

THE CHIMES

DIXBORO UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH
NEWSLETTER

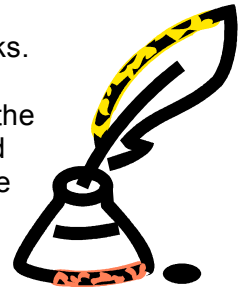
JANUARY 2010

AN OPEN LETTER

By John G. Park, Preacher

Part One:

Always at the parsonage beside each comfortable chair in the front room stands a stack of books. Unless my Beloved cleaned house for coming company you'd also see books standing in other places in the house. Both Madeline and I are readers. The lure of a soft seat, bright light, and the tale we're hearing page by page is strong. My interests vary so my pile climbs tall with assorted topics, interests, and styles waiting their turn. Rather than read sequentially and end one before picking up another, I prefer a simultaneous approach – a little from this, a little from that, whatever my mood or time available determines.



However, with the existing mound I'd piled there and the influx of Christmas' additional books, I do not remember my now "started, bookmarked, and in process" ever reaching eleven as it is now. I'll get them joyfully read with my way of eclectic meandering but I just won't bother you with a listing of their titles.

Part Two:

Nearing January 1st, I also look forward to spending joyful time simultaneously working on a stack of projects for my beloved Dixboro Church. And I'll share with you three of the many already started and to be picked up now and again throughout the year. Unlike books, these topics, interests, and styles won't get finished. They never do. Still we work on them energetically because it's what we do.

Part Three -Five:

A) I believe an unshakable part of the Kingdom of God is that it grows. As such, the local church where the Christians gather, grow, and both receive and give grace grows naturally. We are growing and added 14 members this year. I want to meet, greet, welcome, and include even more in 2010. We'll do it together. Dixboro's history is to pulse with the pluses and the losses staying about the same size. Something is nudging me that if we are satisfied with just being comfortable we might be missing something God intends for us. I'll wonder with you about it this year.

B) I believe God's way of life lived as God designed it includes many varied interests and projects. Discipleship is about learning and doing what we do and are in response to God's call to us and claim on us through Jesus Christ. Faithful stewardship of all resources is just one of a thousand things we are asked to talk about and to try. We don't do the talking part well here. Mea culpa! We give generously when asked and we seem to like a crisis approach – when there's a problem we start to ask and you generously come through. The stress level is usually quite high about finances throughout the year. We always come to year end with

concern (“Will we make it?”). This year is no exception. We asked and you helped as asked. A preliminary report from Ingrid Sheldon, Treasurer, is that “we’ll be o.k.” I promise you more and her full report soon. But, in our way of operating when cash is short we leave until year end much of the mission work we do. About finances and stewardship the Bible teaches a better approach and in 2010 we will talk more about this better way of returning unto the Lord a portion of our blessing and why we do it. Keep in mind, the bottom line is that what we have isn’t ours.

C) Everyone and every Committee I talk with and listen to mentions things we’d like to do in God’s work. But, we can’t. Or can’t yet. Sometimes it’s the people resources we’re missing. Sometimes the money is too short. Maybe it’s, in part, that we have not talked, prayed, and planned enough and then promised ourselves we would. And that’s something we can do something about in 2010 and will.

Dixboro is fortunate that you are part of this Church. I am proud of you and your faithful witness to Christ. We are very fortunate to have Rev. Cathy Freeman as our Deacon and she has held this issuing of the CHIMES waiting patiently for me to write my part. To her, I’ll say, “I done. Here it is.”

To myself, my God and to the people I call mine, I say, “Here we go! This will be a great year. And you are important to me, to us, and to God. God bless us, all in the New Year.

- The Preacher

EDUCATION CORNER

By Stephanie Cloutier, Education Director

For the “Night in Bethlehem” program, we had a wonderful Saturday spending time with the children (some adults too!) in ancient Bethlehem - lots of smiling faces, full bellies, and well-worked hands were seen strolling through the village! We even had a special visit from the 'baby Jesus'.

Thank you to all our hardworking volunteers, who helped transform our fellowship hall and conference room into Bethlehem for our children & their families !!!

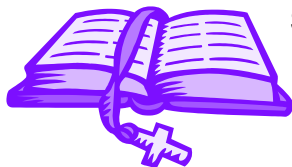
Planning & preparing for Mt. TOP is underway... Thank you to all who have supported our fundraisers!! July 18-24 is when we will be at Mt. TOP this summer. If you or someone you know is interested in participating in our trip, please contact Stephanie, Cathy or John.

I wanted to take the time to let everyone at Dixboro know that as of January 1st, 2010 I am resigning from the Education Director position. I have accepted a full-time position with the photography studio where I have been working part-time. I have had a really great time working here with all of you for the past 5 years. I truly appreciate all the support you have given me over the years, as well as your time and energy! Thank you so much.

With love, Stephanie

WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY

By Betty DeWolfr



Several women were blessed to participate in Bible Studies that we led by Jean Oxender at the end of 2009. This group will start up again on Thursday, January 7 at 9:30 am as they study the Book of John (though without Jean who is in Arizona for the winter). All women are invited to join this group.

CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2010

By Becky Horvath, Class Leader

Throughout this school year, our teenagers are studying for confirmation. On December 20, we started the review of Jesus' life and teachings. We will continue this on January 3. For the three weeks in January, there will be guest teachers:

- Kenn Scheffer will talk about church buildings, the meaning and purpose of the sanctuary and the restoration of our own church.
- Adelaide Ammon will talk about how the Methodist Ministry is organized and where each of us fits in.
- Marily Pobanz will discuss how the life of the "church" is the people who are dedicated to doing Jesus' work on earth.

Confirmation for will be in early May and will be a time for great celebration as these young people join our church.

WOMEN OF DIXBORO

By Phylis Brandon, Co-Chair

The Women of Dixboro invite the entire congregation to join us on **Thursday, January 14 at 7:00 pm**. For our January meeting, we will be joined by Dr. Mansoor Qureshi, a cardiologist at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital and a Muslim. He will talk with us about the Muslim faith and join in discussion with us as we explore the similarities and differences in our religions.

Of course, refreshments will be served.

MOVIE NIGHT

The winter nights are a good time to watch a good movie and the Men's Club is once again sponsoring this event. The movie titles aren't chosen yet but that information will be made available in the announcements and emails later. The dates, however, have been chosen so put these on your calendars: All are Sunday evenings – February 21, February 28, March 7, March 14, and March 21.



Plan to come for a good movie, good discussion, and even a few snacks!

WE'RE EATING GOOD!

Several events with fun and good food are scheduled in January and February.

The Dixboro Dinner Committee (formerly The Divas) are hosting a Spaghetti Dinner with all the fixings on Saturday, January 16 at 5:30. \$10 for adults, \$5 for children ages 6-10 and free for younger children. Please make your reservations with the church office at 665-5632 or Pat Blom at 734-474-1179.

The Nurture Committee is hosting a Chili Cook-Off (yes, you get to eat the entries!) on Saturday, January 23 at 6:30. There will be Line Dancing afterwards to help us work off the good meal.

And mark your calendars for the Annual Ham Dinner, sponsored by the United Methodist Women, that will be held on Saturday, February 27.

NEWS AND NOTES FROM NURTURE

By Madeline Kingston-Park,-Chair



Put on your dancing shoes and sashay over to the church on Saturday, January 23. You'll need to dance off all the chili you will eat at the chili-making contest. Bring your chili for judging or just come to taste the contestants, and stay for the dancing. Marilyn Pobanz has found us a dance leader and she'll be picking our judges from among our own culinary experts.

Come if you like to eat ... come if you've never danced come if you like to dance and come if you wouldn't be caught dead dancing. You won't want to miss the fun!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday	Jan 4	6:30 pm	Worship Committee
Saturday	Jan 9	8:00 am	Men's Breakfast in Fellowship Hall
Sunday	Jan 10		Shelter Meal Ministry
Monday	Jan 11		Cathy Leading a Retreat in Lansing
Tuesday	Jan 12		Cathy Leading a Retreat in Lansing
		7:00 pm	Missions Committee
		7:00 pm	Trustees Committee
Wednesday	Jan 13	6:30 pm	Nurture Committee (January Meeting Rescheduled)
		6:30 pm	Lay Leadership Committee
Thursday	Jan 14	7:00 pm	Women of Dixboro; all Dixboro people invited! Dr. XX will speak about the Muslim faith.
Friday	Jan 15	12:00 pm	Preparations for Spaghetti Dinner in Kitchen
Saturday	Jan 15	5:30 pm	Spaghetti Dinner
Sunday	Jan 17		John Leaves on Vacation after Worship (returns Feb. 5)
Monday	Jan 18	1:00 pm	United Methodist Women
Tuesday	Jan 19	6:30 pm	Staff Parish Relations Committee
Saturday	Jan 23	6:30 pm	Chili Cook-Off and Line Dancing
Thursday	Jan 28	7:00 pm	Finance Committee
Saturday	Jan 30	9:00 am	Habitat for Humanity Meeting in Fellowship Hall and Nursery

RECURRING EVENTS

Mondays	10:00 am	Northeast Seniors Exercise Class
Mondays	5:30 pm	Golf at Rolling Meadows Golf Course (April-Oct)
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	9:30 am	Women's Bible Study
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
Third Sunday		Bring canned goods to worship
First Monday	6:30 pm	Worship Committee
Third Monday	1:00 pm	United Methodist Women
Second Tuesday	7:00 pm	Missions Committee
Second Tuesday	7:00 pm	Trustees Committee
Third Tuesday	6:30 pm	Staff/Parish Relations Committee
Third Wednesday	6:30 pm	Nurture Committee
Second Thursday	7:00 pm	Women of Dixboro
Fourth Thursday	7:00 pm	Finance Committee
Second Saturday	8:00 am	Men's Club in Fellowship Hall

JANUARY LECTIONARY READINGS

Sunday, January 3 Epiphany	Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12	Sunday, January 10	Isaiah 43:1-7 Psalm 29 Acts 8:14-17 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
Sunday, January 17 Human Relations Day	Isaiah 62:1-5 Psalm 36:5-10 1 Corinthians 12:1-12 John 2:1-11	Sunday, January 24 Ecumenical Sunday	Nehemiah 8:1-3,5-6,8-10 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a Luke 4:14-21
Sunday, January 31	Jeremiah 1:4-10 Psalm 71:1-6 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 Luke 4:21-30		