

March
2012

NEW LIFE NEWS

The
Monthly News
Magazine of
New Life
United
Methodist
Church



From The Pastor

I recently read the book, *Love Wins: A book about heaven, hell, and the fate of every person who ever lived* by Rob Bell. Doesn't that grab your attention! I encourage you to read this New York Times bestseller. It is a perfect book to read during the season of Lent, as we renew our focus on our faith and spiritual growth. It is written in a very conversational style, and while it's easy to read, it presents some thought provoking ideas to reflect upon. Whatever your theological perspective, any "issues" or questions you may have about faith, salvation, heaven or hell, you cannot help but be challenged and inspired to think about God's nature, motivation, and relationship with humanity in a new way. Grounded in scripture, and using many of Jesus' teachings and parables like the Rich Man and Lazarus, Sheep and Goats, and the Prodigal Son, he shows how God's very nature is love, and God always acts in ways consistent with that nature. Whatever we do or don't do cannot and does not change that. We choose whether we will live a life grounded and filled with that love, even when we don't always agree with how God offers it.

For example, when we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion, we are humbled and grateful that we have been invited to the Lord's Table. Everyone without exception is invited to come and feast on this meal of grace. But, we are also reminded that it is the **Lord's** table, so we don't have a say in who is there. We don't decide what the requirements are for receiving an invitation and having a reserved seat at the table. We don't even get to decide who is sitting next to us! Only Jesus has the authority to make the seating arrangements. So, how we feel about the people sitting with us, or what we think of other individuals who also received an invitation, will determine whether we experience it as a heavenly banquet, or something far from it! The infinite, unconditional, generous, all inclusive love of Christ is overflowing and extravagantly given. We decide how we will respond to that love, including how we respond to God's way of extending that love to others. There's one party. One banquet. One table. Heaven and hell are both possibilities. **But Love Wins!** Does that spark your interest? It's worth reading the book from beginning to end to understand this concept better than I can articulate it here.

At New Life, I hope all who come experience the inviting, accepting, transforming, life giving love of God. I hope that we not only get a glimpse of the kingdom of heaven, but also realize that we are actually participating in it right here and now. Even when there are difficult moments — tension among neighbors in an overcrowded dining room, growing needs and demands, theological differences, misunderstandings and even conflicts — that we continue to remember and embrace the good news that God has the final word, and therefore **Love always Wins.**

May Love Win within the community of New Life and in your life.

Grace and Peace, *Pastor Jennifer*

That is so Tempting!

Have you ever walked down the hallway at school and found a book bag? When you opened it up it had a lunch, sweater and a wallet with money it. Did you think to yourself, I'll just slip out this money and put it in my pocket, no one will know? This is called temptation. Maybe it wasn't a wallet full of money, maybe it was doing something you were told not to do. Maybe your mom told you that you had to stay home while she ran to the store, but instead you went out to join your friends to play a game of "hoops."

Temptation comes at us in many different ways. Did you know the Jesus was tempted too! We first read about the temptation he faced while in the dessert. He met Satan face to face. Satan wanted Jesus to fall down and worship him in exchange for a loaf of bread. Jesus was really hungry because he had been fasting for forty days. Jesus used scripture to counteract the temptation. He said, "It is written than man cannot live by bread alone." Satan tempted him two more times. Every time the Satan tried to tempt Jesus he referred to Scripture to resist the temptation.

There are many scriptures we can use to help us overcome temptations. Here are a few to try out:

"Love the Lord God with all your heart, soul and mind."

"Love your neighbor as yourself."

"Thou shall not lie."

"Thou shall not steal."

"Honor thy mother and thy father."

"I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength."

Resisting temptation is an everyday occurrence. Sometimes we are good at it, other times we fail. The important thing is to remember to get up and try again. Just because you fail doesn't make you a loser. We are winners not because we are perfect, but because we are forgiven.

