

January/February 2015

Rev. Tonya M. Arnesen
Lead Pastor

Rev. Mary Hagley
Minister of Children and Youth

Rev. Cathy Freeman
Deacon Emeritus



THE CHIMES

Dixboro United Methodist Church

(734) 665-5632
5221 Church Rd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

dumc@dixborochurch.org
www.dixborochurch.org

"I never make New Year's Resolutions, anymore," the man told me, "I never keep them, anyway." I can remember lots of resolutions I've made and not kept, but I still believe New Year's resolutions are worth making. Let me tell you why.

First, we all need changes. Some we find very hard to admit to ourselves. I've heard people who say, "I have no regrets about my life. If I had it to do over, I'd do it the same way again." But I think that attitude is naïve and self-serving. As Christians, we know the power of confession. Owning up to our shortcoming and failures is the first step on the road to something better.

Second, the beginning of a new year is a good time for reassessment. How did last year go? What am I proud of? What do I regret? What do I want to do differently, how do I want to BE different this year? What percentage of my life is producing something of value to God? The brink of a new year is a good time for reassessment.

Third, New Year's is an excellent time for mid-course corrections. Sure, we might fail in what we set out to do, but as the saying goes, "if we fail to plan, then we plan to fail." If you're so fearful of failure that you never set goals to shoot for, you're not very likely to accomplish any goal at all. Failure is not the end. For the person who determines to learn from it, failure can be a friend.

The Apostle Paul is a good example for us: talk about failure! Throughout his life he was opposed, persecuted, shipwrecked, stoned and left for dead, deserted by trusted co-workers, slandered, and scorned. Sometimes it seemed that projects to which he had devoted years were turning to dust before his eyes. But he was unwilling to give up trying. From prison, he wrote, "Forgetting what is behind," he wrote, "and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus" (Phil 4:13-14, NIV) No wonder he made a mark on his world! He stopped looking back, and looked forward instead. He didn't let the fear of failure keep him from trying – again and again.

Fourth, New Year's is a time to learn to rely more heavily on the grace of God. I don't believe there IS such a thing as a self-made man or woman – no matter how gifted, efficient or effective we are – every person is God's creature – created and sustained by God's grace. So why not resolve to trust God more in the coming year? Let God's strength see you through every pain, every joy, every accomplishment of 2015.

If, during this last year, you didn't rely on the Lord as much as you should have, there is no time like the present to make a New Year's resolution. In fact, why don't you say this short prayer right now: "Dear God, I want the new year to be different for me." Then spell out some of the changes you'd like to see. And close this way: "Lord Jesus, I know that I'm going to need a lot of help for this. So right now I place myself in your hands. Help me to receive Your strength. Amen."

Good. Now you've got a much better chance of enjoying a Happy New Year.

Pastor Tonya Arnesen

**Looking Ahead:
January/February Worship Schedule**

**Epiphany Sermon Series:
A New Creation For the New Year**
*Focus on the ways that God can transform our lives,
if we will offer our lives to the work of God's Spirit.*

1/18 "A New Heart"
Ezekiel 36: 24-28

1/25 Bob Roth Preaching
UM Wesley Foundation

2/1 "A New Mind"
Romans 12:1-2
Sacrament of Holy Communion

2/8 "A New Spine"
1 Samuel 17:20-51

2/15 "A New Voice"
Jeremiah 1:4-10
*Sacrament of Holy Baptism - Madilynn Smith
(Will and Megann Smith, parents)*

**Season of Lent Sermon Series:
Standing on the Promises of God**
*All of God's promises to us are fulfilled in the life,
death and resurrection of Jesus Christ*

2/18 Ash Wednesday
Confirmation Class plan and lead service

2/22 "I Promise to Be With You. . . No Matter What"
Genesis 9:8-17, Mark 1:9-15

3/1 "I Promise to Forgive You . . . No Matter What"
Mark 14:12-31
Sacrament of Holy Communion

3/8 "I Promise to Save You. . . Whatever it Takes"
1 Corinthians 1:18-25

3/15 "I Promise to Love You. . . No Matter What"
Romans 8:38-39; John 3:14-21



www.DixboroChurch.org

Don't Forget to Check Our Website!

Check our website regularly to stay up to date with what's going on with our church. We have the calendar, pictures, and news posted regularly. You will also find our weekly bulletins along with this CHIMES (and previous editions) for view and download.

