

THE PETOSKEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

BELLTOWER

Volume 12 Number 7

August 2007

Dear Ones,

Grace and peace to you.

In Ecclesiastes the Teacher says, *There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven.* [Ecclesiastes 3:1-8] He then goes on to list some twenty-eight opposite activities. Now that's all fine and good, but do you ever feel like there's never really enough time? I do. I do, especially about now. When you realize that it's August and summer is well on its way to being gone for another year.

Time passes way too fast. The Apostle James would write, *You do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.* [James 4:13-16] James is talking about not boasting about what we will do tomorrow and the need to take action today.

We live with a sense that there is always tomorrow. Yet the Psalmist and other Biblical writers again and again affirm our need to *count our days*. When I meditate on these ideas, I'm struck with two possibilities. One could be depressed over the lack of guarantees about tomorrows, OR a person can see that every day is an opportunity. An opportunity to grow in Christ and find ways to be a servant.

To grow in Christ is to share in worship, fellowship, and learning, that leads to a closer walk with our Lord who loves to be in relationship with us. To be a servant, is to seek opportunities and act upon them. As the Apostle James would say, *to do the good we ought to do.*

Begin today, don't wait until tomorrow.

May God bless, guide and use you,

Pastor James

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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Summer Schedule is one service only at 9:30 a.m.

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.

Tell Them "Thanks!"

One of the joys of Worship Council is to note persons who share their gifts and talents to make our worship services flow with God's love. There are 200 cards with names of individuals and families who have served in one way or another during the year. Have you ever thought there could be so many serving? The Holy Spirit flows in our services of worship because these servants open their hearts to sharing their gifts. We are a very blessed congregation.

Among those who serve are those individuals who serve weekly (or nearly so) with their music. As you know, music is vital to worship and so we wish to acknowledge the selfless gift of time our musicians give. We thought you might like to see the names of those who have served. It is so much fun to read through this list of names as there are so many.

It is the praise band, under the direction of Michelle Mitchum, that leads the music in the first service. Those who have served in the band this year include:

Sandy Weber, Alex Myers, BJ Wirgau, Susan Malone, Brett Taylor, Kelsey Nuorala, Robin Scott, Angie Santos, Zoey Reager, Nick Eisch, Caleb Mitchum, Chuck Smith, Jeanne Longtin, Mike Malone, Dave Jakubiak, Charisse Tietjen, Steven Robinson, Shane Malone, Megan Malone, Brent Woodard, Barb Fry, Fred Fry, Jane Andrews, Holly Furgeson, Rachel Mantha, Richard Mason, Billy Scott, Dan Cole, Tracy Tooley, Lonnie Woodard.

We are most blessed to have Gertrude Fairbairn as our organist. She had to take a few weeks off when she had surgery on a finger. Once again we counted our blessings when Dennis Hughes offered to play some of those weeks. Also filling in was a newcomer to the north, Marje Williams, and one very well-known in the north, Elizabeth vonNolting. Everyone loves it when Michelle Mitchum plays, and she also took a turn or two at the piano during that time.

The Chancel Choir is under the direction of June Zoerhof and the following persons rehearse each Wednesday and sing for the second service each Sunday:

Nancy Joneson, Bobbie Barger, Tammie Keene, Charlene Brown, Barbara Blackmore, Melissa Stark, Teresa Whitley, Pauline Rupe, Eleanor Armstrong, Stacy McGeorge, Lori Moulton, Millie Janka, Joanne Snedden, Jeanne Hanson, Meredith Richter, Hubert Hayes, Jerry Joneson,

(continued on page 3)

Statistically Speaking

June 03 One Service: 316

June 10 One Service: 302

June 17: One Service: 223

June 24: One Service: 219

Total Attendance for the month of June: 1060

YTD General Operating Fund Income: \$229,215
(With 310 giving units, this averages \$123.24 per month
per person/family given to the Gen. Op. Fund.)

