



# The Chimes

## *From the Pastor's Heart:*

As I considered what to submit for this January/February edition of the Chimes, I vacillated between a commentary about 1) making and keeping New Year's Resolutions or 2) deciding what we should give up for Lent. Which approach to take? Both remind me this is a good time to focus on our need for CHANGE.

**We all need changes.** Some of us find that hard to admit. We say, "I have no regrets. If I had it to do over, I'd do it the same way again." But I think that attitude is at best, naïve, and at worst, prideful. The Christian faith is about change and transformation; allowing the Holy Spirit to remake us into the character and likeness of Christ. That is the purpose and power of confession: we must own up to our shortcomings and failures as a necessary first step towards transformation.

This is a good time for **reassessment**. How did last year go? What are you proud of? What do you regret? What percentage of your life is producing something of value to God? What do you want to DO differently, how do you want to BE different this year? Take time to assess your need for change.



This is a good time for **mid-course corrections**. Sometimes we will fall short of our goals, but if we are so fearful of failure that we never set goals towards real change, then we're not likely to accomplish much for the Kingdom of God. The Apostle Paul was opposed, persecuted, shipwrecked, stoned and left for dead, deserted by trusted co-workers, slandered, and scorned. But he never gave 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 3:13-14). 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.

This is also a good time 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? Let God's strength see you through every pain, every joy, and every accomplishment of 2013.

As you turn the page on a new year, and prepare to embark upon a new Lenten Journey, why not offer this prayer: "Lord, I want this season of my life to be different. . . "(and spell out the changes you need to make). Then close this way: "Lord Jesus, I know I am going to need your help to make these changes. So I'm placing 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 and a Holy Lent.

Amazed by grace,  
Pastor Tonya Arnesen



# The Season of Lent

## Sermon Series: *Who Do YOU Say I Am?*

2/13 Ash Wednesday Worship at 7:00 pm

With Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion

**The Repentance Route** - A change of heart is not complete unless there is also a change of direction. Only then, can God change our lives.

### 2/17 Lent #1 - **Is Jesus for Real?**

Ultimately, each of us must choose what we believe about Jesus. Given the historic evidence of his existence, either he is a liar, a lunatic, or he really IS who he claimed to be.

### 2/24 Lent #2 - **What Does Jesus Look Like?**

Some picture Jesus as the suffering servant, others as triumphant King of Creation; some depict him in solidarity with the poor, others as champion of the rich. Some see him through the lives of Mother Teresa or Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Question is – does the world see Jesus through us today?

### 3/3 Lent #3 with Holy Communion – **The Puzzle of Christ**

Why do Christians insist that Jesus was the one and only Son of God? Why not just let him be a remarkable man; a compassionate healer; a great moral teacher; a social revolutionary; a deeply God-conscious man? In Jesus, three pieces of a puzzle come together to form a startling, singular picture that demands our response.

### 3/10 Lent #4 - **Why Do We Need the Cross?**

The cross is at the core of the Christian message. On the cross, God embraced the whole human experience; God participated in the total experience of human suffering - no exemptions, no exclusions.

### 3/17 Lent #5 – Rev. Bob Roth, Guest Preacher with Wesley Foundation of University of Michigan

### 3/24 Palm Sunday with Children’s Palm Parade - **The Prince and the Pauper**

Do we follow a king who is a beggar? Or a beggar who is a king? The answer is: we need BOTH.

### 3/28 Maundy Thursday/Good Friday

6:00 pm **Christian Seder Meal** in Fellowship Hall, followed by stripping of the altar for Good Friday

### 3/31 **Easter Sunday – Celebration of the Resurrection!**

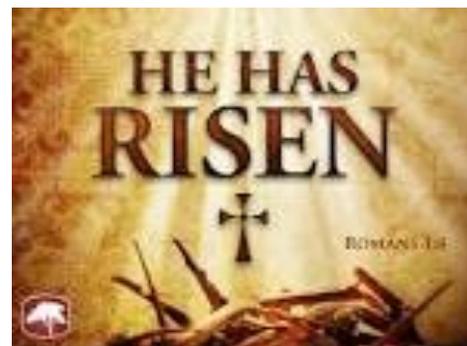
7:45 am – 8:30 am Easter Breakfast served in Fellowship Hall