All Church Christmas Caroling and Party

Rev. Mary Hagley

We had 29 people come caroling at Atria Assisted Living and then we went to Superior Woods Assisted Living. Once we caroled, we handed out Christmas cards and a little gift to all the residents. After visiting the nursing homes, we came back to the church for dessert and a very fun white elephant gift exchange! We all had a lot of fun!



the Best Christmas Pageant Ever

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever
by The Dixboro Players
Rev. Mary Hagley

The Dixboro Players did a fabulous job presenting the pageant this year. It was great to see the adults, youth and kids all involved; "That's Church." Check out more pictures on the website. Thank you to Beth Little for directing the play and for all the ladies and gentlemen who helped bring it together and pull off an amazing show!

We also had a fun spaghetti dinner that the youth helped make and set up for, plus clean up too. We collected \$422 that was split between our House By the Side of the Road Collection and the Youth Mission trip to Cass Social Services this coming summer. Thanks to all you came to support the pageant and fundraiser!



Dixboro Community Thanksgiving Baskets

Rev. Mary Hagley

At the Thanksgiving Farmers' Market we, the Church, set up as a warming station for the vendors and buyers in the Schoolhouse serving hot beverages and collecting food items for our Thanksgiving Baskets. We collected 3 overflowing baskets and bags of turkey dinner preparations for 3 Ann Arbor families through Salvation Army. Thank you for your generosity, it was a wonderful day and outreach to the community!



College Care Packages

Rev. Mary Hagley

On behalf of Dixboro Church the youth group sent our college students some goodies with the leftover Halloween Candy! Our college students received them happily. I think this is the beginning of a new tradition for Dixboro! Here is the stack of goodies ready to be mailed:



Recap on Youth Fall Retreat

Rev. Mary Hagley

On Friday, November 21 I welcomed 13 youth into my house for a *Hunger Games* movie marathon. We watched the first 2 movies and then talked about how we can relate Bible stories to it, for example throughout the books they are trying to be in a better relationship with one another, just like we strive to be in right relationship with God. On Saturday morning we went to the theater to see pt. 1 of Book 3 *The Mockingjay*. We had a fabulous weekend together!



Youth Group Activities *January and February*

January 11

Youth Group: 5:30-7:30pm

January 19 (MLK Jr. Day)

Bowling at Colonial Lanes
1:00-3:00pm

January 25

Youth Group: 5:30-7:30pm

February 1

Souper Bowl Sunday Fundraiser
11:30am-12:30pm

February 8

Youth Group: 2:00-4:00pm
(Follows Confirmation)

February 21

Winter Jam Concert
Palace of Auburn Hills
3:00pm



Confirmation Class *January and February*

January 4

11:45-2:00pm

January 18

11:45-2:00pm
(Will meet with mentors)

February 8

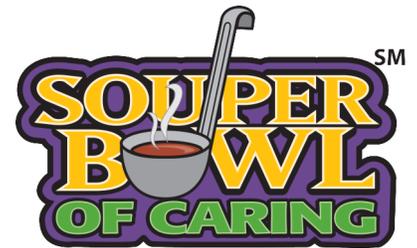
11:45-2:00pm

February 15

11:45-2:00pm
(Will meet with mentors)

February 18

Leading the Ash Wednesday
Service at 7:00pm
(Be here at 6:30pm)



Youth's Souper Bowl Sunday!

On February 1, Souper Bowl Sunday, either stay to eat or take soup home to enjoy later in the day while watching the Super Bowl. The Dixboro UMC youth will be selling soup after the service from 11:30am to 12:15pm. \$3 for a bowl of soup, \$2 for a cup of soup. Proceeds will go towards our Cass Social Services Mission Trip July 13-17.

Abigail Circle Updates

Barbara Scheffer

For those of you how may not have heard the news, the Abigail Circle is active and busy. Many of the members of the Abigail Circle are former members of the UMW. They are carrying on their important traditions and valued wisdom into this new Circle, which is now part of our larger group, the Dixboro United Methodist Women (DUMW). The Abigail Circle continues to meet on the third Monday of each month from 1 to 3 in the afternoon, at the church. Location depends on the activity. We would love to have new members join us.

Our December potluck salad luncheon was in the fellowship hall and well attended. Salads were quite yummy! The January gathering will be on Monday, January 19th with a special program on hat pins and old hats. Nancy Durston is preparing the program for the group and all women are invited. Future programs will be provided in the next newsletter.

The Circle is also encouraging all church members to participate in the coupon collections for education. Coupons can be inserted into the clear plastic case outside the church office. We are sure you remember the Campbell's soup labels and cereal box coupons for education that have been collected for years. Help us continue to contribute to this easy way to help education.