Year-to-date Expenses: \$207,204

Year-to-date **Income** or Loss as of June 30, 2007:
\$22,011

Mortgage Balance as of June 30, 2007:
\$879,590

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

World Hunger/UMCOR: \$210

Great Gospel Singout Globes: \$143

Josiah Trip: \$3835

Blanket Sunday: \$100

Manna: \$30

Community Assistance: \$20

Handyman Fund: \$50

Habitat for Humanity/Church Hammers: \$901

South Africa Medical Exp.: \$12,525

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*

Tell Them "Thanks!" (continued from page 2)

BJ Wirgau, Dick Armstrong, Bill Peek, Leo Sullivan, Gene Switzer, Bill Zoerhof, Dave Hansen, Jerry Londal, Al Scott, Meredith Rupe, Larry Hanson, and the late Ralph Janka.

June Zoerhof also directed the Girls' Ensemble, who sang on their own and blessed the Chancel Choir by singing with them. They are: Michelle LaBlance, Alex Myers, Kristen Harrington, and Krista Scott (2007 graduate).

June directed the small, but mighty King's Choir. Some Sundays they were assisted by the sweet voices of the Girls' Ensemble: Spencer Goodrich, Brandon Myers, Brooke LaBlance.

The Carillon Ringers play under the direction of Jason Radditz. Our church is indeed blessed to have such talent as brought to us when the bells play:

Sally Hayes, Melissa Stark, Jeff Joneson, Lori Moulton, Jeanne Hanson, Emily Calhoon, Kevin Calhoon, Millie Janka, the late Ralph Janka, Teresa Whitley, Karen Nigg, Dennis Hughes, Jan Serra, Nancy Whitmyer, Sue Moffatt.

The unseen part of the music in worship is the sound booth personnel. We are indebted to their dedication each Sunday. There is Susan Wirgau on PowerPoint, Frank Montel on sound, assisted by several, including Dan Cole, Dave Jakubiak, Frank Montel, Jr., and Doug Mantha.

It is impossible to list this many people and not leave someone out. I just wonder who it is. You can be sure that we will have any missed names ready for the next newsletter. Then one can say that we saved the best for the last. On behalf of the Worship Council, we say "thank you" to these who rehearsed almost every week during the school year.

September 9th Open House



We would like to have an Open House the Sunday after Labor Day to kick off the Fall Season. Let's have tables set up to highlight each of our missions, ministries, and class offerings. Please contact Sue Herrington or Deb Cole with your plans.

Emmaus

Have you ever wondered about the Emmaus Walks we hold at the church? If so, plan to come to our Introduction to Emmaus Event on Wednesday, September 19, at 7:00 p.m., hosted by Judy & Bob Brummeler. If you cannot make it that night, then contact Judy or Bob or Susan or Bob Wirgau to arrange an alternate time. Maybe the Lord has already been nudging you to attend the fall walks. Both of the walks are at our church; the men's walk is October 18-21, and the women's walk is October 25-28. Brochures and applications are on the Welcome Center table in the narthex. The application is also available online at www.straitsareaemmaus.com.

United Methodist Women Meet Next Month

The next UMW meeting is Wednesday, September 26, at 11:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall. ALL women are invited. (Note: This is not the usual date for UMW meetings.) This will be a potluck; please bring a dish to pass. Bring your ideas for future events and programs to revitalize our UMW group for the coming year!

Watch for our new Fall Classes & Events Brochure coming soon!!

Northern Michigan Cooperative Ministries

The work of the United Methodist Committee on Relief to assist individuals in times of disaster is ongoing. The money that we send from our "Globes" to UMCOR is used 100% in disaster relief in the US and all over the world.

Watch for our *Globes* in the sanctuary on Sunday, August 5!

Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 14, at 3:00 p.m. **The Great Gospel Sing-Out of the North** will be held at PUMC. Area United Methodist Churches will bring their choirs and other musicians to entertain and to lead in congregational singing to raise funds for UMCOR. If you should have any questions, please call me.

*Meredith Richter (347-9717)
Petoskey Representative, Cooperative Ministries*

.....
• Have you remembered to pray •
• for **FRAN**? FRAN is friends, •
• relatives, associates and neigh- •
• bors. FRAN plans are available •
• in the the narthex. •
.....

Member Care/Evangelism Notes

Pictures have been taken for a new directory. We are now working on the layout. We hope to have the directories printed by September. If you had your picture taken by the photographer, you will receive a free directory.

