

January
2009

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

“I found an apartment!” “I have my own place now!” “I’ve finally got my own home!” What wonderful words to hear; what an even better reality to experience, especially for our neighbors who have been homeless. Often we don’t appreciate what we have until we don’t have it any longer — a place where we are safe and secure, comfortable, and can even decorate the way that we like — a place we call home. I remember when **Vincent** moved into his new apartment after living outside in a self created campsite for years, he couldn’t wait to show it to us. He said, “Look at all this space that is all mine! I even have my own bathtub!” and then he asked me to bless his new home. I also remember **Tammy** standing before me with such joy on his face, holding a key in her hand and saying to me, “Do you know what this is? This is the key to my new home.” There truly is no place like home.

This month, the season of Epiphany begins. The word “epiphany” means “manifestation” or a revealing of God. Since the sixth century, Christians in the West have celebrated Epiphany as the 12th day after Christmas. On this day, the Magi arrived at the stable, bringing gifts to Jesus, the newborn baby King. The star above the manger, the Magi, and their gifts all serve as epiphanies — things that revealed this baby as God.

House Blessings have long been a tradition in the Church, and typically took place on Epiphany. The words of a blessing create a new reality. The hope is that through the blessing Christ will be present in each home for another year and that the people who live in the home will be a revelation of Christ’s light and love.

For those of us who have a home, let us never forget to give thanks for that gift each day. May our homes be a haven of peace and love for ourselves and our families, and a place of hospitality where guests experience that love as well. May we be ever mindful of our neighbors who are without a home, or whose home is not a haven; and especially on these cold winter nights, we pray that God would care and protect each one of them. Let us also pray and work together toward the day when each child of God will have a place to call home.

And especially in this season of Christmas and Epiphany, we rejoice that God has chosen to make a home among us — and in each one of us — in Jesus.

Grace and Peace,

From the Minister of Youth and Families

Rev. Laura Young-Moats (laurayoungmoats@yahoo.com)

By the time you read this, we will have survived, ahem, celebrated in worship New Life UMC's second annual "Backward Christmas Pageant!" The young disciples told the story of the birth of Jesus in reverse, with lots of surprises including a kickball, a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, an express mail envelope, and a certified mail receipt. The kids know these things aren't part of the Christmas story we studied from Luke's version of the event. But, they do know a lot about the story of Jesus' birth. After choir practice one night early in December, during our Bible study portion of the evening, we all sat in a circle and went around naming something one word about the Christmas story. They shouted out words from "myrrh" and "star" to a run on names for God, starting with "God," "Jesus," "Baby Jesus," and "Jesus Christ." They know the reason for the season! The scripted and unscripted pageant surprises remind us of real life, where often *our* expectations of how life will or should go, are thwarted, and God's grace abounds!

The last lines of the pageant remind us of the birth of Jesus the Christ does for the entire world: "From now on, it will be hard to remember what life was like before this happened. *This will change everything.* All fear and terror will be as nothing compared to the love and hope in the face of one small baby. *This will change everything.* This is the moment of God's grace. And this moment is forever!" The lives of many children in our community are full of surprises – many of them not good: a parent in jail, frequent moves, switching schools regularly, the sound of gunshots and police helicopters, being told they can't participate, strangers visiting at odd hours. Other times, the surprises are good: getting to go to camp, finding something they love in the free clothing room, a trip to the pool, a new book, a parent returning to their lives. Poor children's lives are like all children's lives, but with more negative surprises. *Children do not ask to be poor* nor do they ask for negative surprises. It is up to all adults to provide positive surprises and consistency in children's lives; but, most importantly, to show them and all our neighbors the love and peace promised and practiced by Jesus the Christ. Followers of Jesus *do* this.

Pamela Powell of **Trinity UMC** shows children the love of Jesus by bringing a healthful snack to serve at our tutoring and mentoring program, "Plugged In." **Pamela** also leads the New Life-Trinity Covenant Team. **Sherri Benedict** of New Life, shows children the love of Jesus by showing up and loving the kids at almost every youth event. **Sherri** serves in many capacities at New Life that positively affect children and adults. **Ed Timmons**, also of New Life, shows children the love of Jesus by picking them up in the church van and bringing them to church for Plugged In. **Ed** and his wife **Amy Timmons** show children the love of Jesus by hosting receptions at church, such as the one after the pageant. **Esther Hunter** at **Linworth UMC** shows children the love of Jesus by coordinating the Christmas gift program. **Mike Hudson** of **Church of the Messiah, UM**, shows children the love of Jesus by bringing chess, checkers, and memory games for play time after tutoring. **Chris Prespare** of **King Ave. UMC** shows children the love of Jesus by advocating for them at every opportunity and for bringing a special jersey to one of our kids who is a big Michigan football fan. **Rev. Laurie Clark**, pastor of **St. Luke's UMC** shows children the love of Jesus by including them in an Easter egg hunt and children's music concert. **Rev. Clark** also brings Starbuck's day-old goodies on Tuesdays to share with our neighbors. I can hardly name all the adults and the many ways they love our children by sharing time, talents, gifts, and service with them.

