

March
2007

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

Almost every Sunday morning, I am greeted at the door by **Carol**, who "has something to give me." That "something" is her offering. Always in the form of pennies, with an occasional nickel or dime in the mix, this is what **Carol** has collected or found over the course of the week. Sometimes it only a couple of coins, and sometimes I have to use both hands to hold all of them. Regardless of how much or how many, I know that **Carol** has spent the entire week thinking about what she will have to offer the Lord on Sunday, is joyful in giving it, and always wishes it could be more. **Carol** is a good model for all of us – to everyday be thinking about giving to the Lord, and to look forward to the opportunity to do so.

This Lenten season, we will be receiving an offering which will support UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief). This is the agency in the United Methodist Church which serves as our representatives wherever there is a missional need, or disaster caused by nature or humans all over the world. They are still present in recovery efforts in the aftermath of the tsunami and hurricane Katrina. They are providing clean drinking water, medical care, and other humanitarian aid in many places in Africa where war, AIDS, drought and other factors prevent people from having access to basic necessities.

You are invited to take a "coin bank" available at church and each day drop your change in it. I encourage you to put it somewhere that you will notice it everyday, so you'll remember to fill them. Think about that one thing you pay for or buy every day – the newspaper, your morning coffee (or in my case, Diet Pepsi!), etc. And then consider "matching" that amount, putting the change from the purchase, or even more radical, give up that "one thing" and put the money in your coin bank each day.

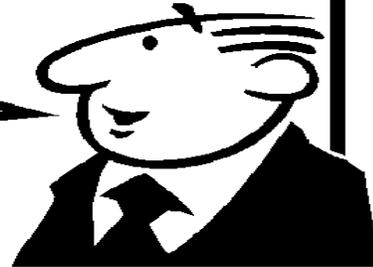
On Palm Sunday, we will present these offerings to God, which will be used to care for God's children, our neighbors in every part of the world.

Like **Carol**, let's spend each day thinking about what we have to give to the Lord, and look forward to the opportunity to do so, including through this special offering.

"Each should give what they have decided to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver... This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but it is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God." (2 Cor. 8:7, 12).

Grace and Peace,

"New Life Bluegrass Festival"
Saturday, April 14th, 2007
6 p.m. - 10 p.m.
New Life United Methodist Church



Four popular bluegrass bands:

Tradin' Up
Open Highway
Death by Banjo
Delmar's Toad

Free, admission by donation.

(Packages of new socks and underwear will also be gladly accepted.)

- Concessions available for purchase
- Silent Auction of a variety of unusual items

All proceeds will benefit ministries with our neighbors who are homeless and living in poverty.

New Life is located at 25 W. Fifth Ave. in the Short North area of Columbus.

Family Skating Party Great Success

Over 180 skaters and many spectators, representing TEN partner churches, had a great time at The Chiller, while raising funds for our ministry with young disciples and families. There were accomplished skaters, "line skating", first time skaters, skaters who never let go of the wall around the ice, and those who dared to let go and still remained upright!

Our profit will likely be over \$1500 (all receipts are not in at the time of printing). Special thanks to **Troy and Connie Salyers (this was Troy's idea!!)**, **Don Vorce**, **Bill Casto**, **Kathy and Chip Cooper**, **Bill and Val Knapp**, and **Melissa Alexander** for their leadership and hard work in making it a wonderful event.

From Student Pastor Cathy

Sometimes when I'm sitting down to write a sermon or a paper for class based on a scripture passage, I get stuck. I read and re-read the text till I can recite it by memory. I read some outside sources looking for other ways to inform me about this text, and I still get stuck. When this happens, I actually step away from the text.

I look all around me. What is happening in every day life? How is the message of the Gospel brought to life? For example, recently, I was working on a paper and got that "stuck" feeling. After awhile, I got a phone call from home and heard my entire family celebrating my nephew's first birthday. It was very hard for me to hear them say, "we miss you!" Then it got me thinking.

Here was a fairly random group of people getting together to celebrate one link, family. Having a God-moment myself, this is what my paper was about: the promise of God's grace. The text I was working with came to life with that conversation. I was reminded of the support that comes from my family, which comes from God. My family, like God has always been there, ready and willing for whatever was needed. God is always there, ready and willing to help as needed.