Our committee is working on a strategic plan for increasing visitor friendliness. The strengths we have identified: We have greeters in the narthex before both services, we offer a fellowship time after each service, we send cards or letters to first-time visitors. Our weaknesses we have identified: We are cliquish (tend to talk to the people we know), we do not have greeters **after** the services to direct visitors to coffee hour and introduce them, we do not have a manned visitor center.

We will be working on these items and more as we strive to complete and implement this strategic plan for increasing visitor friendliness. In the meantime, we hope that all of our congregation will make a conscious effort to seek out and welcome visitors. Introduce yourself to people you don't know, whether they are visitors or long-time members!

We continue to offer sign-up sheets for "greeters" in the narthex on the table to the left when you enter the building. Please consider volunteering. It is fun and only costs you a smile and a handshake!

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



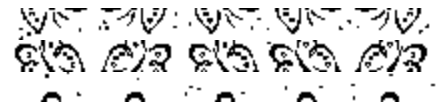
**UMW Fall
Rummage
Sale
to be Held
October 12
& 13**

Is there a dusty lamp in your attic waiting for a living room to call home? Donate it to the fall rummage sale! We are back to having our semi-annual UMW Rummage Sales. While you are cleaning out stuff this summer, simply set it aside. Bring it to the garage behind the church from September 27 until October 11. More information on this event will be coming in the next weeks...watch the Belltowers and the bulletins each week for other needs for the sale.



**~ Family Event ~
Sunday, August 26
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.**

**Watch the sun set with us!
Waterfront Pavillion
(behind the City Police Station)
Bring your lawn chairs!**



Celebration Garden

I hope you have ventured up into our Celebration Garden this summer. We have gotten several compliments on how beautiful the garden looks. None of this would have been possible without the volunteers showing up during workbees and in-between to check on the fountain bubblers and to dead-head flowers.

Our thanks to Lois & Frank Duiven, Linda Clutter, Gaye Alexander, Ruth & Allen Hanson, Marion Jurries, Doug Keene, Marilyn & Larry Mann, and Pauline & Bill Webb. If I have missed someone, my apologies. These volunteers have created a beautiful garden for all of us to enjoy.

A garden allows us to learn also! Our petunias looked so great last year, so we planted more this year. However, they became breakfast for the deer. Go figure!

Your donations, in memory or in honor of an individual or event are very much appreciated. To find more information about the Celebration Garden, please check out our brochure and/or packet on the Welcome Center in the narthex.

Our next meeting will not be until Wednesday, September 19, at the church at 4:00 p.m. Please join us. You may contact me with any questions you may have.

***Meredith Richter (347-9717) or
e-mail: mrich1300@yahoo.com
Chairperson, Celebration Garden***

United Methodist General Board Increases Scholarships & Loan Amounts

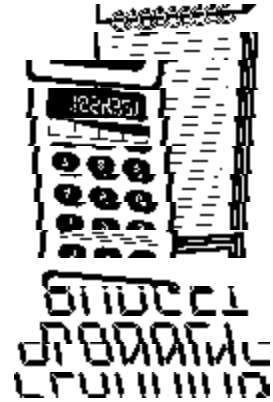
The United Methodist Church has responded to rising college costs by doubling the amount of money a United Methodist college student may borrow annually from a denominational loan fund and lowering the interest rate beginning Aug. 1, 2007. "One of the core values of The United Methodist Church is our mission to prepare educated clergy and lay leaders for the church and the world. "By doubling the amount of money a student can borrow and reducing the interest rate for repayment, we hope to make a value-centered education more accessible to future leaders from all income levels," said the Rev. Jerome King Del Pino, general secretary of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. The Board oversees loans and scholarships for the 135-year-old United Methodist Student Loan Program. "The oldest educational loan program in the country, was started because we believe preparing a new generation of Christian leaders for the church and the world means helping tomorrow's leaders pay for the education they need today."

In addition to the "Five for Five" loan increases, which begin Aug. 1, the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry is also making more scholarship money available by withdrawing \$2 million from the scholarships and loans fund to provide scholarships for seminary students, Women of Color, and the popular Gift of Hope: 21st Century Scholars Program.

