

December
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

Each of us celebrates our birthday in some way. Often it is by family and friends gathering, the birthday candles are lit and GIFTS are presented and opened. It's a special day —celebrating not only the day but also the person.

In December, we celebrate the most important birthday of all. Hopefully as we celebrate this birthday of our Savior we do so with the same excitement and love as we do for one another. With all of the other festivities taking place this month, I hope that we will be intentional to truly make it a celebration of His birthday. While we enjoy spending time with loved ones, I hope we will pay attention to spending time with Jesus. With all of the family and other celebrations, we need to decide early to set our priorities in such a way that puts Jesus first before all of those other special gatherings.

One important way to keep our primary focus on Jesus is to give OUR GIFTS to him. Just as We get gifts on our birthday, Jesus ought to receive our gifts on His birthday.

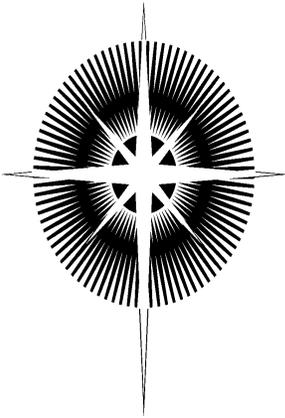
Often we spend much more money than we should on gifts for each other (grandparents are particularly guilty of this!). So, I challenge all of us to take the dollars we would typically spend on gifts for each other, and split it in 2 parts (it's a good place to start), and give one half to Jesus. I believe we will never miss that money, and our grandkids and kids will not go neglected. You will still enjoy the Christmas season — perhaps even more so.

On Jesus' birthday, make a commitment to keep make him our primary focus. Remember, we get gifts on our birthday, so our main concern should be to make sure Jesus receives our gifts on HIS birthday. Give to him in gifts to New Life, or to some other mission in his name. Give generously. Give joyfully. Give gratefully. Give lovingly. Let's celebrate Jesus by showering Him with our gifts!

And, just as we would gather with family and friends for our birthday, let's also celebrate Jesus' birth by gathering to worship Him together. Christmas Eve is on a Sunday this year. We will worship in the morning and again at 7PM that evening. They will be very different services. Each is an opportunity to be together to celebrate JESUS' birthday. Build your family time around worshipping together as another way to put Jesus before all other commitments this Christmas season.

Happy Birthday Jesus! Let's celebrate!

Grace and Peace, *Pastor Jennifer*



An invitation to **EVERYONE**
To attend a special presentation
of:

**a new birth...
a new beginning**
A Christmas Cantata celebrating God's
Promise Fulfilled

December 10 at 2:30 p.m.
New Life United Methodist Church
25 West Fifth Ave. Columbus, OH
Rev. Jennifer Kimball Casto, Pastor

Presented by:
Westerville's Church of the Messiah UM
Combined Youth and Adult Choirs
Lindsay Smith, Conductor
For more information call 882-2848

(Free will offering to go to New Life UMC)

From Student Pastor Cathy

Wow! It's here!! December is finally here. I've been waiting for this month for quite awhile now. This month is full of "winter-ness," birthdays, visits with families and friends, and of course Christmas. I cannot forget our wedding. **Mike** and I are anxiously awaiting this celebration of our love and love that we have for our friends and family.

All of our planning, meetings, and travel have given us this time before the wedding to relax. You see, we got all the plans for the wedding done well enough in advance. Our time is now spent taking better care of all of our other responsibilities. We are also looking forward to celebrating our first Christmas together.

This time of year, we all spend in preparation for an even bigger event; the birth of Jesus. In each of the four Sunday's of Advent, we talk about all the signs of the season. Love, peace, hope and joy are much more than the candles we light each Sunday.

Love is that basis for which we do all the good we can. Love is the solid strength on which we profess our faith. Peace is the feeling that we get when we begin to see Christ in each other. Peace is much more than getting along. It is a commitment to living as Christ would have us live. Hope is the feeling of excitement that one has after hearing good news. Hope is the result of expecting something. Joy is the thing that puts a smile on our faces.

I am very grateful to have this free time to relax and reflect on this season of waiting. This will allow me to truly appreciate the upcoming joy and peace of the coming birth of Christ. Like for the wedding, I've prepared myself for advent by thinking of these four signs of the season.

The love I have for Christ shines in my actions. The love that Christ has for me sets the stage of the overwhelming peace and hope that I have because of my deep faith. All of this excitement is expressed in my joy for ministry with all people.

How will you prepare for this advent season? I implore you to begin by looking at the signs of the season in your own life. How do you express the love, hope, joy and peace that you find in Christ? How is your own faith expressed?

Peace,
Pastor Cathy

I would also like to say a special thanks this holiday season to all our volunteers from Plugged In: **Tim Christman, Barry Bosso, Jeff Jump, and Mike Christman**. The kids have improved dramatically, especially in reading and math.

