

March
2008

NEW LIFE NEWS

The
Monthly News
Magazine of
New Life
United
Methodist
Church



"Here there are no strangers;
only friends we have not met before."

From The Pastor

Daffodils are my favorite flower. Since I was a little girl, my mother has always bought me daffodils for my birthday. Last year when I turned 40, she outdid herself by giving me a daffodil for each year, which were beautiful on the alter table that Sunday! In our home there are pictures of daffodils, a vase full of silk daffodils, notepads, bookmarks, etc. all with daffodils on them. They are beautiful yellow flowers that are constant reminders of Spring, even on the coldest, dreariest days of winter.

Easter is early this year, on March 23. I am told that between the years 1800 and 2100, this is the only time it is this early. This is because Easter is always on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox, and the first full moon happens to fall just one day after the first day of Spring. As a result, there is the possibility that the daffodils will not have bloomed in the church's front yard in time for Easter Sunday. But I can always hope!

Daffodils are one of those flowers that do not grow from seeds, but from bulbs. This means that all winter long the bulbs buried deep in the soil contain little flowers just waiting to bloom. And at just the right time, it bursts out, pushes through the soil, grows and blooms. No matter how cold the winter is, how much snow or ice falls, every year the daffodils bloom. It is as the familiar hymn says:

*In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

And that is the promise of Easter. We trust in the reliability of God, that even when all seems lost, hopeless, even dead, there is still a possibility — the promise — of life. Jesus was dead and buried, but death was not the end. For out of death, out of grief and despair, out of hopelessness, out of confusion, God brought forth life.

What is waiting to come to life in you? A new or stronger relationship with Christ? A sense of call to a particular ministry? A transformation that comes when healthy decisions are made? Hope in a time of struggle and uncertainty? Whatever it is, this Easter season, and the coming of Spring, let us watch with hopeful anticipation of what God is bringing to life in us, in our neighbors who are broken and struggling, even in our ministry.

Grace and Peace, *Pastor Jennifer*

From the Minister of Youth and Families

Once in a while I like to joke with **Pastor Jennifer** that this is my “practice year” as a youth minister! I tell her that after I’ve experienced everything once, then I’ll start experimenting. Every experience is a first: first Vacation Bible School (a true trial by fire), first trip in the church van, first bowling party, first Christmas pageant, etc. I imagine people who work with children are forming a knowing look on their face recalling their own experiences with these kinds of events. Well, with one VBS under my belt, a few weeks ago, I started planning our Vacation Bible School at New Life UMC. The snow was swirling and the temperature was in the teens. For someone who started as a youth and families minister last year on July 1 and hadn’t a clue about VBS, I figured I was way ahead of schedule. But, when I started communicating with our ministry partners about how I could help give our New Life kids and our neighbors a great VBS this summer, I found the experienced youth workers were already working on VBS, too!

My point is not that youth workers are early planners, although many certainly are. It just feels so wonderful to me to know that so many people are doing so much thinking about children! People in churches and homes all over Ohio are watching snow come down and thinking about how to bring the Bible alive for children this summer in churches and neighborhoods. This is an incredible opportunity! Many of us have memories of songs and games and memorizing Bible verses and creeds at various Vacation Bible Schools. And while some of us do this as our professional work or contribute our time as volunteer workers, children need *all* of us to be thinking ahead about how to pass on our faith to the next generations by helping with VBS, teaching Sunday school, mentoring a child, and talking to a child about Jesus’ life and ministry.

What are you thinking, planning, and doing for a child today? We all need to share ideas, ask for help, thank a youth worker, get involved, and pray for a child. It truly takes us all to invite and support young people in their Christian journey. With Easter upon us, it’s the perfect time to renew our commitment to teaching the joys and responsibilities of a Christian life to a child. In the process, we create unlimited opportunities in our own lives to renew our experience of Christ’s love and joy.

