

February  
2011

# 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.”***  
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## **From The Pastor**

I have encountered the subject of spiritual gifts in many contexts lately. Our medical director for our Health Ministry, **Dr. Joe Pool** once said that practicing medicine is as much an art and a gift as it is a science. And, he is blessed to be able to combine that with his faith as he cares for so many of our neighbors here. Another physician, our resident podiatrist with awesome “bedside manner,” **Dr. Jim Ritchlin** shared that he learned somewhere along the way in his upbringing in the church that not using your gifts to serve God and serve others was one of the greatest sins because it dishonored God. Indeed, it is squandering something God has entrusted to us.

In Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians, he says, “Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone...all spiritual gifts are activated by the one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.”

Recently, there have been individuals who have become aware of gifts they are blessed with, and are discerning ways of using those gifts in ministry here at New Life, and far, far beyond in others forms of mission and ministry. Gifts of organization and administration; gifts of compassion; gifts of generosity; gifts of hospitality; gifts of the arts revealed through our ministry with children and youth; and gifts of leadership, just to name a few.

There is a boy who participates in our youth ministry who is often a challenge. He can be disruptive, resistant, unwilling to cooperate, even out of control. But, he is also generous when given the opportunity. And, he is able to play the piano by ear. We conclude worship each Sunday by singing a brief song entitled, “We Will Stand.” One day, **Pastor Rosie** heard him picking out the notes of that song on the piano. Simply by hearing us sing the song for many Sundays, he figured out how to play the melody. What a gift! And it’s a gift that we do not want to see squandered. So, in the new structure of the youth program on Friday afternoons, he will be receiving piano lessons. We don’t know what will happen as a result, given that he doesn’t have access to a piano throughout the week, but at least we will be encouraging and cultivating that God given gift entrusted to him. We will rely on the Spirit to do the rest!

Hopefully you have discerned the spiritual gifts God has given you, and are seeking ways to use them to serve God and others. And let’s also seek to recognize the spiritual gifts in others, and encourage, even help them to use them as God intends. In this way we build up one another in love, strengthen the Body of Christ, and do amazing things to serve and glorify the Lord.

Grace and Peace,

*Pastor Jennifer*

## From the Minister of Youth & Families

Hey, it a brand New Year with no mistakes in it!

We have a lot to look forward to in this New Year! This is the time of the year that we tend to make promises of change. Exercise, diet, stop cursing, stop fighting, stop smoking, all of these are great plans but often times before the month even ends we have already given up. Change takes time. Lots of time. Change has to be worked into our lives.

Here is the process:

- Listen to what family, friends, doctors and pastors are saying about your behavior.
- Ask those closest to you to be honest with you. Ask them to confirm.
- Then make a decision...do you want to keep doing this habit, or do you want change?
- If you want to change you will benefit by praying...ask God to help you to change. Ask Him to remind you when you are falling back on old habits. Every time the bad habit shows up, pray and ask God to help you again.

Don't give up...ever, never!

This takes time...lots of time. Some days you'll do better than others, and some days you'll blow the whole day making the same mistake. The important thing is not to give up... Just keep on trying.

Practices makes perfect...just don't give up. Psychologists say at the minimum it takes 21 consistent days to create a habit, or eliminate a bad habit. Sometimes it takes a life time. Change only comes with practice. Change requires two things, practice and prayer.

God wants to change you to reflect Him. The Word speaks of spiritual gifts that we can receive in our lives. These gifts reflect His goodness. They are available with the asking and they are waiting for you.

What are the gifts? They are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. These are the fruits of the Spirit that Paul talks about in Galatians 5:22.

As you begin to make plans for your life this year...pick one of these spiritual fruits and ask God to bless you with it. Let His Spirit change your life!

### Schedule for New Life WISE Kids

Sunday	Tuesday	Fridays (1 <sup>st</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup> )	Forth Fridays
8:30 -11:30 AM	6:00 to 8:00 PM	4:30 to 6:30PM	6:00 to 8:00PM
New Life UMC	New Life UMC	New Life UMC	Thompson's Gym

Upcoming classes for Friday Night Live: Marshall Arts, Worship Dance, Guitar Lessons, Drama, Crafts, and Drawing. St. Luke's will be joining us for some of these events! We are looking for helpers...come join the fun!

—*Pastor Rosie*

## Miracle on Fifth Avenue

Dear New Life Church Family and Partners in Ministry:

Not so long ago—in 2006, in fact—the future of New Life looked grim indeed. We were a small congregation valiantly working to help our neighbors every way that we could, but the price of doing so was a constantly dwindling supply of cash reserves. We were not certain how long we could keep going, and we faced the very real possibility of closing our doors—to congregants and neighbors alike. As treasurer, I dreaded computing the twice monthly payroll because it usually meant taking money out of savings—and wondering how long I could keep doing that before it all disappeared. In January 2006, we were down to a General Fund balance of \$18,000—combined with total assets of \$97,000. To some that might not sound so bad, but when you consider that those balances were decreasing monthly and that our expenses were approaching \$200,000 a year, it was desperate.

