

# THE CHIMES

DIXBORO UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH  
NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2009

## **“FINDING THE RIGHT CHURCH” – PART 8 OF A SERIES**

*An Open Letter from Rev. John Park*



Jesus, when asked “What’s the central question of life (“ ... which is the greatest commandment” Matthew 22:36) answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like unto it, you shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Matthew 22:37-39

Finding the right church is wondering how total response to God might evidence itself in recognizable ways.

Here are “seven habits” borrowed from someone else because I think they apply.

- The Habit of Devotion: growing in relationship with Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior through worship and adoration.
- The Habit of Well-Being: seeking physical, emotional, spiritual health and wholeness. People cannot love God and yet be abusing themselves, their bodies, or their lives.
- The Habit of Family and Friends: building solid relationships of support and strength with those closest.
- The Habit of Fellowship: investing time with others of God’s children for guidance and mutuality.
- The Habit of Stewardship: wisely managing the resources of money, time, power, energy, etc., since all good gifts come from God.
- The Habit of Ministry and Mission: reaching out and building well-being in others.
- The Habit of Work: offering back to God the work of our hands as an act of faith and worship and as a symbol of our lives.

I am sure there are other ways to visualize the process of God’s centrality in our lives. What are your ideas? And is the Right Church helping you keep the habits of the Faith?

The Preacher

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

*By Tom Little, Finance Committee Chair*

We don't usually start our newsletter out with financial information but the situation this year warrants that we highlight this information. Our 2009 giving is down over \$21,000 from what we need to pay all our expenses, including our apportionment commitment to the connectional United Methodist Church (see separate article below on these funds). At our August 18 Church Council meeting, Ingrid Sheldon, Treasurer, let our Dixboro family know that we are using funds from our savings to pay the day-to-day expenses that do not include our apportionments (salaries, utilities, mortgage, education materials, etc.)

Please pray with all of us that God's work will be continued through the generosity of the Dixboro Church and that we will successfully weather this difficult financial situation.

	July, 2009	YTD 2009	Budget	Difference	YTD Actual as % of Budget	YTD 2008
<b>REVENUE</b>						
General Giving	10,543.05	101,372.06	210,000.00	108,627.94	48.27%	110,203.34
Special Collections, Designations, Other	4,552.79	23,951.95	30,000.00	6,048.05		36,616.05
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>15,095.84</b>	<b>125,324.01</b>	<b>240,000.00</b>	<b>114,675.99</b>		<b>146,819.39</b>
<b>EXPENSE:</b>						
Conference/District Related Apportionments	76.60	24,818.00	41,491.00	16,673.00	59.82%	26,197.20
Church Related Missions, special collections, PHP, scholarships	1,050.00	6,254.30	3,500.00	0.00		5,949.46
Payroll	2,277.64	22,733.62	39,415.05	16,681.43	57.68%	22,913.18
General church operations Committee	2,443.47	24,411.16	45,680.35	21,269.19	53.44%	29,746.25
Special Project:	1,834.43	2,831.87	6,000.00	3,168.13	47.20%	3,672.55
Total Pastor related expense	3,539.01	17,713.74	26,500.00	8,786.26		25,678.27
Total Parsonage Related	6,369.16	44,787.92	80,430.00	35,642.08	55.69%	42,825.49
Total Schoolhouse expense	148.87	3,143.37	4,625.00	1,481.63	67.96%	3,174.84
	57.12	217.48	625.00	407.52	34.80%	334.97
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE:</b>	<b>17,796.30</b>	<b>146,911.46</b>	<b>248,306.40</b>	<b>66,740.49</b>	<b>59.17%</b>	<b>160,492.21</b>
<b>CHURCH RELATED INCOME (LOSS)</b>	<b>-2,700.46</b>	<b>-21,587.45</b>	<b>-8,306.40</b>			<b>-13,672.82</b>

## **EDUCATION CORNER**

*By Stephanie Cloutier, Education and Youth Director*



Sunday School starts Sept 13th at 10AM!!! The program this year will be done as a “BIG ROOM” where all the kids will meet together in the same room – preschool through fifth grade – and do age-appropriate activities around the same lesson. We are still deciding which classroom will be best to use for this program so meet in the sanctuary at 10:00 on the first day to gather for this exciting new program.

Confirmation classes for 6, 7, & 8th graders start the 13th as well. Becky Horvath is our Leader for Confirmation. If you are older than 8th grade, but have not been confirmed please join us too.