-Love and prayers, *Pastor Laura* (laurayoungmoats@yahoo.com)

Sunday Family Dinner & a Program

The Life of Susanna Wesley, Mother of Methodism

Many say the movement called Methodism was founded in the home of Susanna Wesley. As a wife and mother in a small 18th-century English parish Susanna Wesley received little recognition for how she managed her household, raised and educated more than a dozen children and coped with a sometimes difficult clergyman husband. Yet from her personal influence and loving home came a son, John Wesley, who had a spiritual awakening that inspired a ministry that filled a void in England’s spiritual life, spread throughout the burgeoning American colonies, and developed into a world wide church. Come Sunday, March 30, to hear Rev. L. Cean Wilson portray the life of Susanna Wesley as we celebrate Women’s History Month. Sunday Family Dinner is served at 4:00 and the program will



Clothing Room

The New Life clothing room is continually blessed with donations of wonderful clothing. Appreciation is given to all who give and to those who presort items before delivering them to New Life. Often, when an item is in low supply, a generous donation is given. God is good!

In order to facilitate sorting of clothes at New Life, may we suggest the following: 1) Bag clothing according to men, women and children, bedding, underwear etc. 2) Mark the bags. 3) Please use bags no larger than a 30 gallon trash bag. Bags get quite heavy and are difficult to move from storage to the sorting area. Huge boxes are also difficult to manage.

We have reached our limit for storage of spring and summer clothing, so we are asking that those items be held back until the first of April.

Items intended for the Health Ministry must be marked clearly to insure they are given to the proper designation.

Recently we have had numerous requests for flip-flops to use in the shower at the shelters. Underwear for men, sizes 30-38, women (sizes 5-9) and children (all sizes) are always in demand. White socks are needed for all. Please do not remove socks or underwear from the original package.

Volunteers are needed for Wednesday morning, particularly for sorting clothes. Men are encouraged to become volunteers. Additional help is needed in helping men choose a suit and in helping unload donations being delivered. Call **Vickie Moseley** 766-0583 for details.

On Wednesday, February 6, the clothing room had to be closed because of flooding. Special thanks to **Ruben Spurlock** and **Tom Haffner** who spent all morning conquering the water and getting the floor dry and to the volunteers; **Vera, Bev, Alice, Nancy, Kathy, Jean, Tookie** and **Marianne** who stayed and sorted clothes.

Our ministry to those who are homeless and those who live in poverty continues to grow as we provide a safe, welcoming and affirming place for our neighbors to come for clothing, household and personal items, hospitality breakfasts and most recently, health care.

Thank you to all who help our mission happen.

-**Vickie Moseley**, Clothing Room Steward

Easter on 5th: Lenten Linen Drive

For the 5th year, Trinity UMC in partnership with New Life UMC will join together for the Lenten mission, Easter on 5th. This year, we are thrilled that St. Luke's UMC is also joining this effort! The goal of this project is to raise funds to buy, package, and deliver new bedding, which will be distributed through the clothing room to our neighbors. Sponsorship of a half bed is \$25 and a whole bed is \$50. If each person who attends worship on a Sunday morning gave \$5, the New Life congregation could purchase 5 ½ beds! Let's set that as our goal! We will be collecting donations until March 16th (please mark them "Easter on 5th").

On March 21 there will be a joint Good Friday noon worship service, pot-luck, and then the packing of the pillows at Trinity (1585 Cambridge Blvd).

Illuminati

Columbus Gay Men's Chorus Ensemble to Perform Sunday, March 16th

Illuminati is a special ensemble of the Columbus Gay Men's Chorus that performs sacred music in sacred spaces: churches, synagogues, mosques, or any location of religious or spiritual significance to its membership or congregation. *Illuminati's* mission is to increase awareness that gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender individuals have spiritual concerns and a place in the religious life of the community.

CGMC stresses the importance of this ensemble, and as such recently hired a part-time Artistic Director to prepare *Illuminati* for performances and to conduct the ensemble on an average of once per month. CGMC and *Illuminati* hope to continue to bring the GLBT and religious communities closer together.

If you have never been blessed to hear this ensemble, you will NOT want to miss this service! They will fill our sanctuary with glorious music, and our hearts with the presence of the Lord. It's a great day to invite family, friends and neighbors to worship!

Vickie Moseley Receives Award

Vickie Moseley, our Clothing Room Steward, has been named an honoree in the Columbus Rotary's Annual *Service Above Self* awards. Columbus Rotary established this special award to honor local volunteers who "effect positive change in the lives of others." As an honoree, she will be named a Paul Harris Fellow and given a medal commemorating this honor.

Surrounded by other faithful volunteers in the clothing room, her pastor, **Rev. Amy Aspey** and **Pastor Jennifer**, she will receive this award at the Rotary Club luncheon meeting on March 10.

