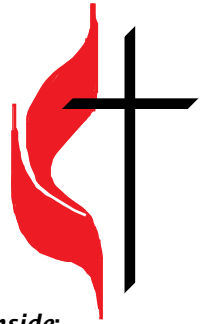


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The Sunbeam

November 2008

Lansing United
Methodist Church

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Worship
8:30 and 11:00

Prayer Service
Wednesday, 9:00 AM

Harvest Bazaar and Dinner, November 15
Advent Begins, November 30

Lansing United Methodist Church

32 Brickyard Road, Lansing, NY 14882
one mile north of the stoplight on Route 34B in
South Lansing.
Church office: 607-533-4070
E-mail: lumcoffice@twcny.rr.com
Office manager: Kay Thomas

To reach the pastor in confidence:
pastor32@twcny.rr.com

www.lansingunited.org

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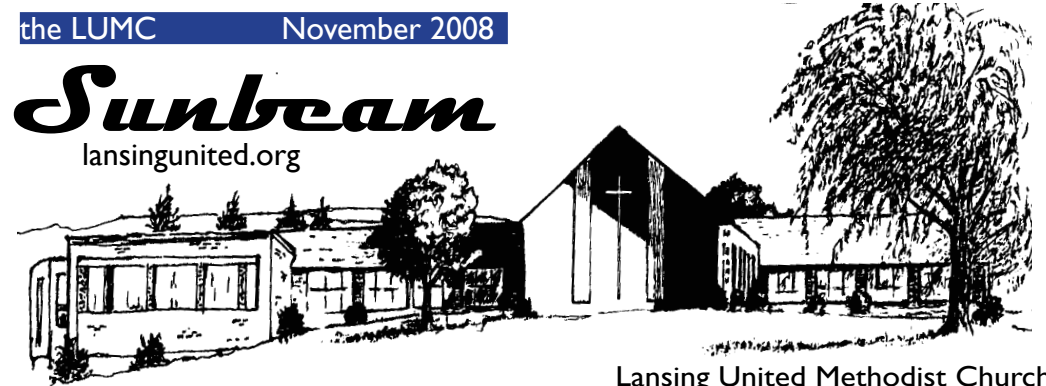
Please send your news to Glenn Withiam, editor,
at grw4@cornell.edu, or use the Sunbeam folder
near the church office.

Deadline for the next issue is November 15, 2008.

Please join us for worship at 8:30 and 11:00. Sunday school at 9:45.

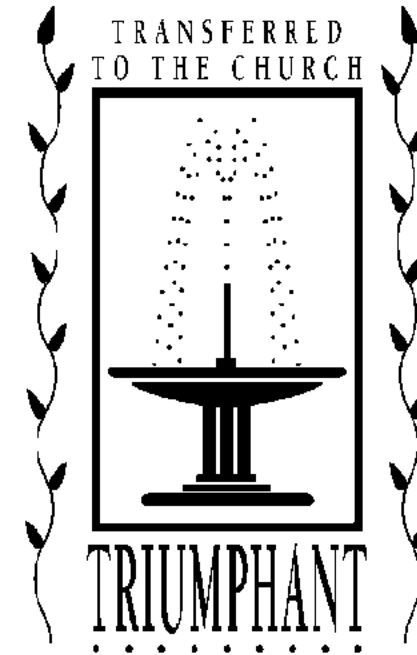
the LUMC November 2008

Sunbeam
lansingunited.org



Lansing United Methodist Church
Route 34B and Brickyard Road, South Lansing

Pastor: Bill Gottschalk-Fielding • Program Associate: Marilyn Paradise • Youth Coordinator: Kevin Dunn



All Saints Sunday, November 2

Haiti Connection, continued

team could stock up on vanilla and coffee to take home. We had dinner at the guest house which was wonderful (rice and beans, chicken, salad, milton with carrots)

On Saturday morning, Claire made us great pancakes and we left for the airport at 7:30. We got in a line of about 300 passengers and thought we would be there for hours. After about 1 hour, a gal came and took us to the Ft Lauderdale line which went fairly quickly. The trip to FL was uneventful. We were glad to get out before Hurricane Ike hit. We couldn't wait to hear news reports about the hurricane we had been in, so we watched the televisions and bought a newspaper. I was also terribly curious about the Republican convention and Sarah Palin since we had missed all the excitement. We discovered that our plane to JFK was delayed because, believe it or not, Hurricane Hannah had moved up the east coast and was sitting over NYC. They kept delaying the time further and further. Finally, Dianne took us all to a motel for the night, which was a wise decision because the plane never did take off. JFK had banned all planes from landing or taking off. Sunday morning we left for the airport at 5:30 AM and made our 7:00 flight to JFK. We made our connection on Jet Blue and were in Syracuse by 1:00 PM. What a relief. Harry had misplaced our long-term parking ticket, so we were sweating it out, thinking we would have to pay an enormous amount of money. It was no big deal; we had the plane ticket showing the time we had left Syracuse, so they figured out the cost from that.

