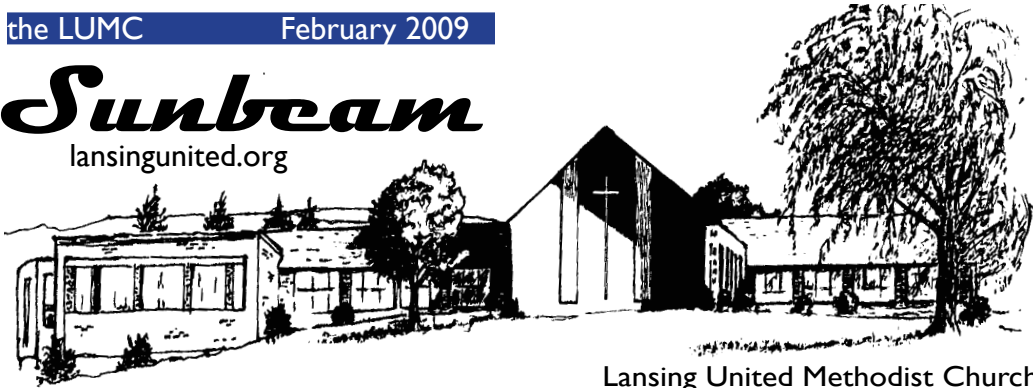


Please join us for worship at 9:00. Sunday school at 10:30.

the LUMC February 2009

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

Transfiguration
Sunday
February 22

Ash Wednesday
February 25
Service 7:00





Looking at the Larger Church

From the Pastor

I usually use this space to share my perspective on some ministry or activity happening in our church. The struggle is to narrow my focus to just one thing. LUMC is a beehive of activity with any number of exciting opportunities and events taking place every month.

This month, though, I want to tell you about a ministry I'm involved in outside our church: the development of a new conference in upstate New York. My challenge with this subject is to make a meaningful connection for you with something about which you might have little knowledge or even interest. The rules and structures of an organization, even a beloved organization like the church, are often its least interesting features. When United Methodists use the word "conference," they are definitely referring to organizational rules and structures. In United Methodism local churches like LUMC are linked together into a larger organization of churches called an annual conference, a name derived from the annual gathering of representatives of this network. This organization is shaped by various structures and rules, most of which are contained in our book of church law called The Book of Discipline.

But an annual conference is meant to be much more than rules and structures. Indeed, rules and structures are merely the means by which we embody the mission or purpose of an annual conference to create and sustain Christian community in a particular region and link that region to the global Christian community.

Currently LUMC belongs to the North Central New York Annual Conference, a network of about 400 churches centered on Syracuse and running west to Corning, east to Rome, north to the St. Lawrence, and south to Elmira. But in July 2010 we'll be linked together in a new and much larger annual conference comprising about 1,000 local churches stretching across most of upstate New York.

Because I serve one of the churches destined to belong to this larger network, I've had some interest in the new conference from the start and have been involved in the development process in various ways. Beyond specific responsibilities, my interest in this endeavor has been driven by the conviction, based on my nearly twenty years of ministry in upstate New York, that we upstate Methodists need to reinvent ourselves. We're in the midst of a crisis. Over the past forty years our membership and overall influence in the region have steadily declined. I look at my two girls and long for them to enjoy the blessings of a vital faith community when they have children. I remember the two little girls I sat near in a local restaurant the other day and long for the same blessings for them and their future families. To realize these longings, I know we need a new approach to "doing church" today.

Last November, because of my previous involvement and convictions, our bishop, Marcus Matthews, asked me to take over the leadership of the team charged with the responsibility of

continued on page 4

Paul & Co. Children's Musical 2009

Retelling the story of Paul's Second Missionary Journey

Children in grades 3 through 8 (and 2 by permission) will present this musical during worship on Sunday, March 29. Rehearsals began January 25. Parents are welcome to participate as much as able with costumes, scenery, props, accompaniment, organization, direction—let us know where your interests lie. Each Sunday rehearsal will begin with lunch provided by participating families.

Further information available from Lisa Ryan (lar4@cornell.edu) and Diane Withiam (dwithiam@twcny.rr.com).

Youth Mission Sweetheart Dinner



February 14
5:00-7:30

At All Saints Church

This is a fundraiser and team builder for the youth mission team. Team members go to work in Guatemala and to South Carolina.

