A Church Is Born” written by Donal Burns and based on the actual minutes of the first meeting of Trustees of the to-be-formed Dixboro Methodist Church, 1858. This is the first event in a year-long series to celebrate our 150 years of serving God.
Refreshments will be served in Fellowship Hall following the presentation.
(See the enclosed invitation.)
- December 9 – Chancel Choir Christmas Program of music and scripture at BOTH services. Presentation of Sesquicentennial proclamations from the Township Board, from Gov. Granholm and from the U.S. Congress.
- December 16 -- Cherub Choir sings at both 9:00 and 11:00 worship services.
Take-out meatloaf dinner orders available for pickup.
- December 20 – 7:00 p.m. “Longest Night” worship service, led by Cathy Freeman.
- December 24 – Three Christmas Eve Services:
5:00 p.m. for families includes the Children’s Program
7:00 p.m. Candlelight and communion service
11:00 p.m. traditional candlelight and communion service with Chancel Choir
- December 25 – Have a blessed Christmas celebration.
- December 26 – Church office closed...



♪ MUSIC NOTES ♪:

by Janice Clark, Choir Director



We all know Christmas is coming and music is an important part of our celebrations. The Chancel Choir will lead the congregation in carols and anthems exploring “Faces At the Manger” during the 9:00 and the 11:00 services on Sunday, December 9.

Our Cherub Choir will sing on Sunday, December 16 – at the end of the 9:00 service and at the beginning of the 11:00 service. We practice every Sunday at 10:00 to learn our songs, so help your Cherub to be with us regularly.

On a Saturday in November, five of our Chancel Choir members traveled to Birmingham, Michigan to be part of their First Methodist Annual Composer’s Festival. This has been happening for 25 years and we have participated several times. We were one of 30 choirs represented. It’s always thrilling to work with the chosen composer during the day and then be part of a concert that evening, performing with 100+ voices, accompanied by splendid musicians playing brass, organ and piano.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CORNER:

by Stephanie Cloutier, Dir., Christian Education

Dec 16th ~ The Cherubs will sing at both services.

Please make every effort to get your little cherub to practice each Sunday as they prepare!

Dec 24, 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service ~ Our Children’s Pageant will take place during this service!! We hope to see you there!

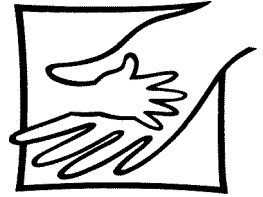
7-12th Graders ~ Please consider joining us on Sunday mornings for a meaningful and fun class!! We meet in the ‘new’ youth room located across from the Fellowship Hall.

Thanks to all of you for getting your picture taken for our pictorial directory!! Your photos will be delivered by Dec.14th. Our new directory should be here by February!!

NURTURE “MEALS & SERVICES” PROGRAM: *by Mary Berry*

The Nurture Committee would like to offer our services to those in the congregation in need of a meal, or a ride to an appointment or to the grocery store. If you know of someone in such need please contact Mary Berry (734) 663-5269. We will do our best to help you out.

If you can offer your time to be on our volunteer list your help will be much appreciated, by us and by the people who need us.



MISSIONS UPDATE: *by Carol Huey*

Our Missions Committee is providing us with an opportunity to share from our abundance with those in need. This year we will be collecting Christmas gifts for the children at the Methodist Children’s Home Society in Redford Township. This is a residential community for at-risk boys.

Each boy has provided ideas for gifts. We encourage you to choose a name, select a gift, and then bring the gift unwrapped and labeled with the child’s name to our church Parlor. All gifts need to be in the Parlor by Sunday, December 9.

We thank you for sharing.

MISSION COMMITTEE ACTIVITY IN NOVEMBER: *by Spence BeMent*

Roberta King is in Haiti on a Volunteers in Mission (VIM) Project as this is being written. The Missions Committee requests that anyone interested in contributing to the \$1500 cost of this trip make their donation in an envelope clearly marked for 2007 Haiti VIM/Roberta King. Over \$300 has been pledged to date. We look forward to hearing about the needs and successes of the Methodist outreach effort to this suffering country.

The Missions Committee is sponsoring a Christmas Present Donation Drive for the male residents of (Methodist) Children’s Village, a local Charity that we have supported for many years. We have a name-linked request list of about ten items from each of about 60 residents. The deadline is December 12 for wrapped presents directed to specific names (see Carol Huey’s article, above). This is a new holiday program for us and we are in the process of getting more specific information. Carol Huey and Gail Hubbard are spearheading this effort.

Our church's financial situation has made it very difficult for the Missions Committee to function at the level of previous years. Your assistance in the coming year through increased giving and pledging will be very important in the restoration of outward contributions to those less fortunate.

