



# THE CHIMES

DIXBORO UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH  
NEWSLETTER

JUNE, 2006

## IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE PASTORAL CHANGE:

Sunday, June 11, 12:00 noon

*Farewell potluck for the Ferris family.*

Sunday, June 25

*Rev. John Clair Ferris' last worship service.*

Saturday, July 1

*Rev. John G. Park officially begins his pastorate at Dixboro.*

Sunday, July 2

*Rev. Park's first worship service at 9:30.*

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK....

I've known for some time that I'd have to write this, but it doesn't make the task any easier. This is my last "Pastor's Desk" article for the Dixboro CHIMES, and it's hard to say "good bye".

Thinking about the past eight years, I am struck by how much has changed here. Ardith King has told me that before I came, the church office used to shut down for the month of August while everyone went on vacation. Such a practice would be unthinkable today. Not only has there been an increase in Summer programming but we start "gearing up" for Fall as soon as the Dixboro Fair has passed.

I recall the church office (the old church office, now the Conference Room) being equipped with two computers, which were known as "The Old Computer" and "The New Computer". The present office includes no less than five computers, all of which are used regularly by paid and volunteer staff. (Yes, I know there is no computer in my office, but let's not get into that.)

Early on (I think it was when Peggy Severn was still Education Director) we recognized the need for regular staff meetings which for a time included participation from five paid positions.

*Continued next page....*

### Dixboro United Methodist Church

5221 Church Road  
Ann Arbor, MI 48105  
734-665-5632

Rev. John C Ferris  
*Pastor*

Parsonage Phone  
734-662-3645

Stephanie Cloutier  
*Education Director*

Joanne Hocking  
*Secretary*

Janice Clark  
*Music Director*

HeeJeong Kim  
*Organist*

The Joyful Noise  
*Praise Band*

I believe it can be said that Dixboro United Methodist Church has, in these past few years, entered the twenty-first century. We are no longer the “little country church”.

But something that hasn't changed in all this time is the depth of Christian love and caring that has characterized Dixboro Church throughout its nearly 150-year history. All congregations talk about being a “church family” but at Dixboro we mean it – and I'm not just referring to the literal family ties between so many of our members. When someone is hurting, the congregation offers prayerful and personal support. When someone is unhappy, people listen and offer intervention. There is a spiritual dimension here that changing times and changing circumstances has not diminished, a warmth that has not cooled.

There is something else in Dixboro Church that remains essentially unchanged after eight years, something I don't feel as positive about, and that is the sanctuary. I had hoped to reach closure on this project before packing up and moving on. Eight years ago we were talking about “The Master Plan” to

expand the physical dimensions of the sanctuary and double seating capacity. It proved to be too ambitious for many and was downsized into something that could have been called “Plan B”. That one never got off the ground either. So now we've raised about 40% of the cash and 75% of the pledges to go forward with the “Sanctuary Renovation Project”. The holes that have been strategically knocked into the walls are evidence that we are going forward. This one's going to fly (“Third time's the charm”). OK, so enough with the clichés. I'm only sorry I won't be here for the unveiling of our “new and improved” worship space.

There's so much more I feel that I want to say, but deadlines loom and I need to set this aside and take care of other business. In closing let me acknowledge the many of you who have made a point of telling me you'll miss me. I assure you that the feeling is mutual. We've had a great eight years together, and as I said earlier, it's hard to say good bye.

So.....

Shalom, John

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CORNER:

Vacation Bible School – will be held on the week of June 26 thru the 30<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm, for ages 3 years to 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Call the office to register!

*If you have one or all of these dates free and would like (or be able) to help us, please let Stephanie Cloutier know at 734-449-4630.*

### CALLING ALL SUNDAY SCHOOLERS!!

Come celebrate the end of the school year with us on June 11 at 10:00 am in Brandon Park. We will be making our Father's Day gifts, playing games and enjoying a delicious snack.



## Flower Sale Flourishes

This year's Mother's Day Flower sale slightly exceeded our goal of raising \$1000 toward DUMC's pledge of \$2800 toward the 2006 “Habitat for Humanity Good News House”. About 190 flats of flowers, 28 hanging baskets, and over \$100 in donations led to this success. The quality of the florals from Willow Greenhouse (7839 Curtis Road)

was again outstanding. Congratulations to all those who participated through purchases, contributions, and personal efforts. Congregants, outsiders, and Missions Committee members were involved in this success. The Men's Club assisted in unloading the goods. A colorful photo of the loaded truck is posted on the Missions

