

July  
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

A couple weeks ago, **Shannon** came to breakfast on Sunday morning for the first time. I don't know exactly how he found New Life, but I'm glad he did. And I'm not the only one. As many of you know, before breakfast is served, we sing "Happy Birthday" to anyone having a birthday that week, I give some basic announcements, then share a scripture passage and brief message, AND I invite people to join us for Bible Study and worship saying, "We welcome you to come as you are. God looks at our heart, and doesn't care about external appearances. So, if you have a heart desiring God, we invite you to join us." That invitation resonated in **Shannon's** heart. Still, he decided to leave after breakfast. But, he said he just kept hearing my voice (it was actually God's voice) over and over: "Stay for church." "You're invited to return for church." "You are welcome in our church." He finally stopped, turned around and headed back. When he walked in the sanctuary long before worship started, **Chuck Belding** and **Joe Miller** were there and warmly greeted him. He said it was the first time he had attended worship since he was a kid. It was communion Sunday, and he came forward to receive the sacrament of forgiveness and redemption offered to all of us, including him, through Christ.

He had been working himself up to making a commitment to conquer alcohol and drugs, so he was introduced to **Ron Huff** who has been sober almost 2 years (Praise God!). He and **Ron** had lunch and went to a meeting together that afternoon. He has now started to volunteer in our ministry, becoming more and more a part of our community of faith. **Shannon** has such a gentle spirit, and we rejoice that he felt God's Spirit moving in him and drawing him back to New Life that morning.

**Shannon's** story is a reminder of so many things. It reminds us that hospitality includes both invitation and inclusion. Letting people know that they are welcome as they are in what we say and do. It reminds us of the power of the Spirit to move in people's hearts in many different ways, making us aware of God's unconditional grace offered to each of us through Jesus Christ, and to be changed by it. It reminds us of the importance of community and relationships when we need support while dealing with very real challenges and struggles, when we need people with whom to celebrate our victories and joys, and when we need somewhere to share our gifts in ministry with our neighbors. It reminds us that as children of God, all of us are broken in some way, and all of us have gifts, as well. And we are loved and accepted for who we are in all of our brokenness and giftedness. This we share in common. As the body of Christ, it's important that we remember these important truths.

I rejoice that God has blessed us by bringing **Shannon** here to New Life, AND that we can witness how God is giving **Shannon** the gift of new life.

Grace and Peace, *Pastor Jennifer*

## From the Minister of Youth and Families

Dear Friends,

By the time you read this, New Life UMC will have been blessed in the month of June by the many gifts of love and hands-on mission work provided by the team from Grace UMC in Perrysburg. Walls will have been painted, drywall will have been hung, children will have learned more stories of Jesus and the Bible, and friendships in Christ will have been developed. Our kids will have attended an all-day camp hosted by Plugged In mentor **Mike Hudson** and **Church of the Messiah** in Westerville, and participated in Vacation Bible School, complete with Bible-themed graffiti! As always, we give thanks to God for the many people who are called into ministry to serve and be served by those in our New Life neighborhood.

June also provided an opportunity for clergy and lay representatives for worship, learning, and fellowship at West Ohio Annual Conference at Lakeside on Lake Erie. A primary theme of the conference this year focused on developing leaders among those of us who follow Jesus. One key way to develop leaders is to use one's God-given gifts and talents to be Christ to the world and then to help others see their gifts and how they can be used to make disciples of Jesus Christ. Christian leaders help usher in the kingdom of God, which Jesus tells us is among us and in us. At the conference our area bishop, **Bishop Bruce Ough**, stressed the value of raising up leaders from neighborhoods surrounding the churches we serve.

One leader among our New Life children is **Destiny**, who is president of her school. She is blessed with many gifts including creative writing. A perennial honor roll student, Destiny was recently recognized in a science fair and recognized for academic excellence in a national group. She regularly reads to us at the tutoring/mentoring program, even writing and reciting creative raps!

The children in our church possess an abundance of God-given gifts and talents. With the guidance of Sunday school teachers, loving church members, mission-minded disciples, and Christian leaders of all ages, children are trained and inspired to work to bring about a world of love and justice, exemplified and embodied by Jesus Christ.

Opportunities to train and inspire children and ourselves include special events along with these regular activities:

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

Sunday (last in each month) 3-5 p.m. "Sunday Family Dinner"

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

Friday (4<sup>th</sup> in each month), 6-8 p.m.: "Friday Night Live!"

Saturday (1<sup>st</sup> in each month), 10 a.m. -12:30 p.m.: "Super Saturday" sports/culture/fun event

Love and prayers from *Pastor Laura*

(laurayoungmoats@yahoo.com)

### **Rededication of the Dining Room**

Thanks to the youth group from Grace UMC, there are many significant improvements that have been made in the Dining Room and stage area (which is now a secure storage space), as well as the Clothing Room and other parts of the building. We want to celebrate how their work has contributed to the appearance and efficiency of our ministries of hospitality. Therefore, **we will be rededicating the Dining Room to God** as a space where the love and hope of Christ is offered in nutritious meals and interactions among volunteers and our neighbors coming to enjoy the meal each Sunday and Tuesday morning. We will do so **during breakfast on Sunday, June 28** when the group is still with us, and all who gather can express thanks for this gift. We will have pictures of their work in next month's newsletter.

