

THE CHIMES

DIXBORO UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH
NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2011

THINK ABOUT THIS.....

By Rev. Tonya M. Arnesen, Lead Pastor

An article in Money magazine titled, "By the Grace of God: Does Believing Make You a Better Investor?" reported the 1998 research of Daniel J. Howard, of Southern Methodist University's Cox School of Business, who wondered if there is any correlation between religious beliefs and investment performance. He randomly selected 535 affluent residents of Dallas and asked them to rate their belief in God on a scale of 1 (atheist) to 7 (very strong belief), then list their investment returns for the past five years.

When Howard compared the profits of the most religious with the least religious respondents, he discovered that persons of faith gained an average of 31.2% return on their investments, compared with only 18.4% for the secular investor. Dr. Howard's hypothesis: "The more strongly you believe in God, the more willing you are to take risks and risk-taking was rewarded in the 1990's bull market."

Faithful risk-taking is rewarded beyond the stock market. We take risks when we enter into a marriage covenant, when we become parents, when we accept a new job, when we invest our finite resources in the eternal purposes of the church. We take risks when we commit our lives to Christ and when we seek to fulfill God's vision to build and to grow. **Risk-taking means making a commitment and trusting God to be faithful, even though there is no guarantee of the outcome.**

God's people have always been risk-takers: willing to step out of our comfort zones, willing to grow through adversity, willing to trust God when the future seems uncertain, willing to serve Christ in tough times. "The more strongly you believe in God, the more willing you are to take risks." And God always honors our trust and obedience!

On Sunday, November 13th, we will have the opportunity to take a risk that has eternal significance. In the midst of a world in crisis and uncertain economic future, **God is calling us increase our commitment to His work through Dixboro Church.** This month, I encourage you to:

- Reflect upon how good God has been to you. Focus upon how you have been blessed.
- Pray. Ask what God wants and expects from you in response to God's goodness in your life. If it is not a tithe (10%), then by what percentage will your commitment increase?
- Complete your financial commitment card for 2012 (it will be sent the first week in November), and bring it with you to worship on November 13th, when you'll have the opportunity to dedicate your faith-commitment to God.
- Thank God for the opportunity and privilege to invest in God's kingdom-building work in the world.

I pray that you will bring glory and honor to God as you step out in faith. I hope that our faithfulness will bear eternal fruit. I trust that we will all reap the rewards of taking this risk together. And I am certain that God will honor our obedience.

UMW NEWS

By Phebe Judson, President of United Methodist Women

On Saturday, October 22, we had a very successful Turkey Dinner, serving 200 guests. Everyone said it was a delicious dinner.

A BIG THANK YOU goes to the many church people who helped prepare, serve and clean up. Thanks also goes to the ladies who supplied the delicious pies and cookies for the dinner



CHANGES FOR REV. CATHY FREEMAN, DEACON
By Dawn Anderson, Staff Parish Relations Committee Chair

We Have A Deacon....and We Need A Secretary!



Our Deacon, Reverend Cathy Freeman has announced her resignation from her position as Church Secretary, effective December 24. This change will allow her to devote her time and energy to doing what she has studied and trained for: Deaconing. The SPRC is very happy that she has decided to take this path. Cathy will remain here in a part-time paid position, using her many talents and gifts as our Deacon. Tonya and the SPRC are working with her to define what her duties will include.

We are now in the process of searching for a new Church Secretary. We will be placing ads with local colleges, on Craigslist, and through our Conference communication. If you know of anyone who might be interested, and has the following qualifications, please have them submit a resume and letter of interest to Dawn Anderson, Chair of SPRC. Email: anderson1717@comcast.net

Here is the job description, hours, and pay for the Church Secretary position:

Duties

The Church Secretary will be responsible for the administrative tasks of the church office and for assisting the Pastor in meeting his/her administrative duties.

