

November
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

While all of life is a season of gratitude, when November arrives with the Thanksgiving holiday later in the month, we find our attention particularly directed toward giving thanks. Our hearts are full of praise for "every good and perfect gift [that] comes from above," thankful for God's generosity and abundant blessings in our lives. There are many ways to express our gratitude, but the one that is most consistent with the gospel is giving.

In **Cami Walker's** new book, "29 Gifts," she chronicles her practice of giving and how it has positively impacted her body and spirit. At age 32, she was diagnosed with Multiple Scoliosis, and became depressed, sleepless and in constant pain. A friend offered some advice: Stop thinking about yourself, and start giving away 29 gifts in 29 days. The giving cycle didn't cure her condition, but she was no longer too tired (or too bitter) to live her life. Her gifts took many different forms. She started "small," offering a tissue to a friend who was crying. She baked a pie and took it to a neighbor. And, she loves to hand flowers to people as they pass her on a busy sidewalk. As I listened to an interview with her, I started thinking of all the various gifts people have given me recently. Here are a few examples:

A box of chocolates brought back from a trip to Germany. **Beverly's** beautiful note of encouragement filled with reminders of the peace and comfort that Jesus gives us. The small hand painted metal sculpture of an angel that mysteriously appeared on my desk while I was on vacation. A friend completing a task for me when my schedule was overcrowded. **Kathy** bringing me purple flowers (my favorite color!) "just because." The beautiful prayer quilt the "**Prayers and Squares**" group at Trinity UMC made for **Trevor, Sara, Tristan and Alana**. Then every person who tied a knot in the quilt gave a precious gift of compassion and prayer to our family.

And when I think of all of the gifts, great and small, that have been given to New Life and its ministry, and therefore to our neighbors whom we serve, I am all the more overwhelmed, and thank God for each one of them. Various repairs to the vans; in addition to the used clothing, the many, many new items to be distributed through the clothing room (including coats, gloves, sweatshirts, towels, personal hygiene items, etc.); special books for the children's library; all of the donations for the Tailgate party; the *many* hours of volunteering in various ministries; and the list goes on. And I know these gifts are offered as expressions of gratitude for God's blessings, and a desire to bless others in small and significant ways.

In this season of giving thanks, I am committed to find ways to express my gratitude to God by giving a gift to at least one person each day. I know it will refresh my faith and heighten my awareness to God's gifts and the Spirit's leading in my life. Will you join me?

Grace and Peace, *Pastor Jennifer*

From the Minister of Youth and Families

Dear Friends,

How proud we were of our children as they led the National Children's Sabbath Day worship service last month! They led the call to worship, read scripture, said prayers, assisted in a baptism remembrance service, and more. **Rev. Dr. Gwen Roberts** helped lead the baptism service. Rev. Roberts is Director of Metropolitan Ministries of the UMC **West Ohio Annual Conference**, and stands up for children everywhere. We stood together in worship, inspired to work in the movement to improve the lives of children!

An exciting new way of organizing to improve children's lives is by establishing a new small group at New Life -- the "New Life UMC Child Advocacy Mission Group." (For information, please contact me.) This group will work on issues important for children who are in particular need of protection due to the far-reaching effects of poverty. Jesus welcomed children and blessed them, declaring them to be the ones to whom the kingdom of God belongs (Mark 10:13-16). As Jesus' followers, we must strive to bless them so they may be a blessing to others; and, we will be blessed in the process.

It takes a village to share God's blessings! In addition to the ongoing ministry work of our **New Life UMC** members and friends, blessings recently include two wonderful partners hosting our monthly pizza and dance party, "Friday Night Live!" for our children and families. First, **Capital Univ. Law School** students. Then, **King Ave. UMC's** youth and families, led by Youth Director **April Olt**. The pizza and soda has alternately come from **Church of the Messiah, UM** and a **Worthington UMC** family. We are blessed each Tuesday during our tutoring/mentoring program by our "snack angels" from **Trinity UMC**, headed by **Pamela Powell**, who also recently coordinated our "Super Saturday" visit to the Franklin Park Conservatory. Our friends from **Children's Defense Fund-Ohio** are coming for the third year in a row to our annual Coat Day to share information about the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), children's healthcare, Young Adult Leadership Training, and more. Our village is ever-expanding to reach our children.

