

April
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

Currently, we are deep in the throes of transforming the first floor of our parsonage into the New Life Health & Wellness Center. Under the very capable and energetic leadership of **Sherri Benedict**, who is serving as project manager, volunteers and contractors are coming and going all of the time. When this project is complete, the space will be beautiful, hospitable and practical for providing not only medical services, but also flexible enough to use it as meeting space for future gatherings and programs related to the health and wellness of the whole person — body, mind, and spirit.

While the work within the space has been going smoothly, with so many people generously donating time, talent and resources, the pieces related to zoning and permits are much more complicated. And, they are going to take much longer than I anticipated to get resolved. **Therefore, we are postponing the grand opening and dedication service currently scheduled to occur on May 4 until later this year.**

HOWEVER, our ministry on Sunday mornings will continue without interruption. We will continue to offer basic health care and an invitation to talk and pray with a prayer minister, because we are constantly reminded just how important this ministry is. For example, not too long ago, **Luches**, a man who has participated in our ministry for many years, and lives on SSI Disability, came to breakfast late, having just been released from a hospital, where he had been treated for congestive heart failure. In his hand he held 15 prescriptions written for him before being discharged. Fortunately, the doctor here that morning, **Dr. Joe Pool** had not left yet. **Chuck Belding**, our Breakfast Ministry Coordinator, introduced the two of them, and **Joe** sorted through all of the prescriptions, identifying which were generic prescriptions, rewriting some to be generic, and prioritizing them for **Luches**. There were still two remaining prescriptions for which there were no generics, and were too expensive for **Luches** to purchase. **Joe** happened to have some samples for one of them in his car that day, which would help **Luches** for at least a while. I don't know what **Luches** would have done had New Life, and particularly one of our doctors, not been there for him. This is a striking, yet not unique story of how our health ministry is making a difference in the lives of the 200 individuals we have cared for in the past year.

So, while we will be in our temporary location a while longer, the Risen Lord will be among us, empowering us to be bearers of hope, vessels of healing, and even witnesses to New Life.

Grace and Peace,

From the Minister of Youth and Families

Christ is risen! Hope abounds! Success happens! The Easter season is the perfect time to focus on hope amidst the struggles. When we are in ministry and relationship with poor and low-income families in Columbus, we sometimes suffer from a lack of hope that things will ever change. And, there is plenty of hope surrounding everything we do. We all work together – church members, partners, and friends – to make changes. Hearing success stories helps us keep the hope alive and inspires us to keep working in the name of Christ.

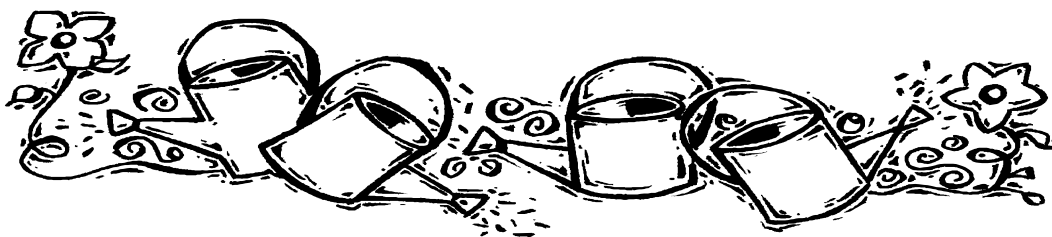
Recently, Church of the Messiah United Methodist's endowment fund provided New Life UMC with \$5000 in grant money to buy eight computers for our Plugged In tutoring and mentoring program for kids in kindergarten through twelfth grade. We have two new mentors already in 2008, which brings our team to a healthy size. Money and people –and prayers – they help make these changes. God uses our hands to do this work, right? We have many success stories, and many reasons to keep the hope alive.

Last month, one of our students needed to complete a school project on **Sojourner Truth**, the African-American slave and abolitionist. With the help of a mentor, **Leann** did her research on the Plugged In computers from Church of the Messiah, wrote her report, printed it, and made a display poster for school. Later in the month, New Life hosted a local historian to portray **Sojourner Truth** at an educational program. **Leann** came and sat with the speaker, **Dr. Annette Jefferson**, and me before the program – she was so excited and asked **Dr. Jefferson** lots of informed questions about **Sojourner Truth**. We were witnessing a child building confidence, self-esteem, and experiencing success with learning. At Plugged In we strive to provide a place where children experience successes in learning and increase their love of learning.

Kendra is another student attends Plugged In just about every Tuesday and uses the computers our ministry partner provided. She recently brought her essay in support of her application to Metro High School – the new highly competitive charter school in Columbus sponsored by Battelle and OSU -- and she just found out that she got one of only 100 spots in next year's freshman class! An added benefit is that both of these students attend worship at New Life as well as Plugged In!