For any questions about the activities of the Abigail Circle please contact Shirley Koch or Roberta King, this year's co-leaders.

Outreach Team

By Cathy Freeman, Outreach Chair

The new Outreach Team (formerly known as the Missions Committee) has been formed and is hard at work with plans for 2015. The members of this team are:

Cathy Freeman (chair)
Patty Fragner (vice-chair)
Spence BeMent
Sandy Bowers
Janice Clark
Ramona Cowling
Roberta King
Amy Knutilla

We are proud to sum up 2014 as we celebrate all the great work we have done in Jesus' name and for Jesus' people:

-We paid our mission-related apportionments in full.

-We paid our pledge to missionary salary support (Princess Jusu who works in Liberia)

-We paid our pledges to the Baldwin Center, the Methodist Children's Home, the UM Wesley Foundation, the United Methodist Retirement Communities, the VINA Dental Clinic, and the NOAH project.

-We made contributions to a Liberia Girls' Dormitory, Habitat for Humanity, the House by the Side of the Road, Mott Children's Hospital, the Judith Craig House, the Haiti Hot Lunch Program, World Vision, Imagine No Malaria, the John Dean Town project, and students in Mali.

-We volunteered countless hours at Food Gatherers, the Delonis Homeless Shelter, Motown Mission, and the House by the Side of the Road.

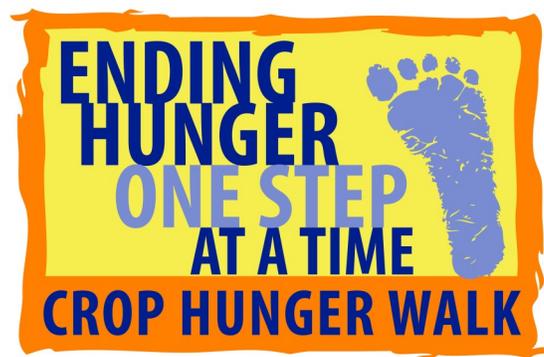
As we begin 2015, the Outreach Team is in a learning and planning phase – first, those who are new to this team need to understand what mission work has been done in the past by the good people of Dixboro Church. Then we have to make plans for how to move forward in 2015 – what financial pledges we should make and what hands-on projects we should emphasize. And, as always, we will be planning for how best to inform and educate all of us on what needs there are in the world and how we can participate and help.

If you have suggestions or ideas, please share them with me or any member of the Outreach Team. We look forward to working with you in 2015 and beyond.



Dixboro United Methodist Women
Barbara Scheffer

We are having our meeting on Sunday, January 11, 2015 at 11:15 in the Choir Room. All women of the church come join us as we make plans for the upcoming year's activities. We will also have updates on the Cookie Walk, hat and mitten sewing session, World Thank Offering, Thanksgiving Baskets, the School House Warming Station during the final Farmers' Market, and follow up discussion on continuation of the Turkey Dinner. Hope to see you there.



CROP Hunger Walk
Rev. Mary Hagley

I received an email from the Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice, saying the walk we participated in raised \$41,272! Praise God that money will help many people!! And once again thanks for everyone who walked and supported it! As a church we raised, \$1,259.

Dixboro United Methodist Church Visioning Team
Barbara Scheffer

As facilitator of our new Visioning Team I thought it would be helpful to update folks on our productive inaugural meeting that took place December 15, 2014. If you will recall, we as a church, decided last August to approve this different plan of operation to better accommodate a church of our size, our "labor force", and our resources. This different plan approved for piloting to see if it could help us be even better disciples for Christ. The Visioning Team was created to provide dedicated thinking time for church committee leaders to dialogue and examine key administrative and program ministries.

The following individuals are members of the Visioning Team:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Barbara Scheffer- Facilitator | Patty Burns- Chair of Witness Team |
| Cathy Freeman- Chair of Outreach Team | Dawn Anderson- Chair of Nurture Team |
| Carl Johns- Chair of Trustees | Brian Charnetski- Chair of Staff-Parish Relations |
| Tom Freeman- Chair of Finance | Kenn Scheffer- Lay Leader |
| Tom Little-Chair of Church Council | Cody Sulkowski-Secretary of Church Council |
| Rev. Tonya | Rev. Mary |

These folks are also key members of Church Council, which will continue to operate as our church's decision making body. The purpose of the Visioning Team is not to make decisions but rather to bring well thought-out recommendations to the Church Council for its role in decision making. The Visioning Team recommendations will focus on the best match of current and new administrative and program ministries with our goals and resources.

