

# THE PETOSKEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## BELLTOWER

Volume 12 Number 4

April 2007

Dear Friends,

When a hurricane hit South Florida, Norena's home was one of many that was severely damaged. The elderly woman received an insurance settlement, and the repair work began. However, when the money ran out, so did the contractor, leaving an unfinished home with no electricity. Norena has been living without power ever since.

The astounding part of this story is that the hurricane was not Katrina, but Andrew. Hurricane Andrew struck in 1992. Norena has been living in that dark, unfinished house for 15 years. No heat when the winter chill settled over South Florida. No air conditioning when the mercury climbed into the 90's and the humidity clung to 100 percent. Not one hot shower.

Without money to finish the repairs, Norena just got by with a small lamp and a single burner. Her neighbors didn't seem to notice the absence of power. Acting on a tip, the mayor of Miami-Dade got involved. It only took a few hours of work by electrical contractor Kent Crook to return power to the house.

CBS News says Norena plans to let the water get really hot, and then take her first bubble bath in a decade and a half. "It's hard to describe having [the electricity]...to switch on," she said. "It's overwhelming." -KUTV "Woman Turns Lights on After 15 Years in the Dark," KUTV.com (2-17-07)

The irony of this story for me is not that Norena went without electrical power for fifteen years. The irony is that we go through life without the power of God working in our lives. When Paul writes the church in Ephesus, he says that he prays continually that *the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better...that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened so that you may know the hope to which you have been called...that you would realize the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints...and his incomparably great power for us who believe.* Then Paul describes the power that can be at work in us and among us. Paul says the power is like the *working of his mighty strength, the same strength God exerted in raising Christ from the dead!* [Ephesians 1:15-23]

**Our Mission:** We exist to seek and nurture lifelong followers and servants of Jesus Christ.

Dr. James Mitchum, Pastor  
Deborah Cole, Ministries Director  
Sue Perry, Office Manager  
LeaAnne Montel, Children's Ministries  
Michelle Mitchum,  
Early Service Music Director  
Gertrude Fairbairn, Organist  
Charles Murray, Custodian  
Joan Kahgee,  
and Kristin Schmoke, Nursery

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Sunday Services are held at 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. The second service is broadcast live on WJML, 1110 AM. Communion is offered on the first Sunday of each month. Sunday School for children, youth and adults is at 10:00 a.m.

Experienced childcare is available throughout the morning for children ages 0-3. Parents are given pagers as they drop off their children for added peace of mind and safety.

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The Easter power that raised Christ from the dead if allowed, can accomplish anything needed in our lives.

May your Easter be most blessed,

Pastor James

### Holy Week Services:

#### Palm Sunday

April 1

One Service at 10:00 AM

#### Maundy Thursday

April 5

7:00 PM Worship

#### Good Friday

April 6

Noon Community Worship  
at PUMC

#### Easter Sunday

April 8

One Service at 10:00 AM

### Membership Exploration and Orientation

Interested in learning more about PUMC, joining our church or transferring your membership? Join Pastor James and Deb Cole for three evenings of exploration and orientation (6-9 PM) on Sunday, April 22, April 29, and May 6. Childcare is available if needed. Please contact Deb or the church office to sign up.



### Statistically Speaking

February 04 Early Service: 135  
Second Service: 97

February 11 Early Service: 163  
Second Service: 128

February 18 Early Service: 143  
Second Service: 126

Ash Wednesday: 95

February 25 Early Service: 141  
Second Service: 142

Total Attendance for the month of February: 1170

YTD General Operating Fund Income: \$80,429  
(With 310 giving units, this averages only \$129.73 per month per person/family given to the General Operating Fund.)

Year-to-date Expenses: \$70,080  
Year-to-date **Income** or Loss as of Feb. 28, 2007:  
\$10,349

Mortgage Balance as of February 28, 2007:  
\$890,648

Thanks to your generosity in the month of Feb., the following projects have felt the touch of God's people:

- UMCOR: \$163
- Great Gospel Singout Globes: \$77
- Blanket Sunday: \$181
- Racial/Ethnic Local Church: \$90
- Manna: \$32
- Souper Bowl Sunday (Manna): \$501
- Appalachia Mission: \$4495
- Tracy Tooley: \$207
- South Africa Mission Trip: \$2210

#### 2007 Budgets:

##### General Operating Fund

Projected Income: \$442,930  
Projected Expenses: \$441,822  
Projected Difference: \$1108

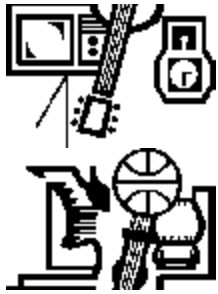
##### Church/Parsonage Building Maintenance Fund

Projected Income: \$44,010  
Projected Expense: \$29,000  
Projected Difference: \$15,010

*Respectfully submitted,  
Sue Herrington, Finance Officer*



All women of the church are encouraged to attend the first spring meeting of the UMW. It will be held on Wednesday, April 18 at 11:00 AM in the fellowship hall. Bring a sack lunch.