Another highlight in Advent season was the annual "Make-and-Take Christmas Gift Workshop," at New Life UMC. *Nine partner churches* were represented, along with other crafty and creative helpers, in our adult volunteers in ministry. The children made 12 crafts including frames for their professional portraits taken by **Carey Schaeffer**, a friend and visitor at New Life UMC, ornaments, cookie mix, flower pens, Christmas tree-shaped pillows, grape vine wreaths, and more. **Bill Seiber (NLUMC)**, **Cathy Brunskill (Glenwood UMC)**, and **Chip Moats (Messiah UMC/New Life)** made delicious grilled cheese and tomato soup for our lunch. Being together in any capacity is a chance to be in loving community with one another. It is my prayer for the New Year that we all do even more for the children in our lives. We're teaching them to love as Jesus did! And, they gracefully love us in return.

Love kids and learn with children some ways to follow Jesus at these regular activities at New Life UMC:

- Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.
- Sunday (last), 3-5 p.m., "Sunday Family Dinner"
- Tuesdays, 6-8 p.m.: "Plugged In" tutoring/mentoring (K-12)
- Thursdays, 6-8 p.m.: Kids' Choir and Bible study
- Friday (4th), 6-8 p.m.: "Friday Night Live!" Saturday (1st), 10 a.m. -12:30 p.m.: "Super Saturday" sports/culture/fun event

Love and prayers in this season of Epiphany and always, *Pastor Laura*

Family Skate Party

Location:

Chiller North, Rink 1
8144 Highfield Dr.
Lewis Center



When:

Sunday, March 1
4-6 p.m.



**To Benefit the
Youth & Family
Ministries of
New Life UMC**

Cost:

\$10 (includes
skate rental)

*Tickets available
at New Life
United Methodist
Church
(614.294.0134)
and at the door.*

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, Kids Choir & Bible Study (6-8PM)
 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:

January Calendar

1		HAPPY NEW YEAR!
3	10:00 AM-2:00 PM	Young Disciples Fun First Saturday
4	10:00 AM	Worship—Sacrament of Holy Communion
6-7		Pastors Jennifer & Laura attending Cont. Ed. event
7	7:00 PM	Bible Study
10	9:30 AM	Ministry Board meeting
14	7:00 PM	Bible Study
15		NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
	7:00 PM	Trustees meeting
19		MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY
21	7:00 PM	Bible Study
25	3:00 PM	Sunday Family Dinner
28	1:00 PM	Trinity/New Life Covenant meeting
30	6:00 PM	Young Disciples Friday Night Live



Lay Leadership for 2009
Administrative Council

Chair: Ed Phillips
Secretary: Chuck Belding
Chair, Finance & Treasurer: Steve Waldron
Financial Secretary: Rebecca Naas
Chair, Staff/Parish Relations Committee: Marlene Haught
Chair, Trustees: Gary Sansbury
Ministry of Care and Encouragement: Jim Trimmer
Rep., Community Ministries: Tim Holcomb
Lay Member to Annual Conference: Marlene Haught, Tina Findley
Member at Large: Ken Brooks, Jeff Jump

Staff:
Rev. Jennifer Kimball Casto
Rev. Laura Young-Moats

Ex Officio
Breakfast Ministry Coordinator: Chuck Belding
Clothing Room Steward: Vickie Moseley
Choir Director: Bob Brown

Staff-Parish Relations Committee

Chair: Marlene Haught
Ed Timmons, Alice Brooks, Gary Carson, Tom Householder, Robin Chenoweth
Lay members to Annual Conference: Marlene Haught, Tina Findley

Board of Trustees

Chair: Gary Sansbury
Secretary: Ed Phillips
Ken Brooks, Jeff Jump, Chris Nichols, Don Hallman, Doris Hashman, Sherri Benedict

Committee on Lay Leadership

Rev. Jennifer Kimball Casto (Chair)
Rev. Laura Young-Moats
Doris Hashman, Ed Phillips, Tina Findley

Committee on Finance

Chair: Steve Waldron (Treasurer)
Bob Ater, Marlene Haught (SPRC), Gary Sansbury (Trustees), Jim Stewart