Jesus came to help us overcome temptations. He loves us so much that he went to the cross so we could be forgiven when we fall into temptation. He forgave us through his death and resurrection. Remember his great love for you and remember to use scripture whenever you start to fall into temptation. It really helps!

Be blessed! **Pastor Rosie**

Dates to Remember:

Plugged In March 6th, 20th, and 27th

Friday Night Live March 23rd

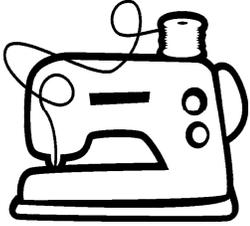
No Plugged In March 13th



*To Pastor Jennifer, Pastor Rosie, and the congregation of New Life: Thanx for all your prayers and concerns. Your prayers are being heard and answered! We love you and miss you!
Love, Chris and Rodgett Walker*

Future Fundraisers

Planning is already underway for our **Bluegrass Festival** this spring, and the **Buckeye Tailgate Party** in the fall. We'd love to have your help in making these fundraisers successful!! If interested in being part of the planning and implementation for either event, please contact **Pastor Jennifer** (nwlifeumc1@att.net). Last year, over \$25,000 was raised for our outreach ministries through these two events. Let's make this year even better!



NEEDED: Volunteers to help make "Ugly Sleeping Bags." No prior sewing experience is necessary. Just come to the New Life church dining room on the first and third Wednesdays of each month from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. and help the other New Life Knotters make homemade sleeping bags. The Clothing Room has a large call for these and the more volunteers (men and women), the more sleeping bags produced for our neighbors. And, thanks to **Ann Smith** of Trinity UMC, we now have a sewing machine!

Homeless donate to the poor

By: Meredith Heagney

The Columbus Dispatch - January 11, 2012

You don't think homeless people would donate money to the poorest of the poor. But that's just what happened in recent weeks at Vineyard Church of Columbus' Fifth Avenue food pantry (Fruit of the Vine), said the **Rev. Rich Nathan**, senior pastor of the megachurch near Westerville.

Vineyard has many ministries, one of which serves a leper colony in Zambia, in Africa.

Recently, one of the church's ministers posted a notice at the food pantry at 181 E. Fifth Ave. saying there would be a collection for the lepers. These lepers live in extreme poverty and are stigmatized and isolated from society.

The men and women who attend the food pantry and its church services do not have much, but they had a little, and they gave it, **Nathan** said. In about two weeks, they raised nearly \$550. About 35 "regulars" come to a Monday night service. Some are homeless, and others are simply poor.

Still, they scrounged the money up however they could and turned it in in a big plastic bag, **Nathan** said. The story will be told on video at upcoming services at Vineyard.

Nathan said he was inspired.

"The notion that those who are experiencing poverty in America would be concerned about extreme poverty (in other parts of the world), tells me these folks are the followers of **Jesus**," **Nathan** said.

"You don't need a lot to be able to give to somebody else."

Editor's note: Fruit of the Vine has been a long time partner in ministry in our community.

Clothing Room News

January flew by fast, and already the season of Lent is here when we reflect upon how we are measuring up to what God expects of us and prepare ourselves for the celebration of Easter.

It is also during this time that Trinity UMC and New Life UMC sponsor **Easter on Fifth** to raise funds to buy blankets, sheets, pillows, pillow cases and sleeping bags for the New Life Clothing Room. This Lenten mission project will culminate on Good Friday, April 6 in a worship service held in Trinity sanctuary. **Pastor Jennifer** will preach. All are invited to give what they can to support this mission project, and then celebrate with worship at noon and a lunch that follows.