The types of activities that are included are:

- Development of the weekly church announcements
- Development of the weekly church bulletin
- Development and distribution of the church newsletter
- Keeping the church calendar
- Answering telephones
- Ensuring that the telephone and computer systems and office equipment are up to date and maintained
- Inventory and ordering of office supplies
- Maintaining worship attendance records
- Maintaining church files
- Assistance in development of annual Church Conference reports
- Assistance in development of annual Detroit Annual Conference reports

Skills

The Church Secretary position requires the following skills:

- Significant knowledge of Microsoft Windows, Word, Excel and Powerpoint.
- Significant knowledge of the Internet and email.
- Ability to manage a telephone and voice mail system.
- Knowledge of office equipment such as printers, copiers and fax machines.
- Excellent communication skills, verbal, written and electronic (via computer, email and telephone).
- Organization skills
- Confidentiality
- Web page management skills are desirable but not required

Hours and Hourly Wages

This position is for 15 hours per week, Monday-Friday from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm and pays \$9.00 per hour.

THREE WISE MEN AND A BABY
By Lindsey Adams and Beth Little



Children and youth of all ages are rehearsing for our Christmas play, *Three Men and a Baby*. The performance will be Sunday, December 4 at 6:00 pm with cookies and cocoa served afterward. Make sure this wonderful event is on your calendar!

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

There are lots more dates for Advent and Christmas that need to be on your calendars. Here they are so you can plan ahead:

Sunday, November 27 –*Hanging of the Greens* – Tonya will explain the tradition and religious significance of our Christmas decorations as we decorate the sanctuary during both the worship services. A chili lunch will be served by the Nurture Committee at noon and the decorating of the church building and sanctuary will be completed.

Sunday, December 4 – Youth Musical, *Three Wise Men and a Baby* at 6:00 pm, followed by cookies and cocoa.

Sunday, December 11 – All Music Sunday at both worship services. If you want to participate, there is a green sign-up sheet on the Music Bulletin board outside the sanctuary.

Sunday, December 18 – The annual Cookie Walk tradition begun years ago by the United Methodist Women continues, coordinated by the Women of Dixboro. Plan to buy cookies between the worship services. Your donations of home-based cookies are also appreciated.

Thurs. December 22 - Longest Night Service at 7:00 pm. Led by Rev. Cathy Freeman, this is a service for those who have lost loved ones, those who feel sad during the holidays, and those who want a quiet time away from the hustle and bustle of the season.

Saturday, December 24 –Worship at 5:00 pm, 7:00 pm and 11:00 pm

Sunday, December 25 - One worship service at 11am with light brunch to follow.

Sunday, January 1 - Wesley Covenant Service at 11am; no 9am worship service.

WE GET APPRECIATION!

I would like to thank my church family for awarding me the Barbara Morris Academic Achievement scholarship. I am thoroughly looking forward to attending the University of Michigan School of Engineering next year and the money will definitely help in paying for books, living expenses and the hundreds of other things that make college so expensive. I am truly grateful for all of the support and love I have received from the church throughout my life.

God Bless,
Laura Knutilla

To whom it may concern,

I realize this is long overdue, but I still wanted to take a moment to show my appreciation and fill people in on how my last step of undergrad is going. First of all, I want to thank the Dixboro United Methodist Church and those on the scholarship committee for awarding me the Suzanne Smith scholarship; it is definitely a help and such an honor to receive. Lastly, I am currently student teaching at Eberwhite Elementary in Ann Arbor. Student teaching has been such a rewarding experience so far. Although I feel have a lot to learn, I am looking forward to graduating and working with many more young people throughout my career as a physical educator.

Thank you,
Sara Smith

To Dixboro United Methodist Church members, Carol Weigel and family, and the Scholarship Committee,

I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation for receiving the Terry Wick Scholarship this year. This scholarship helped me to travel to London for six weeks this summer, where I studied literature and creative nonfiction writing. I was able to learn about hundreds of years of British history, visit several museums, see great comedic and tragic plays, and tour such places as Salisbury Cathedral and Stonehenge.

I'll keep busy this year with plenty of coursework in both editing/publishing and gender studies, as well as continuing to work for the Michigan State University Wesley Foundation as their Marketing and PR Coordinator. I will also have a spot on the executive board of the Professional Writing student organization this fall, where I will forge connections with community members and the program's alumni. It is through the love and constant support of my church family, both at Dixboro and the Wesley Foundation, that I am able to do all the things I do—and I can only hope to continue to make that church family proud in all of my endeavors at university and beyond.