## **Crowded Clothing Room ----Diminishing Supply**

New Life's clothing ministry is a blessing to many as evidenced by the very crowded conditions on any given Tuesday or Wednesday morning.

The average number of neighbors shopping on Tuesday and Wednesday has increased since this time last year, (170 per month in '09 compared to 150 per month in '08). Yet, the number of dependents shopped for has remained the same (100 per month in '09 and 98 per month in '08).

How do we account for this difference in dependents? The answer is more single men and women who do not have dependents are shopping on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The average Sunday count for both '09 and '08 is 600-610 varying from 111 to 171 neighbors. A far greater number of men than women shop on Sunday, a minimal number of children are served on Sunday as well. Many neighbors eat breakfast and do not shop.

The average total monthly count which includes Sunday and weekday numbers has increased by 130 neighbors (3250 in '09 compared to 2119 in '08). Each month an average of 100 new neighbors come to be served.

The final outcome is that donations of men's jeans, khaki pants, tee shirts and sport shirts are in constant demand. The men particularly ask for jeans for work. Many who work in a restaurant need black pants.

Other items needed are: mosquito repellent, lip balm, foot powder, deodorant, sunscreen and mosquito repellent candles.

Knowing that budgets are tight, we trust that many of you will continue to help us serve our neighbors who have so much less than we.

Your continued support of clothing, personal items and monetary donations are so greatly appreciated. Our ministry depends upon your generosity and commitment to our mission of serving our marginalized neighbors.

**Vickie Moseley**  
Clothing Room Steward

### **Financial Secretary**

**Rebecca Naas**, member of King Ave. United Methodist Church has graciously volunteered as our financial secretary for the last 3 years. In this role, **Rebecca** records all giving each week, reconciles bank deposits, produces reports as necessary, and sends end of the year statements. **Tom Householder** is now taking over that responsibility. We thank both of these faithful disciples for sharing their time and talents to fulfill this necessary role in the maintenance of accurate financial records.

## 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

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:

### July Calendar

1-5

**Pastor Jennifer** on vacation

4



5 10:30 AM

**Worship—Sacrament of Holy Communion**

9 7:00 PM

Trustees meeting

11 9:00 AM

Ministry Board meeting

15

Newsletter deadline

24 6:00-8:00 PM

Friday Night Live—Christmas in July

26 3:00 PM

Sunday Family Dinner



27-Aug 1

**Pastor Laura** at Local Pastor's Licensing School

New Life United Methodist Church  
2009 Annual Conference Report  
**Greg Allenby**

The 2009 West Ohio Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church was held June 7-11 at Lakeside, Ohio. The lay delegates for the conference were **Marlene Haught** and myself. **Pastors Jennifer** and **Laura** were also present. The conference is the annual get-together of the UMC, where policies are debated and people exchanged ideas about worship.

I have to be honest about this – I was not really all that interested in going to conference. I came to it with reservations about debating issues of corporate worship. To me, God is personal and what matters is the condition of my heart, not any organized form of expression. I wasn't at all interested in debating the topics on the agenda – things like the extent of church inclusiveness, the establishment of a new Central Conference in response to rapid overseas growth, and requiring the adoption of local codes of ethics. These aren't issues of the heart. They are issues of corporate organization. They affect the form of our church, not its content. This is not what I want to spend my time thinking about.

My attitude changed. I saw people earnestly seeking God, people with great ideas about worship and people expressing themselves with humility. What I came to realize most, though, was the importance of the UMC for affecting social change. We voted on recommendations about universal health care, gambling and the occupation of Palestinian lands in Israel. I saw that the advantage of belonging to a large church organization is that it can get people's attention – people who affect public policy. I saw people reaching into scripture to be God's light in the world. I didn't agree with all the positions expressed, but I did see the Bible being used as the foundation of truth.

We are all called to be light in the world. Not everything in this world is of God's will, and as Christians we recoil when we see sin. I don't believe for one minute that God intends for there to be poverty, sickness and exploitation in any form. We are also called to do something about it. While I know that the only way to remove sin is through the redemptive work of Jesus, I came to appreciate the role our church plays in pointing out injustice. I know the Holy Spirit will testify to some who listen to the UMC message, sending them on their own journey to know God. That's pretty awesome. Praise God.



**Pastor Jennifer's Sermons Now Posted on Website**  
If you want to read one of **Pastor Jennifer's** sermons go to [www.newlifeunitedmethodist.org](http://www.newlifeunitedmethodist.org). Several of her sermons are posted there and more will be in the future.