Haiti continues in a complete state of emergency. They have been hit by Gustav, Hannah,

and Ike all in the space of about three weeks. Gonaives (just north of St Marc) gets devastating floods every time. I read on the internet that Venezuela was sending food and water by airplane. I pray the USA does also. Over 300 people have died, and thousands have lost their homes. We are so grateful that our roofs stayed on during the hurricane. Harry says that each nail represented someone praying for us.

We don't know about going back to Haiti in the near future, although there is talk here about sending a team in a few weeks to help rebuild houses and roofs in our area that were lost in the storms. Without the bridge in Montrouis, it will be difficult to reach St Marc. Please pray for Haiti that the nations of the world will respond to the great need for rebuilding this poor country. Thank you for all of your prayers that sustained us and brought us home safely.—
Love, Anita Lockwood

One Way You Can Help in Haiti

The Haiti Committee will sponsor a Dessert Auction on Sunday, November 23, from 12:15 to 2:15 PM in the fellowship hall. For a donation of \$5.00, participants may taste all of the desserts that will be available. At 1:00, auctioneer Charlie Cuykendall will auction off desserts identical to the ones you were sampling...except they haven't been sampled yet! Desserts will include many that can be frozen for your Thanksgiving meal. Proceeds from the auction will be divided between our two missions in Haiti, at Ecole la Providence in Verrettes and the school in Banique.



Harvest Bazaar and Dinner November 15

Make your plans now for our Harvest Bazaar and Dinner. Shops will be open at 2:00 on November 15. Your donations of handi-crafts and baked goods are always welcome.

The harvest dinner will begin at 4:00 and run till 7:00. The menu will feature a full dinner with turkey or Jeff Sandsted's great roasted pork. All the fixings! Potatoes, squash, vegetables and yummy stuffing.

You can help by cooking, serving, cleaning up, and, of course, eating. See Nan Makela or Dick Stark for more info.

Rummage Sale: Thanks to All

This season's sale proceeded under glorious October skies with dozens of people helping out. Thanks to Ed LaVigne for heading up the sale. This is a service for our community that also benefits our church. We raised over \$10,000 for programs and mission.

Prayer Requests

Betty Anderson
Brian Cleveland 7358 Cedar St., Akron, NY 14001
Bill Earl 2000 East Shore Dr.
Carol, friend of Karen Bishop
Pauline Gottschalk 4152 SR417, Woodhull, NY 14898
James Hall
Barb Hebert, sister of Karen Bishop
Jim Howell
Bonnie Huff, Judy Butman's friend
Karen Lee Marquis, friend of Sharon Bowman
Sheryl Mattoon, friend of Barb White
Harry Reinhart, 615 Ridge Rd.
Frannie Sampson, 1138 Auburn Rd. (Groton)
Mary Searles, 425 Conlon Rd.
John Smith
Donna Howe Taylor, Marion's daughter
Kylie Walley, friend of Anne Czymmek
Charlotte Wilson 6 Conlon Rd.
Marian Wilson Cortland Memorial Hospital, Room 2C241, 134 Homer Ave. Cortland 13045

Please pray for those in our armed services:

Ken Allen
Mike Beaudoin
Richard Butler
Shawn Butler
Matthew Cornell
Scott Cowles
Steven Cowles
Thomas Deis
David Ferris
Andrew Jacobsen

Daniel Jacobsen
Trevor Judd
Matt McDonald
Travis Potter
Nick Prabhavat
Josh Randles
Matthew Ravas
Joan Sullivan
Adam Ward
Michael Zhe



A Time of Anxiety...and Peace

From the Pastor

My guess is I won't be alone among pastors writing November church newsletter columns attempting to speak to the financial crisis which has riveted everyone's attention. My guess is I'm also not alone in having little to offer in the way of "tips" for how to manage investments, losses, and other financial questions. I took Economics 101 and 102 in college, but I'm much better qualified to tell you how much a "shekel" was worth in Jesus' day than what a "credit default swap" is worth (was worth?) today.