Ministry Board

Bob Ater (New Life)
Sherri Benedict (New Life)
Dan Birmingham (Worthington)
Bill Casto (New Life)
Alice Gulker (Indian Run)
Wade Hicks (Church of the Messiah)
Richard Mason (Hilliard)
Anne Lawyer (Trinity)
Vickie Moseley (Trinity)
Chris Prespare (King Ave.)
Troy Salyers (Church of the Messiah)
Don Vorce (Trinity)

Rev. Jennifer Kimball Casto
Rev. Laura Young-Moats

Health Ministry Team

Carol Hunt, Amy Timmons, Sherri Benedict (and members from various churches)

NEW LIFE UMC 2009 BUDGET

<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenses</u>	
Congregational giving	\$70,000	Capital item church	\$5,000
Friends giving	25,000	Capital item parsonage	2,000
Partner church giving	40,000	Program and Worship	2,000
Sunday School giving	0	Director of Music salary	5,460
Special offerings (holidays)	300	Guest musicians	225
Rent from parsonage	6,900	Pastor Assistant salary	3,200
Bank interest	5,000	Pastor salary	38,661
Prime MM fund income	100	Pastor housing allowance	8,552
Worthington stock income	0	Pastor travel and expenses	2,150
American Invest Co. income	0	Pastor health insurance	14,940
Group meeting income	5,400	Pastor pension expense	8,320
Insurance Payments	0	Pastor continuing education	500
Youth Ministry income	42,000	Custodian salary	10,000
Chiller fundraiser	500	Building maintenance services	7,500
Student Pastor income	0	Maintenance supplies	4,000
Breakfast Ministry income	9,000	Equipment purchase	1,500
Buckeye Tailgate income	14,000	Equipment maintenance	500
Healthcare Ministry	15,000	Church utilities	20,000
Clothing Room income	3,000	Telephone and internet	1,500
Memorial gifts	0	Organ and piano maintenance	650
Holiday flower income	400	Parsonage expenses	5,000
Christmas gift fund	700	Insurance	3,600
UMCOR giving	0	Custodian FICA/Medicare	770
NNEMAP giving	0	Student Minister FICA/Medicare	0
CROP Walk	0	Youth Minister FICA/Medicare	0
Bluegrass concert	<u>5,000</u>	Pastor assistant FICA/Medicare	250
		Director of Music FICA/Medicare	420
Total projected income	\$242,300	Workers Compensation	175
		Office supplies and printing	3,000
		Stewardship expenses	1,000
		Church gift fund	500
		Conference apportionments	17,095
		District apportionments	1,608
		Mission Society apportionments	979
		Local church benevolence	1,000
		Youth Ministry compensation	32,993
		Youth Ministry housing	8,552
		Youth Ministry pension	5,200
		Youth Ministry health insurance	7,536
		Youth Ministry program cost	3,500
		Chiller fundraiser expenses	0
		Bluegrass expenses	0
		Youth Ministry travel and expenses	1,650
		Breakfast Ministry expenses	17,000
		Buckeye Tailgate expenses	0
		Health Ministry expenses	5,000
		Clothing Room expenses	7,500
		Student Pastor compensation	0
		UMCOR donations	500
		NNEMAP donations	200
		Employee Christmas gift	1,050
		Holiday flower fund	400
		Worthington stock expense	0
		American Inv Mutual expense	0
		Transfer for MM to Chase	0
		Bank fees	<u>0</u>
		Total projected expenses	\$263,136

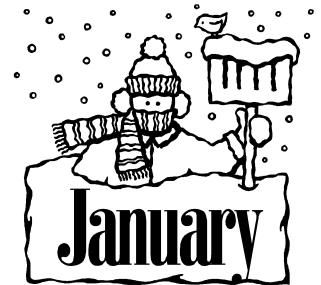
A Note From the Finance Committee

This is the first year that we have budgeted income as well as expenses. We tried to craft a balanced budget, but we found that impossible to do. We decided to present a realistic picture of both our income and expenses.

In 2009 each of us needs to make every effort to increase income. We welcome any ideas for doing so. In a troubled economy that will not be an easy task, but remember that we are New Life—a place where miracles occur on a regular basis!

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
25 West Fifth Avenue
Columbus, OH 43201
614-294-0134
nwlifeumc1@att.net
www.newlifeunitedmethodist.org



Editor -
Collating -
Pastor-
Min-Youth & Fam -
Musician -
Custodian -

Marlene Haught
Ken and Alice Brooks
The Rev. Jennifer Kimball Casto
The Rev. Laura Young-Moats
Joe Miller
Dwight Richardson