# **Seventh Annual Season Kick-Off Tailgate Party**



The Buckeye Hall of Fame Café  
(Between King and Fifth Avenues on Olentangy River Road)

Save this Date

**Thursday, September 3, 2009, 5-8PM**  
(Thursday night before the season opener with Navy)

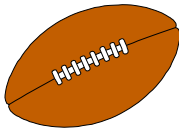
**To benefit people who are homeless and poor in Columbus  
through the ministries of  
New Life United Methodist Church at 25 W. Fifth Ave.**

We are expecting a Variety of Ohio State University Football Related Celebrities including:  
Brutus Buckeye, OSU Cheerleaders, OSU Pep Band  
And Matt, the Balloon Guy

Make a Donation

**Tailgate Food and Beverage buffet**  
A HUGE Buckeye Themed Silent Auction  
And several hundred Buckeye Fans

\$20 per ticket for Adults 18 and over  
\$10 for Kids 5-17  
Free for Kids under 5



BRING YOUR CAMERA



For more Information: Call 614-294-0134 or  
email [nwlifeumc1@att.net](mailto:nwlifeumc1@att.net)

Tickets will be available in the Gift Shop at The Buckeye Hall of Fame Café  
and at a variety of Churches around Central Ohio.

## **GO Bucks!**

Sponsored By  
**Buckeye Hall of Fame Café**

Add your business to this list of sponsors

# FINANCIAL



# NEWS

## Report of the Treasurer May 2009

|                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Checking Account  |                  |
| Beginning Balance | \$17,396.28      |
| Deposits          | 21,940.73        |
| Withdrawals       | <u>19,675.63</u> |
| Balance           | \$19,661.38      |

—Steve Waldron, Treasurer

| Receipts in         | <u>May 2009</u>    | <u>Year Total</u>   |
|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Total Plate         | \$7,385.93         | \$32,607.22         |
| Friends             | 1,836.80           | 6,021.80            |
| Partner Churches    | 6,250.00           | 17,101.96           |
| Breakfast Ministry  | 232.00             | 3,345.50            |
| Youth Ministry      | 3,561.00           | 7,251.00            |
| Clothing Room       | 300.00             | 1,065.00            |
| Parsonage Rent      | 0.00               | 1,150.00            |
| Memorial Gifts      | 50.00              | 425.00              |
| Group Meetings      | 870.00             | 2,200.00            |
| Chiller Fundraiser  | 0.00               | 958.00              |
| Healthcare Ministry | 1,270.00           | 27,385.46           |
| Flowers             | 0.00               | 244.00              |
| Maundy Thursday     | 0.00               | 547.75              |
| Bluegrass Concert   | 55.00              | 5,100.96            |
| MISC                | <u>130.00</u>      | <u>12,623.76</u>    |
| <b>Total</b>        | <b>\$21,940.73</b> | <b>\$118,027.41</b> |

-Tom Householder  
Financial Secretary

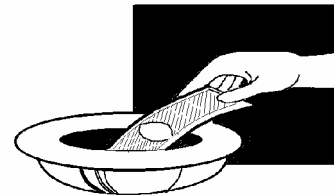
## Balance Sheet May 2009

### Assets

|                             |                     |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| City National checking acct | \$19,661.38         |
| Savings & Investments       | 152,841.97          |
| <b>Total Assets</b>         | <b>\$172,503.35</b> |

### Liabilities & Fund Balances

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| Withholdings                             | \$2,277.89          |
| Operations                               | 86,497.53           |
| Youth Ministry Fund                      | 7,545.95            |
| Misc. Ministry Fund                      | ( 11,726.04)        |
| Memorial Fund                            | 23,617.00           |
| Health Ministry Fund                     | 28,108.88           |
| Breakfast Ministry Fund                  | 20,681.41           |
| Clothing Room Fund                       | 5,610.35            |
| Pass Through Fund (flowers, etc)         | (2,924.52)          |
| Congreg. Benev (UMCOR, etc)              | 1,091.02            |
| Lillian Skeelee Fund                     | 11,723.88           |
| <b>Total Liabilities &amp; Fund Bal.</b> | <b>\$172,503.35</b> |



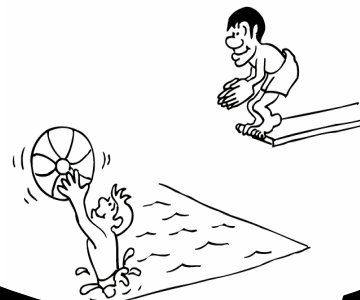
## Clothing Room Report May 2009

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

|                |              |
|----------------|--------------|
| Weekday Guests | 1,682        |
| Sunday Guests  | <u>672</u>   |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>2,354</b> |

# New Life News

**New Life  
United Methodist  
Church**  
25 West Fifth Avenue  
Columbus, OH 43201



# JULY



## 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 - **Marlene Haught**  
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**