Gulf Coast Work Trip

Dear Friends: In February I will travel to Houma, Louisiana, to help with cleanup work from Hurricane Ike (and Katrina). If you would like to make a contribution for building materials for our friends, please see me. All donations go to help our neighbors in Louisiana. Thanks.—*Glenn Withiam*

Prayer Requests

Brian Cleveland, 7358 Cedar St., Akron, NY 14001
Susan Davidson, 1812 Ridge Rd.
Carol, friend of Karen Bishop
James Hall
Barb Hebert, sister of Karen Bishop
Diane Hoag (cousin of Loretta Bidlespacher)
Michael Huber (director of Casowasco and Aldersgate)
Bonnie Huff, Judy Butman's friend
Sheyanne Loveless
Paul and Sandy Lutomski
Karen Lee Marquis, friend of Sharon Bowman
Sheryl Mattoon, friend of Barb White
Lorraine Phillips's mother
Harry Reinhart, 615 Ridge Rd.
Dave and Beverly Restey, Lakeside Nursing Home, 1229 Trumansburg Rd., Ithaca
Tucker Rossiter
Marge Rundle (grandmother of Melissa Ferris)
Frannie Sampson, 1138 Auburn Rd. (Groton)
Jean Thorn
Kylie Walley, friend of Anne Czymmek
Judy Wilson, 136 Searles Rd. (Groton)
Marian Wilson, Groton Nursing, 120 Sykes St., Room 207A, Groton 13073
Shelley Uhl Stark's father

Mourning family of Lorraine Phillips' father
Please pray for those in our armed

services: Ken Allen Andrew Jacobsen
Mike Beaudoin Daniel Jacobsen
Richard Butler Trevor Judd
Shawn Butler Matt McDonald
Matthew Cornell Travis Potter
Scott Cowles Nick Prabhavat
Steven Cowles Josh Randles
Thomas Deis Matthew Ravas
David Ferris Joan Sullivan
Jason Halton Adam Ward

Pastor's message, concluded

developing this new conference. After prayerful reflection and discussion with my family, LUMC's Staff-Parish Relations Committee, and our district superintendent, I accepted this invitation and began my work.

Obviously, I haven't given up my "day job" and continue to serve full-time as your pastor. In my conversations with Bishop Matthews, I emphasized my primary commitment to pastor this congregation, a sentiment our Bishop readily supported. I estimate my work on the new conference will involve an average of 4 or 5 hours per week, including an all-day Saturday meeting once a month. Our current annual conference has agreed to provide any additional secretary support I need as well as any additional funds for any supply preachers we might need to fill the pulpit if I'm unable to preach on a given Sunday.

I'm finding the work engaging and challenging but, the truth be told, I wasn't looking for additional responsibilities. Yet I realized if I were truly committed to the renewal of the church in our time and place, I needed to do what I could to help.

Above I described our present situation as a "crisis." That word has a particular meaning for me. Many have heard how the Chinese word for "crisis" is formed by combining two other words: "danger" and "opportunity." Though this may be an urban legend, the wisdom it represents rings true. Christianity in upstate New York (like most parts of the country) is in crisis. The statistical charts which display the steady decline of the number of persons in the pews over the last several decades tell part of the story. LUMC's history, of course, is different. This congregation has grown at a fairly steady rate in numbers and, more important, in spirit and mission. It may be hard for you to feel the crisis beyond our four walls, but it is real.

We Christians know that with every crisis comes an opportunity. We serve a God who's in the business of granting and empowering fresh starts. All we need do is remember Easter Sunday. I've often wondered whether part of the reason God planted me among you was so I could experience the possibilities of vitality. Seeing what God is up to among us certainly reinforces my faith and hope in a better future for all of upstate New York. But friends, even though LUMC is vital, we mustn't presume on God's grace nor count his blessings as intended solely for ourselves. As United Methodists, we are connected one to another. "The world is [our] parish," as Methodism's founder John Wesley said. What happens with churches in Olean, Watertown, Elmira, Syracuse, Albany, Rome and Binghamton matters to God and, therefore, must to us.

I'll keep you posted on the progress. Please keep all of this in your prayers. Prayer, passion and a hopeful vision are just what we need.

