



THE CHIMES

DIXBORO UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH
NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2008

AN OPEN LETTER FROM REV. JOHN G. PARK: **LENT BEGINS WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2008**

Ash Wednesday is celebrated in many churches with the imposition of ashes on worshipper's foreheads as a sign of repentance. A less religious tradition celebrated by many is the eating of donuts on Tuesday, sort of as a final fling since Lent often means giving up things like goodies.

For centuries the Church has used this time of forty days (Sundays don't count) before Easter for focused prayer and meditation of our spiritual lives ("Am I living like Jesus?") and journey ("Am I, are we, where God wants us to be?")

Saint Ignatius of Loyola wrote...

By the term "Spiritual Exercises" we mean every method of examination of conscience, meditation, contemplation, vocal or mental prayer, and other spiritual activities such as will be mentioned later. For just as taking a walk, traveling on foot, and running are physical exercise, so is the name of spiritual exercises given to any means of preparing and disposing our soul to rid itself of all its disordered affections and then, after their removal, of seeking and finding God's will in the ordering of our life for the Prayer, reading of the Bible, worship, extra means of grace . . . all will work if we invest ourselves in preparing for Easter.

The Preacher

U.M.W. ANNUAL HAM DINNER

Saturday, February 16

Serving from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

All-you-can-eat, family-style dinner with all the trimmings!

Includes meal, coffee, tea, milk and dessert.

Reservations requested please.

Call 761-3813 or church office 665-5632

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS:

by Stephanie Cloutier, Dir., Christian Education

Our Sunday School classes are participating in the "Souper Bowl of Caring" on Feb. 3rd. It all began in 1990 with a church youth group in North Carolina with a prayer on Super Bowl Sunday that went, "Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who don't even have a bowl of soup to eat." The youth had the idea that if everyone would just drop \$1 in a soup pot, think how much could be raised for hungry people. The mission of the "Souper Bowl of Caring" is to use Super Bowl weekend to mobilize youth to fight hunger and poverty in their local communities. The vision is to transform Super Bowl weekend into the nation's largest youth-led weekend of giving and serving. What we are doing is collecting canned goods during our regular class time and taking a special 'noisy' offering on the 3rd during our 9 & 11am services. All food & money is going to the Food Gatherers later that week when the youth volunteer there. Thanks for your support!

Watch for a special "Love" skit to be performed Sunday Feb 17th by our youth during our 9 & 11am services.

MOUNTAIN T.O.P. -- June 13 - 21, 2008

Once again our Youth, their friends, and some parents will be journeying to Tennessee for

what has now become an annual tradition for our church ~ Helping the people of the Cumberland Mountains of Tennessee do things that they are physically or financially unable to do for themselves; such as: painting, building porches, building/painting sheds, etc. This trip is a Mission, an Outreach and a Disciple building trip! We have 15 youth and so far 3 adults (need a couple more!!) going on the trip. Each person pays \$400 which includes the tuition for the camp, and a fun activity on the way down. This is the first year in recent history that we are asking each person to pay the total cost of the tuition. As a group they will need to raise an additional \$4,500 to cover expenses such as gas, van rentals, hotel stay 2 nights, food while traveling, supplies and misc. expenses. There will be various fund raisers held during the next few months: the annual spring rummage sale, soup Sundays, bake sales, restaurant nights (like Applebee's from last year), possibly a silent auction and the ever popular ~ Buy a mile, give a smile!! So please won't you be as generous as possible. Look for more information in coming CHIMES newsletters about the youth that are involved!!

If you are interested in helping in any way... please see Jill Chappius, Sandy Bowers or Stephanie Cloutier! Thank you!

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S CORNER: *by Phebe Judson, President*

The U.M.W. had a very successful year in 2007 by giving \$1,496 to the Ann Arbor District for mission work; \$1,156 for local church renovation; \$1,300 to the general fund of our local church; \$350 to Roberta King for her mission trip to Haiti; \$100 to Peace Neighborhood Center; \$100 to Methodist Children's Village and \$50 to Church Women United. The total giving was \$4,552 for 2007. This was raised from dinners, funeral luncheons and personal giving.

The first money-making activity of 2008 is the annual Ham Dinner on February 16.