Yet, I know what's happened on Wall Street has caused anxiety among us. In the midst of financial turmoil, we wonder what it all means for the world, the country, and for our families. Trouble never comes at a good time (I think that's part of the definition of "trouble"), but all this financial uncertainty may feel particularly inopportune right now, when we have to turn on our furnaces, think about purchasing Christmas gifts, and make out our church "estimate of giving" cards for next year's ministries. How can we afford to do all that? But then, how can we afford not to? I understand the tension.

Because I understand the tension, I want to offer a word of hope and comfort. As I said before, my role as pastor isn't to offer anyone financial advice. There are lots of folks better qualified than me to do that. But I do feel compelled to remind us while the value of our stocks may fall (and rise, and fall, and rise...) during these days, our worth in God's sight

doesn't vary. God will never love you more and cannot love you less than he does right now. I am not trying to minimize the challenges we face or the fears we have, but I do think we need to put all of this in proper perspective. What matters most—the love of God—hasn't changed.

This love isn't some fuzzy, vague abstraction. It's concrete, personal, real-time. Remember the central story of our faith: when God sought to love us, he didn't send a platitude or poem about love; he sent a person named Jesus. Because of Jesus, we know God's love for us is about us, as concrete individuals with real problems, hopes, dreams, and opportunities. So whatever this financial crisis is about, God's all over it already, seeking to bring healing and hope.

I heard a secular radio commentator the other day remind his listeners how "In God We Trust" is embossed on our money. How ironic, he said, that the cause of our problems also contains the solution. Perhaps a little simplistic. Perhaps not.

Pastor B.M.



Community Thanksgiving Service
Tuesday, November 25
7:00 PM

This year's community thanksgiving service is at All Saints Roman Catholic Church, corner of Ridge Road and Myers Road.

Amahl and the Night Visitors

Performance in Lansing

Lansing UMC will join with All Saints RC to present "Amahl and the Night Visitors" on January 4, 2009. "Amahl" is a short opera by Gian-Carlo Menotti which tells the story of the visit of the Magi to the hut of a poor, crippled shepherd boy and his mother. We need singers for the shepherds' chorus and people who would like to work on costumes, props, or scenery. Contact Judy Hinderliter, Diane Withiam, or Doreen Alsen for further information.

Thanksgiving Turkey Trot

Meet at 9:00 AM at LUMC

This is a totally informal gathering of people who want to run or walk a 5K course on Thanksgiving morning. Bring a post run snack to share if you are so moved.

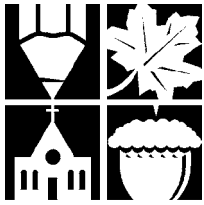
Thank You...

Thank you for the privilege of being your choir director. I was absolutely surprised to receive recognition and gifts from the congregation in September to celebrate my 25+ years here. In winter 1982, I began a junior choir simply because there was no children's choir here and I wanted my own children to sing in a children's church choir. At that time, Wilma Gilmore, served as both organist and choir director (meaning that she would conduct from the organ). Apparently Wilma tired of the dual responsibility, for when I started working with junior choir and when I later became a member of the adult choir, she saw this as an opportunity to divest herself of the choir director part of her job.

With little preparation and no advance warning, Wilma set me up in front of a rather surprised adult choir, and I did what I could. This congregation offered me the opportunity of a lifetime and I was so lucky that I took it—what amazing grace. I am blessed. Thank you.—*Diane Withiam*

Review of Two-service Schedule

The worship committee is reviewing our current schedule of two worship services on Sunday morning. They would like your advice and input, and Pastor Bill has created a questionnaire for that purpose. Watch for it soon.



Worship in November

As Christians, we are called to live in the world but also beyond the world. Because of this we Christians do the crazy thing of living by two calendars, one secular and one church based. Most of our time is organized around the secular calendar and its various seasons. This is the calendar with school and work schedules, doctor's appointments, and soccer games. It's not a bad calendar, though it may feel over scheduled sometimes. But you and I also live by another calendar, one that marks out time according to the life of our Savior. The seasons of this calendar include Advent, Epiphany, Lent, and Pentecost. In fact, during the month of November, we end one church year and begin another. Advent, the church's first season, begins the last Sunday of this month. During this season we'll seek to prepare our hearts, minds, and lives for the birth of Jesus. It can be pretty easy to lose track of the church calendar when the calendar hanging on the fridge has appointments and events circled in red ink. That's why we need Sunday worship. Worship on Sunday morning helps us sort out what time (and Whose time) it really is. See you Sunday!—P.B.