The Gift of Hope project was created in 1998 to give scholarships to deserving United Methodists not attending one of the 109 United Methodist-related colleges and universities. Beginning in August, the new \$500,000 endowment will help ensure that a minimum of 700 annual scholarships are awarded. The endowment will continue the Gift of Hope in perpetuity. The scholarship has also been renamed "The Rev. Dr. Karen Layman Gift of Hope: 21st Century Scholars Program" in honor of the late education advocate who was instrumental in creating it. Layman, of Carlisle, Pa., saw the need for future church leaders to be well-educated and to have the opportunity to receive training. She died in 2005.

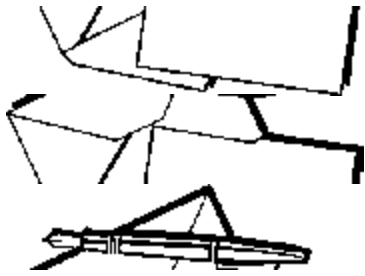
To grant more scholarships to seminary students, GBHEM also increased its Special Seminary Scholarship Fund by \$1 million for students up to age 30. The added money will help an additional 25 students in 2007-08, bringing to 75 the total number of seminary students receiving annual scholarship support. Board officials hope that as the fund grows, a minimum of 100 young seminarians someday will receive scholarships.

To learn more about the UM Loans and Scholarships, or to get application information, visit www.gbhem.org.



Financial Peace University

John Wesley said, "Earn all you can. Save all you can. Give all you can." Those can all be tough to do, but taking the Financial Peace University (FPU) class helps you get to a point where you can do all of these things! Are you in debt and can't see any way out? Do you think it's okay to make the minimum payment each month on your credit card? Do you think you already have Financial Peace, so you couldn't learn anything from these classes? Do you have too much month at the end of the money? We have had several sessions now, and everyone involved has said it was worth far more to them than the price of taking the class. If you answered "yes" to any one of those questions, you need to take FPU. Cost is \$100 for the materials and also gives you life-time membership to be able to take any FPU class offered anywhere, anytime. Full and partial scholarships are available. Classes begin Tuesday, September 25 at 6:45 p.m. and meet for 13 weeks. Attending one orientation session is required and those will be held Tuesdays at 6:45 p.m. on September 4 and 11 and also during the Sunday School hour on Sunday, September 9. Contact the leaders, Bob & Susan Wirgau, for additional information (347-5463 or ontheday@chartermi.net).



Letter from Tom Arthur

June, 2007

Dear Sisters and Brothers at Petoskey UMC,

Peace and grace from Durham. I have finished up yet another year of seminary at Duke Divinity School. This past semester included Hebrew Poetry, a second semester of Greek, a class on Lesslie Newbigin, and a semester on Methodist polity (church organization). It was another semester of learning amazing things, and it was also my slowest semester yet (thanks be to God!). Sarah applied and was accepted to the two-year masters of theological studies at Duke Divinity School. That will put us here one year longer than we had originally expected. But then we will be back to Michigan (which we are missing dearly on these hot summer days!).

This past week I began my second internship at Efland UMC. It is a small rural church about 20 miles from Durham, so we are able to stay in Durham. The pastor is a woman, and I am excited to learn what I can from her female perspective. By God's grace, she was able to help turn the church around from coming close to closing its doors. It is an exciting place to be given that there are about 100 people worshipping each Sunday.

Before I began my internship I spent three weeks traveling and studying in the Middle East. What an experience! It is almost impossible to sum up briefly. I kept a blog while I was there and you can read it at www.adventuresoftom.blogspot.com. These lands are a study in contrasts: desert and oasis, monarchy and wellbeing, conservative and liberal. I learned a lot that challenged stereotypes we have of the Middle East and Muslims. Along these lines I met several Christians who live in the Middle East. The Middle East is by no means an homogeneous place. You can read my blog to learn more.

Sarah and I continue to live in Isaiah House, an intentional Christian community that offers hospitality to women and families. We continue to be challenged every day. What does it really look like when our sense of Christian mission moves into our homes?

We appreciate your continued prayers for us as we study and learn and prepare for the ministry God has called us to. We thank God for the time we had with you and the way it formed us to be more faithful disciples.