+Grace and Peace,



Church Pictorial Directory

We will be updating our pictorial directory this year!

The sittings will be during the week of March 16 through 21. Instead of an outside outfit, we will produce our own directory this year. So, for a \$5.00 sitting fee you will receive a 5 x 7 inch print and your new directory. Photo packages will also be available. Set up your appointments on Sunday, February 22, March 1, or March 8. Check with Gary Travis for more info (gstrav@aol.com).



Worship in February

This month we finish up our series on prayer and move into the season of Lent. We also begin (I hope!) to imagine the coming of spring. Note our February 15th service. You won't find "Shaking the Blues" on the liturgical calendar, but any time we worship, God's spirit is capable of shining light and warmth into our lives!

February 1—Fourth Sunday After the

Epiphany: Today's topic is "thanksgiving," especially appropriate this morning as we celebrate the "Great Thanksgiving" or Holy Communion. Read: Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111 (UMH 832), 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; and Mark 1:21-28.

February 8—Fifth Sunday After the Epiphany:

We finish up the four-week sermon series on "The A.C.T.S. of Prayer" by exploring the prayer of supplication—i.e., asking God to help us in our need. "Help me, help me, help me" is said to be our most basic and most frequent prayer. We'll look at how this sort of prayer is just that simple and also not so simple at all. Read: Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; and Mark 1:29-39.

February 15—Sixth Sunday After the Epiphany

or "Shake the Winter Blues" Sunday: We're going to "cut loose" and celebrate God's abundant goodness, even in the midst of snow, cold, salt-stained cars, and

short days! Every Sunday is meant to be a party, but let's really "whoop it up" today. Hawaiian shirts, sunglasses, and boisterous singing are welcome! Read: 2 Kings 5:1-14; Psalm 30; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; and Mark 1:40-45.

February 22—Transfiguration Sunday: After witnessing Jesus' amazing transformation on the mountain top, the disciples are asked to "keep it to themselves" until they'd had a chance to fully understand it. How does the passage of time help us understand God's activity in past events? Read: 2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; and Mark 9:2-9

February 25—Ash Wednesday: Come begin the spiritual journey of Lent with a special service of worship this night at 7:00 p.m. The traditional imposition of ashes will be included (marking forehead with the sign of the cross in ash). Read: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; and Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21.

Ledyard UMC Collects Winter Clothing for Afghan Children

Winter in Afghanistan is just as brutal as it is here. Ledyard Pastor Russ Riddell is collecting winter clothing for Afghan children. Hats, scarves, mittens are needed. Drop them off with Ed LaVigne at church or at his counter at the Tops in Lansing.

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

1
 Worship 9:00
 Sunday School 10:30
 Paul & Co. Rehearsal 11:30-2:00
 Disciple Bible Study 2:30
 K.A.N. 5:30

2
 New Worship Service Task Force 7:00

3
 Quilt Bee 9:30
 Staff Parish 7:00

4
 Prayer Service 9:00
 Women's Bible Study 9:30
 Bell Choir 6:00
 Choir 7:00

5
 Bible Study at Woodsedge 2:30
 Senior High Youth 7:00

6
 Haiti Cookie Decorating

7
 Haiti Cookie Decorating
 Mens' Breakfast every Saturday at Linda's in North Lansing 7:00

8
 Worship 9:00
 Sunday School 10:30
 Paul & Co. Rehearsal 11:30-2:00
 HAITI COOKIE SALE
 Children's Ministry 12:00
 Disciple Bible Study 2:30
 Confirmation Bible Study 4:00

9

10
 Quilt Bee 9:30
 Lay Leaders 7:00

11
 Prayer Service 9:00
 Women's Bible Study 9:30
 Bell Choir 6:00
 Choir 7:00

12
 Bible Study at Woodsedge 2:30
 Senior High Youth 7:00
 Trustees 7:30

13

14
 Mens' Breakfast 7:00

 Youth Mission
 Sweetheart Dinner 5:00-7:30 at All Saints RC Church

15
 SHAKE THE BLUES AWAY
 Worship 9:00
 Sunday School 10:30
 Paul & Co. Rehearsal 11:30-2:00
 Disciple Bible Study 2:30
 SUNBEAM DEADLINE 12:00 Midnight