- November 2—All Saints Sunday.* This is our annual occasion to remember and honor loved ones who have died. In addition to sharing Holy Communion together, you are invited to light a candle in memory of a loved one (candles provided). Read: Revelation 7:9-17; Psalm 34:1-10, 22; 1 John 3:1-3; and Matthew 5:1-12.
- November 9—Generosity Sunday* (Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost). Tony Campolo once said the kingdom of God is a party. With Jesus' parable of the "wise and foolish" bridesmaid to guide us, we'll explore how we are responding to the invitation to join the party. Read: Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25; Psalm 78:1-7; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; and Matthew 25:1-13.
- November 16—Gratitude Sunday* (Twenty-Seventh Sunday after Pentecost). As we prepare to make financial commitments to next year's ministries, we'll listen for Jesus' instructions to those who have been gifted

to be givers. Read: Judges 4:1-7; Psalm 123; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; and Matthew 25:14-30.

November 23: Christ the King/Reign of Christ Sunday. Jesus expects to be treated like a King, but instead of showering him with gifts, he expects his followers to show kindness to strangers. Read: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 100; Ephesians 1:15-23 and Matthew 25:31-46.

November 30- First Sunday of Advent. Harry Reasoner, veteran reporter for 60 Minutes, said of Christmas, "If a Christian is touched only once a year, the touching is still worth it, and maybe on some given Christmas, some final quiet morning, the touch will take." This Sunday we begin to prepare our hearts, heads, and lives for Christmas, hoping this year, "the touch will take." Holy Communion will be served. Read: Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; and Mark 13:24-37.

Haiti Connection, continued

winds and the waves obey Him." The rain began to come in waves instead of constant sheets, just like labor pains. The noise on the tin roofs was deafening. We huddled around our candle and encouraged each other before attempting to go to sleep again. Ken got to joking around and asked Harry if they would have to pay extra for the added bonus of living through all the excitement of a hurricane.

Wednesday morning the wind had pretty much stopped, and the rain was intermittent. Harry and Ken went around the neighborhood checking on people and damage. The team went to the church and spent most of that day and Thursday registering the children. The Banique valley was heavily flooded. Some of the banana trees still stood in the water, but most of them, along with the corn, were knocked down. The road just below our house was also a raging creek until Thursday. We thought we were just about out of drinking water, when miraculously Harry found another full bottle we didn't know we had. Harry and Ken went to St Marc to get supplies. What a mess. Some streets were totally under water. Harry and Ken had to cross a bridge that was under water, walking through knee-high mud, water, and who knows what else that was rushing over the bridge. The markets were open, though, so they were able to purchase food and water.

On Thursday we had promised the children who graduated from 6th grade and 12th grade a celebration party. I was supposed to make the cake in the solar oven. I made two cakes and put them out in the bright sun at 9:00 AM. It was so glorious to see the sun again. Unfortunately it didn't last very long. After 4 hours in the oven, they were still goo. So I put each one into two smaller pans, and Ken cooked them in the camp stove oven for awhile. They got cooked enough to eat, so it wasn't a total disaster. Harry

squeezed 97 key limes to make limeade for the party. The students were appreciative of the certificates Donna had made and of the hurricane cake. It turned out more like brownies, but it was edible.

On Friday the Port au Prince Guest House was supposed to send out a van to pick us up. We found out that the bridge in Montrouis (about a third of the way back to Port) had been badly damaged and that the van couldn't make it out to us. Harry and Joseph arranged for a big cattle truck to pick us up at 7:00 AM to take us to Montrouis. Fortunately, they let the oldest woman (me) sit in the cab along with her old husband. Everyone else either stood up or sat on their suitcase in the back. We traveled to Montrouis in style!! The roads were even more horrendous than before, although the streets in St Marc were coated with mud so were a little less broken up. We arrived at Montrouis and walked across the bridge with our suitcases. Several of the Banique young men had ridden with us and carried our luggage across, although there were many men there with wheelbarrows who wanted to do the job (Joseph barked at them and chased them away). The bridge was not completely down but the center support on one side had buckled so that the bridge was tilted but could still hold people walking across. If it had completely fallen into the raging river, we would still be in Banique. There would have been no way to get across that river.

