

THE CHIMES

DIXBORO UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH
NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2011

NEW MINISTER APPOINTED TO DIXBORO

By Dawn Anderson, Chair of Staff Parish Relations Committee

On Tuesday, January 19, Rev. Mark Spaw, Ann Arbor District Superintendent, introduced Rev. Tonya Arnesen to the Staff Parish Relations Committee. Bishop Jonathan Keaton has appointed her to Dixboro, effective July 1 as Rev. John Park retires. I am pleased to introduce you to her, using her biography from the website of Metropolitan UMC in Detroit where she is currently serving:



“Tonya Morris Arnesen has served as Senior Pastor of Metropolitan United Methodist Church since July, 2006. Located in the heart of the cultural center of Detroit, Michigan, Metropolitan has long been considered a “flagship church” of World Methodism. Our congregation is a diverse and inclusive Christian community: a multi-racial, multi-cultural congregation that makes room for myriad theological ideas, political temperaments, sexual orientations and socio-economic classes. At the center of our community is Jesus Christ, whose Holy Spirit knits us together in love and mutual respect and who calls and empowers us to make disciples of Jesus Christ in our city and the world.

Born in Corinth, Mississippi, Tonya grew up in Methodist parsonages in Kentucky, Tennessee and Wisconsin before moving to Michigan in 1978 with her husband, David. They have been married for 31 years and have 2 children: Sarah (27) and Dave (25). Tonya has a Bachelor’s Degree from Carthage College (Kenosha, WI) and a Masters of Divinity from United Theological Seminary (Dayton, OH). She was ordained Elder in the United Methodist Church in 1997 and has served congregations in Plymouth (1995-2000) and New Baltimore (2000-2006), Michigan.

Since joining the Detroit Annual Conference (UMC) in 1995, Tonya has fulfilled various leadership positions: Chairperson of the Vision Task Force from 1996-1997, Dean of the School for Pastoral Ministry from 1996-2004, Chair of the Order of Elders from 2005-2007. She currently serves on the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry.

Tonya is deeply committed to the work of World Methodist Evangelism. In 1994, she was a delegate and speaker at the International Christian Youth Conference in Hamburg, Germany. In 1996, she was part of the first class of the “Order of the FLAME” (Faithful Leaders As Mission Evangelists); in 2004, she represented the North Central Jurisdiction as a delegate to the Leadership Summit of the Americas in Havana, Cuba and in 2006, she was trained as a “Herald” for the Cornerstone Celebration ministry.

Tonya has also provided leadership to the wider church beyond her denomination. She is a trained Stephen Ministry leader, has served as a Spiritual Director on numerous Emmaus Walks/Chrysalis Flights, and was Chairperson of the Plymouth/Canton CROP Walk for 2 years.

Tonya says, “*The most important thing you need to know about me is that I am a leader who is first a follower of Jesus Christ. I strive to love God and love people in the same way Jesus loved – passionately and unconditionally. I want to live as Jesus lived – with grace and gusto. I strive to serve as he served – with compassion, justice and mercy. The primary focus of my ministry is to introduce Jesus to others; to encourage them to grow in knowledge and love for him; and to help them discover tangible ways they can serve the world in the same spirit that Jesus embodied.*”

(from <http://www.metroumc.org>)

If you have any questions about Tonya or this transition, please contact me at anderson1717@comcast.net or by phone at 734-761-4106.

LENTEN PROGRAM
By Rev. Cathy Freeman, Deacon

FAST and HOLD FAST TO GOD

As part of our observance of Lent this year, The Worship Committee is asking the Dixboro congregation to FAST. In Matthew 6, Jesus assumes we fast when he tells us “When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.” (Matthew 6:16)

John Wesley told us that fasting is a means of grace – a way to grow closer to God and experience God’s grace. The Bible also tells us in many places that we should “hold fast” to God. Fasting is a way to “hold fast” to God. (Isn’t that a nice play on the same word, with two meanings?)



The traditional way to fast is to give up food for some period of time. This form of fasting may work for you. But giving up food might not seem like a sacrifice to you or you may not be able to fast from food for health reasons. There are lots of other ways you can give up something that really means something to you as a way to humble yourself and grow closer to God. Fasting can be a way to simplify our lives and strengthen our relationship with God.