Sincerely,
Allegra Woodward Smith

Dear Dixboro Church Family,

I am writing to thank you for the generous Barbara Morris Scholarship. As you know, I am studying at Albion College and I am enjoying every minute of it! I plan on majoring in Biology and minoring in Spanish, and Albion has great programs for both. My classes have been both challenging and rewarding. I just took my first college mid-terms; I am officially through my first touch exams! Swimming recently started and I love it. The team and my coach are so nice. I've had a great time getting to know so many new people. So far college has been one of the best experiences of my life!

Sincerely,
Kara Bowers

GREETER SEEKER NEEDED
by Phylis Brandon, Nurture Committee

The Nurture Committee is looking for someone who would organize and schedule greeters for the front door of the sanctuary at both worship services.



There are a multitude of ways this could be arranged. So, please, if this is something you feel moved to help with, let Cathy Freeman in the church office, or Robbie Colaner, chair of the Nurture Committee, know.

MISSIONS REPORT
By Roberta King, Missions Committee Chair

Sonya Luna, Detroit Conference Missionary, was the speaker at our October meeting. Sonya works with Hispanic Ministries. She thanked Dixboro for the backpacks recently sent to Ypsilanti First UMC. She reported how the parents of the children who received the backpacks gave testimony in church expressing their gratitude. A need was expressed for supplies for the English as a Second Language program at Ypsi First. The Mission Committee gave \$47 for this purpose.

Winter coats of all sizes are needed at House By the Side of the Road. Coats can be left at the church.

Dixboro continues to support Food Gatherers with food and cash.

November 27 is Methodist Student Day. This special collection provides college loans to Methodist students. This program has special meaning for me because it allowed me to attend college.

We will be supplying Christmas gifts for the Methodist Childrens' Home. Watch for the signup list soon.

Thank you to the many members of Dixboro UMC who volunteer for local organizations. Please join them. The help is needed and the rewards are great.

DIXBORO FAIR WRAP-UP

By Peggy Moran, Fair Committee Chair

The Dixboro Fair Committee wants to give one more hearty thank-you to everyone who worked so hard to make the 2010 Dixboro Fair another success.

The proceeds this year are \$2,442.00. The committee has decided to donate \$500.00 to Habitat for Humanity, \$700.00 to the Humane Society of Huron Valley and the remainder to Dixboro Church.

The Committee will meet in January to kick-off next year's effort and new ideas are always welcome. Stay tuned for a date and please think about joining this committee.

WOMEN OF DIXBORO
By Phylis Brandon, Co-Chair

Women of Dixboro met on October 6. We discussed the small group dinners which had been held at 3 homes in September. We decided to continue this annually and try to reach out to more women of the church next time.

The Women's retreat will be held on November 5-6 at Becky Horvath's house. Cathy Freeman will lead this retreat based on Bishop Vashti McKenzie's book, Journey to the Well. She writes of personal transformation based on the story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman in John 4.



Women of Dixboro will once again organize the Cookie Walk to carry on the tradition begun by United Methodist Women many years ago. It will take place on December 18 at 10 am between the worship services. We will accept any and all donations of homemade Christmas Cookies. Stay tuned for more reminders as we approach the holiday season. We will meet December 1st at 7:00pm. Come and join us as we plan events and projects for the coming year.

2012 PLEDGE CAMPAIGN and EFT
(Electronic Funds Transfer)
By Robert L. Baird, Financial Secretary

The message is that . . . ***We still need your pledge cards for 2012.***

A few years ago, Dixboro United Methodist Church began participating in an Electronic Funds Transfer Program (EFT). And while the EFT program has worked very well, we found that several members enrolled in the program did not submit a pledge card during the fall campaign. I am guessing that there may have been an assumption, that enrollment in the EFT program, by default, would fulfill the annual pledge campaign. This is not true. While authorization in the EFT program does not have to be renewed each year, and will continue from year to year, the annual pledge campaign gives us an opportunity to renew our commitment to the church each year.