9:00 & 11:00 am Easter Cantata

with Youth Choir, Joyful Noise & Chancel Choir

**May We Never Lose the Wonder**

by Randy Vader and Jay Rouse



## Joy! Joy! Joy! ... from “A Christmas Story Live”



## DUMC Family Game Night For All Ages

By Rev. Mary Hagley

On Saturday, March 2 from 6-8pm come to **the church-wide game night**. Bring your family and friends to play some fun games for all ages. Dinner will not be served, so please bring snacks to share and bring your favorite game along. DUMC will provide beverages and children friendly games.



## Earth Advocacy Corner

By Paul Carson

Living as responsibly as each of us can to improve the prospects for future generations is incumbent on Christians and peoples of the other great religious and cultural traditions. Wise stewardship of our home, God's earth, is a key component of such responsible living. Brian and Angela Charnetski have taken a step beyond what most of us have done to hopefully maintain resources for the future while cleaning the space we inhabit. Thanks to Brian for sharing the following thoughts and experiences with us. Perhaps his note will help stimulate others to reduce their load on the earth's resources:

*The following is what I have to say about our solar system.*

*For many years I have been interested in solar power. In junior high school I built a solar collector that heated water as part of a shop project. I have also been very interested in energy conservation and environment protection. Face it, we all breathe what we put into the air. When we built our house we added every energy saving option the builder had to offer. This resulted in a higher cost up-front yet dramatically lower utility bills than my neighbors who have similar size homes. According to what I have calculated, that investment easily paid for itself within the first ten years.*

*Two years ago some friends of mine installed solar power on their roof. When I heard about the projected output and savings I was skeptical. I decided to wait and see how they were doing after a year. A little over a year later I checked back with them and found it had been exceeding the projections. I then started doing research and decided the time had come. In late July of 2012 we had nine photo-voltaic panels added to our roof. The projected payback was about 12 years. We also did some extra things around the house to conserve a little more power. Although we had projected a 25 percent reduction in the electricity purchased from the utility, we achieved an astounding 66% drop for August, September, and October. November was down by 50% and December down by 33% (fewer daylight hours and more clouds in the winter). This was based on 12 years of history for the same months in the past. For phase 2 we just added five more panels for a total of 14. If this performance continues, I expect the payback will be less than the original 12 year estimate.*

*As people learn about our system I find many who are very interested in it. I feel good about doing something that reduces pollution, conserves our fuels, and reduces greenhouse gas emissions. Besides that, with an expected life exceeding 25 years and a payback of 12 years (maybe less) it just made good financial sense as a means of long-term savings. If anyone is interested I would be happy to discuss how it works and what was involved.*

~ Brian Charnetski [bcharnetski@comcast.net](mailto:bcharnetski@comcast.net)

## So, What Have Those Dixboro Cooks Accomplished?

By Barb Scheffer

The Dixboro Cooks planning group, Meredith, Elaine, Shirley and Barbara, are back at it. At our meeting in late November, 2012, we made plans for preparing the next round of frozen casseroles to continue to raise money for church improvements. The initial dates for cooking are (we will probably add one or two more dates later):

Saturday, January 12,  
Friday, January 18, and  
Friday, February 1, 2013.

We basically plan to work from 9:00 to 5:00, and welcome anyone interested in helping for part or all of those days. We have our regular crew (the planning group plus Mary Baird, Pat Blom, and others), but would love some additional cooks to join in. Just contact one of us if you are available.

Current plans are to make the same 4 varieties of casseroles (Hearty Beans with Meat, Mock Rubeen, Meatloaf and Mashed Potatoes, and Cabbage Rolls). We hope to have pre-orders to determine the volume needed. GREAT NEWS--- **the price is staying the same, \$13/casserole.** We are planning to start selling in March, 2013.

