

May
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

Currently, our fastest growing ministry is our Tuesday morning breakfast. When it began in 2001, we inherited it from Third Ave. United Methodist Church. They called it "Hospitality Breakfast" and it still carries that name. Like every other ministry we have, it started small and then grew and grew and grew. At the beginning, I set out some cereal, milk, a couple loaves of bread and toaster, and an urn of coffee. It was "self-serve" at its most basic level for the 20 or so people who came for breakfast. Then, as discreetly as the Holy Spirit can be sometimes, different individuals felt drawn to this ministry, and a team began to take form. As it grew from that rustic beginning to its current more elaborate cold and hot breakfast, more servants emerged and took on the responsibility for this ministry. People have rotated in and out, and whenever someone felt that they were no longer called or in a position to be part of this servant team, God always raised up a new person to replace them.

Our current team (**Loretta Barkley, Cathy Brunskill, Steve Frank, James Laspisa, Nancy Morse, Diane Peterson, Ed Phillips, and Jean Somerville**) represents different churches, and is a true model of how Body of Christ can work together well. Even though there is a coordinator (We thank **James Laspisa** for responding to our request in a recent newsletter), all of them work collaboratively to prepare for and serve breakfast each Tuesday. No one is greater or less important than any of the others — each is an essential part of the "operations." Isn't that how it should be in the Body of Christ?

These days, we are continuing to serve more and more people, which can sometimes become overwhelming. Recently, there was "standing room only" in the early part of the morning. Still, hospitality remained the focus, even though at times that became a real challenge. In response to the reality of a growing number of neighbors coming for the best breakfast in town, this group continues to work together to find ways to serve our neighbors most effectively and efficiently. It will be their mutual commitment to love, welcome and serve all who come that will help to them discern together how best to do so.

At the same time, by recognizing each other's giftedness and their importance in this servant team, they are extending grace and hospitality to one another. This too is an essential part of functioning as the Body of Christ. We thank this group of servants for their faithful work, and the model they are for all of us who are in ministry together.

Would you like to be part of this ministry? See page 5 for volunteer opportunities.

Grace and Peace, *Pastor Jennifer*

From the Minister of Youth and Families

Dear Friends,

Some of our New Life children are incredible evangelists. **James** especially is one to bring as many friends as he can find from his corner of the neighborhood in Weinland Park. Seeing a bunch of kids pile out of parents' vans signals a great event. We had a huge turnout at our monthly "Friday Night Live," where almost every child brought a friend, neighbor, or cousin. **King Ave. UMC** Youth Coordinator **April Olt** brought her church kids and adult volunteers to help us party, including KAUMC member and disc jockey/OSU law student, **Laura Austen**, who cranked out the dance tunes that the kids loved. She took requests all night and we danced like crazy, including several popular line dances! Daryl and Kylie's mom, **Aitya McNight**, made a double-dutch jump rope and we jumped rope until we were exhausted.

King Ave. UMC also paired with **St. Luke's UMC** and we all had an Easter Egg hunt at **St. Luke's** led by **Rev. Laurie Clark** and **April Olt**. **Rev. Clark** told the Easter story as the children learned, paraded, snacked, and hunted for eggs/candy. What a wonderful way to bring families from our church community together.

May at NLUMC brings planning for summer camp activities, organizing our summer reading program, Vacation Bible School, hosting a mission group from **Grace UMC** in Perrysburg, Ohio, summer gardening with Godman Guild, and more opportunities for fellowship and spiritual growth founded in the love shown by our risen Christ.



Pastor Laura and her friend Darius Jamal Fletcher

Opportunities include:

Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.

Sunday lunch, kids choir, and Bible study, 11:30a.m.-1p.m.

Sunday (last), 3-5 p.m., "Sunday Family Dinner"

Tuesdays, 6-8 p.m.: "Plugged In" tutoring/mentoring (K-12)

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 from, *Pastor Laura*
(laurayoungmoats@yahoo.com)

How Can We Market New Life?

This is a question that has been asked over and over as we seek to find ways to make our church more visible in the community. While we are blessed with a multitude of volunteers for our various outreach ministries, we have not been as successful in attracting people from our neighborhood to become part of our community of faith. There are many challenges that contribute to this, but we know that New Life is a unique congregation that has fulfilled our spiritual needs, as well as our need to belong and be valued for who we are. We are committed to love, welcome and serve ALL people in the name of Jesus Christ. We just have to get the word out!

Recently, **Greg** and **Tricia Allenby** joined our church. **Greg** is a professor of Marketing at Ohio State University. He is very excited about the opportunity to combine his professional expertise with his Christian discipleship by helping us to develop a marketing strategy. There will be two meetings this month during which **Greg** will teach us and guide us as we begin this process. The first one is May 9th, with a follow up meeting on May 30th. Both will begin at 9:30 a.m. ALL WHO ARE PART OF THE NEW LIFE COMMUNITY OF FAITH ARE WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.

