



THE PETOSKEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

BELLTOWER

Volume 13 Number 1

January 2008

Dear Friends,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. A new year is upon us. For most people, the new year lends itself to opportunity for reflection about what is right and not right in our lives. We make resolutions, "I hereby resolve in 2008, I will or will not or will try or _____." You can fill in the blank. We commit to being more gracious, graceful and loving. Or we commit to be more like a person who lives those attributes. Maybe we commit to spending our money more wisely which maybe we should have done before the Christmas season. A new year is an opportunistic place to leave the past in the past and move to a healthier future.

Ruth Bell Graham, poet, writer, and wife of Billy Graham (1920-2007), wrote, *I saw a sign on a strip of highway once that I would like to have copied on my gravestone. It said, "End of construction. Thank you for your patience."* She wrote the truth. All of our lives and relationships are just chock full of a need for patience because we so often don't get it right. Patience with ourselves; patience with others; is a significant need in our lives because we are all under construction. Sometimes we are very successful relationally. Sometimes we fail miserably. Therein lies our need for patience.

That's why the Apostle Paul wrote to the church again and again in different ways, *as God's chosen people, set apart and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all of these put on love, which binds them all together in mature unity.*—Colossians 3:12-14. If it was all so easy, Paul wouldn't have included it in some form in each and every letter he wrote the Christians in the early church.

So how will we live in the new year?

F. B. Meyer in "Our Daily Walk, Christianity Today", Vol. 40, No.1 wrote, *It is a mistake to be always turning back to recover the past. The law for*

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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 Megan Mainland, 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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Christian living is not backward, but forward; not for experiences that lie behind, but for doing the will of God, which is always ahead and beckoning us to follow. Leave the things that are behind, and reach forward to those that are before, for on each new height to which we attain, there are the appropriate joys that befit the new experience. Don't fret because life's joys are fled. There are more in front. Look up, press forward, the best is yet to be!

End of construction. Thank you for your patience. May it be for you and me in the New Year.

Blessings,



Pastor James



Our thanks to Judy Brummeler for the planning of our traditional Christmas Luncheon. Thirty-two women and guests attended. A big thank-you goes out to the men of our church who helped to cook and serve a wonderful meal of pork loin, chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, carrots, and cranberry salad. Dessert was peppermint ice cream and cookies. Jo Snedden and Lexie Brummeler narrated a skit written by Jo, titled, "The Season of Anticipation...A Probable Story of Elizabeth". Actors Millie Janka, Emily Calhoon, Earl Raynal, and Bob Brummeler helped tell the story in pantomime and word. Helene Kleymeer and Paula Klose, students of June Zoerhof and Michelle Mitchum, provided the music. It was a time of fellowship in the spirit of Advent and was enjoyed by all. Each attendee brought a paper product for use at the Nehemiah and Mary Margaret Houses. We filled a large box, which was received with sincere thanks and pleasure by these two shelters.

January 12, from 1-3 p.m. at the church, will be our first Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting. Some of our snowbirds have taken the directions with them and are working while praying, on shawls to give to someone who is in the hospital, grieving, ill at home, etc. It is our hope that those receiving the shawls will feel the warmth and prayers of our congregations as they use their shawl.

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Statistically Speaking

- November 04: One Service: 285
- November 11: Early Service: 190
Second Service: 135
- November 18: Early Service: 148
Second Service: 145
- November 25: Early Service: 146
Second Service: 113

Total Attendance for the month of November: 1162

YTD General Operating Fund Income: \$376,376
(With 310 giving units, this averages \$110.37 per month per person/family given to the Gen. Op. Fund.)

Year-to-date Expenses: \$379,431

Year-to-date Income or Loss as of Nov. 30, 2007:
\$3055

Mortgage Balance as of Nov. 30, 2007:
\$865,151

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

- World Hunger/UMCOR: \$177
- Community Assistance: \$400
- Methodist Student Day: \$37
- Manna: \$610
- Kids Hope: \$300
- Handyman Fund: \$75

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*



The 2008 Flower Calendar is now posted on the sign-up bulletin board in the narthex. Sign up to provide Sunday flowers for the altar!

Help Stock the Manna Food Pantry!

January: Cereal

(Tuna Fish and Peanut butter are always welcome.)

Stock up for these upcoming items:

February: We will collect for the March Easter baskets

(scalloped potatoes, corn, fruit, brownie mix)

If you do not have time to shop, you may make a donation (be sure to label it Manna) in the Sunday offering, and the Manna Team will do the shopping for you.

UMW News

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At our luncheon, Emily Calhoon displayed a shawl she made for Pauline Rupe, as a thank you for the encouragement and help she has given to her. Pauline and Meredith will be traveling to a warmer climate, while she continues her treatments.

Tuesday, January 15, 11:30 a.m.

is our first Ladies Lunch Bunch at the Flap Jack Cafe. Join us for a time of fellowship and lunch.

Also in January, our reading group gets underway. Call Meredith Richter (347-9717) or watch our Sunday bulletins for information.

If you have not been to a UMW meeting or it has been awhile since you attended, let 2008 be your beginning! Join in fellowship, exchange of ideas, and ministry information!

Stewardship at PUMC in the New Year

May God bless you abundantly in the 2008!

As Petoskey United Methodist Church begins a new year, we share in a ministry that has been changing lives for over 134 years. Think of the generations that have met Christ, shared in caring fellowship in times of joy and sorrow, worshipping weekly, and rejoicing in the holidays.