We also realized, it is important to let folks know how the money we have raised over the last five years has been spent. Our original cooking activities involved some "sit-down" dinners and carry-out dinners, but lately we've focused on the frozen casseroles. We always need to keep "seed money" (about \$1200) in the till for buying groceries and supplies for the next cooking round, but here is what your contributions over the years have accomplished for "Basics for the Church", our mission:

\$ 570 to help with the new roof  
\$ 493 to help with the new furnace  
\$2307 to help with the new furnishings/remodeling of for the Fellowship Hall  
\$ 200 miscellaneous kitchen items to enhance use of the kitchen  
\$ 151 for the new Microwave  
\$ 404 for the new chest freezer in the furnace room  
\$3000 being designated for the new flooring in the kitchen depending on materials selected by the Trustees

See what great things have been accomplished!

So, we see your job as 1) come help with the cooking, 2) share your thoughts and ideas with us, and 3) keep buying and enjoying the casseroles. Happy New Year.

~The Dixboro Cooks

## News and Notes from the Nurture Committee

By Robbie Colaner, Chair of Nurture Committee

**Hanging of the Greens:** It was our pleasure to provide a soup/chili lunch for all who participated in decorating the Church for the Christmas Holidays. The results were truly lovely.

**Caring Partners:** Their activity was increased over the Holidays to be sure that all who weren't able to attend Church were attended to.

**Outreach to the community:** We provided a \$200.00 gift card to a single mother with 2 children to help with their expenses.

**Coffee Hour Hosts:** We encourage our members to sign-up as Coffee Hour Hosts for our Sunday service. It's a wonderful way to reach out to our DUMC family and visitors. The sign-up sheets are in the Fellowship Hall.

**The Nurture Committee:** Our committee continues our goal of "people helping people". In these current hard economic times, be sure to reach out to your Church Family if we can help in any way.

We continue to meet monthly and will keep you posted on our projects.

## Mission Report

By Roberta King

December was a great month for Dixboro UMC Missions. Our dedicated congregation provided funds to pay mission apportionments (about \$10,000) Ministry Jubilee Pledges (\$6,500) and had additional funds to disperse. \$400 was sent to each of the following groups: Echo Farms, Justice for our Neighbors, Central Conference Pension Fund, House By the Side of the Road, Methodist Children's Village, and the Haiti Hot Lunch Program.

With the help of the Plymouth Figure Skating Club, 391 pounds of food was contributed to Food Gatherers. By my estimation about \$1,000 worth of gifts were given to the boys at Methodist Children's Home. Gloves and mittens were given to Hope Clinic.

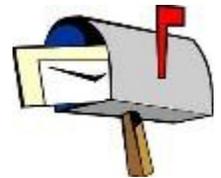
A full report for the year will be coming as we close the books for 2012. Except for Apportionments and Ministry Jubilee which were yearlong projects, everything else happened in December. The Mission Committee will continue to give information about each of the projects the congregation supports.



Spence and Gary load up a truck full of gifts from Dixboro Church to Methodist Children's

## From the mailbox...

Over the last couple of months we have received many letters thanking the people of Dixboro United Methodist Church for their generous support. It would take an entire separate edition of *The Chimes* to include them all. Here are some excerpts...



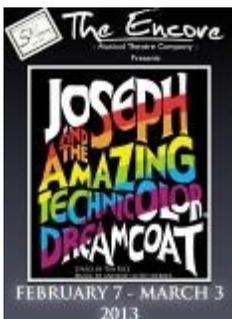
**From the NOAH project** ... your support enables us to serve our brothers and sisters in downtown Detroit...

**From ECHO** ... our efforts to respond to the hunger needs of individuals are only possible because of the generosity of donors like you.

**From Habitat for Humanity** ... We are so thankful for your continued support. An especially big thanks to Spence for all he does!

**From the Department of Veterans Affairs** ... Fay, your thoughtfulness reflects the concern and compassion that our community feels for our veterans and for the service they provided to all of us while in service to our country.

**From Charter Township of Superior** ... thank you for the use of your Fellowship Hall as Superior Township's Precinct 1 polling location ... 873 voters voted there on November 6, 2012.