Church members, ministry partners, and friends: thank you for sharing your time, your talent, your gifts and your services. When you do this, you are living your Christian beliefs in tangible ways as you minister to others.

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



Dorothy Mowery turns 100

On March 25, **Dorothy Mowery** celebrated her 100th birthday! **Dorothy** is, of course, the oldest member of New Life Church, and has seen the church -- and the world -- go through many changes. She came to Columbus and became active in what was then Fifth Ave. United Brethren Church before she was 20 years old. Over the course of her 75+ years of membership, there is one area of ministry she was part of that stands out from all the others. **Dorothy** was a gifted and faithful Sunday school teacher, Christian education director and parish visitor, particularly to families in the neighborhood (she was our FIRST Minister of Youth & Families!). There are still people in our congregation whom she remembers from their childhood like, **Bob and Karen Brown, Eva Lincoln, Tom Owens, and Ed Phillips**. They, along with hundreds of others who attended Sunday school or were part of New Life UMC and its predecessor churches, were in some way impacted by the wisdom, biblical knowledge, and most importantly, love that **Dorothy** shared. In addition to being very active in the leadership of a local church, **Dorothy** also worked in the area of Christian education at the district and conference levels. She has memories of traveling all over Ohio, giving workshops and sharing resources with other churches and Christian educators. At the time, she said, it seemed like a lot was demanded of her, but now looking back, she considers it an honor that her experience and gifts were so well regarded that she was trusted as a teacher and trainer in so many contexts. And, she has many wonderful memories of those years of active ministry.

So, as **Dorothy** celebrates this milestone, we celebrate the ways that God has blessed her and used her as a blessing to so many, many people throughout the years. Happy Birthday **Dorothy!**

Maybe Weak, Maybe Strong

*I may be weak,
And I may be strong.
But I've been in this wicked world too long.
So for me, I must move on
To the grace of heaven, for that's where I belong.*

*So I asked the Lord Jesus Christ to forgive my
Sins and wicked ways,
To guide me through His passages from evil to
Everlasting days.*

*For now my life goes on,
Maybe weak, maybe strong.
Only when my time comes will Jesus lay my
Head to rest,
And my soul to rise between the heavens and
Earth,
There my soul will stay,
Until our Lord Jesus come to judge,
On judgment day.*



Annual Conference Delegate needed

The West Ohio Conference annual meeting will be held at Lakeside, Ohio June 8 through June 11. During this time, pastors and lay people will discuss, debate and vote on resolutions regarding social issues, programs in the local churches, and business and financial matters; worship together and learn from key speakers; celebrate the commissioning and ordination of deacons and elders; fellowship together and enjoy beautiful Lake Erie. One of the high points for us will be **Pastor Laura's** commissioning for ordained ministry.

Each local church is to have a lay delegate for each appointed pastor. **Kathy Williams** has served as our lay delegate for the last two years, and is not able to do so now. **So, if you are interested in representing New Life by serving as a lay delegate, please speak with Pastor Jennifer as soon as possible.** Please know that you are expected to cover all but \$150 of your expenses.

“Street Speech” Hits the Streets

For a number of years now I have thought that for Columbus to be a fully grown “adult” city one of the many things we need is a street newspaper –a newspaper sold by people who are currently or formerly homeless which contains articles about and by those same people, which tells it like it is from the point of view of people who live on the streets, which contains poetry and prose, cartoons and graphic arts by street folks and other people who struggle daily to survive the harsh city streets. Street news papers like this are sold in major cities all around the world. I have purchased and read many of them.

Finally we have such a paper! I hope it will become a mainstay of our city's alternative newspapers. STREET SPEECH will come out monthly and be sold on street corners all over the city. The sales will put real money in the pockets of people who have very little real money. But the paper will do a much more important thing than that. It will foster additional self esteem for many who contribute to it, sell it and read about their friends and neighbors in it. AND it will teach the rest of us a LOT about some of our neighbors who we often forget. We will learn that they have many of the same hopes, dreams and loves that we do. We will learn that they are very smart, very thoughtful, very artistic and very talented people –not all of them but many of them.

It is my hope that each of us will buy one of the papers each month and in doing so make a contribution to the health and well being of one other person. And it is also my hope that we all will read the paper –at least parts of it that appeal to us. From the acts of buying and reading we can all expect to grow into more well informed people and better neighbors to those who so desperately need a neighbor and a friend. In buying and reading we will acknowledge that other person who we have often ignored.

Several people who come to New Life regularly are involved with this new street newspaper, which is being published by the Columbus Coalition for the Homeless. I encourage us all to talk with these folks about how it is going for them and what they are experiencing in their new role as STREET SPEECH vendors and contributors.