But at the same time, we were unwilling to limit our mission of radical hospitality. In fact, we were dedicated to increasing our ministries, knowing that we were true to Christ's teachings. So we stayed the course—and the miracle started happening.

The congregation, partner churches, and friends gave what they could. Congregational giving that had been \$65,000 in 2006, grew to \$68,000 in 2008 and to \$89,000 in 2010 (during the greatest recession since the Great Depression). Our General Fund climbed from its desperate low of \$18,000 in 2006 to \$185,000 in 2008 and to \$321,000 now. We made good on our vow to expand our ministries and opened the Health & Wellness Center. When the boiler had to be replaced, we were able to use the funds from a memorial bequest to fully pay for it—and the list goes on and on.

Some might call the turn around luck, or better marketing, or better attention to finances—but we at New Life know better. We know that it is indeed a miracle, and maybe, just maybe, we shouldn't have been quite so grim back in 2006 and had complete faith that God would guide the way and provide—as He has.

A very wise person once counseled me to “work like everything depended on me; and pray like everything depended on God—and everything would turn out as it should.” I have never believed in that advice more than I do today—nor believed more in miracles.

--**Steve Waldron**, Treasurer



Welcome  
to our Church

**New members;**

**David Miller**

**Rickey Taylor**

## Lydia Guirguis Assigned by OSU College of Social Work to New Life



As part of my master program at the college of Social Work at the Ohio State University, I am given the opportunity to volunteer with the church as a field education intern. I am privileged to work with individuals who are facing financial hardship at this Church. I get to work with families and singles of various ages and backgrounds.

During the past few weeks, I have been updating the church resource binder, and bulletin. During breakfast, I have been going around talking to different people in an attempt to connect them to resources.

I started this internship hoping to learn more about homelessness. While learning about the issue, I have become truly overwhelmed with the compassion and love offered by everyone. Even though, I only started my internship at the beginning of this year, I have met amazing people, and witnessed how volunteers deliver God's love with no condition attached. Every day, I get to learn something new on professional, personal and spiritual level. I hope this field experience helps me set my path as a professional social worker.

What makes this experience invaluable is the support of my field instructor, **Alice Gulker**, and **Pastor Jennifer**.

On a personal note, I am a Prevention Educator for HelpLine of Delaware and Morrow Counties. In that position, I am responsible for educating students on sexual and dating violence awareness and prevention to students from elementary ages through high school. Prior to my work at HelpLine, I was an independent contractor for the Sexual Assault Network of Central Ohio. In that role, I advocated for survivors of sexual violence in the Emergency Rooms. I hold a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and minor in Sexuality Studies from The Ohio State University. I am currently seeking my masters in Social Work.

**-Lydia**

Dear **Pastor Jennifer**,

I am writing this letter to say thanks for all that you, **Ms Vickie** and the staff and volunteers have done for me, if it had not been for you guys here at New Life, I don't know where my life would be, or what it would be like, but because of you and your staff, when I wake up in the morning I see, New Life's hand everywhere in my humble apartment, and it brings joy to my heart; I tried to practice getting up in front of the church and saying this as tears would flow, these were not tears of sorrow but tears of joy! thanks again for every thing. **-Raymond**, the Homeless Valet

### Meaning in the Word

Words are important to God. So important that the Bible identifies Jesus as "the Word" in John 1:1. Words reflect the condition of our heart (Matt 12:34), and are identified as the "sword of the Spirit" (Eph 6:18). When God speaks, people need to listen. The majestic utterances of God provide us with the instructions we need to live right.

Part of the difficulty in understanding God's instruction is the inadequacy of words to express meaning. In Isaiah 26:3, the prophet Isaiah is praising God and says:

*"You will keep in perfect peace  
him whose mind is steadfast,  
because he trusts you."*

What do these words mean to you? Pause for a moment to answer this question before reading further, and you will be amazed at the inadequacy of the English language to capture these thoughts.

The original Hebrew words used by Isaiah in this passage are:

keep (Heb: *nasar*) – to guard and protect; used to denote guarding a vineyard or a fortress.

peace (*shalom*) – absence of strife, a satisfied condition, a state of peacefulness, a sense of well being; to be safe and complete.

mind (*yester*) – frame, pattern, image, conception, thought; our minds work to frame every circumstance, temptation and experience we have.

steadfast (*samak*) – to sustain, to be braced, to lean upon; we lean upon God's Word in times of trouble and know that it's the truth.

trust (*batach*) – to attach oneself, to confide in, feel safe, be confident, secure; picture a small child with her mother or father.