## Good News House Events:

The 2006 "Good News House" is coming along nicely. This week (16 June) they hope to place and level the floor I-beams and get the floor joists on. We are responsible for the lunch on June 5 - contact Elaine Sanford [434-6176] if you can help with this. I will be trying to get a Men's group out for a work session before the end of May or in early June for rough construction and site work. The construction site is at 3415 Jackson Road. Our Congregational Saturday session is on July 8 and a sign-up sheet for workers and lunch personnel will be available on the Ministries Table in the Fellowship Hall. We need 8-10 workers from 8:00-12:00 am and 1:00-4:00 pm, and a lunch crew on that day. Short-Notice Volunteers are also needed to fill in weekday crews, Mon. thru Fri. through June and Wed. thru Fri. and Thu.-Fri. in July and part of August. Contact Bob Whitacre (332-4601) if you are interested. The house will be dedicated August 19. The Partner Family is Ken and Melanie Cameron and their three children, Emilee, Zachary, and Cory. A family picture and background details will be posted on the Missions Bulletin Board in the North Hall.



**O U T R E A C H**  
M I N I S T R I E S

### SHARING GOD'S GIFTS OF TIME AND TALENT WITHIN THE CHURCH...

We continue to recognize donations of time and talent that are important for the church but are given "behind the scenes" and might go unnoticed or perhaps are taken for granted...

*This month we shine the spotlight on the "Spaghetti Dinner Divas":*

This special group came up with a delicious and fun way to raise funds for the Sanctuary Renovation project -- spaghetti dinners!

Who are these special "spaghetti dinner divas"? Meredith Burr, Betty DeWolf, Cathy Freeman, Kathy Harrison, Elaine Sanford, and Barb Scheffer! Their motto is "Fun, Fellowship, Fundraising, and Outreach" and the two dinners that these "divas" have put on so far have already been successful in fulfilling this motto! Flavored with lots of fun and fellowship, patrons have enjoyed wonderful, savory dinners! Funds were raised for the Sanctuary Project's coffers (even with all the initial "start-up" costs) and the second dinner attracted more patrons from the

surrounding community. It seems that the word is getting out quickly--these "divas" really know how to put on a spaghetti dinner party! And they are planning more of these dinner parties so no one misses out.

Want to join in on the fun?! These "divas" would love to have you join them. There are a number of ways... You can join in by helping with the preparation, serving or clean up of the meals. (They've made it easy to help by getting everything organized during the first two dinners). You can also join in by making a dessert or two. And, of course, you can join in just by patronizing these delicious spaghetti dinners!

*Thank you, Meredith, Betty, Cathy, Kathy, Elaine and Barb for all the time and talents you contributed to create these special fundraiser dinners!!*

Do you know of other donations of "behind the scenes" time and talent that should be recognized? Please contact anyone on the Nurture Committee (Wendy Harter, chair, 668-6349; [waharter@sbcglobal.net](mailto:waharter@sbcglobal.net) or Joanne in the office (665-5632)

### JUNE BIRTHDAYS

6/1	Jean Smith Nancy LaLonde
6/2	Charles LaLonde
6/4	Eleanor Ladany James Lippens
6/6	James Caron
6/7	Marilyn Pobanz Kitze
6/9	MacKenzie Smith
6/11	Ann Geidner
6/12	Don Sanford
6/14	Clayton Cummings Lori Brandt
6/20	Emily (Zinn) Kearney
	Janet Cochran Jerry Spears
6/21	Denise Brandon
6/22	Stephanie Cloutier
6/23	Wilfred Judson Zina Bolgos
6/24	Marge Anderson Kristen Lippens
6/26	Fay Edsall
6/29	Cliff Murphy
6/30	Shannon DeWolf

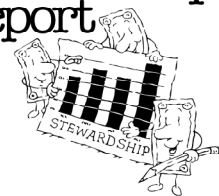
## FINANCIAL UPDATE:

The “good news” from our financial situation is that the 2006 total apportionments obligation has been paid in full from some of the profit from the sale of the rental house. As you may remember, last year’s apportionments were not fully paid – the first time in several years that had occurred.

While celebrating that positive event, we still need to keep in mind that for most weeks, our income is short of the budgeted amount needed to meet all obligations. Please keep your church needs in mind as we head into the often “lean” months of Summer.

*Cliff Murphy, Stewardship Chair*

## Stewardship Report



### **New Expense Requisition/Voucher Form:**

The Finance Committee has instituted an Expense Requisition/Voucher Form *to be used by all individuals and committee members when requesting payments or placing an order for the benefit of the Church.* The purpose of the form is to document and support the requisition of funds and to properly authorize the Treasurer to disburse funds and record expenses against the appropriate budget line item.