We are always looking for substitute teachers, so if you are interested in being on the list please let me know. ( [education@dixborochurch.org](mailto:education@dixborochurch.org) ) Thanks!!

A very special thank you to all our congregation members who helped with Christian Education this summer!! We had a wonderful Vacation Bible School, a fantastic trip to Mt. T.O.P (a mission program in Tennessee for youth). and a hip hoppity time at FROG (a week of missions and fun for middle-schoolers)!! Without your contributions of time, money, talent & prayers none of these great things could have happened!!

Please get your calendars out and Save the Date for “A Night in Bethlehem” on Saturday December 5th!! More details coming soon!!!

We are already starting the planning for Mt T.O.P. next summer!!! A meeting in October is in the works, so if you are interested in being a part of this great experience please let me know!!

## **DIXBORO FAIR REPORT**

*By Peggy Moran, Fair Committee Chair*

The Dixboro Fair Committee sends out HUGE THANK YOU!!!

The day was a great success and that can only happen with the full effort of the Church.

We are amazing; newcomers to the fair are always impressed that our Church members would take a whole day to work for the local charities.

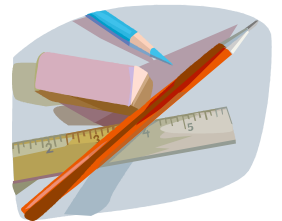
We are still finishing up the last payments and thank you notes, and the committee will meet in September to distribute the money we have raised. There will be an announcement in the October Chimes with our Dixboro Fair financial information.

## **MISSIONS REPORT**

*By Roberta King, Missions Chair*

School supplies are being collected for the Ada Ann Wright School in Liberia. Paper, pencils, pens, etc. are needed. Collection boxes are in the parlor until Labor Day. See the mission bulletin board for a picture of the students who will happily use these supplies.

A laptop computer has been donated for the school by Roberta and Jerry Colaner. Dixboro offers a big thank you as this completes the fifth of the five requests from the school to Dixboro.



Two hundred children are waiting to attend school in the village where the Ada Ann Wright Church is located. They lack tuition money. A scholarship fund will be established for this purpose. Contributions can be designed for “Liberia Scholarship.”

Four hundred dollars has been sent for missionary salary support for Beatrice Gbanga, a medical missionary from West Africa.

Two hundred dollars has been sent to support the Niangadou family in Mali.

Remember to bring canned goods for Food Gatherers. The need is especially great this year. Leave contributions in the box by the church office door, especially on the third Sunday of the month (though any other time is OK too). Surplus garden produce can be taken to the Food Gatherers building on DhuVarren Road.

The Missions Committee will sponsor a fund-raising dining event at Bob Evans Restaurant on Carpenter Road on Monday, September 21. Anyone dining between 6am and 9pm can have 20% of their bill donated to Dixboro UMC. Watch for details.

## **NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE NURTURE COMMITTEE**

*By Madeline Kingston-Park, Nurture Chair*

Books, books and more books... netted us almost \$300 at the Dixboro Fair. This amount added to the \$300 we made on our February Book Sale leaves us nearly \$600 for our next project.

In these current economic times, we think that some folks might need a few extra dollars to get through the month. One might need money for a light bill or an unexpected expense that wasn't in the budget. The Nurture Committee would like to help in those kinds of times by offering small, no-interest loans from our sales' proceeds. The conditions of these loans would be worked out on an individual basis and would, of course, be completely confidential. Please see the Reverends John or Cathy if we can be of any help in this way.

(Note: The People Helping People Fund still exists and is most often tapped for emergency needs for people who make requests and are not connected to Dixboro Church. These funds can also be used for church members who are not able to commit to repaying a loan.)

We continue to meet on a monthly basis and will keep you up to date on our latest ideas and projects. Our goal is to put our faith into action. One way of doing that is to minister to those in our own back yard. This then will enable us to reach out beyond ourselves for the greater good. We appreciate your support and look forward to our part in continuing in Dixboro's goal of "people helping people."

## **DIXBORO GHOST FESTIVAL**

*By Chris Martin and Peggy Moran*



At its meeting on August 19, the Church Council gave their support to a new community event, The Dixboro Ghost Festival. This festival will be held for the first time on Friday, October 30 from 6-10pm.

There will be small admission charge to cover the cost of a tent, a square dance caller, a band, and lots of fun activities for families and individuals of all ages - \$7 for adults; \$5 for children 5-18; and a family rate of \$20.

