

July  
2006

# NEW LIFE NEWS

The  
Monthly News  
Magazine of  
New Life  
United  
Methodist  
Church



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"Here there are no strangers;  
only friends we have not met before."  
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## From The Pastor

The theme for the West Ohio Annual Conference this year was "In the Potter's Hand" based on this image of God found in Jeremiah18, as well as other passages in scripture.

During worship one morning, there was a master potter who sculpted pots, vases and bowls throughout the entire service. It was fascinating to watch the care in which he shaped and formed each piece. He was meticulously, steadily moving his hands over the clay, watching it take the form of what he had envisioned it to be. He was completely focused on the clay and its molding, almost unaware of the singing, reading and preaching. And as we watched, we could not help but be mesmerized by his creativity and work, as we anticipated what the completed vessel would be.

Watching him work was to give us an image through which we could understand God. To imagine God's intimate involvement in forming and re-forming us as God's creations. Even more so, to shape us as followers of Jesus, helping us to take the form God envisions us to be: servants, who love one another, who use our spiritual gifts in ministry, who give of ourselves in mission... who glorify Christ in our lives.

Sometimes the clay has some imperfections in it, and it must be broken down in order for the potter to start again, re-molding the vessel into the original vision the potter had. In the same way, we too have imperfections, we sin, and therefore are not what the Divine Potter envisions us to be as God's people. Through repentance and faith, we offer ourselves to God, that God might take our brokenness, our imperfections, and through forgiveness and grace, remold and remake us until we reflect what God intends us to be.

Recently, a diverse group of people gathered to seek God's vision for the ministries of New Life. You can read more about the results in the article on page 5. We were, in effect, offering ourselves to God, open to being molded and shaped by the Divine Potter. God has given form to our current ministries, and shaped us into the community of faith that we are, yet perhaps there are parts that need to be remolded, or even removed in order for us to become what God has in mind for us in the future. In our visioning retreat, we shared many ideas, and are excited about our future. Now, there is much work to be done. Yet we are confident that the Divine Potter is fully focused on making and remaking us after God's will. Our goal is to remain faithful and attentive to what God's will and vision is for our ministries together.

"Spirit of the Living God fall afresh on us...melt us, mold us, fill us, use us; Spirit of the Living God fall afresh on us."

Grace and Peace,

## From Student Pastor Cathy

Recently in Sunday school, we've been talking about things we can and can't do. For **Leo, Timeeka, Sarafina, John** and **Allie** there are a number of things that they said they can't do. They can't drive cars (although **Leo** said he really wants a fast car), can't go listen to music, or can't stay home alone. "We're too young" they all said. Then we began to think of things we *can* do. We can fix a lunch downstairs, help in the clothing room on a Sunday morning, read Scripture in church, light the candles during worship, sing a song for a friend, help plan a party for a teacher, go to church camp and on and on and on. The list is growing every day. As we looked at scripture, we came to the conclusion that being too young does not matter. Being too old does not matter. Being a boy or a girl does not matter. None of these titles matter. What is important is what we do as children of God.

As children of God, we are given the gifts to be in service together. We are given the important tasks of furthering God's kingdom. We are called to work together, all of us, to make Christ known in the world.

Very often, in our communities, we run into people who look down upon us. We run into people who judge us because we are dressed differently, of a different race or orientation, or because we are a woman or man. It is our task though to reach out to those persons. We need to be the hands and feet of Christ to ALL.

Being in community with those who judge us is not always going to be easy. They may say or do things to make us mad or hurt us. We may not be included in something. If we persevere, God will help us through this time of trouble. We are not too old. We are not too young. We are perfect because God created us in God's image. Look at those who judge you. Look beyond the comments and dirty looks. Look to see God in them.