Here is a thought he shared with **Pastor Jennifer** which is helpful in our understanding what our purpose is: "We as a church should be engaged in evangelism. We should always be ready to spread the Good News... however, evangelism and marketing are distinct. Evangelism is about personal engagement in the love of faith involving head, heart and hands based on God's truth in the Bible. Marketing is about conserving resources of an organization so that it can effectively reach out its offer to individuals who are predisposed to see its value. Evangelism is personal. Marketing is corporate." In these sessions, we will be focusing on the latter.

Columbus Coalition for the Homeless to Sponsor Annual Mother's Day Brunch for Homeless Mothers

The Marsha Donner Mother's Day Brunch is an event hosted by the Columbus Coalition for the Homeless every year to celebrate and honor homeless and formerly homeless mothers and their families. This event brings together between 200 and 300 homeless mothers and their families to take part in the event. This year the Brunch will take place on Sunday, May 10th (Mother's Day) from 11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at the Capitol University: Harry C. Moores Campus Center.

The catered brunch is served to the mothers and their families. Each mother receives a hand-made corsage when she enters. In addition to the brunch, there are free portrait pictures taken of the mothers and their families. There is also a big give-away where each mother receives a purse full of goodies such as lotion and gift cards. There are arts and crafts, and story telling for the children and free health screenings for everyone. The Columbus Metropolitan Library will sign-up children and their mothers for library cards and offer the children free books to take home with them.

Corporations, organizations and individuals can be program sponsors for \$1,000, or sponsor a table for \$500 or an individual mother for \$25. All sizes of donations are accepted from individuals and organizations/corporations. Small health and beauty items also needed. Checks payable to: Columbus Coalition for the Homeless and sent to the Coalition at 132 S. Third St. Columbus, OH 43215 . All donations are tax deductible. For more information about the event and volunteer opportunities contact The Columbus Coalition for the Homeless at (614)228-1342 or info@columbushomeless.org.

REV. CYNDY GARN TO PREACH MAY 3

We have been blessed to have **Rev. Cyndy Garn** as our District Superintendent for the last eight years. **Rev. Garn** has been very supportive of New Life and our ministries and has helped to strengthen our partnerships with other churches across the district. As of July 1, **Rev. Garn** will be leaving the cabinet to become the lead pastor at Worthington United Methodist Church. As an expression of our gratitude and appreciation of her ministry as our D.S., we will welcome her as our guest preacher on May 3.

COMMUNION STEWARDS NEEDED



For many, many years, **Alice Brooks** and **Doris Hashman** have served as our communion stewards, preparing the elements and “setting the table” on the Sundays we celebrate the Sacrament. **Alice** and **Doris** are no longer able to serve in this capacity, so we are seeking others who are willing to do so. The Sacrament of Holy Communion is part of worship on the first Sunday of each month. The stewards are responsible for providing and preparing the elements prior to worship. If you are interested in carrying out this sacred task, please speak to **Pastor Jennifer** for more details.

3rd ANNUAL BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL A GREAT SUCCESS!

On Saturday, April 18, approximately 300 people gathered in our sanctuary to hear three amazing bluegrass bands entertain us. In between bands people could enjoy food prepared and served under the leadership of **Elaine Buhrlage** (Bethel/New Life UMCs), or check out and bid on items in our extensive silent auction. We are grateful for **Steve Frank** (King Ave UMC) for organizing and managing this aspect of the vent. Thanks to everyone who donated items for the auction, especially **Wally Life** (Worthington UMC) who solicited many items from businesses in Dublin.

Thanks also to **Bill Casto** for much of the “behind the scenes” preparations in the building, **Kathy Durfee** for recruiting volunteers from King Ave UMC, **Ben Durfee** for driving the shuttle van from King Ave UMC to New Life UMC, AND **Marty Leedy** (King Ave UMC) for coordinating the entire event.

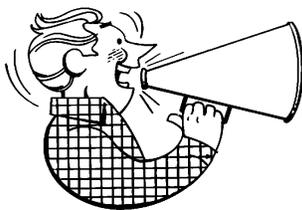
Marty recruited the three bands (actually he was in one of them!). **Marty** also convinced AEP to be our primary sponsor, provided leadership for the organizing team, and much, much more. It was an awesome event which raised over \$5,000 for ministries with our neighbors in need! **Carey Schaeffer**, a professional photographer and friend of New Life, took some wonderful pictures of the event. Thanks, **Carey!** You can see some of those photos at www.careyspics.com (click on “Special Events” and on “Bluegrass Fest”).



Another Grant Received!