Each honoree has the opportunity to designate an organization to receive a \$1,000 donation. **Vickie**, of course, has named New Life's Clothing Room! With these resources, she will continue her unending search for sales on the socks and underwear we offer our neighbors who shop in our Clothing Room each month.

All who know **Vickie** are fully aware of the fact that she would never seek out such public recognition. She faithfully serves because of her strong faith and commitment to Christian discipleship, as well as her natural love for her neighbor, particularly those who are in need. So, we are grateful to **Bob Bowers**, another faithful volunteer in the Clothing Room, who nominated **Vickie** for this award. But, **Vickie** would be the first to say that while she provides primary leadership for this ministry, it would not be possible without the many, many volunteers who also live out their faith by serving generously and graciously each week in the Clothing Room. So, as we celebrate **Vickie**, we also celebrate all of you too!

Holy Week Events

Easter Egg Hunt
March 15, 10 AM
St. Luke's UMC
1150 Fifth Ave.

Children and Families are invited to a traditional Easter egg hunt in the front yard of St. Luke's Church. See **Pastor Laura** for more details.

Passion/Palm Sunday
March 16, 10:30 AM
New Life UMC

Celebrating Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, and the events that would ultimately lead to his crucifixion. The Columbus Gay Men's Chorus *Illuminati* ensemble will provide special music as we hear the events of the last week of Jesus' life in Reader Theatre format.

Holy Thursday
March 20, 7:00 PM
New Life UMC

Traditionally called Maundy Thursday, after the Latin word "mandatum" referring to Jesus' new commandment to love one another. We will remember Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples by celebrating Holy Communion. King Avenue Church will join us for worship. Combined choirs will share in the leadership of the service.

Good Friday
March 21, 12 noon
Trinity UMC
1581 Cambridge
Boulevard

We will remember Jesus' death on the cross, and the gift of salvation we receive because of that sacrificial death. This is a very important day, second only to Easter, to worship our Lord Jesus. After worshiping with our partners in ministry at Trinity, we will have lunch and work together packing linens generously provided by Trinity for the clothing room.

Easter— Christ is Risen! — Need we say more about having a reason to celebrate!
March 23, 10:30 AM
New Life UMC

Easter Lily Order Form Cost: \$7 Deadline for orders: March 16	
_____	In memory of _____
_____	In honor of _____
_____	To the Glory of God
Total Number ordered _____	
Name _____	

New Musician Hired

After a 9 months search, we have hired **Joe Miller** as our new musician. As Director of Sales and Marketing for Sheraton Suites, he and his partner, **Bernie** recently relocated from Colorado Springs, Colorado. Through a series of events and connections, they met **Chuck Belding** and **John Spang**, who told them about our church AND the position. **Joe** contacted **Pastor Jennifer**, and then worshipped with us. After the service, **Joe** sat down at the piano to play, and those remaining in the building sat back down in the pews to listen, completely mesmerized and captivated by the way he moved our spirits with his music.

Joe is an ordained Minister of Music in the Baptist Church, specializing particularly in piano and vocal music, but also astute in organ and other instruments. Having served in many churches, including United Methodist, he brings a wealth of experience, which matched with his spiritual gifts, has already brought great energy and spirit to our worship services. We are blessed that **Joe** found us, and felt that God had called him to be part of our church and ministry!

Mark the Date!

The Dedication of the New Life Health and Wellness Center (located on the first floor of the parsonage next to the church):

Sunday, May 4 at 4 p.m.

Renovations are underway to transform the space into what will function as a doctor's office, yet be flexible enough to also be used for gatherings and meetings. Would you like to help with the renovations? Consider donating a gift card from Lowe's. Lots of items like vinyl flooring, paint supplies, etc. will be purchased there. We're making those purchases NOW! We thank **Sherri Benedict** for her hard work as project manager. When the renovations are completed, the Health and Wellness Center will look amazing!

2nd Annual

Bluegrass Festival

Saturday, April 19

6-10 p.m.

Silent Auction – we're in need of items!

Volunteers needed to greet and serve food.

Thanks Marty Leedy, member of King Ave. for putting the whole event together!