NEW LIFE WINTER COAT EXTRAVAGANZA A BIG SUCCESS

One hundred and sixty-three neighbors shopped for winter coats on November 1 and received three hundred and forty-five coats for their family members. The clothing room was full of coats the next day for those who were unable to come on Tuesday. All of this came to be as the result of much hard and joyful work by a total of ninety-eight volunteers over a three day period. Ten churches were represented. Appreciation is not only given to the volunteers but also to the many individuals and churches who donated six hundred and seventy beautiful, like-new coats (and continue to bring more). A BIG thank you is given to all who made this event a success.

BRINGING CHRISTMAS TO NEW LIFE

As we look ahead to the holiday season, we are asking individual churches to donate one specified article for the Christmas gift of personal hygiene items which will be given on Christmas morning to our neighbors who come for breakfast. The churches have been notified and all items need to be at New Life no later than December 13; the gifts will be packaged by the Maple Grove New Life Servant Group on December 14.

December is also the time of our socks and underwear drive in all of our partner churches in the district and beyond. We provide underwear and socks for 2000-2500 people per month and can not always keep our bins filled. On Tuesdays and Wednesdays, each person receives one pair socks and one pair underwear in a month. On each Sunday, one pair socks or one pair underwear is given. White crew or tube sox for men and boys; white crew or ankle crew for women and children are preferred. All sizes are needed. Please leave packages intact. When you shop, put a package of underwear or socks in your cart for New Life and help wish a neighbor "Merry Christmas."

Our neighbors appreciate all that you do for them through New Life Church. Many express how blessed they are to be able to come to the clothing room and find good, attractive clothes, new underwear and socks, new blankets, pillows, and towels. They are also grateful for used items that are clean and in good repair. For example, many were just thrilled to get a warm, attractive, used coat.

THOSE WHO GIVE ARE BLESSED

All who give to make our neighbors' days brighter will also be blessed. Thank you for your ever ready support of our mission to help our neighbors. Donations have rolled in like the tide! Our storage space is limited, so we suggest that spring and summer clothes be held back until March. Also, it would be very helpful that men's suits which are donated be marked with the size. We are continually in need of men's pants. Big and tall men's sizes and plus sizes for women are always in great demand.

THIS FALL WE HAVE APPRECIATED THE EXTRA HELP OF THE FOLLOWING GROUPS:

OSU students on Community Commitment Day, Bethel UM Church, Maple Grove New Life Servant Team, Lewis Center UMC Youth Group, Harpster UMC women, Alvis House, New Life Young Disciples Club, Indian Princesses with their dads, Riverside UMC Youth with New Life Young Disciples, Concord Presbyterian Fellowship (a neighborhood coat drive and 3 new, sturdy clothes racks), Community UMC, York Center and Richwood UMC 50 "ugly sleeping bags" (hand-made by ladies in their 80's), Worthington Presbyterian Church AND

All 98 pairs of hands that helped with the Winter Coat Extravaganza (including the breakfast cooks)

I thank God for each of you. Blessings,

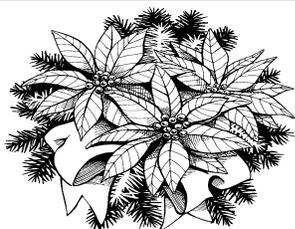
**Vickie Moseley,
Clothing Room Steward**

NOT YOUR ORDINARY CHRISTMAS DRAMA

In morning worship on December 24th the Young Disciples will present the 2006 Christmas Pageant. But this drama will be unlike any that you have ever seen before. In fact, it will be unlike any ever presented anywhere before. This year the Young Disciples are creating and presenting their own unique version of this timeless story. Like the shepherds and the wise men, long ago, we will all just have to come and see the miracle that will happen in New Life's Sanctuary that morning. Advent is about anticipation, looking forward to the coming of Christ. Anticipate a Christmas Eve morning where ANYTHING can happen! Be with us at 10:30am for a telling of the story of the Birth of the Christ Child in a way that only the New Life Family could tell it.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR PEOPLE WHO WERE HOMELESS

The Annual Memorial Service to Remember Those Who Died in 2006 while Homeless in Central Ohio will be held on **Thursday, December 21** (the longest day of the year) on the grounds of the State House. This event is part of the national homeless memorial which occurs each year. The service will include the reading of the names of those who have died accompanied by the ringing of a bell in the tower at Trinity Episcopal Church and the lighting of a candle for each person. The speakers will be Mr. Abukar Arman of Islamic Social Services, Rev. Wendy Fish from First Unitarian Church, Elder Brian Hall from Stone Tower International Glory Center, and Rabbi Misha Zinkow from Temple Israel. Music will be provided by The King Avenue United Methodist Church "BLENDERS". If you decide to join us, dress warmly as it is often very cold during the 45 minute service. But that is part of remembering our neighbors, many of whom will have died because of over exposure to our cold, wet and windy winters.