The blessings that are part of the fast-approaching Advent and Christmas season will bring even more partners in ministry to spend time with New Life's neighborhood children. One of our favorite events at New Life is our annual "Make-and-Take Christmas Gift Workshop" December 5. Already, elves are at work, such as **Cathy Brunskill**, whose mission group at **Glenwood UMC** is providing and then preparing food and crafts for this special day.

Here are some ways to share your abundant blessings with children at New Life UMC:

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

Children's Choir & Bible study (in need of volunteers before meetings resume!)

Saturday (1st), 10 a.m. -12:30 p.m.: "Super Saturday" sports/culture/fun event

Love and prayers from *Pastor Laura*

(Please note new address: revlaurajyoung@yahoo.com)

Sixth Annual New Life Winter

Coat Extravaganza

Wednesday, November 4, 2009

9:00am-11:30am

The New Life Clothing Room is making final arrangements for our Sixth Annual Winter Coat Extravaganza. This is an awesome event when we provide coats, hats and gloves for our neighbors in need. Your generous help is needed to meet the huge demand for coats. We are serving many more neighbors in the clothing room and so a large response to this event is anticipated.



Winter coats that are clean, gently used with zippers that close and all buttons intact are needed. Coats with hoods in sizes ex-large, 1x, 2x, 3x, and 4x for **men** and **women** are in the greatest demand. Our neighbors "layer" and prefer a larger coat.

The larger size coats are harder to come by so we are particularly grateful for those who choose to purchase new coats in the above sizes.

Our supply of **men's "toboggans" and gloves** is never adequate. Donations of these items would be most welcome. Incidentally, we have more than enough new hats and gloves for women and girls at this time.

Here are some ways in which each church can be of great assistance:

- Size all coats and put them on a hanger prior to bringing them to New Life
- Many volunteers will be needed on the following days.
- Delivery days to New Life:

Monday November 2, 9:00-11:30 and 12:30-3:30pm

Tuesday, November 3, 9:00- 11:30 and 12:30-3:30pm

AND Wednesday, November 4, 8:00-12:30pm

With your continued commitment to this most important service to our neighbors, we will have another very successful Winter Coat Extravaganza. Thank you for caring.

PLEASE HOLD ALL SPRING AND SUMMER CLOTHES UNTIL MARCH 2010

—Vickie Moseley, New Life Clothing Room Steward
614-586-2101 or 614-766-0583

vickiemoseley@wowway.com

**No Casinos
Vote NO on issue 3**

1. Addiction—Within 50 miles of a casino, the prevalence of problem and pathological gambling roughly doubles. Studies show that between 30-50% of casino revenues come from addicts.

2. Suicide—About 50% of all pathological gamblers consider suicide. One in four will attempt suicide. One in 10 spouses of addicts will attempt suicide.

3. Bankruptcy—SMR Research Corporation found gambling to be “the single fastest growing driver of bankruptcy.” Numerous studies conclude that more than 20% of pathological gamblers file for bankruptcy.

4. Crime—A high percentage of problem gamblers resort to crime to support their addiction or to escape financial ruin. One National Institute of Justice study found that more than 30% of pathological gamblers who had been arrested reported having committed a robbery within the past year, about 13% said that they had assaulted someone, and 20% admitted to selling drugs.

5. Domestic Violence—A University of Nebraska Medical Center study concluded that problem gambling is as much a risk factor for domestic violence as alcohol abuse. National Research Council studies indicate that between one quarter and one half of spouses of compulsive gamblers have been abused. In Deadwood, South Dakota, after two years of casino gambling, child abuse cases increased 42%, while domestic violence and assaults increased 80%.

Destruction of Families—A Gamblers Anonymous survey revealed that 28% had been separated or divorced as a direct result of their gambling problems. A nationwide survey representing 2 million adults identified gambling as a significant factor in a previous divorce.

Casino Gambling Hurts Families



Church Conference scheduled

Our annual Church Conference will be held on November 5 at 6:30 p.m. at North Broadway United Methodist Church. At this meeting, we will gather with several other churches (most of whom are partners with us in ministry) for worship, and to learn about each other's ministries.

We will then meet as a church to celebrate ways we have grown in our ministry this year, and tend to some necessary financial and administrative business.

Members of the Administrative Council are expected to attend, but all members are encouraged to join us as well.

See Pastor Jennifer for more details.

Church Family Harvest Dinner

The Annual New Life Family Harvest Dinner (Thanksgiving Meal) will be **Sunday, November 22** after worship. Following our Stewardship Commitment Service, we will gather around the tables to celebrate God's abundance and enjoy a bounteous dinner together.