In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus teaches about faith in the feeding of the five thousand. Only after a moment away from the crowd does he see that necessity of his presence. Scripture says, "Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, 'Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.'" Then, the disciples were able to meet the needs of the large crowd. Jesus knew that his disciples were tired. In the same way, God gives us chances to step away from the things that are frustrating; away from the things that make us 'stuck.'

With my example, my quiet place was filled with the sounds of my family. Other times, my quiet place was filled with the words from an old country song or an interesting forward in my e-mail. Where have you found the quiet places? Where or how has God been made known to you? In the lesson from Mark, the disciples used their quiet time to become renewed and refreshed so that they could continue to do the work of God.

I pray that your time of quiet is a time of revelation and renewal.

Peace,
Pastor Cathy



THIS AND THAT FROM THE CLOTHING ROOM

February Deep Freeze

Thank you for the great response to our plea for more men's heavy winter coats during February's frigid weather. One church and one gentleman went the second mile and bought new coats to help keep the men warm. All new and used coats are greatly appreciated as well as the many heavy shirts, "hoodies", sweaters, hats, gloves and monetary gifts which have been donated. Epworth UMC gave 133 pairs of socks in "love bags" for Valentine's Day. And **Mallory**, from Maple Grove UMC, who collected clothing from her entire family after visiting us one Sunday morning. Your generosity never ceases to amaze me and is such a profound testimony of how God works among you to provide us with what we need just when we need it. Matthew 6:28a comes to mind..."And, why are you anxious about clothing?" God does supply! (Read of God's assured love in Matt. 6:25-34).

New Volunteers

When the snow birds fly, we are especially grateful for new volunteers. Since January 1, we have been pleased to welcome volunteers from: New Life, **John Findley**; Trinity, **Carmen Himes, Bob and Cheryl Parsons, Nancy Rummell**; Worthington, **Dana Heymeyer, Libby Holman, Liz Knorr, Joy Myers**, and **Melissa Alexander** and her daughters, **Madelaine and Lauren**.

A special thank you is given to **John Scott**, a New Life neighbor, who willingly helps unload bags and bags of donations, mops up spills, takes out trash and does any other thing requested of him. You are appreciated, **John**.

Thanks, too, to **Dana Blanchard** who periodically vacuums the clothing room, getting all those nasty dust bunnies hidden under the shelves. A noble contribution to the cause of cleanliness!

Sunday Morning in the Clothing Room

Supervision of the clothing room on Sunday mornings has been shared by **Melanie Jerse** and **John Waggoner** (Church of the Messiah), **Marty** and **Craig Preston** (Maple Grove), **Jeff Jump** (New Life) and **Julie Smetzer** (Trinity). Thank you for your faithful commitment to the clothing room.

Spring is Coming!

At the first sign of Spring, women's minds often turn to spring cleaning and redecorating. Remember New Life will gladly receive your spring and summer clothes, towels, sheets, blankets and other household goods that you may be replacing or no longer use. It is very helpful if bags are not too heavy and contents are labeled. Many churches are bringing large amounts of donations and staying to sort them which proves to be most helpful.

Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday workdays may be arranged with Vickie Moseley at vickiemoseley@wowway.com or (614) 312-1200 or (614) 766-0583

Your generous gifts provide our giving! Thank you.

-Vickie Moseley

Bishop C. Joseph Sprague to be Keynoter at Coalition Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Columbus Coalition for the Homeless will feature United Methodist retired **Bishop C. Joseph Sprague** as the keynote speaker. Bishop Sprague is well known in Central Ohio and across the United Methodist Church for his courageous stands for justice and equality for all people –especially those who are most vulnerable.

The meeting will include the presentation of several awards to people who have given special service to homeless people in Central Ohio, the election of Officers and Board of Directors, and a review of the work of the Coalition.

Bishop Sprague will focus his remarks on actions which citizens can take to move our city and society toward more equitable treatment for everyone, including increased quality affordable housing options, universal health care, universal equitable educational opportunities, living wages for everyone, and an equal voice in the local, state and national elections. He will bring an inspiring and challenging message of hope and responsibility to all who are in attendance.

The Annual Meeting will be held from 9 to 11am on Wednesday April 4 in Huntington Hall at the Downtown YWCA (65 S. 4th St.).