We sometimes talk about the literal interpretation of the Bible passages and how dangerous that can be. Literal interpretations are dangerous because they inadequately convey what God wants us to know. We stop short of understanding the richness of God's Word when we just skim over the words, or are satisfied with the first thoughts that come to mind. While "keep" can mean a number of different things to people, knowing that the original Hebrew word points to "protection" brings a very specific image of what God wants us to know.

Reading the Bible takes courage and it takes time. It requires us to put aside our inclination to ask "what does this mean to me?" and instead ask the question "what does God want me to know?" Lifting this petition up in prayer allows us to be instructed by the greatest teacher of all – God Himself. That's a blessing worth thinking about!

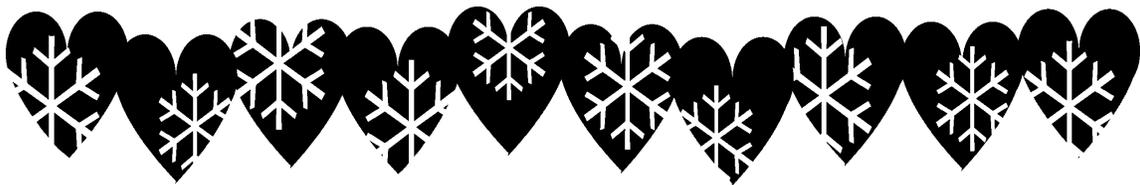
# IT'S HAPPENING THIS MONTH

**\*\*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: Friday Night Live (4-6 PM)  
 Cocaine Anonymous (8PM),  
 Drummers Alcoholic Anonymous (10PM)
- Saturdays: Drummers Alcoholic Anonymous (8:30PM)

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

2	7:00 PM	Bible Study
6	10:30 AM	Worship—Sacrament of Holy Communion
9	7:00 PM	Bible Study
10	6:30 PM	New Life Community Outreach Board meeting
14		HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY
16	7:00 PM	Bible Study
23	7:00 PM	Bible Study
25	4:00-6:00 PM	Friday Night Live @ Thompson Rec Center
27	3:00 PM	Sunday Family Dinner



# FINANCIAL



# NEWS

## Report of the Treasurer as of December 31, 2010

Checking Account	
Beginning Balance	43,715.72
Deposits	30,003.42
Withdrawals	<u>16,939.45</u>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>41,187.45</b>

—Steve Waldron, Treasurer

## Receipts in

	<u>Dec.</u>	<u>and Year</u>
Total Plate	8,744.38	89,479.07
Friends	6,640.00	27,864.39
Partner Churches	4,300.00	27,411.93
Breakfast Ministry	435.00	18,753.73
Youth Ministry	5,562.74	26,154.74
Clothing Room	794.14	6,452.00
Parsonage Rent	0.00	3,210.00
Healthcare Ministry	0.00	4,338.00
Memorial Fund	0.00	42,755.00
UMCOR	0.00	929.00
Misc. (inc. ins pymt)	1,600.70	41,756.72
CROP Walk	0.00	207.00
Group Meeting	420.00	5,140.00
Youth Ice Skate Party	0.00	1,566.00
Pastor Discretionary	198.50	1,124.50
Easter	0.00	541.00
Christmas/Tksgvg offer	852.96	877.96
Staff Christmas	675.00	675.00
Poinsettias & Lillies	280.00	573.50
Bluegrass Concert	0.00	5,868.50
Buckeye Tailgate	<u>0.00</u>	<u>21,403.75</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$30,503.42</b>	<b>\$327,081.79</b>

—Tom Householder,  
Financial Secretary

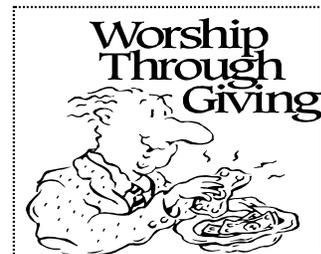
## Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2010

### Assets

City National checking acct	41,187.45
Savings & Investments	<u>290,873.30</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$332,060.75</b>

### Liabilities & Fund Balances

Withholdings	4,838.58
Operations	176,465.24
Youth Ministry Fund	16,549.17
Misc. Ministry Fund	(12,775.63)
Memorial Fund	66,482.00
Health Ministry Fund	14,907.30
Breakfast Ministry Fund	45,380.68
Clothing Room Fund	8,552.17
Pass Through Fund (flowers, etc)	(2,082.66)
Congreg. Benev (UMCOR, etc)	2,020.02
Lillian Skeelee Fund	<u>11,723.88</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$332,060.75</b>



## December, 2010

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

Weekday Guests 1019  
 Sunday Guests 574  
 Total 1593

# 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**

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