Put this date on your calendars because you will not want to miss it. There might even be a visit from the legendary Dixboro Ghost!

## **GROCERY CARDS HELP WITH MORTGAGE**

*By Cathy Freeman, Pastoral Assistant*

Kroger recently changed the program by which they give donations to Dixboro Church when you buy groceries there. You need to have a Kroger Rewards card and you need to register it and designate the donations to Dixboro.

There are instructions to do this on-line on the Ministry Table outside the church office. You can also do this at the Service Desk at your local Kroger. There is a form with a bar code on it that you need to have with you and these forms can also be found on the Ministry Table outside the church office.

Busch's also made a change in that they donate a smaller amount to Dixboro if you pay with a credit card. If you shop at Busch's please pay with cash, check or debit card to maximize the donation to Dixboro.

Thanks to all of you for participating in this program as it helps pay our mortgage. And we encourage everyone to ask their friends and family to use this program for Dixboro – it is not limited to church members.

## **APPORTIONMENTS** **INFORMATION FROM MISSIONS COMMITTEE**

*By Roberta King, Chairperson*

Apportionments are part of our church budget. (Apportionments are those funds that are collected from all United Methodist Churches to fund projects and activities in a larger way than could be handled by individual churches. This joining of our efforts is one of the reasons the United Methodist Church is said to be "connectional".)

Apportionments fund seven mission related items. They are:

- World Service Fund000000
- Black College Fund
- Africa University Fund
- Episcopal Fund
- General Administration Fund
- Interdenominational Cooperation Fund
- Ministerial Education Fund

Our Bob Evans dining event on September 21 will help Dixboro UMC meet our obligations for apportionments. Further information on these funds is available at [www.umcgiving.org](http://www.umcgiving.org).

## **UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

*By Phebe Judson, President*

The United Methodist Woman begin their fall schedule with their business meeting on Monday, September 21 at 1:00 pm in the church parlor. We will again do our monthly service project of sorting clothes for House by the Side of the Road.

The women will be planning the annual Turkey Dinner, scheduled for Saturday, October 17. Plan to attend for a delicious dinner and consider signing up to help.

The group meets each third Monday of the month and all church women are invited to attend.

## **WORSHIP COMMITTEE** **ANNOUNCEMENTS DURING WORSHIP**

*By Becky Horvath, Committee Chair*

The Worship Committee is asking that announcements be turned into the church office by Thursday each week so they can be included in the written announcements that are emailed on Friday and printed for distribution during Sunday worship. They are also asking that all announcements be made by John, Cathy, or our liturgist so please let one of these folks know before the service starts if an announcement needs to be made.



There are several reasons for this request:

- It is difficult for some people to hear the announcement unless it is made with a microphone.
- The announcements sometimes take 10-15 minutes at the beginning of a service which limits the time for prayer, music, and scripture.
- There are usually 100-160 people in church on any given Sunday and the emailed announcements go to almost 300 people. Email will reach a much larger audience than we can count on reaching on a Sunday morning.

Thank you for helping to make our worship experience meaningful. And, as with any new practice at Dixboro, please let us know your thoughts and suggestions for improvements.

## **WOMEN OF DIXBORO**

*By Phylis Brandon, Co-Chair*

The Women of Dixboro will be meeting on Thursday, September 10 at 7:00pm in the church parlor.

Since this is our first meeting of the fall season, we will decide our next year's events, projects, missions and FUN!

To all of our current 'members', please come and be a part of this planning. First on the agenda is our 3rd annual Women's Retreat.

To all women who have not yet participated in the Women of Dixboro, please consider coming and see what we are all about. The only requirement is that you like to get together with women of faith.

## **LAY SPEAKING MINISTRIES**

*By Cathy Freeman, Pastoral Assistant*

The fall Lay Speaking Ministries classes will be held Saturday, September 26 and Saturday, October 10 at the Tecumseh UMC, 605 Bishop Reed Drive in Tecumseh 49286.



The United Methodist Church values the work of the laity and offers these classes to support those who want to preach but also for those who want to develop more skills as leaders in the church.

If you have never taken a lay speaking class must complete the Basic Class first. Once you have completed the Basic Class, you may take an advanced class or the Refresher Class.

The Refresher Class will meet only once on October 10 and will emphasize the call of Lay Speakers – called by God, called to lead worship, called to witness and teach, called to leadership and service, and called to lead in faith.