<u>BIBLE READINGS:</u>
<u>Dec. 2</u>
Psalm 122
Matthew 24:36-44
<u>Dec. 9</u>
Psalm 72
Matthew 3:1-12
<u>Dec. 16</u>
Luke 1:47-55
Matthew 11:2-11
<u>Dec. 23</u>
Psalm 80
Matthew 1:18-25
<u>Dec. 30</u>
Psalm 148
Matthew 2:13-23

**SEASON’S GREETINGS FROM THE OFFICE
STAFF!**



150TH YEAR DIXBORO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CELEBRATION:

**2008
A YEAR OF
CELEBRATION**
January 27
February 24
April 27
June 1
August 2
September 13 & 14
November 8
December 7

Our celebration has begun in earnest this fall and will continue into 2008, somewhat in parallel with the founding history of our church. Your participation on or with the Planning Committee, your ideas, and any provision of artifacts, photos and other historical items or update information, and attendance at celebratory events will be greatly appreciated. Written or oral memories and anecdotes related to the development and activities of the church and its members will be received with gratitude. The actor selection and staging of "A Church is Born", written by Donal Burns over 50 years ago, is in progress and the play will be presented on Saturday, December 8 at 7:00 p.m.

The Planning Committee consists of Ardith King (Chair), Garvin Smith, John Park, Gerald Parker, Phoebe Judson, Janice Clark, Peggy Moran, Tom Freeman, Beth Woodward Smith and Spence BeMent. Others are most welcome.

GLOBAL FRIENDSHIP IN ANN ARBOR:

Over 400 U of M International students have indicated their interest in dining with local residents this fall. If you would of these students in your home week or weekend evening read further. The students from a variety of religious all. All are eager to experience



Campus Ministry

you like to entertain 2, 3, or more for dinner and conversation on a sometime during December, speak English and they come interests/backgrounds or none at life in a local home.

Contact Spence BeMent information and the simple forms church members have participated in this program, coordinated by the Ecumenical Center and International Residence (ECIR) and the U of M International Center.

(734-664-3334) for additional to get you started. Several

2007 CROP WALK UPDATE: *by Susan Engle*

The four walkers who participated in the annual CROP Walk on October 7 want to publicly thank the owner of Moonwinks Cafe for providing lunch for us that day. We appreciated it very much. Collectively, the seven people who registered were able to gather pledges of \$650. (In 2006, although seven registered, Charles Engle was the only participant, with \$548 pledged by Dixboro people.) A big thanks to everyone who has ever walked or supported the walkers!



WOMEN OF DIXBORO: *by Cathy Freeman*

December Meeting:

The December meeting of the Women of Dixboro will be a field trip. **The regular meeting on Thursday, December 13 will not be held.**

Please join us to visit the Creche Exhibit at the Church of Latter Day Saints, 1385 Green Rd., on Monday evening, December 3. If you want to carpool, we will leave the church parking lot at 6:00 pm so be there a few minutes earlier. Otherwise, meet us at the exhibit around 6:00. After checking

out over 1000 crèches from 111 countries for about one and a half hours, we will go to the Big Boy on Plymouth for coffee and dessert.

Check out the web site if you want to know more about this spectacular exhibit (<http://www-personal.umich.edu/~akc/creche.html>) and we hope to see you on December 3.

WOMEN OF DIXBORO – continued....

Christmas Project:

We will be collecting gifts for a family (or families) we will “adopt” through the Hope Clinic in Ypsilanti. Watch for information about how to participate. Contacts for this project are Mary Berry, Phylis Brandon or Cathy Freeman.

Change in Meeting Time:

Starting in January, we will meet at 7pm (rather than 7:30) on the second Thursday of the month.

Faith-Booking:

Nadine Belitz gave us a wonderful overview of how scrap-booking techniques can be used to document our faith journeys. A small group will be organized after the first of

the year for women who want to pursue this activity. It will be kicked off with an organizational meeting that will be scheduled later.

We are also looking for a few women who will take responsibility for the history of the Women of Dixboro Group in a scrapbook. How about you?

Photos from Salad/Dessert Dinner:

Did you take photos at our beautiful salad and dessert dinner last May? If so, will you send them via email to cathyfreeman27@yahoo.com or provide prints to Cathy Freeman? We don't want to lose this evidence of how much fun we had!

THE KNITTING CLUB: *by Cathy Freeman*

The knitting club will no longer meet on a regular basis. I hope some of you will continue to knit prayer shawls as the ones we have already distributed have been so appreciated. And I am still available for consulting on any knitting project so just ask. I'm happy to answer your questions.

CHURCH LIBRARY UPDATE: *by Connie Amick, Church Librarian*

On a beautiful fall morning a few weeks ago, Bob and I loaded five large boxes of books, no longer needed for our church library; into our van and headed up to Fowlerville. The boxes had been sitting in our garage for a long time, simply because we did not know what to do with them! Finally, I learned, through the folks at Chelsea Retirement Community, about Christian Resources International.

When we arrived at their office/warehouse, excitement was in the air! A shipping container was being packed to be sent by ship to Kenya. The materials it contains were requested by pastors and missionaries in that country. A container holds 28,000 pounds of literature and takes two days to pack!

For more information about C.R.I., see the Missions Bulletin Board or speak to me. You could also contact me if you would be willing to take the responsibility for overseeing the current, relatively small, church library in the Conference Room. It is not a big job and I would be happy to show you what is involved.