## Women Of Dixboro Outing

By Cathy Freeman and Phylis Brandon

All the women at Dixboro Church and their female friends are invited to join us on Thursday, February 21 at the Encore Theatre in Dexter. We will see *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat* that evening. Tickets will be about \$26, depending on how many people attend.

Let Phylis Brandon or Cathy Freeman know if you want a ticket. We hope everyone will join us!

## Seeking Church Office Volunteers

By Amy Knutilla, Administrative Assistant

Are you looking for a fun way to serve our church? Do you know Microsoft Office or would you like to learn? I am seeking a couple of people who would be able to volunteer in the office one or two hours per week, learn the basics of our church office (editing and copying bulletins, answering phones, tracking attendance and membership information in our Church Management System, etc.) and be able to serve as a substitute when I am away. Please contact Amy at [dumc@dixborochurch.org](mailto:dumc@dixborochurch.org) or 734-665-5632.



From Ingrid Sheldon, Treasurer

WOW – that will be your reaction to the December 2012 statement. What generous folks we have at Dixboro Church!! We finished the year with a surplus of \$13,704.33 in our General Fund! All Conference obligations were met.

Some notes – To what can this be attributed:

1) On the revenue side, current offerings were up \$2300 compared to a year ago. Designated funds for general operations contributed another \$2400 compared to other years while rent was up \$2200.

2) On the expense side, general church operations were down over \$8000 partially due to \$6600 less being spent on church maintenance. With little snow last year and a dry summer, we saved another \$2000.

DTE installed a new gas meter during the summer. A large refund was given along with a large charge. It took a bit to sort out which of the two meters went with the parsonage and which went to the church. Consequently, what appears to be a large charge to the Parsonage gas account for the month is actually a reconciliation between the two accounts. Both YTD numbers are in line with the budget and reflect lower gas prices (another nice savings...). I will be more conscientious (as is DTE now) about assigning the cost correctly.

Folks donated \$2340 to the Christmas Offering. Since all Conference apportionments were paid, these gifts will be divided between the Hope Clinic in Ypsilanti and DUMC where we will have a head start on funding an enhanced youth ministry for this coming year.

In addition to the church's commitment of \$6500 to Ministry Jubilee, it is also wonderful to note that \$17,197.31 more was given directly to a variety of mission programs. The funds came from a variety of sources but truly reflect our giving spirit – a core value of the Dixboro community. I hope everyone feels a warm glow from what has been accomplished! We are blessed!

**A LOOK  
at the  
BUDGET**

	December	YTD 2012	Budget	Difference	YTD Actual as % of Budget	YTD 2011
<b>REVENUE</b>						
General Giving	34,587.41	215,164.99	210,000.00	-5,164.99	102.46%	209,217.17
Spec Collections, Designations, Other	2,613.00	17,501.45	1,500.00	-21,166.44		34,148.75
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>37,200.41</b>	<b>232,666.44</b>	<b>211,500.00</b>	<b>-26,331.43</b>		<b>243,365.92</b>
<b>EXPENSE:</b>						
Conference/District Related	3,879.00	38,794.00	38,794.00	0.00	100.00%	38,767.00
Church Related						
Missions, special collections, PHP, scholarships	2,400.00	13,477.31	2,500.00	1,785.00	539.09%	14,751.58
Payroll	4,277.45	36,922.04	38,121.60	1,199.56	96.85%	37,623.69
General church operations	1,714.18	34,743.98	41,243.00	6,499.02	84.24%	42,298.61
Committee	200.11	5,836.09	4,500.00	-1,336.09	129.69%	4,445.41
Special Project:	213.00	4,441.97	500.00	-3,941.97		17,377.53
Total Pastor related expense	6,701.58	81,023.31	83,100.00	2,076.69	97.50%	81,980.84
Total Parsonage Related	1,514.19	3,456.65	5,380.00	1,923.35	64.25%	4,637.50
Total Schoolhouse expense	0.00	266.76	250.00	-16.76	106.70%	222.09
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE:</b>	<b>20,899.51</b>	<b>218,962.11</b>	<b>214,388.60</b>	<b>8,188.80</b>	<b>102.13%</b>	<b>242,104.25</b>
<b>CHURCH RELATED INCOME (LOSS)</b>	<b>16,300.90</b>	<b>13,704.33</b>	<b>-2,888.60</b>			<b>1,261.67</b>