### **World-famous Rummage Sale to be Held May 11 & 12!**

The church office has already received several calls asking, "When is your spring rummage sale?"

So.....It's time to check your closets, cupboards, attics, basements and garages for items to donate for the United Methodist Womens's Rummage Sale on May 11 and 12! Items you no longer need may become prized possessions to someone else! Please bring in items that are clean, usable, and in good working order, starting April 27 (Not before that date, please). Leave them in the back of the fellowship hall.

#### ***Many hands make light work!***

Please volunteer to help by calling or e-mailing Susan Wirgau: 347-5463/onthebay@chartermi.net. Workers will be needed from Tuesday morning through Saturday noon. We need cooks, movers, packers, pricers and sorters! We thank you in advance for your support of this project!



Your Finance Committee has pledged to keep the congregation abreast of the church's finances. As we reported to you, giving in January was truly exciting. For our General Operating Fund, which covers most of the everyday expenses, including utilities, salaries and programs, February was considerably less generous. We received only a little over half what we received in January. Our receipts were \$6,088.54 less than our expenses in February.

For the Church Buildings' Maintenance Fund, our receipts were \$2,315.81 more than expenses for February. This was a more encouraging number. The funds given in February for the Debt Retirement were \$4976.33, which was not enough to cover the \$6120.00 mortgage payment that was debited from our checking account.

Given the February deficit, the Finance Committee made the difficult decision to hold off on paying this month's Ministry Shares to the West Michigan Conference for March. The need for our connectional giving through the Ministry Shares is very important, but it is equally important that we keep our church on a stable financial footing. It is our hope that a more consistent level of weekly and monthly giving will allow us to stay on track with both our church obligations and Ministry Share commitments.

From a financial standpoint, we are entering our most challenging months (March – September) of the year. In order for us to meet all of our obligations (including Ministry Shares) we need a weekly average of \$35.09 per week per giving unit (an individual or family; depending on how you pledge). February's average was well below *breakeven* at \$26.59. We have months (December) in which the weekly average is well in excess of breakeven, but it is important for everyone to be aware of the importance of smoothing our giving habits in order for PUMC to avoid cash flow shortfalls/crunches. As always, we appreciate your support. Please feel free to contact any of the Finance Committee members with any questions. Also, please feel free to attend a monthly Finance Committee meeting.

### ***Little Things Mean a Lot!***

Bring in your: Flip tops from pop cans for Grand Rapids Community House, Campbell labels for McCurdy School in New Mexico, and Olsen's Food Center sales slips for Christian education.

### **Manna Donations for April:**

Boxes of pancake mix  
Bottles of pancake syrup



Greetings to Everyone,

Prayers have been answered! I have received formal permission from the government head of the school to have all of the kids' eyes checked. A list has been started with the kids known to have vision problems. According to the principal, there are between 60-70 kids with problems. This is out of over 300 kids. I expect that the number will be greater. Currently, not one child wears glasses. We will also try to help a girl with

vision problems related to brain surgery. Please continue to pray for her.

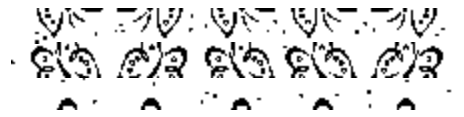
In addition to the exams, Bill and I have decided to purchase all of the glasses that will be needed. We will also be returning to Cabo San Lucas, in late April or early May, to personally deliver the glasses to the children.

My time in Cabo is drawing to a close, as I have only two more classes with the children. They were very disappointed to hear of this, and indicated so, with lots of frowns and sad faces. I have exceeded my expectations for a bilingual library for the school. My goal was to leave them with at least 20 bilingual books. I now have 35 bilingual books for them, plus a crate full of English books! Plus, each student that I teach, will go home with a new box of crayons, and a new bilingual coloring book.

The principal is extremely grateful for all the donations to the school. I am amazed at what I have been able to accomplish through the grace of God, my church family, and a translator. Especially, due to my inability to communicate effectively in Spanish. I am now taking Spanish lessons here in Cabo San Lucas, and will continue to do so after I return home. Of course, the kids don't seem to mind my lack of knowledge where their language is concerned. They have truly impressed me with the speed that they are learning. They are now reading simple sentences off the board.

Thanks to everyone for your donations and for your prayers. God is so good! I look forward to seeing all of you on Easter Sunday.

*Blessings to all,  
Connie Lenau*



## Celebration Garden

As I write this, on the first day of spring, I looked out at the garden and could see 3-4 inches of the daffodils already coming up! They are among the most determined flowers I have met!!