How does the EFT program work? Members choosing to participate in the EFT program can elect to have regular contributions to the church, made through either a charge to their credit card, or through a direct charge to a bank checking or savings account. It is very convenient and very easy. Each year, with the annual pledge campaign, contributions for the following year will be adjusted per your instructions on the pledge card. If we do not see a new pledge card, then the EFT program will continue at your current authorized rate on file.

Please contact me (734-665-6408) if you would like more information or to request forms to begin a new EFT account.

Bottom line . . . We really appreciate those who have joined the EFT Program.

But Please . . . send in your 2012 pledge cards.

RECURRING EVENTS

Mondays	10:00 am	Northeast Seniors Exercise Class
Tuesdays	8:30 am	Exercise Class
	4:30 pm	Dance Class in Fellowship Hall
Wednesdays	10:00 am	Northeast Seniors Exercise Class
	6:00 pm	WOW (Word on Wednesdays)
	6:30 pm	Rehearsal for Youth Choir Musical
	7:30 pm	Chancel Choir Practice
Thursdays	8:30 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
Third Tuesday	6:30 pm	Nurture Committee
First Wednesday	5:00 pm	Worship Committee
First Thursday	7:00 pm	Women of Dixboro
Second Thursday	7:00 pm	Trustees Committee
Fourth Thursday	6:00 pm	Finance Committee

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday	Nov 1	7:00 pm	Missions Committee
Wednesday	Nov 2	5:00 pm	Worship Committee
Thursday	Nov 3	7:00 pm	Women of Dixboro meeting – <i>no meeting due to Women's Retreat</i>
Friday	Nov 4	7:00 pm	Women's Retreat until 9:00 pm
Saturday	Nov 5	9:00 am	Women's Retreat until 4:00 pm
		11:00 am	Memorial Service for parents of Christine Martin
Sunday	Nov 6		Celebration of All Saints' Day in Worship
Thursday	Nov 10	7:00 pm	Trustees Meeting in parsonage
Sunday	Nov 13	12:00 pm	Shelter Meal Ministry
Tuesday	Nov 15	6:30 pm	Nurture Committee
		7:00 pm	Church Council Meeting
Monday	Nov 21	1:00 pm	United Methodist Women
Wednesday	Nov 23	8:00 am	<i>WOW does not meet this week</i>
Thursday	Nov 24		Thanksgiving Day – Church office closed
Friday	Nov 25		Day After Thanksgiving – Church office closed
Sunday	Nov 27		Hanging of the Greens during worship services
		12:00 pm	Lunch and completion of building decorating

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

By Ingrid Sheldon, Treasurer

	August	YTD 2011	Budget	Difference	YTD Actual as % of Budget	YTD 2010
REVENUE						
General Giving	12,627.24	118,526.17	205,000.00	86,473.83	57.82%	128,032.59
Spec Collections, Designations, Other	2,662.41	28,658.89	10,000.00	-18,658.89		17,676.13
TOTAL REVENUE	15,289.65	147,185.06	215,000.00	67,814.94		145,708.72
EXPENSE:						
Conference/District Related	0.00	23,260.20	38,767.00	15,506.80	60.00%	23,166.00
Church Related						
Missions, special collections, PHP, scholarships	1,154.00	12,010.58	2,200.00	296.00		12,185.12
Payroll	2,634.88	25,204.31	38,191.60	12,987.29	65.99%	22,304.12
General church operations	4,046.63	30,863.36	41,048.00	10,184.64	75.19%	27,071.50
Committee	178.27	3,010.65	4,000.00	989.35	75.27%	3,310.63
Special Project:	1,004.11	14,739.95	10,000.00	-4,739.95		5,777.89
Total Pastor related expense	6,604.68	54,517.67	81,496.00	26,978.33	66.90%	51,864.75
Total Parsonage Related	236.94	2,783.46	5,000.00	2,216.54	55.67%	1,994.20
Total Schoolhouse expense	37.76	143.25	275.00	131.75	52.09%	164.13
TOTAL EXPENSE:	15,897.27	166,533.43	220,977.60	64,550.75	75.36%	147,838.34
CHURCH RELATED INCOME (LOSS)	-607.62	-19,348.37	-5,977.60			-2,129.62