Each person or family is asked to bring a dish to share: vegetable, salad, or dessert. Or, perhaps you would be willing to prepare a turkey or ham for the meal.

If you would be willing to help with the set up and clean up of the meal, please speak with **Tricia Allenby**. Look for more details in this month's bulletins.



Are you interested in becoming a member of New Life UMC?

Membership in a congregation is different from other organizations and clubs. There are no specific criteria or qualifications to meet. You do not pay dues. Only you can determine whether you are ready to join. However, when you join, you are asked to make important commitments:

Will you follow Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior?

Will you support the church with your:

Prayers—praying for one another, and for our mission and ministry

Presence—being present in worship, and in the general life of the church

Gifts—being faithful in giving financially. God asks of us what we are able to give, in response to all that God has given us—and sharing talents and spiritual gifts.

Service—finding some way of giving your time and talent to build up the church and its ministries.

Membership is about involvement and relationship. We commit to become part of the Body of Christ and love one another as God loves each of us. If you are interested in becoming an active member of New Life, please speak with **Pastor Jennifer** or **Pastor Laura**. We will be receiving new members in the near future.

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)

*Clothing Room hours are 9:00 AM—11:30 AM

In addition to our weekly scheduled ministries as listed above, please note the following for November:

- | | | |
|-------|-------------------|---|
| 1 | 10:30am | ALL SAINT'S DAY
Communion |
| 3 | | Election Day <u>VOTE TODAY</u> |
| 4 | 9-11:30am | Coat Day |
| 5 | 9am-4pm
6:30pm | Coalition for the Homeless Forum
Church Conference |
| 7 | 10:30am | Fun First Saturday |
| 14 | 9:00am | Ministry Board |
| 15 | | Newsletter Deadline |
| 22 | 12:00pm | Harvest Dinner |
| 24-25 | | Clothing Room Closed
No Hospitality Breakfast |
| 25 | | No Bible Study |
| 26 | | Thanksgiving Day |
| 29 | 3:00pm | First Sunday of Advent
Sunday Family Dinner |



FINANCIAL



NEWS

Report of the Treasurer Sept. 2009

Checking Account	
Beginning Balance	\$12,493.22
Deposits	22,807.73
Withdrawals	<u>25,717.23</u>
Balance	\$9,583.72

—Steve Waldron, Treasurer

Receipts in	Sept 2009	and Year
Total Plate	\$3,545.73	\$55,456.75
Friends	1,684.00	16,465.80
Partner Churches	270.00	29,838.96
Breakfast Ministry	1,134.00	8,901.50
Youth Ministry	4,700.00	27,798.00
Clothing Room	1,185.00	3,415.00
Parsonage Rent	0.00	1,150.00
Healthcare Ministry	20.00	28,755.46
Memorial Fund	110.00	535.00
Insurance Reimburse	0.00	15,735.95
Flowers	0.00	244.00
Maundy Thursday	0.00	547.75
Easter	0.00	35.00
Christmas Offering	0.00	30.00
Group Meeting	420.00	3,880.00
Youth Skating Party	0.00	958.00
Buckeye Tailgate	9,739.00	14,929.00
Bluegrass Concert	0.00	5,130.96
Total	\$22,807.13	\$213,807.13

-Tom Householder,
Financial Sec'y

Balance Sheet Sept. 2009

Assets

City National checking acct	\$9,583.72
Savings & Investments	<u>156,107.97</u>
Total Assets	\$165,691.69

Liabilities & Fund Balances

Withholdings	\$2,872.29
Operations	85,957.38
Youth Ministry Fund	8,701.77
Misc. Ministry Fund	(12,775.63)
Memorial Fund	23,727.00
Health Ministry Fund	10,566.36
Breakfast Ministry Fund	29,718.71
Clothing Room Fund	7,033.43
Pass Through Fund (flowers, etc)	(2,924.52)
Congreg. Benev (UMCOR, etc)	1,091.02
Lillian Skeelee Fund	<u>11,723.88</u>
Total Liabilities & Fund Bal.	\$165,691.69

Worship Through Giving



Clothing Room Report Sept. 2009

Hours of Operation:	
Sunday	7-9:30 am
Tues. & Wed.	9-11:30 am
Weekday Guests 2187	
Sunday Guests	<u>649</u>
Total	2836

New Life News

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



November



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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Min. of Youth & Families- **The Rev. Laura Young**
Musician - **Joe Miller**
Custodians- **Dwight Richardson & Norm Moore**