16
 Haiti Committee 7:00

17
 Quilt Bee 9:30
 Membership 7:00

18
 Prayer Service 9:00
 Women's Bible Study 9:30
 Bell Choir 6:00
 Choir 7:00

19
 Bible Study at Woodsedge 2:30
 Family Game Night 5:30-8:00

20

21
 Mens' Breakfast 7:00

22
 TRANSFIGURATION
 Worship 9:00
 Sunday School 10:30
 Paul & Co. Rehearsal 11:30-2:00
 Food Pantry Setup
 PICTORIAL DIRECTORY SCHEDULING
 Confirmation Bible Study 4:00

23
 Caregivers 9:00
 Food Pantry 3:30

24
 Quilt Bee 9:30
 Youth Ministry 7:00
 Finance 7:00

25
 Prayer Service 9:00
 Women's Bible Study 9:30
 ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE 7:00
 Adult Choir Rehearsal (following service)

26
 Bible Study at Woodsedge 2:30
 Senior High Youth 7:00

27

28
 Mens' Breakfast 7:00



February 2009

Note: This calendar is current as of January 26. For updates to all LUMC events, visit lansingunited.org, and check the bulletin when you're in church on Sunday.

Talking the Walk:

Telling the Story of our Life with God

Many of you participated in the small group study for five weeks this past fall and I hope you walked away nourished in God's spirit. Small Christian groups provide an intimate setting for fellowship and spiritual growth. We will offer another small group study beginning Sunday, March 1. This new study will be centered on witnessing our faith—talking the walk and sharing the story of our life with God. We will be contacting group leaders and other folks who have expressed in interest in small group study. We will also encourage new groups to form. If you are interested in leading or attending, please let us know. Devotional booklets will be distributed and used as a guide for the small group gatherings. A discussion series entitled "Spiritual Autobiography" will be held during adult Sunday School hour during Lent, led by Rich Flaville and Pastor Bill. There will be many opportunities to participate in this small group study and it is our hope that your Lenten journey will be enhanced through this experience.

The devotional themes of the five-week study are as follows:

Week of March 1: Beginning our life with God—earliest memories of God's friendship.

Week of March 8: No easy path to follow—struggles we have living the way of Jesus.

Week of March 15: Christ's passion for justice—standing by Jesus means standing up for what's right (even when it's not popular).

Week of March 22: Christ came to save the whole world—seeing God's love reaching out.

Week of March 29: Christ's Servants—finding God in the midst of serving others.

Please join us. God Bless.—*Marilyn Paradise*

Food Pantry Update

Thanks for your help!

The Lansing Food Pantry has once again assisted dozens of Town of Lansing families. We have completed a successful year, thanks to the generous support of so many people, organizations, and businesses. We have received many monetary and food donations throughout the year. The food donations come from individuals, birthday parties, United Way Day of Caring, Tri-County Turkey Federation, Lansing Senior Citizens, Girl Scouts, Brownies, Lansing Curves, and Lansing Central Schools. Money was donated by individuals, The Feinstein Foundation, CROP Walk, Cayuga Helping Hands(AES), Lansing Faculty, Lansingville Auxiliary and North Lansing Auxiliary, and Lansing Quilters.

The Ecumenical Volunteers for the Pantry consist of members from the following: LUMC, All Saints, Salvation Army, Grace Baptist Church and Saint Paul's Church.

Thank you to everyone one who helped in any way.—*Nancy Myers*

Church World Service Health Kits

When you're out and about, think about picking up an extra soap or washcloth for the *health kits*. Bring in any of the items listed here. Or you can help out with school kits, listed at right.

- One hand towel
- One bath size bar of soap
- One washcloth
- One toothbrush
- One comb
- Six Band-aids
- One metal nail file
- \$1 to buy toothpaste later

Here's the deal on the toothpaste. Instead of donating tubes that may go out of date, donate a buck to cover the cost of buying a fresh tube just as the kit is actually distributed. Kits must be exactly as specified due to import restrictions in international locations.

Habitat House in Lansing

Habitat For Humanity has purchased a seven-acre site on Breed Road in North Lansing to construct a home, as well as establish a five acre wetland preserve. "What we usually do is try and select a family for the house, then build the house for the family, within reason," says Tompkins County Construction Coordinator Ed Siemon. "We're looking at plans for a three- or four-bedroom house."