Presently the greatest need of the Clothing Room is men's pants; jeans and work pants are preferred. We can also use shirts, sweat shirts etc. We often experience Divine Economy of Abundance. One Sunday we had no toothpaste or toilet tissue. Both items were supplied within minutes of opening the clothing room....definitely God providing our needs. Fifty pair of pants came this past Sunday from Meadow Park Church of God just after an appeal was given by email. **God does supply, but God needs the help of each of us!**

The awesome generosity of our partner churches and many individuals never ceases to be most humbling. We are grateful for: 150 Christmas hygiene packages, hundreds of pairs of socks, Fall and January school supplies, new coats, boots, and jeans, countless hats (many hand knit), gloves and scarves, dozens of wash cloths, new blankets, sheets, pillows and sleeping bags, monthly gifts of deodorant, laundry detergent, tooth paste, tooth brushes, dish detergent, foot powder and heavy socks stuffed with hygiene items, plus bags and bags of quality used clothing. Weekly our coffers are filled, and just as quickly, they become empty!

In addition to the **faithful volunteers** who each week "run the store", a **Department of Veterans Affairs representative** interviews veterans seeking assistance, an **OSU nursing class** provides basic health checks and flu shots, and assists as needed in the clothing room or kitchen and **Department of Health nurses** provide basic health service on Wednesdays. **Graham Charter School students** help with sorting and putting clothes on the racks. Chairs in the New Life choir loft, assembly room and parlor shine from their handy work. For several years a **talented lady entertains us with piano music** often accompanied by some neighbors who enjoy singing.

Twice a month the **New Life Knotters** gather to make home made sleeping bags. Recently a gentleman who had just gotten an apartment, but had no bed, was delighted to receive a homemade sleeping bag and a "crocheted" plastic bag pad to soften the hard floor. He later reported that it really worked!

In January **Trinity Wee Moms** provided school supplies that were distributed to 138 students including the New Life youth who attend Plugged-In. On Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, a group of **OSU students** washed the dining room chairs.

Each Sunday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning, God's people showing God's love fill the lower level of New Life church! For this great blessing we say "Thank you!"

The Clothing Room is experiencing an increase of neighbors seeking help. Each day we see many new faces. **Many pairs of socks and underwear are given! We encourage all churches to have a sock and underwear collection sometime during this year.** We continue to be dependent upon the generous support of our partner churches and friends to place the ministry of New Life in high priority and to continue to support our outreach materially, financially and with "hands on" service. You will be blessed!!!

—Vickie Moseley, Clothing Room Steward

EDWINA ROBINSON IS ALIVE!

Edwina might well quote **Mark Twain**, after hearing that his obituary had been published in the New York Journal, by saying; "The reports of my death are greatly exaggerated." In spite of all of the very strong "street rumors" to the contrary, **Edwina** IS alive and safe.

For a little context, until recently, **Edwina** was living on the cement couch on High Street, just south of 5th Ave, even on the hottest and coldest days and nights. She is well known in the neighborhood, and has some health problems, so when she "disappeared" in January many became concerned about her. Articles memorializing her appeared in **Street Speech**, a newspaper that highlights issues of homelessness, and is sold by vendors who are currently or formerly homeless. But, when sources were checked, we discovered that reports of **Edwina's** death were all rumors. While **Edwina** appears to many passersby to be an isolated homeless woman, she actually has a family who love her and try to care for her, AND she has a church family (actually three different church families) who give her much each week. She had EMTs, Columbus Police and Social Service providers looking for her for more that two weeks.

When an article about her appeared in **The Columbus Dispatch** about the mystery of her whereabouts and possible death, she immediately called New Life and yelled into the phone, "**Ms. Jennifer, I'm here! I'm ALIVE!!**" How wonderful that she knew that our extended community of faith was concerned about her, and wanted us to be the first to know that she was OK! There was much rejoicing and relief that our friend — difficult as she could be sometimes — is in a safe place where she is getting the care that she needs.

Since that time, **Pastor Jennifer** has visited and shared with her the extent of the search for her. She is absolutely amazed that there was such drama and attention directed toward her. Many volunteers in the Clothing Room, and in her church family have given **Edwina** a "card shower" expressing their care and concern for her. As she opened and read each one, she did so as if it were a priceless treasure. She has never felt so loved in her entire life.