Thanks to our wonderful grant team (**Lisa Norris, Jill Geiger and Bob Yano**) we were awarded a \$10,000 grant from the CORA Foundation! The CORA Foundation was created and is managed by **Bishop Bruce Ough** and his family. This communicates his support for the important ministry we are engaged in with our neighbors in need. These funds will be used to support our Health & Wellness Center and ministry. For the last two years, our health ministry team has faithfully provided basic medical care for about 20 people who come to breakfast every Sunday. They have done so, as we have reported before, in barely sufficient space. Meanwhile, we continue to make progress in creating the Health & Wellness Center in the parsonage next to the church. We have persisted in going through all of the processes required by the city, relying on well skilled and dedicated professionals to help us do so. These funds will be used to complete this project, and purchase some of the necessary equipment and supplies once we move in. The health team members cannot wait!! We praise God for this Incredible gift, and pray that we would be faithful stewards of these resources as we look forward to continuing Christ's work of healing and hope we are doing in a more accommodating space.

Here's just an example of what God is doing through us in this ministry. Recently, a gentleman came to the clothing room and breakfast on Tuesday morning. He showed visible signs that he was in a health crisis. **Dana Hehmeyer**, one of our nurses and a regular volunteer on Tuesdays recognized him. She and the physicians had cared for him on a Sunday morning, and she knew that it was a heart condition they became aware of that was causing his symptoms. So, she could immediately begin to care for him as we awaited the arrival of the Emergency Squad. The truth is we would have called 911 regardless, but because of **Dana's** knowledge of his health condition, she was able to minister to him in the interim until the EMTs arrived. God used **Dana**, and our ministry, to make a way for our neighbor to get the medical care he needed. We praise God for this, too!



Special **APPEAL**

**The Clothing Room
has special need for
men's pants, t-shirts
& shoes, sizes 12
and up.**

Volunteers are needed for Tuesday Hospitality Breakfast, particularly at 6:30 a.m. to help with preparations, and from 10:30 a.m. until 12 noon to serve later arriving neighbors and help with clean up.

Contact **Pastor Jennifer**
(nwlifeumc1@att.net) or
James Laspisa
(jamescmh@earthlink.net).

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 (9PM)
- 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:

May Calendar

2 10:30 AM 3 10:30 AM 9 9:30 AM 10 16 9:30 AM 18-22 22 6:00-8:00 PM 23-30 25 30 9:30 AM 31 3:00 PM	Fun First Saturday Worship—Sacrament of Holy Communion Marketing meeting MOTHER’S DAY Ministry Board Pastor Jennifer away Friday Night Live Pastor Laura away MEMORIAL DAY Marketing meeting Sunday Family Dinner PENTECOST SUNDAY	
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FINANCIAL



NEWS

Report of the Treasurer March, 2009

Checking Account	
Beginning Balance	\$12,037.28
Deposits	33,638.69
Withdrawals	<u>38,402.02</u>
 Balance	 \$ 7,273.95

—Steve Waldron, Treasurer

Receipts in	<u>Mar 2009</u>	<u>and Year</u>
Total Plate	\$6,833.75	\$18,022.97
Friends	1,470.00	3,345.00
Partner Churches	2,490.00	8,091.96
Breakfast Ministry	1,021.00	2,869.50
Youth Ministry	225.00	3,340.00
Clothing Room	75.00	740.00
Parsonage Rent	575.00	1,150.00
Healthcare Ministry	11,442.28	13,615.46
Memorial Fund	375.00	375.00
Insurance Reimburse	256.16	12,493.76
Flowers	143.50	151.50
Christmas Offering	0.00	30.00
Group Meeting	840.00	1,310.00
Youth Skating Party	888.00	958.00
Bluegrass Concert	<u>1,004.00</u>	<u>1,004.00</u>
 Total	 \$27,638.69	 \$67,497.15

-Rebecca Naas
Financial Sec'y

Balance Sheet March, 2009

Assets

City National checking acct	\$ 7,273.95
Savings & Investments	<u>157,399.37</u>
Total Assets	\$164,673.32

Liabilities & Fund Balances

Withholdings	\$ 2,081.71
Operations	80,937.94
Youth Ministry Fund	14,077.67
Misc. Ministry Fund	(11,726.04)
Memorial Fund	23,567.00
Health Ministry Fund	15,946.77
Breakfast Ministry Fund	23,257.19
Clothing Room Fund	6,530.80
Pass Through Fund (flowers, etc)	(2,814.62)
Congreg. Benev (UMCOR, etc)	1,091.02
Lillian Skeelee Fund	<u>11,723.88</u>
Total Liabilities & Fund Bal.	\$164,673.32

Clothing Room Report March, 2009

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

Weekday Guests	1793
Sunday Guests	<u>629</u>
Total	2422

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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Collating - **Ken and Alice Brooks**
Pastor- **The Rev. Jennifer Kimball Casto**
Min-Youth & Fam - **The Rev. Laura Young-Moats**
Musician - **Joe Miller**
Custodians- **Dwight Richardson & Norm Moore**