Christmas Poinsettia Order Form

Deadline for Orders: December 17

\$7.50 each

Please place in the offering plate or return to the Church office.

Your Name _____

_____ In memory of _____

_____ In honor of _____

_____ To the Glory of God

Total number ordered _____ Total amount enclosed _____

Calendar of Events

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

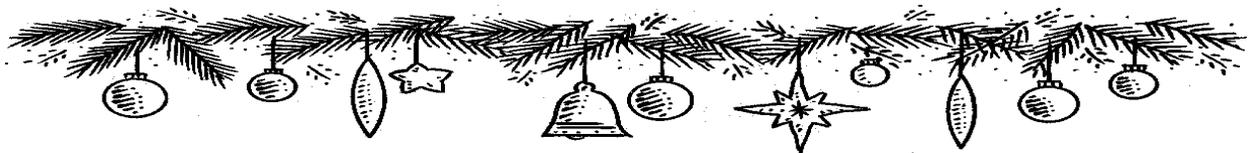
- Sundays: Breakfast Ministry, Clothing Room, Church School, Worship,
Young Disciples Church, Drummers Alcoholic Anonymous
(1:30PM & 7:30PM), Narcotics Anonymous (7PM)
- Monday:s Drummers Alcoholic Anonymous (8PM)
- Tuesdays: Clothing Room*, Hospitality Breakfast, Plugged In (6-8PM),
Drummers Alcoholic 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:

December Calendar

2	9:00 AM-2:00 PM	Christmas Make & Take Event for Young Disciples
3	10:30 AM	Sacrament of Holy Communion
6	7:00 PM	Bible Study
9	9AM-12PM	Clothing Room Work Day
10	2:30 PM	Christmas Cantata of "new birth. . . new beginning"
13	7:00 PM	Bible Study
15		Newsletter deadline
16		Cathy McKenzie & Mike Christman Wedding
20		Bible Study
21	5:00 PM	Homeless Memorial Service @ Statehouse
24	10:30 AM	Christmas Drama
24	7:00 PM	Christmas Eve Service
25		Christmas Day
26		Clothing Room Closed
27		Clothing Room Closed
27	7:00 PM	Bible Study
31	3:00 PM	Sunday Family Dinner



FINANCIAL



NEWS

Report of the Treasurer

Oct, 2006

Checking Account

Beginning Balance	\$ 15,466.23
Deposits	14,210.48
Withdrawals	<u>9,631.03</u>

Balance \$ 20,045.68

—Steve Waldron, Treasurer

Receipts in	Oct 2006	and Year
Total Plate	\$ 4,794.48	\$ 52,629.28
Friends	835.00	18,498.00
Partner Churches	2,325.00	30,603.15
Breakfast Ministry	930.00	11,387.20
Youth Ministry	320.00	19,969.70
Clothing Room	320.00	3,379.00
Bus Passes	0.00	50.00
Parsonage Rent	550.00	5,533.00
Investment Income	0.00	124.43
Mauddy Thurs Service	0.00	561.86
Memorial Gifts	200.00	735.00
One Great Hr of Sharing	0.00	275.00
Bethel Fundraiser*	0.00	620.00
Assoc Pastor (student)	0.00	3,397.50
Gift Fund	0.00	589.00
Group Meeting Income	800.00	5,320.00
Buckeye Tailgate**	4,175.00	16,410.25
Holiday Flower Income	0.00	154.50
Other Income	<u>0.00</u>	<u>600.00</u>

Total Receipts \$15,311.48 \$170,463.20

-Rebecca Naas,
Financial Sec'y

Balance Sheet October, 2006

Assets

City National checking acct	\$ 4,579.45
Savings & Investments	<u>93,307.67</u>
Total Assets	\$97,887.12

Liabilities & Fund Balances

Withholdings	\$ 907.50
Operations	32,746.68
Youth Ministry Fund	19,643.59
Misc. Ministry Fund	(8,789.27)
Memorial Fund	18,206.00
Breakfast Ministry Fund	16,743.88
Clothing Room Fund	8,098.68
Pass Through Fund (flowers, etc)	(1,248.04)
Congreg. Benev (UMCOR, etc)	728.07
Lillian Skeelee Fund	10,899.17
2006 Begin. Balance Correction	<u>(49.14)</u>
Total Liabilities & Fund Bal.	\$97,887.12

*Tickets purchased at New Life

**Fundraiser party

Clothing Room Report October

Hours of Operation:

Sunday	7-9:30 am
Tues. & Wed.	9-11:30 am

Weekday Guests	1821
Sunday Guests	<u>719</u>
Total	2540

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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