



THE CHIMES

DIXBORO UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH
NEWSLETTER

JANUARY, 2007

A LETTER FROM REV. JOHN G. PARK

Dear Friends:

Dixboro is a good place for us Methodists to build a church.

One hundred fifty years ago many people in this area also thought that, then they made plans and the building was complete in December 1858.

They had a vision. They made the vision appear by the ordering of their lives. Many of us in the present Dixboro Church trace our roots to and through the founders. All of us inherit the vision. We walk in their footsteps.

Dixboro's renovation of the sanctuary is a trust. Our building is one of the oldest Methodist buildings in Michigan. It may well be the oldest sanctuary in continuous use.

As 2007 starts, remember that on New Year's Eve the early Methodists gathered to pray a Covenant Prayer written by John Wesley. Then, service over, our first ancestors went to work.

By their methodical ways they demonstrated the presence of new life through the power of God in their daily life.

During the year they met twice a week for worship. Every week all Methodists met in small accountability groups where each was asked, "How is it with your soul?" They studied the Bible and our ways. Each member was active in some service for God to the neighborhood as they "spread scriptural holiness throughout the land," and changed their communities for good.

I invite you to join me in 2007 and make the New Year begin to the Glory of God.

The Preacher

E-Mail: DUMC@dixborochurch.org

Web Site: www.dixborochurch.org

HERE ARE SOME “GOOD NEWS” STORIES AT DIXBORO:

Sanctuary Renovation work:

We're going forward so quickly now that it's hard to keep current on the news. Adding dry wall changed the room so amazingly it looks almost ready to use. The front porch is being rebuilt, the foundation strengthened, and the taller steeple is coming. Stop in for a tour. You'll be pleased.

150th Anniversary:

The first construction of Dixboro Church began in December 1857 and the work was completed in December 1858.

In this December, 2007, we'll start a year-long celebration of our sesquicentennial. Our Church Historian and the Committee are making plans.

Hopefully Bishop Keaton will be able to lead us in a worship service during the year.

THE BISHOP'S “RED FLANNELS”:

Starting as a gift of welcoming to the Michigan Area, Bishop Keaton printed a playful challenge to all our churches last year. He said if the Detroit Conference shows a net growth of membership of 10% in a year, increases our apportionments by 5% over the previous year, and strengthens our prayer life, he would preside in red flannels all day long at a session of the Conference.

Bishop Keaton says, “I am not dying to be seen presiding in those red flannels, but I'm offering it because there is a passion that is growing for the one who died for us.

There is a passion growing that we need to reach others through prayer, service, mission and ministry. There is a passion for doing the very thing Christ called us to do and that is to make disciples. To God be the glory!”

The Bishop's offer is still open. I want to join with him. We can't do all he asks alone but we can be part of the success by doing our part.

Soon we'll have our 2006 numbers to use as a benchmark. Will you join with me?

How Can We Improve Communication?

Keeping in touch about the outreach and work, the news and the needs, the opportunities and projects of our members and friends is essential.

Communication works best face to face. We see each other at worship and Sunday School, at every meeting and group time, stopping by the church and in your home. We'll improve as our members and friends more frequently see each other here and elsewhere. Phones work well, also. Most of us have almost immediate access with cell phones.

Our WEB site www.Dixborochurch.org shows programs and events of the church. You can look up past messages or link to other parts and resources of the United Methodist Church. The site is maintained by Charles Engle. He's open your ideas.

Joanne Hocking creates our monthly CHIMES Newsletter with material you turn in. We mail the CHIMES to reach you by the first of the month. We send the CHIMES to new people and visitors. If you know someone who'd benefit from the information, tell Joanne to add the name. If your copy arrives late, let the office know. We're trying to work out problems in delays and returns. The latest CHIMES is available at the church if yours was delayed.

More and more, we are using e-communication each week. You can add your address to our mailing when you give us your address for announcements and meeting materials.

The Preacher



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CORNER:

submitted by Stephanie Cloutier, Director

Would you like to be a part of a truly exciting ministry here at Dixboro??

We are starting to plan for this Summer's Vacation Bible School!!! Come join us **Thursday, January 11th at 7:00 pm** for our first planning meeting! Contact Stephanie at 449-4630. Thanks!

A special thank you to all those who helped out with the Children's Christmas Program. I truly appreciate your time and talents.

Looking forward to **February - The 11th is Scouting Sunday** where we recognize all those who have participated in scouting, currently and in the past. We hope you will join us in recognizing this great opportunity for our boys and girls.