The Classes and Events brochure for winter of 2008 was distributed to overflowing crowds on Christmas Eve. If you haven't studied it for opportunities for learning, fellowship, worship and mission opportunities, please take the time. Therein you will find opportunities for worship including the plans for a time of revival in May and an additional worship service being planned for the summer months. You will find education opportunities for all ages with content that will stretch your world, faith and relational boundaries. You will find opportunities for children. You will find youth opportunities that lead our community in youth ministry. You will find groups for service, missions to local and far away destinations. You will find classes to guide your family finances. And you will find opportunities designed for just plain good fellowship. Find places for yourself and invite others to join you!!

PUMC makes a huge difference as a church in Petoskey, the surrounding area, and the world. As you look at the events brochure, you recognize just how much ministry in Christ's name happens through Petoskey United Methodist Church. You also realize that it takes a tremendous amount of time and financial resources to enable and do these ministries. In November of 2007, our Church Council approved the budget for 2008. The budget was raised from \$441,822 to \$466,803. This increase was made after much discussion (and shall we say debate) in both the Finance and Stewardship Committee and Church Council. For in all honesty, neither group was entirely confident we could meet this challenge as a congregation. Yet, with faith in God, the knowledge that God has given us the resources, and faith in our shared commitment to ministry at PUMC, we moved forward.

With that hope and prayer, the leadership and staff of the church commit themselves to this work with the entire congregation. We also commit to continue to use the resources of the church wisely and conservatively.

Thanksgiving to God for all that has been accomplished in the past, the work of the present, and God's vision for tomorrow. Thank you to each of you who sacrificially give of your time and resources to ministry at and through Petoskey United Methodist Church. May God bless you,

*The Members of the Church Council
at Petoskey United Methodist Church*



January Birthdays

Read and save the enclosed Classes & Events Brochure to find the list and descriptions of Sunday School Classes and Small Groups available to you. Sign up on the table in the narthex!

- | | | | |
|----|--|----|---|
| 01 | Jason Miller
Heather Miller
Jennifer Turner | 17 | Sean Miller
Nancy Smith |
| 02 | Carol Helmer | 19 | Sarah Hofmann
Loriel Grigsby |
| 03 | Joan Kahgee | 21 | Lois Kuehl |
| 05 | Alice Harrington
Brandon Klawuhn | 22 | Susan Wirgau
Carrie Miller
Amanda Robinson |
| 06 | Lester Stevens
Nick Touran | 23 | Francis Palmateer
Joshua Antonishen
Lois Duiven |
| 07 | Elizabeth Johnson
Kortney Harris | 24 | Patricia McFall
Rilla Snedden |
| 08 | Ginger Eddy | 25 | Rebecca Tibble
Perry Clark
Larry Hanson |
| 09 | Bethany Nelson
Mikayla Miller | 27 | Chase Shawn |
| 10 | David Rynbrandt
Matthew Hotchkiss
Margaret Ralph | 28 | Cynthia Robinson
Janice Juday
Eugene Juday |
| 11 | Rosemarie Sluyter
Daniel McDonnell
Susie Nuorala | 29 | Jeannette Lewis
Ashley Fouch
Jace Copeland |
| 12 | Richard Seguin | 30 | Luke Hagelberg |
| 13 | Ashley Chapman
Kevin DeGroot
Ginger Downey | | |
| 14 | Linda Clutter
Sue Hutchinson | | |

We Can Use Your Old Cell Phones!

Do you have any old cell phones which you want to get rid of? If so, drop them off in Deb Cole's office to be recycled. Proceeds raised from this collection will be used for youth trips.

Membership Exploration and Orientation



Want to learn more, or have a refresher on being a Methodist? Want to learn more about Petoskey United Methodist Church? Want to meet some new people in a small group setting? Join us! This class will be held on Sundays, January 13, 20, and 27 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Wesley Room, and will be led by Pastor James and Deb Cole. Childcare will be available upon request. Please sign-up on the table in the narthex, or contact Deb for more information.



2008 Special Offerings...Going the Second Mile!
What will your gift be?

JANUARY

- 6 UMCOR Globes
- 20 Human Relations Sunday

FEBRUARY

- 3 Racial Ethnic Sunday &
Youth Souper Bowl Sunday
- 10 UMCOR Globes
- 17 Blanket Sunday
- 24 Manna Special Offering for
Easter Baskets

MARCH

- 2 One Great Hour of Sharing
- 9 UMCOR Globes

APRIL

- 6 UMCOR Globes
- 13 Native American Ministries Sun.
- 27 Habitat/Church Hammers Ticket
Sales for Auction & Special Offering

MAY

- 4 Golden Cross Sunday
- 11 UMCOR Globes
- 18 Peace with Justice Sunday

JUNE

- 1 Celebration Garden Offering
- 8 UMCOR Globes
- 22 Volunteers in Mission (VIM) new
offering set by conference for June

UMW Bakeless Bake Sale envelope
in Belltower

JULY

- 13 UMCOR Globes

AUGUST

- 3 UMCOR Globes
- 10 Tent Service: Church Hammers
Square Foot Sale
- 31 Rural Life Sunday

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Bridge Walk
- 7 UMCOR Globes
- 10 Habitat/Scouts Swiss Steak Dinner
- 14 Christian Education Sunday

OCTOBER

- 5 World Communion Sunday
- 12 UMCOR Globes/Gospel Singout
- 26 Manna paper bags in Sun. bulletin
for Thanksgiving Basket items

NOVEMBER

- 9 UMCOR Globes
- 23 2008 Bishop's Initiative to be taken
during Advent Season (local church can
set date)
- 30 United Methodist Student Day

DECEMBER

- 7 Manna collection for Christmas
Baskets
- 14 UMCOR Globes
- 24 Christmas offering for local
community service fund