All are welcome to attend this inspiring meeting, which will include a free continental breakfast. Reservations can be made by calling 614-252-3257 or emailing columbushomeless@yahoo.com.

A message from God's Child

We picked up "**Mark**" walking towards the Breakfast at New Life on a cold 15° winter day. He sleeps under a bridge on a pallet with sheet rock sides and a shroud cover. He said he was "blessed" that God had taken care of "all (he) needed". But then he went on. "Do you know what really hurts homeless people?" he said. "I know I am a Child of God. Sometimes the police will come to me to say that another Child of God called, that they don't feel safe walking under the bridge because they see me sleeping there. They are afraid of me and want the police to make me move... But homeless people aren't going to hurt anyone. Don't they know that we are just trying to stay warm and safe, and that this is the only home we have?" And then he looked at us and asked "How can one Child of God do that to another Child of God . . . just because they don't want to look at us? That is like a knife through the heart." A second homeless man nodded in agreement, our hearts sunk. Then he said, "I don't know what God's plan is for my life, I just know God has one. I have to hold on to the fact that on salvation day when we meet God in heaven, and when God shows me all of the things I have done in my life that I am accountable for, I'm only glad that I will never have to say that I did that to another Child of God". As **Mark** left the van, I told him that I thought I understood at least one of the purposes of his life, since I intended to tell his story to as many people as would listen!

--**Chris Prespare**

King Avenue local mission partner with New Life

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*, 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:

March Calendar

3	9:30 AM	Health Ministries meeting
4	10:30 AM	Sacrament of Holy Communion
7	7:00 PM	Bible Study
11		DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS
14	7:00 PM	Bible Study
15		Newsletter deadline
17		Happy St. Patrick's Day
21	7:00 PM	Bible Study
24	8:00 AM-Noon	Cocaine Anonymous Pancake Breakfast
25	3:00 PM	Sunday Family Dinner
28	7:00 PM	Bible Study
31	9:30 AM	Health Ministries meeting



FINANCIAL



Report of the Treasurer

Jan, 2007

Checking Account

Beginning Balance	\$ 22,007.65
Deposits	16,081.92
Withdrawals	<u>25,240.73</u>

Balance \$ 12,848.84

—Steve Waldron, Treasurer

Receipts in

Jan 2007 and Year

Total Plate	\$ 5,042.36	\$ 5,042.36
Friends	1,435.00	1,435.00
Partner Churches	5,038.81	5,038.81
Breakfast Ministry	1,108.75	1,108.75
Youth Ministry	716.00	716.00
Clothing Room	75.00	75.00
Parsonage Rent	1,250.00	1,250.00
Memorial Gifts	776.00	776.00
Computers	50.00	50.00
Group Meeting Income	420.00	420.00
Chiller Fundraiser	<u>170.00</u>	<u>170.00</u>

Total Receipts \$16,081.92 \$16,081.92

-Rebecca Naas,
Financial Sec'y

Balance Sheet January, 2007

Assets

City National checking acct	\$ 19,457.40
Savings & Investments	<u>102,841.44</u>
Total Assets	\$122,298.84

Liabilities & Fund Balances

Withholdings	\$ 11,164.96
Operations	37,915.34
Youth Ministry Fund	26,258.05
Misc. Ministry Fund	(10,438.46)
Memorial Fund	19,082.00
Breakfast Ministry Fund	17,732.87
Clothing Room Fund	11,039.46
Pass Through Fund (flowers, etc)	(2,157.91)
Congreg. Benev (UMCOR, etc)	728.07
Lillian Skeelee Fund	11,023.60
Beginning Bal. correction	<u>(49.14)</u>
Total Liabilities & Fund Bal.	\$122,298.84

Clothing Room Report January, 2007

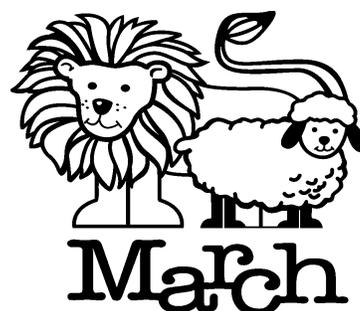
Hours of Operation:

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

Weekday Guests	1262
Sunday Guests	<u>555</u>
Total	1817

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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