DUMY News: *submitted by Youth Director*

December was a busy month for DUMY, but we had a great time. Our babysitting day was a success! We raised \$100 for charity and had lots of fun with the kids. Plus, we hope we helped out busy parents by giving them a few hours to get things done without the kiddies around! We plan to have a couple more babysitting days or nights in the next few months - if any parents have a suggestion about when to plan this, please let us know! We also went to see "The Nativity Story" movie, rang bells for the Salvation Army, and went caroling. We really hope that other middle school youth will join us for DUMY on Wednesday evenings. In the next couple months we will be having lots of fun with outdoor activities like ice skating and sledding, doing some great service work in our community, and having regular weekly meetings. Our lessons will continue to support the Confirmation program.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN: *A reminder and an invitation to all women of the church that the U.M.W. group meets once a month, in the Parlor, at 1:00 pm, the third Monday of each month. They would be happy to have you attend and learn about their projects.*

From the Office....

"THE DIVAS" – A group of church ladies who plan and prepare fund-raising dinners for us, are now planning Spaghetti dinners for January & February and a Corned Beef & Cabbage dinner for March. Keep looking for final details....sounds yummy!

From the Office....

MEN'S GROUP: The men's group is also open to all men of the church and they would be happy to have you join them any time you are available. They meet for breakfast every Thursday morning at 7:30 a.m. at the Flim Flam Restaurant for fellowship and discussion of goals. You are also encouraged to join the group once a month, on the second Saturday of each month, at 8:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall, for breakfast and a program.

From the Office....

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS:

1/1	Bryan Smith
1/3	Jennifer Heathcock
1/4	Janice Clark Bill Schneider
1/5	Adelaide Ammon Scott King
1/6	Chris Kappler
1/7	Sophie McCormick
1/8	Jeffrey Rash
1/9	John Snedeker Leah Schneider
1/11	Kim Fox \
1/16	Tonya Harrison
1/17	Morley Durston
1/19	Charles Smith
1/22	Betty DeWolf
1/25	Barbara Scheffer
1/26	Roberta King
1/27	Breanna Erickson
1/28	John Park
1/29	Brendan BeMent
1/30	Brian Anderson
1/31	Ingrid Sheldon



MISSIONS COMMITTEE, 2006 FINAL REPORT:

submitted by Missions Chair

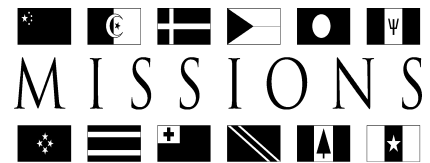
The Missions Committee completed its 2006 activities by requesting that:

- 1) \$700 held over from 2005 for Liberia be sent to the Liberia Annual Conference Foundation Fund to be spent according to their priorities,
- 2) \$420 of unspent UMCOR funds be allocated to the Heifer Project,
- 3) \$300 be sent to the Baldwin Church and Center in Pontiac, and
- 4) \$100 be provided in support of Beatrice Gbanga, a Missionary serving in Liberia.

Earlier we supported nine Conference Ministries Jubilee Projects, \$100 was sent to our sister Ada Ann Wright Church in Liberia, and we provided \$2,922 for the Huron Valley Habitat for Humanity "Good News House". We are hopeful that we satisfied the requirements to be a "2006 Spotlight Church", a designation not attained in many years.

The nine projects supported by Ministry Jubilee funds were:

Benevolent Care at the United Methodist Retirement Community - \$1,500
Methodist Children's Home Society - \$1,000
Wesley Student Foundation at UM - \$1,000
Retreat Ministry Programming - \$500
Mission Intern Program - \$250
Camp Scholarships - \$250
P.E.A.C.E. for Youth - \$250
"Noah" Project - \$250
Cass Community Social Services - \$1,000



Our Special Missions Projects budget provided:

\$350 for "Alternatives for Girls" (a new project),
\$650 for the Youth Group Mountain TOP project,
\$250 for Mali Family Student Education, and
\$300 for educational support of a local student.

We did not spend \$450 in the Special Projects budget or \$1,500 of the Spotlight Church budget in deference to the shortfall of our 2006 church income projected at the time of the last meeting. We are hopeful that these amounts will be available in 2007.

The \$152 free-will offering from the Missions Lenten Potluck went to The Methodist Children's Home Society. It was decided not to sponsor an Advent Potluck or to do the Kewaden Indian Christmas gift effort this Fall.

JANUARY BIBLE READINGS:

Jan. 7:

Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm 29
Acts 8:14-17
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Jan. 14:

Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm 36:5-10
I Corinthians 12:1-11
John 2:1-11

Jan. 21:

Nehemiah 8:1-10
Psalm 19
I Corinthians 12:12-31a
Luke 4:14-21

Jan. 28:

Jeremiah 10:1-14
Psalm 71:1-6
I Cor. 13:1-13
Luke 4:21-30