We got back to the guest house in Port by noon. There was no lunch for us because the new Haitian hosts were on vacation in Florida, and so we went to the Epi D'or and had lunch. Harry and I were the only ones who had ever been there, so it was a new experience for everyone else. The food there is good (and cheap!). We also visited the Caribbean Market so the

Continued on next page



Haiti Mission: Escaping Hurricane Hanna

Praise God! The missions team arrived home safely after experiencing some interesting times in Haiti. Our team consisted of Harry and Anita Lockwood, Ken and Bev Roman (from North Spencer Baptist Church), Donna Darling from Pulaski UMC, Dianne Walter from Lansing UMC, and her daughter Robin from State College, PA. Robin and her husband Jay adopted Miguel and Julise (two Haitian children that Harry had located in St Marc a few years ago), and Robin wanted to visit Haiti and meet her children's birth family. The team's mission was to register the 140 children in our sponsorship program. We left on Thursday, August 28, and arrived in Banique, Haiti, on Friday. Our friend Joseph didn't meet us at the airport because he was stranded on the wrong side of a river flooded by Hurricane Gustav a couple days earlier. He finally reached us on Sunday after crossing the river by human ferry (someone carries you on their back through the river). The road from Port au Prince to St Marc was dreadful—full of gigantic pot holes.

We were greeted by the most intense heat Harry and I had ever experienced in Haiti. Saturday and Sunday were unbelievably hot and humid. We were drenched in our own perspiration all the time. We went to church with our Haitian friends and were so happy to see them again. We mostly sat around on Sunday and fanned ourselves. I couldn't have survived without my little battery-operated fan. Many people

came to visit. Harry and I cooked up a Ramen noodles dish for lunch with some summer sausage we had taken down. On Monday morning there was a break in the weather and we were all so thankful for the breeze. Later we would realize this was the "calm before the storm." The team had a couple of meetings with the teachers and they registered about 16 children in the afternoon. By suppertime it began to rain heavily. This is the rainy season in Haiti, so we didn't think too much about it. But then it began to rain as it had never rained before. The toilets attached to our two little houses do not have roofs over the block partitions, so using them was a challenge. It rained all night long and the wind began to blow. Nobody could sleep because of the house and roof shaking and the deafening sound of the wind and the rain on the tin roof. Harry propped up the shower curtain over our toilet in the middle of the night, but it was gone by morning. Ken went over to the women's house to stay with them during the night. They used Bev's Tupperware container as a temporary toilet. A couple of times they just stripped off their clothes and went out in the rain to use the toilet. In the morning, we realized we must be experiencing Hurricane Hannah. The rain continued to pound our tin roofs and the wind began to blow violently. We did not try to go anywhere, but unbelievably 16 children came to the house in the midst of the storm to be registered. We called home in the morning to assure everyone we were fine, but we probably should have waited until later for that reassurance. Soon, the nails began pulling out of our tin roof. Harry and Ken watched it carefully, and they did manage to pound a few back in. By late afternoon we were all pretty discouraged with the constant wind and rain. We were each given a verse to help us through the trauma; mine was "Even the

Continued at right

To Sing is to Pray

I will praise the name of God with a song. And will magnify Him with thanksgiving. (Psalm 69:30)

It was St. Augustine, the great fifth century Bishop of North Africa, who said "those who sing pray twice." Augustine reminds us that the words of hymns and prayers, when we sing them, add an even greater dimension of honor and praise—we pray twice! It appears that sung praise may be God's favorite form of prayer. He tells us in 15 passages in the Old Testament to "sing to the Lord."

Did you know that the Psalms were originally written to be sung? The Bible instructs us "to come into God's presence with singing, make melody to the Lord and enter God's courts in song." There are 242 such references in the Old Testament. I guess this gives us a pretty good indication of the importance of song to God. Let me share with you what John Wesley said about singing. (You can review these at any time in the front pages of your hymnal.)

- Sing all. See that you join with the congregation as frequently as you can.
- Sing with good courage. Be no more afraid of your voice now, nor more ashamed of it being heard, than when you sing the songs of the world.
- Sing modestly. Strive to unite your voices together, so as to make one clear melodious sound.
- Sing in tune. Whatever time is sung, be sure to keep with it.

Above all, sing spiritually. Have an eye for God in every word you sing. Aim at pleasing God more than yourself. In order to do this, see that your heart is not carried away with the sound, but offered to God continually, so shall your

singing be such as the Lord will approve of here and reward you in the eternal life.

Here at LUMC we are entering a season where hymn singing is a particularly important part of worship. On Sunday, November 23, join us for the adult Sunday school class entitled "Scripture and Song." Rick Hayes will sing hymns and Glenn Withiam will read corresponding scripture passages. This should be a lot of fun.