-Bill Casto

Saturday April 19, 2008

6:00 – 10:00 P.M.

BLUEGRASS MUSIC

A CONCERT TO BENEFIT

NEW LIFE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH'S HOMELESS AND
POVERTY STRICKEN NEIGHBORS MINISTRIES

SCHEDULED TO PERFORM:



Idle Tymes



Grassahol

Hosted by:
K 95.5 FM "The Hawk's"
Miss Lisa

WHERE:

New Life United Methodist Church
25 West 5th Avenue

In the Short North area of Columbus, Ohio

Music starts at 6:00 Concessions available at 5:30

This event is FREE!!!

Admission will be granted with any donation.
Packages of new socks and new underwear will also be accepted.

Calendar of Events


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

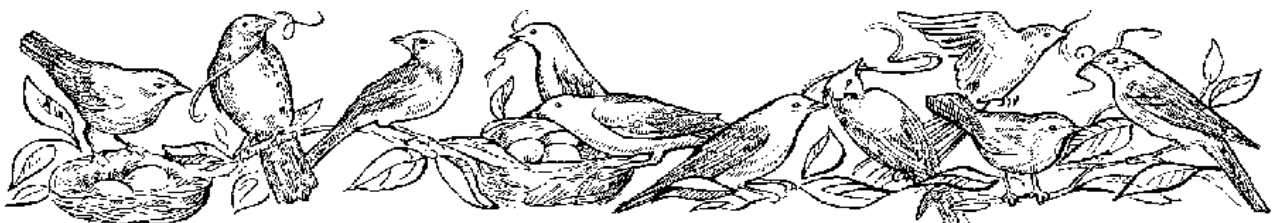
- Sundays: Breakfast Ministry, Clothing Room, Church School, Worship, Young Disciples Church, Drummers Alcoholic Anonymous (1:30PM & 7:30PM), Narcotics Anonymous (7PM)
- Monday:s Drummers Alcoholic Anonymous (8PM)
- Tuesdays: Clothing Room*, Hospitality Breakfast, Plugged In (6-8PM), Drummers Alcoholic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

April Calendar

1-7		Pastor Jennifer on vacation	
2	7:00 PM	Bible Study	
6	10:30 AM	Sacrament of Holy Communion	
8	7:00 PM	Budget meeting	
9	7:00 PM	Bible Study	
10	7:00 PM	Trustees meeting	
12	9:00 AM	Ministry Board and Health Ministry Team meeting	
15		Newsletter deadline	
16	7:00 PM	Bible Study	
17	7:00 PM	Ad Council meeting	
19	6:00-10:00 PM	BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL!	
23	7:00 PM	Bible Study	
27	9:00 AM	Choir rehearsal	
	3:00 PM	Sunday Family Dinner	
30	7:00 PM	Bible Study	



FINANCIAL



NEWS

Report of the Treasurer Feb. 2008

Checking Account	
Beginning Balance	\$23,158.52
Deposits	18,518.39
Withdrawals	<u>27,854.03</u>
Balance	\$ 13,822.88

—Steve Waldron, Treasurer

Receipts in	<u>Feb. 2008</u>	and <u>Year-</u>
Total Plate	\$ 4,671.95	\$ 9,402.83
Friends	685.00	2,530.00
Partner Churches	4,803.60	8,978.60
Breakfast Ministry	355.00	766.00
Youth Ministry	2,755.00	12,796.40
Clothing Room	275.00	950.00
Parsonage Rent	575.00	1,150.00
Memorial Gifts	0.00	250.00
Computers	1,319.84	1,319.84
Nursery	0.00	50.00
Group Meeting Income	70.00	565.00
Chiller Fundraiser	508.00	508.00
Healthcare Ministry	<u>2,500.00</u>	<u>5,010.00</u>
Total	\$18,518.39	\$43,916.67

-Rebecca Naas
Financial Sec'y

Balance Sheet Feb. 2008

Assets

City National checking acct	\$ 13,822.88
Savings & Investments	<u>173,438.54</u>
Total Assets	\$187,261.42

Liabilities & Fund Balances

Withholdings	\$ 1,712.05
Operations	89,270.18
Youth Ministry Fund	37,572.02
Misc. Ministry Fund	(11,419.24)
Memorial Fund	23,192.00
Health Ministry Fund	4,790.10
Breakfast Ministry Fund	20,272.87
Clothing Room Fund	10,850.51
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.	\$187,261.42

Clothing Room Report Feb. 2008

Hours of Operation:	
Sunday	7-9:30 am
Tues. & Wed.	9-11:30 am
Weekday Guests	390
Sunday Guests	<u>607</u>
Total	997

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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