Here are some suggestions of ways you might fast during Lent:

Food

- share recipes for simple meals and use them
- eat at home more often
- eat one meal a week that is vegan, vegetarian or from local foods
- share a meal with someone you don’t normally see
- give up a food that is not good for you
- give up snacks between meals
- eat smaller portions at meals
- have a weekly day of fasting (after consultation with a doctor): John Wesley recommended fasting from dinner to breakfast each day)

Reduce/Reuse/Recycle

- don’t buy those new shoes (blouse, pants, book, candle, etc.)
- buy from a second-hand shop, rather than new
- start to recycle
- look for new ways to reuse items you already have
- Turn the heat down a degree and put on another sweater
- combine your errands into fewer trips in the car

Money

- find a new charity and start a relationship with it
- lend to small business in a third-world country. Examples are:
 - Global Giving (www.globalgiving.com)
 - Ashoka (www.ashoka.org)
 - Pro Mujer (www.promujar.org)
- start a savings program
- stay home and watch a movie and make popcorn instead of going out to a movie

Time/Activities

- put aside a specific time each day to pray or meditate or read the Bible
- turn off the TV one day a week
- slow down
- visit a hospital or senior citizen home
- drive someone to church who is not able to attend

There are lots of benefits to “fasting” as a way to “hold fast” to God. But there might also be some financial benefits. If you choose a method of fasting that saves you money, we suggest that you estimate these savings and donate them to a ministry project. We will collect donations at the end of Lent for ECHO.

ECHO is a non-profit organization whose vision is "to bring glory to God and a blessing to humankind by using science and technology to help the poor." Among their many projects, they do research and development on agriculture methods that will work in climates where growing food is difficult. Their web-site is www.echonet.org and you can attend one of their farm tours the next time you are in the vicinity of Ft. Myers, Florida.

ANN ARBOR DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TRAINING

District Superintendent, Rev. Mark Spaw, says: "Come on! you know you want to join us! Besides, what else ya' doin' on a Saturday morning? It's February in Michigan for cryin' out loud!"

**First UMC of South Lyon
Saturday, February 5, 2011
8:30 am - Noon**

Register by email to wedy@fumc-a2.org with "Leadership Training Registration" in the subject line. Include your name, address, phone and email as well as the name of our church and the workshop you want to attend. You can also get a registration form in the church office to put it into the mail.

Workshops are:

- Breaking the Cultural Divide: Preparing for a Cross Cultural Appointment, led by Rev. Tom Tarpley
- Meetings That Matter, led by Rev. Dr. Sherry Parker
- Creating Irresistible Worship, led by Rev. Larry Wik
- Making Church a Safe Place for Children, Youth and Vulnerable Adults, led by Jeff Poiner
- Reaching Out in the Virtual World" Cyber Evangelism, led by Rev. Mark A. Miller
- Blessings of the Flock, led by Rev. Mark Spaw

WOMEN OF DIXBORO By Phylis Brandon, Co-Chair

The Women of Dixboro met on January 6 to discuss plans for the following year. Our focus is to be on education, mission and fun, but not necessarily in that order.



Our next event will be on **Thursday, February 3 at 6:30 pm** - In place of our regular meeting, we will have a soup dinner that will be open to everyone. This will be a way to share a simple meal together and have some fellowship. We will ask for a free will offering as a way to bolster our treasury for the flowers we want to plant in the spring and other ministry projects we identify. Watch the announcements and email for more details. For those of you who came last year, this was a fun and delicious event, and very low-key. Just show up and have your dinner at the church with friends.

Also scheduled: **Thursday, March 3, 7:00 pm** - We will have a book club with a twist. Please bring any book you have read and loved and be ready to spend 5 minutes or so telling everyone about why it is so great. If you are willing, you could bring the book and loan it to another book lover.

Stay tuned for the next Chimes with more announcements of our upcoming events!

USED BOOK SALE By Madeline Kingston-Park, Chair of Nurture Committee

The Nurture Committee will sponsor a used book sale during coffee hour on Sunday, February 27. Paperbacks will cost \$.50 and hard cover books will cost \$1.00. Proceeds will support the projects of the Nurture Committee.



Please donate your used books before February 26 by leaving them in the room next to the Ladies Restroom. **No textbooks, reference books or magazines, please.**

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

By Rebecca Horvath, Chair

Lent begins March 9 on Ash Wednesday. The Worship Committee would like for you to begin to think about the meanings of the word "fast." In this context, the first meaning and perhaps the only one people think of is to give up food. In the simplest and easiest form, to not eat after supper until the next morning's "break the fast."

But another meaning is moving and doing too rapidly. We'd like for you to think about how you can slow down and appreciate the things and the people around you. Notice the awakening of spring from skunk cabbages and pussy willows to sunny forsythia. Say "thank you" and "you're welcome" for the little favors of each day. Slow down when preparing and eating food; savoring each bite and think of those who have little to eat.