To see the calendar that is maintained in the office, go to the Dixboro Church website at [www.dixborochurch.org](http://www.dixborochurch.org) and click on [Church Calendar](#)

## Recurring Events at Dixboro

M/W/F	10:00 am NE Seniors Exercise	1st Sun	Holy Communion
Tuesdays	8:30 am Exercise Class	2nd Sun	Shelter Meal Ministry
	10:30 am Staff Meeting	3rd Sun	Bring canned goods to worship
	4:30 pm Dance	2nd Mon	7:00 pm Missions Committee
	7:00 pm Joyful Noise Practice	3rd Mon	1:00 pm United Methodist Women
Wednesdays	7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	1st Tues	6:30 pm Nurture Committee
Thursdays	8:30 pm Exercise Class	1st Wed	5:30 pm Worship Committee
	9:30 am Women's Bible Study	1st Thurs	7:00 pm Witness/Outreach
Saturdays	8:30 am Course in Miracles	1st Thurs*	7:00 pm Women of Dixboro
Sundays	9:00 am Casual Worship	1st Thurs**	7:00 pm Christian Education Board
	10:00 am Sunday School for all ages	2nd Thurs	7:00 pm Trustees Committee
	10:00 am Fellowship Hour	4th Thurs	7:00 pm Service of Wholeness
	11:00 am Traditional Worship	4th Thurs	6:30 pm Finance Committee

\* Jan, Mar, Sept, Nov 2013

\*\* Quarterly. Feb, May, Sept, Nov 2013



## January

Bryan Smith	1/1	David Spencer	1/21
Brian Anderson	1/3	Betty DeWolf	1/22
Janice Clark	1/4	Barbara Scheffer	1/25
William Schneider	1/4	Roberta King	1/26
Chris Kappler	1/6	Rev. John Park	1/28
John Snedeker	1/9	Roberta Colaner	1/29
David Workman	1/9	Rodger Miller	1/30
Tonya Harrison	1/16	Ingrid Sheldon	1/30
Morris Durston	1/17	Jaclyn Johnson	1/31

## February

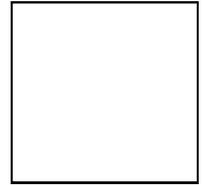
Gary Harrison	2/2	William Fox	2/22
Murray Fishbeck	2/5	Elaine Johns	2/22
Robert DeWolf	2/7	Briana Murphy	2/22
Rev. Cathy Freeman	2/7	Maurella Murphy	2/22
Amy Mees	2/8	Phebe Judson	2/23
Erin Bowers	2/8	Rolland Billings	2/25
Nancy Dunbar	2/14	Bill Fox	2/25
Jessica Gronemeyer	2/18	Anne Vandermade	2/25
Rita Passage	2/18	Samantha Rudelich	2/26
James Newbound	2/19	Carson Fox	2/27
Wendy Harter	2/20	David Warren	2/28

*"The meaning of life is to find your gift; the purpose of life is to give it away." \**

- Joy J. Golliver

\* Susan Engle found this quote and more at [empoweredquotes.com](http://empoweredquotes.com).

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



**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

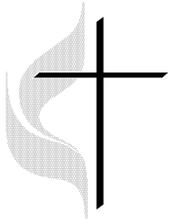
# The CHIMES



**DIXBORO UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH  
NEWSLETTER**



**January/February 2013**



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

Sunday Worship Schedule Labor Day through Memorial Day  
Casual Worship 9:00 am  
Traditional Worship 11:00 am

Summer Worship at 9:30am

Email: [dumc@dixborochurch.org](mailto:dumc@dixborochurch.org)  
Web site: [www.dixborochurch.org](http://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.**