Peace,  
**Pastor Cathy**

### **Address Correction**

Pastor Jennifer's address is incorrect on the "staff" page of the new directory. It should be:

**78 W. Hubbard Ave.  
Columbus, OH 43215**

Come Celebrate Jesus in Toe Tappin' Banjo Playin' Style with the **King Avenue Bluegrass Singers** who will be providing special music in worship on **Sunday, July 16th!**

## Local Mission Partner Commissioned from King Avenue UMC

About six years ago, King Avenue United Methodist Church and New Life created a partnership team to discern how we could be in ministry together in our shared neighborhood (For those who are unfamiliar with our proximity to each other, King Ave. UMC is located at King and Neil Avenue, just a short distance from New Life). Together, the two churches worshipped, had neighborhood clean up days, parked cars during OSU games, and served in the outreach ministries that take place at New Life. Our partnership strengthened, relationships were formed, and ministries grew because of our common commitment to serve our neighbors in need. Today, whenever "New Life" is mentioned at King Ave. UMC, people immediately make a connection, ready to respond with clothes, school supplies and other needs. There is also a financial commitment they make that increases yearly. And, people invest their time and energy in various ministries. There has truly a new understanding of what it means to be in partnership. It is no longer about their congregation coming to New Life to help US live out OUR ministries; instead we are coming together to share in a common ministry with our neighbors which is lived out at New Life. It is our hope that all churches with whom we are already in partnership would also have this understanding and vision of our shared ministry.

Instrumental in this interconnection between King Avenue and New Life has been **Chris Prespare**. She serves on our Ministry Board, and is a liaison between the two congregations, raising awareness and challenging people to invest in our shared ministries. In June, **Chris** was commissioned by King Ave. as a local mission partner as another public expression of our ministry together. We are grateful for **Chris'** leadership, passion and commitment for the cause of Christ's mission and ministry.

If your congregation would be interested in forming a partnership team, or discussing ways that we could share in ministry in ways beyond what we are currently doing, please contact **Pastor Jennifer** ([nwlifeumc1@juno.com](mailto:nwlifeumc1@juno.com)).



## First Impressions

I was honored to be a lay delegate to this year's annual conference. Lakeside is a very quiet community. The lake is beautiful. I was able to see the sunrise three days in a row. God is so awesome with his creations. The best part of the conference was the everyday worship. My heart was touched by every service and every sermon. The Spirit was with us! Our miracle offering for the Russian Partnership and Disaster Relief in Louisiana was \$123,620. New Life gave \$200 to this offering.

The legislation was the hardest part. There was a lot of disagreement between the delegates. Many issues were discussed. We talked about having annual conference once every four years at the Columbus Convention Center. The resolution was defeated. We talked about peace in Iraq. We talked about praying for peace. Prayer works, but we also need to write to our legislators and voice our concerns. **Pastor Brooke** was commissioned as a probationary deacon. You could see the joy on her face.

Peace in Christ  
**Kathy Williams**, Lay Delegate

## Visioning Retreat Report

On June 3, 12 people representing 6 partnering churches gathered to envision “what God is calling us to become.” That is, “what is it that we are stretching to be.”

### **First, we identified who we are:**

- We are a shared ministry of partners in service to Christ and his people which takes place at New Life United Methodist Church.
- We are a place and community dedicated to helping those in need
- We are following Christ in ministry with all people
- We are building disciples of Jesus Christ
- We are transforming lives
- We are a ministry of radical hospitality -a welcoming and belonging community

### **Who do we serve?**

- All people in the city, with special attention to the Short North area.
- The focus is on serving and including disenfranchised people
- Affiliated churches and their members
- Individual volunteers
- Children and families

### **What difference do we make?**

- We offer HOPE
- We are dedicated to mission
- We offer meals, clothing, love and Salvation
- We are planting seeds as instruments of God
- We offer a safe and welcoming place
- We offer personal growth -spiritual, physical and emotional
- We are a vehicle for God’s work in the world

**We dreamed of ways we could build on and grow from our current ministries.**

**We are clear that Scripture is the source and foundation for our dreams and vision.**

**Many, many ideas were listed. Here is a basic summary:**

#### **Empowerment**

Examples: life skills, literacy/education

#### **Expanded services**

Examples: health care, social worker, meals served more frequently throughout the week.

#### **Justice ministries**

Examples: Mobilizing people around issues such as voting, anti-violence, affordable housing.

#### **Stronger partnerships in the community**

Examples: businesses, schools, community agencies

#### **Spiritual Growth**

Examples: enhance worship, home meetings/Bible studies, evangelism

### **Next Steps:**

The Ministry Board, which provides leadership for the direction and development of New Life Ministries will work together to come to consensus for a vision of the future based on these retreat results. They will then develop action steps, and continue to build partnerships to live into the vision. Please pray for them in their work.