The third meaning is what John Wesley urges us to do, "Hold fast to the Lord." Is your faith firmly fixed in the love and teachings of Jesus? Are you loyal to your church and others who depend on you? This is a good time to read and meditate to prepare for the joyful message of life everlasting.

Cathy Freeman has prepared a guide on fasting during Lent and how we can share our abundance with those less fortunate. (see related article on Lenten Program) I am collecting frugal recipes to share thoughtfully during Lent. I'd love to include your recipes if you get them to me.

INTERFAITH HARMONY BREAKFAST

The Interfaith Roundtable of Washtenaw County is sponsoring the first annual World Interfaith Harmony Breakfast in response to the call of the United Nations General Assembly resolution unanimously adopted in October 2010. The resolution was introduced by King Abdulla of Jordan, calling for a special week in which people of the world could, in their own places of worship, express the teachings of their faith about tolerance, respect for the other and peace. At the breakfast, representatives of many religions will give voice to their vision and commitment to the goals of tolerance, respect and peace.

All are welcome for pancakes and fresh fruit and assorted beverages. A \$2.00 donation is suggested. Call 734-327-0270 for more information or for directions.

Thursday, February 3, 2011 - 8:00 am
Interfaith Center
704 Airport Boulevard - Ann Arbor, MI 48108

NEW EXERCISE CLASS – ALL WELCOME

For many years, Margy Goodnoe, a Dixboro neighbor, has been leading an exercise class on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 8:30 am. She recently had to find a new location for this class and she chose Dixboro Church! Everyone is invited to register for the next session, which will begin in early March.

Call Margy for more information or to register at 734-769-0576.

SUMMER INTERNSHIPS AVAILABLE

The Survey Research Center at the University of Michigan is offering a Summer Internship Program. They offer 10 week, 20-40 hour per week paid positions for students with an interest in social science research. Interns will be typically assigned to an on-going research study, attend seminars/courses on principles of survey research, and participate in a research symposium.

The program will run from May 23-July 29, 2011.

Applications can be picked up at the Survey Research Center Director's office (room 1310) on 426 Thomson Street, Institute for Social Research Building, Ann Arbor. Please include a statement of purpose, resume, an official copy of your college transcript, and two letters of recommendation. **Applications are due February 17, 2011.**

Additional details are available at <http://sites.isr.umich.edu/dnn/diversity> or from George Myers (gmyers@umich.edu) or Leah Wright (wrightle@umich.edu)

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

by Ingrid Sheldon, Treasurer

I have exciting news to share. End of year general contributions were sufficient enough to cover all expenses and leave a balance of almost \$500 that will be added to the church's savings. All Conference obligations were fulfilled. As mentioned before, you have also been exceedingly generous in providing additional support to the church for major capital repairs and mission work. (Please share your joy with fellow church goers at your next opportunity.)

We will have a greater challenge in 2011 though. We will need at least \$5000 more in contributions due to being fully staffed for the entire year. Every effort will be made to responsibly manage your treasure as it is shared with your church and the community beyond.

The final financial report is included here along with a "Balance Sheet" which presents a picture of the Dixboro's financial health. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me (734-665-5893). Again, thank you for making this a happy report!!! God is working in your lives in very special ways....

	Dec	YTD 2010	Budget	Difference	YTD Actual as % of Budget	YTD 2009
REVENUE						
General Giving	20,742.85	198,367.89	210,000.00	11,632.11	94.46%	205,337.27
Special Collections, Designations, Other	1,318.87	47,376.08	12,000.00	-35,376.08		22,790.49
TOTAL REVENUE	22,061.72	245,743.97	222,000.00	-23,743.97		228,127.76
EXPENSE:						
Conference/District Related Apportionments	2,835.00	37,584.00	37,584.00	0.00	100.00%	41,491.00
Church Related						
Missions, special collections, PHP, scholarships	1,236.98	17,265.39	7,500.00	0.00		11,828.85
Payroll	3,108.81	33,781.46	40,241.37	6,459.91	83.95%	38,292.50
General church operations	4,747.55	40,250.90	42,401.30	2,150.40	94.93%	38,720.62
Committees	31.94	3,448.18	4,000.00	551.82	86.20%	3,666.73
Special Projects	77.49	31,260.30	10,000.00	-21,260.30		10,967.37
Total Pastor related expense	7,507.61	78,533.36	80,644.00	2,110.64	97.38%	77,974.12
Total Parsonage Related	250.54	2,879.22	4,325.00	1,445.78	66.57%	4,741.30
Total Schoolhouse expense	42.62	246.52	575.00	328.48	42.87%	322.46
TOTAL EXPENSE:	19,838.54	245,249.33	227,270.67	-8,213.27	107.91%	228,004.95
CHURCH RELATED INCOME (LOSS)	2,223.18	494.64	-5,270.67			122.81