The first step has been to clean up the property, which had been used as an illegal dump for years. Habitat For Humanity affiliates from Cornell and the Ithaca First Congregational Church in November dug out some 30 tires, parts of a motorized dirt bike, bicycles, rugs, a refrigerator, baby diapers, and a Maytag washer. Lansing's Jerry Haas used a backhoe to pile the junk out of the way.

Even though the volunteers that cleaned up the lot were from different groups, Siemon says they worked together as one, with enthusiasm and tenacity. "It was remarkable," he says. "It wasn't like one group doing something and another group doing something else. I couldn't tell one group from the other. They were intermingled, and having contests to see who could get the stuff unburied first."

The next step is to raise \$60,000 this winter while settling on a final plan. Donations can be in cash or kind, if you have leftover building materials. Then it will be time to sign up volunteers, begin construction in April, and move the family in before the end of 2009. Family members are expected to put in at least 500 hours working on the house. Once the house is turned over to them they will have a 30 year no-interest mortgage, held by Habitat For Humanity.

"We're going to build this in the traditional way, a stick-built house," Siemon says. "We can have more volunteer time put into it and keep our material cost down. Some of the lumber yards have said they will help us price-wise, and there are a number of companies that donate products such as paint and other items that go into a house."

While there is a lot of work to do, it looks like the house is on track to begin construction in the spring. This will be the first Habitat For Humanity house in Tompkins County for some years, because affordable property was hard to find. Ten others have been built in Tompkins and Cortland Counties.—*Adapted from an article in Lansing Star, by Dan Veaner. See Ed LaVigne for more info.*

Church World Service School Kits

Here's the list of items for the Church World Service school kits. Drop off your donations in the LUMC Narthex, but remember, no substitutions. Cash donations are welcome as we pay \$2 per kit to cover shipping, and any spare cash also allows us to purchase more items for our kits.

- One pair of blunt scissors
- Three spiral or tape-bound pads or notebooks of ruled paper 8-1/2" X 11" (or 8" X 10 1/2"), containing 200 sheets of paper. No filler paper, please.
- One 30-centimeter ruler (12")
- One hand-held pencil sharpener
- Six new pencils with erasers
- One large eraser
- One box of 24 crayons (no more, no less)
- One 12" x 14" cloth bag with cloth handles, to hold the above items

Drop items in the LUMC Narthex.



Students in Haiti Send Season's Greetings

December's trip to visit our students in Haiti was a journey to visit people who are filled with the Holy Spirit. People who have endured four hurricanes still smile and are joyful even though their food crops are destroyed and prices are skyrocketing. Churches are full, new churches are built, and these are quickly outgrown. The people are hungry for food for their stomachs and their souls. Their souls are being fed by the churches, but their stomachs are empty.

We would consider the losses suffered by the families of our students to be severe. Some lost a complete garden and the family's food; others saw a wall of their house dissolve; and many jobs are gone with the floodwaters. Maxo Nozard lost his family's house and all his belongings and his brother's; all that remains is a pile of stones.

But there has been gain in the midst of this loss. What did the people gain? They found out who their neighbors are. Everyone helped each other as best they could with limited resources. Since schools had not started, no students lost their books. School enrollment is down some and food cost is high.

Until recently, the canteen at L'Ecole la Providence was only able to provide meals two days each week. The reason behind this is that the Bureau for Nutrition and Development for the European Union has not provided food to the school or Hospital Albert Schweitzer. US AID set up a warehouse in Verrettes in September and did a field survey. The Bureau told The Haitians they would be back with food and supplies, but nothing happened and the warehouse sits empty. However, money raised at

Lansing United Methodist Church has enabled students at L'Ecole la Providence to eat three days each week for the rest of the school year. Our students know they can depend on us to help them get an education and food for primary school.

During my time in Haiti, many secondary students came asking if their sponsor had some food money for them. Secondary schools do not provide lunches. It was painful to tell those without food allotments that there is no money for them to eat, only money for school needs. Some students came to see me because they are sick and needed to go to a doctor. Hunger and sickness affect their grades and they do not do as well. Students that asked for money for a doctor received it. When students brought me a note from the doctor saying what medicine they needed and the cost, they received money for medicine.