*Peace and grace,
Tom Arthur*

The 29ers held their annual meeting in Davison June 28. Future mission projects are listed below. All are invited to join these work trips.

October 8-October 21, 2007: Young Life Camp in Saranac Lake, NY (near Lake Placid)

March 3-March 14, 2008: Taunton Children's Home in Florida

March 31-April 12, 2008: Return to Gulfport, MS

October, 2008: Intravarsity Family Camp in Cedarville, MI

November, 2008: Young Life Camp in Oregon

October, 2009: Camp Metchawana in Winthrop, Maine

For more info on the 29ers Group, contact the Webbs, Brubakers, or Nancy Burk.



Our church website has been down for almost a month. There is a lot of updating to be done! Visit us next week and check out devotionals written by our church family, and other information.

www.petoskeyumc.org

Spotlight on Missions

Update on Tracy Tooley

About Tracy Tooley –Tracy is a resident of our community who has been called to serve the needs of Bible Translation with Wycliffe Bible Translators. Our congregation is partnering with Tracy through prayer and finances so that she can devote her time to working with teens and raising their awareness and participation in helping meet the needs of Bible Translation for those without access to Scripture around the World. The following is an excerpt from her newsletter that helps us all to understand the process that all our missionaries go through to one extent or another.

Understanding the Process of Faith Giving and Faith Living –Many of you have expressed the desire to better understand how the whole “pay-thing” works for a Wycliffe missionary. Hopefully the following will clear up some of the confusion.

Wycliffe requires members to have 100% of a monthly quota promised or in hand before allowing them to go to assignments.

Monthly quotas are based on local living expenses, health insurance, taxes, ministry expenses, retirement and a 10% assessment that goes back into Wycliffe.

Ongoing financial commitments (gifts that can be counted on over the course of my commitment to Wycliffe) are needed to be counted toward 100% of the monthly quota.

One time gifts only count once and are not divided out into the year. They are great for covering unexpected expenses as well as helping to meet needs if monthly commitments are missed.

Ongoing gifts can be given monthly, quarterly, yearly, etc. Either way, for record keeping purposes, these ongoing gifts are divided into monthly giving. For instance, even a gift such as \$60/yearly can be divided out, equaling \$5/month and adding to the total monthly percentage.

With all that said, I am currently at 80% of my monthly quota! Part of that increase is due to a very large gift from a church in Illinois which will apply to the next three years. After that I will have to look elsewhere to replace that expected income.

When will Tracy move? –Rev. Richard Halverson, deceased chaplain for Congress, used to give a benediction that included the words, “*You go nowhere by accident... Wherever you are God has put you there, and has a purpose in your being there.*” I know that I do not remain in Petoskey by accident. I know that even though my role has changed in the community, I am right where God has placed me and that He truly does have a purpose and a plan for me being here. I do believe this and desire to do my utmost to serve God, my home congregation, and the other partnering churches to the best of my ability and calling.

*In the grip of the Almighty,
Tracy A. Tooley*

Manna

Manna

Manna

Manna

Manna

During the month of August, we will be collecting boxed macaroni and cheese for Manna. (Family-sized boxes are very welcome.) Our goal is to provide for approximately 150 families. The Manna Team at PUMC will shop for you if you prefer to give a donation.



Labor Day Bridge Walk

Take a walk on the wild side! Our church van will take people north of the Big Mac Bridge on Labor Day, Monday, September 3, for the annual bridge walk. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the opening of the bridge! Be sure to be with us! The van waits close to the finish line in Mackinaw City, with refreshing cold water and food. Contact Susan Wirgau (347-5463 or onthebay@chartermi.net) to reserve a seat...space IS limited!

We will leave the church at 7 a.m., drive thru McDonald's for breakfast and after the walk and the tail-gate brunch, we're off to Alice's Kandy and Korn, then heading back to the church, arriving between 1 and 2 p.m.. The only cost you have is for whatever you get at McDonald's and Alice's and a donation to help pay for the gas expense. Would you like to participate, but not walk the bridge? You can help provide food. Cold sandwiches, cookies, rice krispy treats, fresh veggies, chips and fruit are needed. Please call Susan to volunteer for any of these items or to help in calling people for these food donations.