General Fund Balance Sheet 12/31/10

Assets

PNC Checking	19,471.67
PNC Savings	51,763.88
Prepaid Insurance	3,838.00

Total Assets 75,073.55

Short term liabilities

Sanctuary Renovation Project	4,291.10
Designated Funds	30,567.68
Youth Fund	5,090.06
Fair Fund	3,035.38
Prepaid Pledge	4,090.93
Prepaid Wedding Fees	625.00
Michigan Tax Withheld	245.97
Total	47,946.12

Cash Available 27,127.43

Unrestricted cash available 1/1/10 26,632.79
 Current year General Fund gain 494.64
 Cash available 27,127.43

Long term liability - Sanctuary Renovation Project

National City Mortgage	
Balance 12/31/10	28,442.06
Balance 12/31/09	41,963.69
Balance 12/31/08	58,678.48
Balance 12/31/07	79,719.07
Paid during 2010	13,521.63

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday	Jan 30		Rev. Robert Roth from UM Wesley Foundation Preaching
Monday	Jan 31		John on vacation through 2/7 – cell phone 734-660-4238
			Cathy on vacation through 2/2 – cell phone 734-323-4149
Tuesday	Feb 1	7:00 pm	Missions Committee Meeting
Thursday	Feb 3	6:30 pm	Women of Dixboro sponsor Soup Dinner for all
Friday	Feb 4		Youth – 30 Hour Famine
Saturday	Feb 5	8:30 am	Leadership Training Day at South Lyon UMC until noon
		9:00 am	German Class Planning Meeting
Sunday	Feb 6		Cathy Freeman Preaching
			Subs Available from Youth
Wednesday	Feb 9	6:30 pm	Worship Committee Meeting – re-scheduled
Thursday	Feb 10	7:00 pm	Trustees Committee Meeting
Saturday	Feb 12	8:00 am	Men’s Breakfast in Fellowship Hall
		10:00 am	Dixboro Cooks using kitchen all day
Sunday	Feb 13	12:00 pm	Shelter Meal Ministry
Wednesday	Feb 16	6:15 pm	Nurture Committee at Will Smith’s House – time change
Friday	Feb 18		Dixboro Cooks in kitchen all day
Monday	Feb 21	1:00 pm	United Methodist Women
Tuesday	Feb 22	7:00 pm	Church Council Meeting
Thursday	Feb 24	7:00 pm	Finance Committee Meeting
Saturday	Feb 26		Set up for Used Book Sale in Fellowship Hall
Sunday	Feb 27		Used Book Sale in Fellowship Hall

RECURRING EVENTS

Sundays	8:00 am	Service of Word and Table Worship Service
Sundays	9:00 am	Contemporary Worship Service
Sundays	10:00 am	Sunday School for all ages
	11:00 am	Traditional Worship Service
Mondays	10:00 am	Northeast Seniors Exercise Class
Tuesdays	8:15 am	Exercise Class
	4:30 pm	Dance Class in Fellowship Hall
Wednesdays	10:00 am	Northeast Seniors Exercise Class
Thursdays	8:15 am	Exercise Class
	9:30 am	Women's Bible Study
Fridays	10:00 am	Northeast Seniors Exercise Class
Saturdays	8:30 am	Course in Miracles
First Sunday		Holy Communion celebrated
Second Sunday		Shelter Meal Ministry
Third Sunday		Bring canned goods to worship
Third Monday	1:00 pm	United Methodist Women
First Tuesday	7:00 pm	Missions Committee
First Wednesday	6:30 pm	Worship Committee
Third Wednesday	6:30 pm	Nurture Committee
First Thursday	7:00 pm	Women of Dixboro
Second Thursday	7:00 pm	Trustees Committee
Fourth Thursday	7:00 pm	Finance Committee
Second Saturday	8:00 am	Men's Club in Fellowship Hall

You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid.
Nor does one light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand,
and it gives light to all in the house.
Let your light shine before all, that they may see your good works
and give glory to God who is in heaven. *Matthew 5:14-16*