LUMC once again will join area community choirs to celebrate the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, November 25, at All Saints Church. This is always a powerful community service and you will hear many beautiful voices from each of the local churches.

"Here I Am, Lord" is the hymn that we most associate with the Haiti mission projects. Come and listen on Sunday, November 16, as the Haiti team shares stories of their recent mission trips abroad.

God must be especially delighted during this season of worship as we joyfully lift our voices and give thanks and praise through song. God Bless.—*Marilyn Paradise*

Kid's Korner

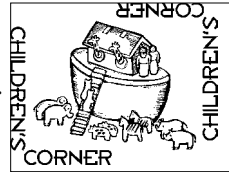
Kids in Action Now (K.A.N.) is off to a great start! We met in September and learned about the CROP Walk to combat world hunger from Ed Lavigne. Our group of energetic kids wanted to help by raising funds and awareness. K.A.N. walked together at the CROP Walk and turned in funds raised through a yard sale, doing odd jobs, selling vegetables, and getting donations. It was very exciting to be responsible for a new stream of revenue for the CROP Walk, and more important, to figure out how kids could make a difference in this long-time church project. Also at the first meeting, the group learned new skills to cut out material to be sewn into tote bags for Church World Service school kits. Most of the group also got to try their hand at sewing the handles for these bags. Continuing with the CWS kit theme, we played a memory game, hiding items from school and health kits.

Our second meeting centered on stewardship, learning from Rick Adie how the church raises funds and what K.A.N. might do to help in that effort. As a result, K.A.N. helped prepare envelopes for mailing in the upcoming stewardship campaign. We played the Price Is Right, which was a fun way of finding out that we

have many future budgeters among our members. We also made ornaments for the giving tree sponsored by the Lansing Food Pantry for families in need at Christmas.

If you're in third to fifth grade and you haven't been able to make a meeting yet, please join us on the first Sunday of the month, from 5:30 to 7:00 in Fellowship Hall. Please feel free to bring a friend! On November 2, we'll be hearing from Peg McKenzie about the Church World Service kits, and then will help stuff as many kits as the donated items allow. It'll be great knowing that the kits we assemble will be shipped all over the world to help impoverished people or provide supplies in the aftermath of a natural disaster. On December 7, we'll be hearing from the Barnards and others who have led ministries at the Lansing Residential Center. Our project that night will benefit the residents to make sure they know they aren't forgotten at Christmas.

Please contact Bonnie Blair, Sandi Dhimitri, or Marilyn Paradise if you'd like to learn more about this exciting group.



Food Pantry Needs

Next time you're in the grocery store, throw a couple of items in your cart for Lansing Food Pantry. In particular, they need:

Canned or packaged dinners, canned fruits or vegetables, packaged desserts and snacks, baking supplies, egg noodles, packaged rice, canned meat or fish, other assorted pastas, macaroni and cheese, soups, crackers, peanut butter, jelly, cereal, fruit juices, powdered milk, baby food, baby cereal, coupons for diapers, bath soap, toilet paper, toothpaste, shampoo, and dish and clothes detergent. Or, if you don't feel like bringing in food items, make a monetary donation and the food pantry people will take care of it for you.

Habitat Helps Put People in Homes

Habitat for Humanity of Tompkins and Cortland Counties is having a resurgence of activity. The TC affiliate of HFH has built 13 homes since its inception in 1987. The most recent was a home completed last year on Fox Hollow Rd. in Cortland.

HFH is currently building at the corner of Tompkins and Delaware Streets in Cortland. The house is environmentally "green" and designed to be energy efficient. Land has been obtained in Lansing with plans to build in the Spring. TC HFH is also hoping to soon have plans for future development of a large parcel of land in Trumansburg.

TC HFH has a need for volunteers for both construction and office work. The current plans for future projects depend on local financial support from organizations and individuals. If you would like to volunteer, contact Habitat at 607-220-3947. Contributions may be mailed to TC HFH, POB 4683, Ithaca NY 14852-4683.

For more information, visit the web site at www.tchabitat.com or contact Rev. Dave Nicholls at 844-8174

Recovery from Ike Slowed by Lack of Donations

Recovery on the Texas Gulf Coast has been hampered by lack of donations, according to Bishop Janice Huie of Houston. Part of the problem is bad economic news, but also the fact that media attention returned to the presidential campaign.

At least 83 volunteer teams have made plans to help out, and their efforts will be magnified by donations for construction materials.