The only time I had to say you must wait for me to find money was to Cindy Marcelin. Cindy took her Rhetoric exam at the end of the school year last year and did not pass. She was suffering from severe headaches and blurry vision. She went to Hospital Albert Schweitzer and was told to see a special doctor and get glasses. The cost is US\$250 (a fortune in Haiti) and the program does not have the money. Is there someone who through prayer is being led to help Cindy so when she retakes the Rhetoric exam in June she can pass?

The students all gathered with Peter and Carol Loveland, Jeff Haines from Fayetteville UMC (where Marti Swords is pastor), and me for a Christmas dinner party. The menu was rice and beans, sauce, fried plantain, fried chicken, pasta salad, coleslaw, sliced tomatoes and lettuce, popcorn, and cake. Pastor Solange's wife and Madame Chrisfis, who is the home economics

continued at right

Haiti Connection, concluded

teacher, and people from the church prepared the meal and helped with serving. David Joseph led a prayer before the meal and Jodes Loiseus, Rene Duckens, and Wisly Fils-Aime sang carols while the younger children went up to get their food. After the meal, the primary students wrote letters to their sponsors with the help of the older students. There was some water coloring with Peter and Carol, and there was violin music by Jeff accompanied by Lucerne on the trumpet.

Student update. Jose Pierre, a student in our program, is now a father of a baby girl, Julie Pierre. Jose is in his last month of residency at a hospital in Les Cayes, Haiti to become a doctor. The Medical Director of Hospital Albert Schweitzer has asked Jose to send him a resume. Please pray for Jose as he starts life as a father and that he gets a position at Hospital Albert Schweitzer. Wilphane and Clifford are having a good year at Information Technology University. Phenous is happy to be attending University Notre Dame School of Agronomy in Les Cayes and is enjoying his studies. Aniel is attending Unap, a University for Engineering in Port au Prince. He finds his studies challenging and is striving to succeed.

Primary and secondary classes had exams while we were in Haiti in December so grade reports will be coming in January. University students end their session at the end of January and will be sending grades in February. Sponsors will receive letters about their child's progress. While the program did not take any new students this year, there are opportunities to help students who are already in the program. Additional money is needed for the canteen, for Cindy to get glasses, and for the university students, as costs have gone up significantly this year in Haiti. Please reread this and pray about it to see where you are led to help.—Dean Benware, Haiti Committee

Online Brochure and Registration Is Posted for Summer Church Camp

The 2009 summer camp schedule, brochure, and registration form are available online at www.aldersgateny.org and www.casowasco.org. Find the program you want at Aldersgate or Casowasco this summer, and then register right then and there. Some of the most popular camps fill up quickly.

If you'd like the printed version of the summer camp brochure that should be available about the time you receive this *Sunbeam*.

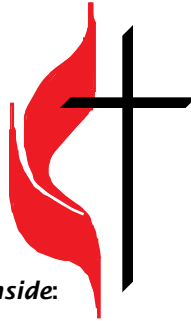
A special note to all children.

Remember, LUMC will help with your summer camp expenses, up to and including the whole shot. We want you to go to summer camp, and we do not want money to stand in the way. Remember also that you do not have to be a Methodist or even a Christian to receive financial help from LUMC to attend Aldersgate or Casowasco. So, invite a friend to sign up for camp with you. All you need to do is sign up and plan for a fun time with new friends and a chance to learn more about how you can have a closer relationship with Jesus Christ.

Any questions about programs? Please contact our camp managers at program@campsandretreats.org or 315-364-8756 (the Casowasco number).

Camps, Conferences & Retreat Ministries Staff

Mike Huber, Executive Director of CCRM
Joan Newlon, CCRM Administrative Assistant
David Riddell, Aldersgate Assistant Director
Jenna Amberge, Casowasco Assistant Director
Betsy Schuessler, CCRM Asst Dir of Program



The Sunbeam

February 2009

Lansing United
Methodist Church

Inside:

Looking at the Larger Church, page 2
Shake the Blues Away, page 5
Greetings from Haiti, page 10

Worship 9:00
Sunday School 10:30

Prayer Service
Wednesday, 9:00 AM

Youth Mission Sweetheart Dinner
February 14
5:00–7:30
All Saints RC Church

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: Laurie Moskow

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

www.lansingunited.org

The Sunbeam is published each month
by Lansing United Methodist Church.

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 February 15, 2009.