Our next Visioning Team Meeting will be Monday evening, February 9, 2015 in the evening. Our agenda is to get feedback from the three new Teams (Outreach, Witness, and Nurture) who are meeting this month and from the administrative committees. We hope to learn how their groups believe we are doing well, what they would like to do differently, and begin to project plans for the coming years.

If you have questions regarding the Visioning Team please contact any of the members listed above.



From Ingrid Sheldon, Treasurer

If there are any questions, do not hesitate to contact me.

	December	YTD 2014	Budget	Difference	YTD Actual as % of Budget	YTD 2013
REVENUE						
General Giving	23,317.98	203,065.86	220,000.00	-16,054.14	92.70%	220,005.33
Spec Collections, Designations, Other	852.87	27,546.59	0.00	27,546.59		54,013.26
TOTAL REVENUE	24,170.85	231,492.45	220,000.00	11,492.45		274,018.59
EXPENSE:						
Conference/District Related	3,243.10	38,551.00	38,551.00	0.00	100.00%	40,747.00
Church Related:						
Missions, special collections, PHP, scholarships	207.02	12,195.92	2,000.00	-10,195.92	609.80%	18,130.65
Payroll	3,360.28	31,062.75	46,070.16	947.41	67.42%	36,316.45
General church operations	4,558.10	40,507.75	42,317.00	1,809.25	95.72%	40,122.55
Committee	235.04	2,537.03	4,000.00	1,462.97	63.43%	4,270.32
Special Project:	315.85	16,370.79	0.00	-16,370.79		41,087.61
Total Pastor related expense	6,737.55	80,800.28	83,469.00	2,668.72	96.80%	80,580.83
Total Parsonage Related	192.34	2,774.31	5,900.00	3,125.69	47.02%	3,477.03
Total Schoolhouse expense	44.06	250.17	250.00	-0.17	100.07%	225.83
TOTAL EXPENSE:	18,893.34	240,230.00	222,557.16	-16,552.84	107.94%	227,858.27
CHURCH RELATED INCOME (LOSS)	5,277.51	-8,737.55	-2,557.16			-3,839.68

2014 Year End EFT Planning (Electronic Funds Transfer)

Robert L. Baird – Financial Secretary

I would like to offer a suggestion for our members to consider the electronic funds transfer program (EFT). Our EFT program was established in 2008 by Tom Little. During this time, it has proved to be very convenient for both the members and the Church's administration of the program (i.e. Bob & Ingrid). Also, you have the comfort knowing that your donations will be made on a timely basis and the church can plan on funds being available for its obligations during the slower vacation periods.

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.

Going forward into the New Year, with the annual pledge campaign, contributions will be adjusted per your instructions on the pledge card. If we do not receive 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.

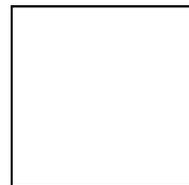
Grocery Store Contributions

An easy way to contribute to Dixboro United Methodist, is to go grocery shopping! You shop and grocery stores contribute to our church, it's that easy. In 2013, we received **\$3,057** through this program.

In 2014, we received **\$2,019**, which is less than in previous years. Don't forget that you need to update your Kroger Card every year. Let's remember this program while grocery shopping, and take advantage of this easy way to raise money for our church.

Busch's uses gift cards which you can get from the church office or at Busch's; you must register for the Busch's MyWay program on-line. Kroger's uses their Kroger Plus card; you need to go on-line to register the church as the recipient of the rewards. Meijer's issues a card that earns donations if you pay with cash or a debit card. Contact the church office to get started or to get help registering.

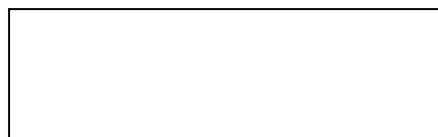
Dixboro United Methodist Church
5221 Church Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48105



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

THE CHIMES

DIXBORO UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
NEWSLETTER



January/February 2015



Rev. Tonya M. Arnesen, Lead Pastor
Rev. Mary Hagley, Minister of Children and Youth
Rev. Cathy Freeman, Deacon Emeritus
Church Phone: (734) 665-5632

Worship Schedule:
Sunday School for All Ages at 9:00am
Sunday Worship at 10:00am

Email: dumc@dixborochurch.org
Web site: www.dixborochurch.org

“The mission of the Dixboro United Methodist Church is to develop and sustain disciples of Jesus Christ through worship, education, outreach, and nurture.”

IF YOU NO LONGER WISH TO RECEIVE THIS PUBLICATION, PLEASE CALL 734-665-5632