Gulf Coast Mission Trip to Mississippi

A mission trip is scheduled for Vanleave, Mississippi, on January 17 through 23, which is a Saturday to Saturday trip. Al Walker, from North Rose, is the leader. He has 6 people willing to go now, and needs 10 in order to book the flights. There are 18 beds reserved for the week for this team, so if you are interested in making a difference in the lives of the Katrina (and Rita) victims, please call Al on his cell phone 315-573-6964.

You can also help with recovery from Gustav and Ike elsewhere on the Gulf Coast by making a donation. The easiest way to do this is to write a check to LUMC with a memo "UMCOR Hurricanes 2008."

Louisiana's Recovery Continues

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) continues to work in Louisiana, even as other recovery operations are suspended. The Louisiana Conference has four stations of operations staffed by a station manager, professional case managers, construction site managers, administrative assistants, and at least one volunteer coordinator.

Our primary mission is to repair and rebuild homes for homeowners who were uninsured or underinsured at the times of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, based on verified need.

To date, UMCOR has hosted over 56,000 volunteers who have provided the equivalent of more than \$46,000,000 in free labor. Our station managers estimate that at any given time, at least 70% of our volunteers are "repeaters"—volunteers who are returning for another work trip.

What's going on in Youth Ministries?

I thought I'd take a moment to share with you what the youth of LUMC have been up to recently, and what's on deck for the next couple months. We kicked off our year with an over-night event for both Jr. High & Sr. High. At the Jr. High Lock-In, we played some games, ate some junk food, and generally had a good time in fellowship with one another. At our Sr. High Retreat at Lakeview, we did some team challenges and games, and talked about how God has more in store for us than we can imagine.

During both Jr. & Sr. High Sunday School, we've been discussing John Wesley's "Three Simple Rules" and what it really means to do no harm, do good, and to stay in love with God in our daily lives.

Sr. High youth continue to meet on Thursday nights for a time of fellowship - a time apart from school where they can relax, enjoy each other's company, and be themselves. Also, several LUMC youth are involved in the Conference Council on Youth Ministry (CCYM). This group meets every other month and organizes a Winter

Retreat and 4Word, both of which gather youth together from all over the state for worship and fellowship.

You probably also saw some youth helping out with the Rummage Sale! We had great help from both Jr. & Sr. Highers in helping to set-up and clean-up the Rummage Sale, and some were even able to help with the Sale on their day off from school. Continuing to emphasize service and charity over the next month, we're encouraging youth participation in the Crop Walk, as well as Operation Christmas Child at the end of October and early November. Last year, LUMC sent around 60 shoeboxes full of Christmas presents through this program. We also plan on going Christmas Caroling in early December, with anyone else in the congregation who would like to join.

That's just a bit of what's going on for right now. If you have any questions or comments, or have a passion for youth ministry and want to be involved, please feel free to contact me at any time. God bless!

~Kevin Dunn, Coordinator of Youth Ministries

Church World Service Kits Delivered

On October 15, Janette Reeves and Joyce Rendano delivered 129 school kits, 127 hygiene kits, and 36 baby kits to CWS North Syracuse regional office. These 292 kits along with others from the central New York region will be transported to the Church World Service warehouse in New Windsor, Maryland. The warehouse supplies have been depleted due to the disasters (national and international) over the summer and early fall. The kits were assembled since May as members of the LUMC congregation contributed requisite items so we were ready to respond immediately to the urgent need. Many thanks to everyone for your support of this mission.—Peg MacKenzie

Stewardship 2009

"But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.—1 Chronicles 29:14

Dear LUMC Family:

Generosity is the theme for the Stewardship 2009 Campaign. Lansing United Methodist Church is defined by its giving heart in all of our work--whether it is in volunteering at the rummage sale or other activities, teaching Sunday school, mission trips to Haiti—or returning our financial blessings to God through our tithes and offerings.

This first communiqué in our appeal for 2009 lays out the practical need for your pledge. The second, to arrive in early November will focus on the biblical mandate for stewardship and will contain your 2009 estimate of giving card. Our timeline for the campaign is:

November 2: Estimate of Giving Cards distributed

November 9: Generosity Appeal Sunday

November 16: Gratitude Sunday estimate of giving cards returned

Over the last few months all of the committees have developed their plans for 2009 and determined the monetary resources that will be needed to support their work. The weekly operations budget for 2009 is projected to be \$6,125. The two largest increases are for utilities and staff support. Because we are all experiencing increases in our home utility costs, the increase is self explanatory. Regarding staff, the SPRC committee is committed to increasing youth programs with extra hours from our youth coordinator. Additionally, the commitment is being made for equity in employee benefits for LUMC staff. All of our staff work for modest salaries and work with a servants heart for the good of our members.