Edwina is just one of the hundreds of people in our city who sleep outside every night throughout the year. She reminds us why what we do is important, and why work to reduce homelessness and the ripple of effects it has on people's lives (including health problems) is so important. There are many agencies and organizations around the city who are working to care for immediate needs, as well as address systemic causes. If you are interested in taking the next step of working with them, you can go to www.columbushomeless.org for more information about how you can help.

For now, if **Edwina** could quote Mark Twain, we will quote the author of the Gospel of Luke:

"We had to celebrate and rejoice, because this (sister of ours) was dead and has come to life, she was lost and has been found!" (Luke 15:32)

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 (1:30 PM & 7:30 PM)

Narcotics Anonymous (7 PM)

Mondays: Drummers Alcoholic Anonymous (8 PM)

Tuesdays: Clothing Room*, Hospitality Breakfast, Plugged In (6-8 PM),

Wednesdays: Clothing Room*, Bible Study (7 PM),

Drummers Alcoholic Anonymous (8 PM)

Thursdays: Breakfast Ministry Preparations,

Drummers Alcohol Anonymous (8 PM)

Fridays: Cocaine Anonymous (8 PM)

Drummers Alcoholic Anonymous (9 PM)

Saturdays: Drummers Alcoholic Anonymous (8:30 PM)

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

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

4	10:30 a.m.	Sacrament of Holy Communion
7	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study
8	10 a.m.	Buckeye Tailgate Party planning meeting
	6:30 p.m.	New Life Community Outreach board meeting
11		Daylight Saving Time begins
14	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study
17		St. Patrick's Day
21	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study
23	6:00-8:00 p.m.	Friday Night Live
25	3:00 p.m.	Sunday Family Dinner
28	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study



**Turn Clocks forward
one hour before you
go to bed on Sat.
March 10.**



**Report of the Treasurer
as of Jan. 31, 2012**

Checking Accounts	
Beginning Balance	22,025.71
Contributions	19,183.22
Expenses	<u>21,406.90</u>
Ending Balance	<u>19,802.03</u>

—Steve Waldron, Treasurer

Receipts in	<u>Jan</u>	<u>and</u>	<u>Year</u>
Total Plate	4,028.68		4,028.68
Friends	7,462.00		7,462.00
Partner Churches	5,357.00		5,357.00
Breakfast Ministry	2,285.00		2,285.00
Youth Ministry	250.00		250.00
Clothing Room	275.00		275.00
Parsonage Rent	650.00		650.00
Healthcare Ministry	500.00		500.00
Christmas Poinsettia	16.00		16.00
Christmas Offering	1.00		1.00
Group Meeting	445.00		445.00
UMCOR	0.00		0.00
Miscellaneous	0.00		0.00
Easter	0.00		0.00
Pastor Discretionary Fund	50.00		50.00
New Life Comm. Outrch	<u>120.00</u>		<u>120.00</u>
Total	\$21,439.68		\$21,439.68

—Tom Householder,
Financial Secretary

**Balance Sheet
as of Jan. 31, 2012**

<u>Assets</u>	
Checking accounts	18,358.26
Savings & Investments	<u>344,292.40</u>
Total Assets	\$362,650.66

<u>Liabilities & Fund Balances</u>	
Withholdings	6,506.74
Operations	206,776.45
Youth Ministry Fund	19,371.96
Misc. Ministry Fund	-12,775.63
Memorial Fund	67,692.00
Breakfast Ministry Fund	44,494.58
Health Ministry Fund	15,876.40
Clothing Room Fund	3,878.48
Pass Thru Fund (flowers, etc)	-3,704.22
Congreg Benev (UMCOR, etc)	2,810.02
Lillian Skeelee Fund	<u>11,723.88</u>
Total Liab & Fund Bal	\$362,650.66



Jan., 2012	
Hours of Operation:	
Sunday	7-9:30 am
Tues. & Wed.	9-11:30 am
Weekday Neighbors	1129
Sunday Neighbors	<u>851</u>
Total	1980

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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