The United Methodist Women has been a long-standing organization at Dixboro Church dating back to the very early 1900's. There were as many as 55 active members and at that time they helped buy wood for the heating stoves in the sanctuary and parsonage. They even gave toward the minister's salary. Emphasis has changed today – now the emphasis is on missions giving, both global and local.

Today our active membership is 15 with numerous people who help with dinners.

The U.M.W. is not an exclusive group and any lady is welcome to join us. Our monthly meetings are the third Monday of each month at 1:00 p.m. in the Parlor.

WOMEN OF DIXBORO – 2008:

by Cathy Freeman, Chairman

The Women of Dixboro met in January and set a schedule for the entire year! We hope that this will help everyone plan ahead and we hope that everyone will find at least one activity they like.

Health Kits for Liberia – You'll hear about this on-going project through May. Look for opportunities, including Women Of Dixboro meetings, to participate. Small items such as washcloths, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, band aids, etc. will be collected and taken to the Annual Conference in late May for shipment to our sister churches in Liberia.

Scrapbooking – Watch for information on how to scrapbook. Nadine Belitz will be putting together a group.

CALENDAR OF PLANNED ACTIVITIES & DATES:

Thursday, February 14 – February is “Go Red for Women Month” during which we emphasize women’s heart health. Our speaker will be Barbara Kong, a cardiologist at Michigan Heart who runs the “Heart of a Women” program.

Sunday, March 9 – We’ll take a field trip to the Gem Theatre in Detroit to see “Menopause the Musical” at 2pm. This is a great, fun play for women of all ages. Make out a check to Cathy Freeman for \$39.50 and get it to her by Sunday, February 10.

Thursday, April 3 – We will organize small group dinners at the homes of various women. The idea is to share a meal, get to know each other better, and do a little fund raising. A small contribution – probably about \$10 – will be asked of each participant and will go toward Dixboro’s commitment to Habitat for Humanity. Watch for more details about how to sign up or host a meal.

Thursday, May 8 – Second Annual Salad and Dessert dinner. If you didn’t come last year, you missed a great time. Carol Johns, pastor at Orchard UMC in Farmington, is tentatively scheduled to speak. She addressed the Annual Conference a couple years ago so you know she is a powerful speaker. (And a little known piece of trivia is that she married John and Madeline!)

June – date TBD – We will get together to do gardening around the church – helping to keep everything spruced up and inviting.

July-August – A local mission project will be planned. If you have an idea about where we might go and what we might do, contact Cathy Freeman.

Thursday, September 11 – A business meeting will be held to finalize plans for the Fall Retreat and a possible holiday program.

Friday-Saturday, October 3-4 – A weekend retreat is being planned. Stay tuned for more information about the place and format.

Thursday, November 13 – A speaker or similar program will be planned.

December – We will plan a field trip or outing such as the visit to the crèche exhibit we visited in 2007.



LENTEN ACTIVITIES FROM THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE:

Contributed by Worship Committee

Lent starts with Ash Wednesday on February 6 and the Worship Committee is going to help you begin this important journey of the church year on Sunday, February 3. That morning, everyone will be given a pretzel. Yes, a pretzel!

The legend goes: "In the early 600's a monk decided to make use of the pieces of dough left over from baking bread. The monk formed them into thin strips folded into a looped twist to represent the folded arms of children in prayer. This treat was given to the children as they learned their prayers. They began calling the treat "Pretiola", which is Latin for "little reward". Soon it was known the world over as a pretzel."

Plan to join your church community in an Ash Wednesday Service on Wednesday, February 6 at 7:00 pm.

There will also be a weekly Lenten Devotion opportunity. Each Sunday in the Fellowship Hall, adults and children will have the chance to choose a devotional activity for the next week. Activities include special times of prayer, scripture reading, interaction with friends and family, etc. Look for these each Sunday during Lent.

MISSIONS COMMITTEE NOTES:

by Roberta King, Chairperson

The Missions Committee will sponsor a Lenten Potluck Dinner on March 6 at 6:00 p.m. Roberta King will present a report and pictures of the Haiti Volunteer In Mission trip.

A special collection for the United Methodist Committee on Relief will be taken on Sunday, March 2.

Dixboro U.M.C. will participate in building the Good News House for Habitat For Humanity project. A flower sale will be a fund raiser for this project in May. Look for details in next month's CHIMES.