Plans for the coming season were discussed at our March meeting. The Reflection Fountain area will get a major face lift. Ongoing plantings and a work bee are planned, but no date has been set. Nature is our "bottom line" for scheduling purposes.

There continues to be a growing trend toward cremation in the United States. Our Celebration Garden Packets (available on the Welcome Center Table) have answers to your questions. If we can be of help, please contact us.

We meet next at 4:00 PM, April 11, at the church. Please join us! As always, please contact us for information about the Celebration Garden.

*Meredith Richter (347-9717)  
Ralph Janka (549-2591)  
Celebration Garden Co-Chairs*

## Josiah Trip Update

God has provided 35 people for the June Josiah Trip to the Appalachia Service Project. Please begin to pray for the families we will be serving as well as for the following individuals: Matt Bailey, Jan Biddick, Ellie Brubaker, Tim Brubaker, Ryan Brummeler, Ginger Downey, Tim Downey, Frank Duiven, Lois Duiven, Ed Eisch, Tim Eisch, Fred Fry, Barb Fry, Brooke Hotchkiss, Scott Hotchkiss, Josh Lycka, Megan Malone, Mike Malone, Shane Malone, Susie Marvin, Alexandra Myers, Susan Norris, Jill Patterson, Bill Peek, Ali Pepin, Andrew Rapin, Katherine Rapin, Jill Schodde, Joe Schodde, Krista Scott, Chase Shawn, Gwyn Smith, Ron VandenBrink, Eric Wagar, and George Winn. Also, pray for fundraising for the trip, which will include a special offering on Sunday, April 22.

## Capital Ringers - Our Guests

Our handbell choir would like to be able to provide housing for the Capital Ringers after they perform here in April. If anyone would be able to house a member or two overnight on Saturday, April 14, after the concert, please contact Deb Cole.



well. The funds raised will be used for monthly service and mission projects, and supplement youth mission trips throughout the year. Have you ever tasted poi? Well now is your chance. This year we will serve a Hawaiian meal with samplings of traditional fare! Come and join in the fun. Tickets will be available in April.

## GET YOUR TICKETS!

ALOHA

Wednesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>

5:00 – 6:30 PM

The middle school and high school annual fundraiser dinner and silent auction is almost here. This year we are planning a live auction as

## Member Care/Evangelism

I was talking to a fairly new member recently and they told me when they spoke to someone else who was new, they were told “Wow! I have been coming here for awhile now, and you are the first person who has really talked to me.”

Now, this really concerns me. We need to be very *INTENTIONAL* about watching for new faces and reaching out to those people. Please, please, please do not be shy or afraid to greet someone and chat with them for a few moments. We are a FAMILY. We are Christ’s family and we need to treat everyone as if they are Christ visiting us personally.

I am surprised at the lack of response to the greeter sign-up sheets. Please take the time to choose a date to serve as a greeter. You will enjoy it and you will be much appreciated. We have sign-up sheets for each service on the table as you first come in the main doors to the church.

We will be offering the Sunday School class “Share Jesus Without Fear” again in April. Please watch for announcements of which week. You will be hearing from some people who took the first class and have found it very helpful. Hopefully, you will be inspired to try the class yourself. We all need to be sharing our faith and this is a tool that can be very helpful for any of us who are uncomfortable in doing so.

*May God bless each and every one of you.*

*Sue Herrington*

*Member Care/Evangelism Chair*



## Help!

Someone left a yellow bag (Cutler’s) in the church office about five weeks ago. It has no name or label on it. Inside are baby blankets and an afghan. I don’t know if someone was to pick it up here, or where it is supposed to go! Please let me know.

*Sue Perry, Secretary*



## Prime Timers Plan Mystery Trip

Mark your calendar for the annual Hayes Mystery Trip Friday, April 13! We will leave the church by 9:00 AM to be on schedule! Hubert advised, “We’ll plan a stop for lunch and a surprise, depending on the stamina of the group. You won’t need your downhill skis!” Sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex if you plan to attend.

**~ Adult Sunday School Classes and Bible Studies ~**

**“Boundaries with Kids”** led by Joelle Wilcox and Tom Tietjen.

**“The Papa Prayer”** led by Jane Andrews and Martha Radcliffe.

**“Share Jesus Without Fear”** for those who missed the first class – led by Sue Herrington. Begins April 15 in room 10.

**Thursday Morning Women’s Bible Study** – Study of Philippians and Colossians 9-11 AM led by Charisse Tietjen (continues)

**Wednesday evening Women’s Bible Study** – “Daniel: Lives of Integrity – Words of Prophecy” led by Susan Norris and Nancy Raynal meets at 6:45 PM. (following family night dinner).

**Tuesday Morning Men’s Bible Study** - with Pastor James at 6:45 AM.