## Calendar of Events

**\*\*We gather to Worship God each Sunday morning at 10:30AM\*\***

- Sundays: Breakfast Ministry, Clothing Room, Church School, Worship,  
Young Disciples Church, Drummers Alcoholic Anonymous  
(1:30PM & 7:30PM), Narcotics Anonymous (7PM)
- Monday:s Drummers Alcoholic Anonymous (8PM)
- Tuesdays: Clothing Room\*, Hospitality Breakfast.  
Drummers Alcoholic Anonymous (8:30PM)
- Wednesdays: Clothing Room\*, **Reading Club (2-4 PM)**, Bible Study (7 PM),  
Drummers Alcoholic Anonymous (8 PM)
- Thursdays: Breakfast Ministry Preparations,  
Drummers Alcohol Anonymous (8PM)
- Fridays: Cocaine Anonymous (8PM),  
Drummers Alcoholic Anonymous (10PM)
- Saturdays: Drummers Alcoholic Anonymous (8:30PM)

\*Clothing Room hours are 9:00 AM—11:30 AM

In addition to our weekly scheduled ministries and meetings as listed above, please note these dates:

<u>Calendar</u>		
2	10:30 am	Sacrament of Holy Communion
1-5		Pastor Brooke on vacation
4		Independence Day
5	7:00 pm	Bible Study
12	7:00 pm	Bible Study
15		Newsletter Deadline
16-22		Pastor Brooke on a work trip with Riverside UMC
19	7:00 pm	Bible Study
26	7:00 pm	Bible Study
30	3:00 pm	Sunday Family Dinner



# FINANCIAL



# NEWS

## Report of the Treasurer

May 2006

### Checking Account

Beginning Balance	\$8,749.15
Deposits	16,241.19
Withdrawals	<u>17,804.79</u>
Balance	\$7,185.55

—**Steve Waldron**, Treasurer

Receipts in	<u>May 2006</u>	<u>and Year</u>
Total Plate	\$4,325.69	\$29,067.06
Friends	2,720.00	10,853.00
Partner Churches	5,295.00	14,530.00
Breakfast Ministry	150.00	4,725.17
Youth Ministry	160.00	9,784.00
Clothing Room	30.00	2,808.00
Bus Passes	0.00	50.00
Parsonage Rent	555.00	3,175.00
Investment Income	0.00	124.43
Office Supplies	0.00	100.00
Maundy Thurs Service	0.00	561.86
Memorial Gifts	25.00	85.00
One Great Hr of Sharing	0.00	275.00.
Bethel Fundraiser	500.00	620.00
Group Meeting Income	400.00	3,160.00
Holiday Flower Income	0.00	154.50
Student Pastor	2,080.50	2,080.50
Van Repair	<u>0.00</u>	<u>150.00</u>
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$16,241.19</b>	<b>\$82,303.52</b>

—**Rebecca Nass**,  
Financial Secretary

Many people helped with a Spring Clothing Room Cleanup on Saturday June 17th. The group of volunteers worked under the skillful leadership of **Cathy Brady** (Trinity UMC) and **Jeff Jump** (New Life).

These people volunteered most of that Saturday: **Darrel Fletcher** and his son, **J.D.** (Indian Run UMC), **Ken and Terrie Fulk** (Church of the Messiah UMC), **Ed Phillips** (New Life), **Barbara Childs** (Trinity), **Judy and George Coles** (Trinity), **Dawn Lowery** and son, **Jameson** (Trinity), **Nancy Petro** (Trinity), **Liz Shelton** (Trinity).

The Clothing Room looks and smells fresh thanks to these committed friends.

To my New Life Family,  
Thank you for the wonderful commissioning reception and gift. I am truly blessed to be a part of a wonderful community of faith and I am humbled by your love and support.

I appreciate all you have done to support me on my journey and I look forward to continuing to serve the youth and families of our neighborhood and church.

Peace and blessings  
— **Pastor Brooke**

# New Life News

New Life  
United Methodist  
Church  
25 West Fifth Avenue  
Columbus, OH 43201



## MISSION STATEMENT

*To love, welcome, and serve all people  
in the name of Jesus Christ*

### **New Life News**

is the monthly news/magazine of  
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**The Rev. Jennifer Kimball Casto**

Minister of Youth

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