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)
- Mondays: 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)

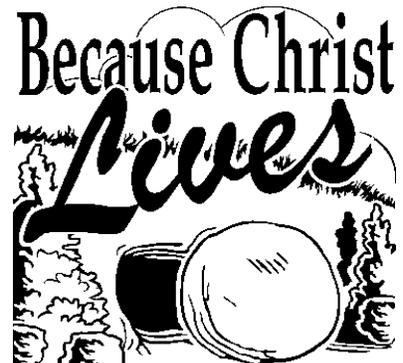
In addition to our weekly scheduled ministries and meetings as listed above, please note these dates:

March Calendar

- 1 9am-12pm Clothing Room Work Day
- 2 10:30am Holy Communion
- 5 7:00pm Bible Study
- 8 9:00am Budget meeting
- 9 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS
- 12 7:00pm Bible Study
- 15 Deadline for New Life News
- 16 10:00am St. Luke UMC Easter Egg Hunt
- 16 **Passion/Palm Sunday**
ILLUMINATE (Gay Men's Chorus)
Presents music to celebrate Holy Week
- 19 7:00pm Bible Study
- 20 7:00pm **Holy Thursday** Service with King Ave. UMC
at New Life
- 21 12:00pm **Good Friday** Worship at Trinity UMC
followed by EASTER ON FIFTH
luncheon and annual assembly of
bedding for New Life Clothing Room
- 23 **Easter Sunday**
- 24-April 7 **Pastor Jennifer** on vacation
- 26 7:00pm Bible Study
- 31 3:00pm Sunday Family Dinner
- 5:30pm A visit from **Susanna Wesley**



Turn Clocks back
one hour before
you go to bed on
Sat. March 8.



FINANCIAL



NEWS

Report of the Treasurer Jan. 2008

Checking Account	
Beginning Balance	\$15,251.18
Deposits	25,398.28
Withdrawals	<u>17,490.94</u>
Balance	\$23,158.52

—**Steve Waldron**, Treasurer

Receipts in	Jan. 2008	Year
Plate	\$4,370.88	\$4,370.88
Friends	1,845.00	1,845.00
Partner Churches	4,175.00	4,175.00
Breakfast Ministry	411.00	411.00
Youth Ministry	10,041.40	10,041.40
Clothing Room	675.00	675.00
Parsonage Rent	575.00	575.00
Memorial Gifts	250.00	250.00
UMCOR	0.00	0.00
Computers	0.00	0.00
Group Meeting Income	495.00	495.00
Flowers	0.00	0.00
Maundy Thurs Service	0.00	0.00
African Children's Fund	0.00	0.00
Bluegrass Fundraiser	0.00	0.00
Chiller Fundraiser	0.00	0.00
Buckeye Fundraiser	0.00	0.00
CROP Walk	0.00	0.00
Thanksgiving Offering	0.00	0.00
Building Repair	0.00	0.00
Healthcare Ministry	2,510.00	2,510.00
Nursery	50.00	50.00
Staff Christmas	0.00	0.00
Christmas Cantata	0.00	0.00
Christmas Offering	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total	\$25,398.28	\$25,398.28

-**Rebecca Naas**, Financial Sec'y

Balance Sheet Jan. 2008

Assets

City National checking acct	\$23,158.52
Savings & Investments	<u>162,417.58</u>
Total Assets	\$185,576.10

Liabilities & Fund Balances

Withholdings	\$1,251.99
Operations	90,647.00
Youth Ministry Fund	36,289.00
Misc. Ministry Fund	(11,419.24)
Memorial Fund	23,192.00
Breakfast Ministry Fund	21,286.91
Health Ministry Fund	2,510.00
Clothing Room Fund	10,797.51
Pass Through Fund (flowers, etc)	(1,793.97)
Congreg. Benev (UMCOR, etc)	1,091.02
Lillian Skeelee Fund	<u>11,723.88</u>
Total Liabilities & Fund Bal.	\$185,576.10

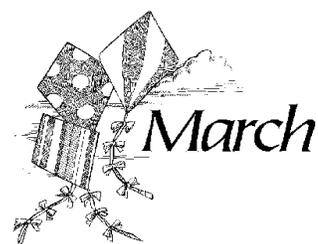
Clothing Room Report Jan 2008

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

Weekday Guests 627
 Sunday Guests 591
 Total 1,218

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
New Life United Methodist Church
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Custodian -

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The Rev. Laura Young-Moats

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