In the past, expenditures were very informal and were often verbal rather than written. As witnessed by the problems with some very large corporations, there is a need in today’s environment to practice good corporate governance through proper supporting documentation. Also, given our Church’s current financial condition, use of this form will greatly assist us in monitoring our expenses to assure there are adequate funds for the payment of any commitments.

The form is not required for recurring expenses such as utilities or rubbish pick up unless a change of vendor is being made. If charging an expense to a committee, the **committee chair must sign and authorize payment.** For example, someone requesting re-imbursement for expenses for Vacation Bible School would ask the Director of Christian Education for a signature and then place the completed form and associated receipts in the Treasurer’s mailbox outside the church office.

The new forms are being presented to the Administrative Board and through them to the various Church committees. Any bill or re-imbursement request already submitted to the Treasurer will be paid under the old method. The new forms are available in the Church office.

If you have any questions, please contact someone on the Finance Committee. Thank you for your assistance and understanding.

*Tom Little, Finance Chair*

## “HEALTH NEWS” CORNER:

### **How to Recognize a Stroke:**

Ask these three simple questions –  
(1) ask the individual to SMILE;  
(2) ask him/her to RAISE BOTH ARMS;  
(3) ask the person to SPEAK A SIMPLE SENTENCE (coherently).

If they have any problem with any of the above tasks, call 9-1-1 immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher. Use of this test could result in prompt diagnosis and treatment of the stroke and prevent brain damage.

### **Defibrillator Now Available:**

Dixboro Church has purchased a new Defibrillator, available on site, in case of emergency. It will be mounted on a wall in the North Hall to be readily available to anyone in need. We are very fortunate that our congregation has supported this effort. The Red Cross has been urging churches and public facilities to make this life-saving unit available and we are one of very few so far who have taken advantage of this opportunity.

# DISTRICT TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES— SAVE THESE DATES:

Some great training opportunities will be offered this Fall so please save the following dates:

## District Leadership Training Day

October 8, 2006, 2:00-5:00 pm.  
Tecumseh United Methodist Church

Workshops on: “How to Care for Current Members”, “Responding to Inactive Members”, “How to be a Welcoming Congregation” plus a special two-hour workshop for Staff Parish Relations Committee members led by District Superintendent Tom Macaulay.

## Lay Speaking Classes

October 21 and November 4, 2006  
Saline First United Methodist church

Course will focus on the main ways lay speakers are called to be in ministry: leading, teaching, serving, disciple-making, storytelling, proclaiming the gospel and growing through personal spiritual formation.

## JUNE BIBLE READINGS:

### June 4

Acts 2:1-21  
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b  
Romans 8:22-27  
John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

### June 11

Isaiah 6:1-8  
Psalm 29  
Romans 8:12-17  
John 3:1-17

### June 18

I Samuel 15:34 - 16:13  
Psalm 20  
2 Corinthians 5:6-10  
(11-13),  
Mark 4:26-34

### June 25

I Samuel 17:(1a, 4-11, 19-23)  
Psalm 9:9-20  
2 Corinthians 6:1-13  
Mark 4:35-41

## “BULLETIN BOARD” ADS...

This “Bulletin Board” is solely for the benefit of raising money for the Sanctuary Renovation Project (SRP). If you have a service or goods with all or partial sales going to the SRP, you may advertise in this space. Contact Meredith Burr (734) 487-5673, or leave a message at the church office (665-5632). Deadline to advertise is the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month. Ads will automatically repeat in future CHIMES publications. SRP Committee has the right to pull any ad.

*Meredith Burr*

### PILLOWS

Size 16 x 16, \$26, depicting picture of the DUM Church. One hundred percent (100%) proceeds go to SRP. Contact Joann Sherman (734) 459-1821, Meredith Burr (734) 487-5673 or any other Altar Guild member.

### BUSCH'S GROCERY

Shop at Busch's...5% of purchase donated to SRP. Must make your purchase(s) with a Busch's “gift card”. Cards available from Betty or Bob DeWolf. Cards can be refilled at Busch's.

### KROGER'S GROCERY

Shop at Kroger's...5% of purchase is donated to SRP. Must make a purchase with a Kroger “gift card”. Cards available from Bob or Betty DeWolf and can be refilled at Kroger'

### REAL ESTATE

If you or someone you know needs to sell or buy a home, use Steve Wickland of the Charles Reinhart Co. as your REALTOR and Steve will donate up to \$500 to the DUMC Sanctuary Renovation Project for each transaction. Also applies to anyone who is referred to Steve from a DUMC member. Call Steve at 734-669-5845 (office) or 734-216-2498 (cell #).

[www.wicklandrealestate.com](http://www.wicklandrealestate.com)

K  
)  
D  
S