



THE CHIMES

DIXBORO UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH
NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2007

AN OPEN LETTER FROM REV. JOHN G. PARK:

“Thanksgiving” is the one word that tells the story of this whole month of November. Certainly we’ve got to mention the pilgrims and the plucked turkey here somewhere – but, “Thanksgiving” still says it all.

“Thanksgiving” has a solid Biblical base, oft’ repeated and clearest in *“O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!” (1 Chronicles 16:34 RSV)*

We are God’s people and experience God’s enduring love every day – “Thanksgiving.”

At one of our church meetings recently I laughed out loud realizing how enjoyable are the good people we have here working together in ministry for Jesus Christ – “Thanksgiving.”

Eileen Bauer has been encouraging and the United Methodist Women are leading our way in providing for the Mission Team’s food gathering for Food Gatherers. “Thanksgiving” as we feed the hungry in Jesus’ name.

The loan for the Renovation has been converted into a mortgage, as planned, and we have financed less than expected because so many gave above and beyond. The Busch’s, Kroger and Hiller gift cards Bob and Betty DeWolf keep helping us with are pretty well providing for the payments. You can still get one, if you want!

Jesus said, *“I have called you friends.” (John 15:15)* – “Thanksgiving.” And this October and November the Finance Committee are reminding us all of His words as we gather pledges to fund the work of His hands and feet, eyes and ears. We are the Body of Christ at Dixboro and we behave His way!

Tom Little and the Finance Committee are keeping the new budget low and setting goals for 88 pledges and \$157, 000 – “Thanksgiving,” as we respond.

By December you can support your church more easily with EFT, electronic funds transfer. The I.R.S. reports that “charitable giving” is low. The Scripture’s standard is higher than the American average and Finance is working on ways to increase the giving of our members as we move toward the Bible’s proportional plan.

You are all my friends!

Grace and peace to you in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

The Preacher

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MISSIONS COMMITTEE:

By Roberta King

Why Missions? The scriptures tell us that mission is the activity of a loving, caring God who desires that all people have life and have it abundantly (John 10:10). Mission is the means by which we spread the gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ. Being in mission is to love as Jesus loves. *(From the Haiti School Project Newsletter.)*

In October 150 pounds of food was given by Dixboro UMC to The Food Gatherers to help feed the hungry in Washtenaw County.

Dixboro Church has pledged \$6,250 in mission projects called "Ministry Jubilee". This \$6,250 is part of the church budget. At present, these projects are under-funded for 2007. We have paid about 1/4 of the money pledged. Methodist Retirement Community, Methodist Children's Home Society, Cass Community Social Service and Baldwin Avenue (Pontiac) are all depending on us to feed the hungry and help those in need.

A "Volunteer In Mission" (V.I.M.) Team will be going to Haiti on November 10 thru 18. I am very excited that I will be a member of this team. We will be painting a new high school classroom at the Tovar School. I ask for your prayers and support for what I know will be a challenging and rewarding mission.

Band instruments are needed for the College Modele School in Cap Hatien, Haiti. If you would like to donate an instrument, contact Roberta King (662-8020) or the church office (665-5632).

GLOBAL FRIENDSHIP IN ANN ARBOR: *Missions Committee*

Over 300 U of M International students have indicated their interest in dining with local residents at sometime this Fall. If you would like to entertain 2, 3 or more of these students in your home for dinner and conversation on a week or a weekend evening sometime during November through December, read further.

All of the students speak English and they come from a variety of religious interests and backgrounds or none at all. All are eager to experience life in a local home.

Spence BeMent (734-664-3334) is our contact person and can provide additional information and the simple forms to get you started. Several church members have participated in this program in the past. This program is coordinated by the Ecumenical Center and International Residence (ECIR) and the U of M International Center.

NOVEMBER BIBLE READINGS:

Nov. 4

Psalm 119

Luke 19:1-10

Nov. 11

Psalm 145

Luke 20:27-38

Nov. 18

Psalm 118

Luke 21:5-19

Nov. 25

Luke 1:68-79

Luke 23:33-43



2007 GOOD NEWS HOUSE INFORMATION UPDATE:

By Spence BeMent

The family moved into the 2007 Habitat for Humanity "Good News House" constructed at 1609 Harvest Lane in Superior Township in early October. The "Good News House" Committee began to plan for the 2008 build just last week. At that meeting I delivered a check for \$850 toward our 2007 pledge of \$2,800, which brought our 2007 pledge contributions to \$2,416. I am pleased to announce that \$800 of that money was donated from the Special Projects portion of our 2007 budget request and that at least \$500 of the Dixboro Fair profit will go toward our pledge. If you also wish to donate to this worthy cause, please indicate "HFH Good News House" on your donation check or envelope so that there will be no doubt of your intent to support this project. If you donate directly to Habitat (Habitat for Humanity of Huron Valley, 170 Aprill Drive, Suite A, Ann Arbor, MI 48103), please indicate if it is for the Good News House.

The Ypsilanti First Church's Good News Support Group has a fundraising arrangement with CADY'S GRILL at 36 CROSS STREET in Ypsilanti's Depot Town. All regular menu orders placed

between 6:00 and 9:00 p.m. on Monday, November 12 will be included in a percentage donation by that restaurant toward building materials for the 2007 and 2008 Good News House. A location map and menu will be posted on the Missions Committee display board.

150-YEAR DIXBORO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CELEBRATION:

Spence BeMent

Our celebration begins in earnest this Fall and will continue into 2008, somewhat in parallel with the founding history of our church. Your participation on or with the planning committee, your ideas and any provision of artifacts, photos, and other historical items or update information will be greatly appreciated. Written or oral memories and anecdotes related to the development and activities of the

church and its members will be received with gratitude.

The planning committee consists of Ardith King (Chair), Garvin Smith, John Park, Gerald Parker, Phebe Judson, Janice Clark, Peggy Moran, Tom Freeman, Beth Woodward Smith and Spence BeMent. Others are most welcome.

ATTENTION

The Sesquicentennial Task Force has been making plans for the celebration of Dixboro Church's upcoming 150th Anniversary, beginning with a play from the first church Trustees meeting, to be performed on Saturday, December 8, 2007.

Refreshments will be served afterward in Fellowship Hall.

Details will be forthcoming in the next issue. Be sure to add to your calendars the many special offerings as they come up during the year of 2008.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN:

By Phebe Judson, President

Please note,....This year's Thanksgiving Breakfast, originally planned for November 15, HAS BEEN CANCELLED.

This was a difficult decision but there were not enough people going to be available to do the planning and all the details involved with preparing this popular event for you.

The annual Christmas Cookie Walk has been re-scheduled to Sunday, December 16 beginning at 9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. This change is made so as not to interfere with special Sesquicentennial Celebration programs planned for Saturday December 8 and Sunday, December 9. Dixboro Church begins its year-long celebration of 150 years as a working United Methodist Church and we hope you will look forward to taking part in everything which is being planned.