There are two advanced classes offered and participants will attend on both Saturdays: Lay Speakers Lead Bible Study will help lay speakers become versed in how to each and lead Bible study, using Introducing the Bible by William Barclay. Lay Speakers Tell Stories focuses on learning what makes good stories, storytelling style, the techniques of effective story telling, and creating stories from experiences using Dancing with Words by Ray Buckley.

Contact the church office for more information or a registration form (that must be completed by September 10.)

## **WORLD-WIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER**

*By Cathy Freeman, Pastoral Assistant*

MARRIAGE IS A TEAM SPORT! It takes work by both partners to make a winning team! Discover some of the “training” techniques at a United Methodist Marriage Encounter weekend! From Friday evening to Sunday afternoon married couples can get away from jobs, kids, chores, TV and phones – and totally focus on each other. The next Marriage Encounter weekend is scheduled for September 25-27 at St. Francis Retreat Center in DeWitt, MI (north of Lansing). See the brochure on the bulletin board across from the Fellowship Hall for registration information or go to [www.encounter.org](http://www.encounter.org)

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Thursday	Sept 3	7:00 am	Men’s Club Breakfast at Flim Flam Restaurant
Saturday	Sept 5	10:00 am	Fellowship Hall Rented by Barnes Family
Sunday	Sept 6	9:30 am	Matthew Bannick Baptism
Monday	Sept 7		LABOR DAY HOLIDAY; church office closed
Tuesday	Sept 8	7:00 pm	Missions Committee
		7:30 pm	Trustees Committee
Wed	Sept 9	10:00 am	Northeast Senior Exercise Class Schedule Resumes
		6:30 pm	Lay Leadership Committee
Thursday	Sept 10	7:00 pm	Women of Dixboro
Saturday	Sept 12	8:00 am	Men’s Breakfast in Fellowship Hall
Sunday	Sept 13		Fall Worship Schedule Begins
		12:00 pm	Shelter Meal Ministry
Monday	Sept 14		Cathy at Conference Training; office closed
Tuesday	Sept 15	6:30 pm	Staff Parish Relations Committee
Wed	Sept 16	6:30 pm	Nurture Committee
Thursday	Sept 17		Cathy on Vacation – church office closed
Friday	Sept 18		Cathy on Vacation – church office closed
		6:30 pm	Davis/McRowe Wedding Rehearsal
Saturday	Sept 19	4:30 pm	Davis/McRowe Wedding
Monday	Sept 21		Bob Evans fund-raiser for apportionments – all day
		1:00 pm	United Methodist Women
Thursday	Sept 24	7:00 pm	Finance Committee
Sunday	Sept 27		Contemporary Service 10-Year Anniversary Celebration

### **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	7:00 am	Men’s Breakfast at Flim Flam Restaurant

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
Third Monday	1:00 pm	United Methodist Women
Second Tuesday	7:00 pm	Missions Committee
Second Tuesday	7:30 pm	Trustees Committee
Third Tuesday	6:30 pm	Staff/Parish Relations Committee
First Wednesday	6:30 pm	Worship Committee
Third Wednesday	6:30 pm	Nurture Committee
Second Thursday	7:00 pm	Women of Dixboro
Third Thursday	7:00 pm	Finance Committee
Second Saturday	8:00 am	Men's Club in Fellowship Hall

## **SEPTEMBER LECTIONARY READINGS**

<b>Sunday, Sept 6</b>	Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23 Psalm 125 o4 124 James 2:1-10 (11-13), 14-17 Mark 7:24-37	<b>Sunday, Sept 13</b>	Proverbs 1:20-33 Psalm 19 James 3:1-12 Mark 8:27-39
<b>Sunday, Sept 20</b>	Proverbs 31:10-31 Psalm 1 James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a Mark 9:30-37	<b>Sunday, Sept 27</b>	Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22 Psalm 124 James 5:13-20 Mark 9:38-50

## **WE GET LETTERS**

July 2009

Dixboro United Methodist Church & Scholarship Committee Members,

I would like to thank you for the great honor of receiving one of the Suzanne Smith Memorial Scholarships. I am a student at Eastern Michigan University studying physical education and health. As you may know, Suzanne Smith was my grandmother and it is a great privilege to be on this journey accomplishing goals that I have not only set for myself, but goals I know my "Grandma Sue" would have set for me too. So thank you again from the bottom of my heart.

Sincerely,  
Sara Smith

For with the Lord there is steadfast love,  
and with God is plenteous redemption.  
And God will redeem Israel

from all iniquities.

Psalm 130:7-8