Dixboro U.M.C. will also participate in the Liberia Container Project at the Annual Conference in May. Church groups will be asked to assemble Health Kits to be sent to Liberia.

We have been able to provide support to those in need in our community and around the world due to the support of our congregation. We appreciate your help.

GROCERY STORE CONTRIBUTIONS UPDATE:

GROCERY	2005...	2006...	2007...	TOTAL...
Busch's	\$ 298.03	\$ 2,763.75	\$ 4,712.66	\$ 7,774.44
Kroger	\$ 1,079.20	\$ 2,977.53	\$ 4,054.19	\$ 8,110.92
Hiller's			\$ 299.50	\$ 299.50
TOTAL...	\$ 1,377.23	\$ 5,741.28	\$ 9,066.35	\$16,184.86

As you can see, this has been one of our most successful fund-raising activities and if you don't have one of the above cards and want to participate, please contact either Bob or Betty DeWolf. The cards are only \$5 and the return is "priceless".



FEBRUARY 14

FINANCIAL CLOSEOUT OF 2007:

by Ingrid Sheldon, Treasurer

WOW – Our church is amazing!!! Due to your generosity and digging a little deeper into your pockets AND a close examination of spending, Dixboro Church finished the year with a \$5000 surplus. Our annual Conference Apportionments were paid in full!!! And other charitable and mission-related activities were funded!!! A special thank you to those who gave special gifts to make certain that our mission activities were supported as well as making our local church environment welcoming and up to date. And thank you too, to those of you who gave additional “in kind” contributions above regular giving to assure the continued ministry of our church. All your wonderful gifts will help us face 2008 with more confidence while still knowing that we will need to be vigilant with our spending. We are also blessed with some folks who have paid their 2008 pledges early to help with cash flow. (The 2008 insurance has been paid. ☺)

So... please smile and congratulate your fellow worshippers when next at church! The power of God is definitely working through you

	December	YTD 2007	Budget	Difference	YTD Actual as % of Budget
TOTAL REVENUE	47,601.64	240,408.89	227,600.00	12,808.89	105.63%
EXPENSE:					
Conference Related Apportionments	4,220.30	42,972.00	42,950.00	-22.00	100.05%
Conference related donations	291.23	3,301.23	0.00		
Church Related					
Payroll	3,409.15	35,848.28	45,200.00	9,351.72	79.31%
General church operations	2,887.33	39,242.45	48,172.00	8,929.55	81.46%
Committee Scholarship, Conference fee, PHP	718.99	7,139.30	8,000.00	860.70	89.24%
Special Project: Parsonage, Organ	6,219.27	22,302.84	0.00		
Total Pastor related expense	8,716.67	72,744.73	75,451.00	2,706.27	96.41%
Total Parsonage Related	221.44	3,477.64	6,225.00	2,747.36	55.87%
Total Schoolhouse expense	59.31	1,501.09	1,975.00	473.91	76.00%
TOTAL EXPENSE:	29,611.99	235,234.73	228,098.00	25,047.51	103.13%
CHURCH RELATED INCOME (LOSS)	17,989.65	5,174.16	-498.00		

A “THANK YOU” NOTE:

To Our Loving Church Family: We would like to thank you for your generous gifts of money and clothing this past holiday season. Your support is very important to us and we are very grateful to be part of such a loving and nurturing congregation. Thank you again for your continued support and for keeping us in your thoughts. God bless you. *Gratefully, Anne and William Ottosson*

GREAT LAKES RENEWABLE ENERGY ASSOCIATION: Announces several Renewable Energy Seminars for Saturday, February 16, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Environmental House on 2420 S. Industrial Highway in Ann Arbor. Space is limited and pre-registration is recommended. (\$30 for one seminar; \$40 for two; \$50 for three). Call 800-434-9788. E-Mail is info@glrea.org; web site is www.glrea.org.

FEBRUARY BIBLE READINGS:

Feb. 3

**Genesis 2:15-17
Psalm 99**

Feb. 10

**Exodus 24:12-18
Genesis 3:1-7
Psalm 32**

Feb. 17

**Genesis 12:1-4
Psalm 121**

Feb. 24

**Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 95**

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