We received 122 pledges in 2008. Gratefully, we even have children who pledge annually and Pastor Bill also asks our new confirmands to pledge as full members. The average pledge in 2008 was \$1,849 or \$35.55 per week. You will note that we have pledges ranging from \$2.50 per week to \$240.00 per week. In fact, there are 10 pledgers who contribute on average over \$7,000 per year who represent 33% of all the annual giving (Bless you!).

In the weeks ahead please pray for God's guidance and commit to doing good by making a financial pledge to LUMC for 2009. In order to support the 2009 budget increase of \$37,750, all supporters would need to contribute \$309 more per year than 2008, which amounts to more than \$6 extra per week.

Doing God's work will take the commitment of time, the challenge of doing good to all, and the gift of financial resources to provide the foundation upon which we will be able to bring Christ to others. Returning our financial blessings to God through our annual pledge is an opportunity for God to work through us, by helping to foster change and spiritual renewal in the lives of our members and of our community. In advance we thank you for your generous support.

Yours in Christ,
Dave Stoyell, Finance
Rick Adie, Stewardship

Altar Flowers

Please consider choosing a Sunday to celebrate an occasion in your olife by putting a flower arrangement on the altar. There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex. Your generosity would be much appreciated. Please contact Lou Barr, 257-0731, or Joyce Henniger, 533-7592, with any questions.

SUNDAY
Eastern Standard Time

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

2 ALL SAINTS SUNDAY
Worship 8:30
Sunday School 9:45
Jr High Hike Worship 11:00
Junior Choir 12:00
Worship Service Task Force 12:15
Disciple Bible Study 2:30
Christmas Pageant Meeting 4:30
K.A.N. 5:30

3

Senior High Roller Skating

4

Quilt Bee 9:30

Staff Parish 7:00

5 Prayer Service 9:00
Women's Bible Study 9:30

Bell Choir 6:00
Choir 7:00

6

Bible Study 2:30
Woodsedge

Senior High Youth 7:00

7

1 Mens' Breakfast every Saturday
Congregation Dish to Pass Dinner 6:00
at Linda's in North Lansing 7:00
Set your clock back! **8**

9 GENEROSITY SUNDAY
Worship 8:30
Sunday School 9:45
Outreach 9:45
Worship 11:00
Junior Choir 12:00
Disciple Bible Study 2:30
Youth Mission 6:00

10

11

Quilt Bee 9:30

Church Council 7:00

12 Prayer Service 9:00
Women's Bible Study 9:30

Bell Choir 6:00
Choir 7:00

13

Senior High Youth 7:00
Trustees 7:30

14

15
Mens' Breakfast 7:00
Harvest Bazaar 2:00
Harvest Dinner 4:00

SUNBEAM DEADLINE
12:00 Midnight

16 GRATITUDE SUNDAY
Worship 8:30
Sunday School 9:45
Worship 11:00
Food Pantry Setup
Junior Choir 12:00
Children's Ministries 12:00
Disciple Bible Study 2:30
Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 4:00

17

Food Pantry 4:00
Haiti 7:00

18

Quilt Bee 9:30

Membership 7:00
Worship Committee 7:30

19 Prayer Service 9:00
Women's Bible Study 9:30

Bell Choir 6:00
Choir 7:00

20

Senior High Youth 7:00

21

22
Mens' Breakfast 7:00

Blood Drive 8:30-1:00

23 CHRIST THE KING
Worship 8:30
Sunday School 9:45
Worship 11:00
Junior Choir 12:00
Haiti Dessert Auction 12:00
Disciple Bible Study 2:30
Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 4:00

24

25

Quilt Bee 9:30

Community Thanksgiving Service at All Saints 7:00
Youth Ministries 7:00

26

27
Happy Thanksgiving!

Church Office Closed

28

Church Office Closed

29
Mens' Breakfast 7:00

30 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
UM STUDENT DAY
Worship 8:30
Sunday School 9:45
Worship 11:00
Junior Choir 12:00

ADVENT

Caregivers 9:00

Note: This calendar is current as of October 22. For updates to all LUMC events, visit lansingunited.org, and check the bulletin when you're in church on Sunday.

November 2008



Lansing United Methodist Church