

# Good News

From Darrtown United Methodist Church  
for January / February, 2006



At the combined Christmas service, I shared some thoughts on "God's Real Gifts." Read Isaiah 52:7-10. One of God's gifts is the gift of good news. Isaiah reminds us also that Jesus was the gift of a clear path to God. Third, the coming of God in a world in Jesus Christ bestows on us the gift of salvation for all eternity.

At the conclusion I asked how shall we respond to all these Christmas gifts? We need to rejoice and express our gratitude for the thoughtfulness of others. Most of all, we need to express our profound joy at God's gift to us of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

When we put Christ in the center of Christmas, we shall discover that we spend our lives – and all of eternity – unwrapping and sharing this ultimate Christmas gift.

Tom Hanover's "Who Should We Adopt?" puts another thought on all this as we move into the New Year of 2006! See article on next page.

See you in church,

*Rev. Ed*



## Who Should We Adopt?

"I know what it means to be adopted."

I stared blankly at her wondering what she meant and why she said it. She explained herself by repeating it, "I know what it means to be adopted."

You need to know more of the story. When I was in junior high, my mother returned to college to become a teacher. My parents hoped her employment would help pay for the college education of four sons. While in school, she met a young lady – more traditional age for a college student – who attended the same church my aunt and uncle pastored. So naturally my mother started bringing Tina home on weekends; partly to give her a place off campus to visit and partly to introduce an entirely different world to four boys who had grown up without a sister.

Tina has become a typical older sister. Both her parents and her husband's parents have passed away over the years. My mother is the only one left from that generation. Tina expends more effort to connect with the entire family than anyone else. She worries about everything and bosses everyone.

We were sitting in the waiting room during my mother's recent surgery. Tina turned to me and said, "I know what it means to be adopted." Then I understood what she was saying and what it meant for her to sit among us at this somewhat anxious moment. She was family.

She was family not by the mysterious chance of genetics, but by choice. It was our choice and it was her choice. Perhaps that makes for stronger family relationships than mere genetics. I ponder that every generation in my family that I have known has had several asterisks in our family relationships. An asterisk is one of those persons we claim, but there is no legal or biological connection. It is purely choice.

At one time most of our churches relied on growth through biological means. Young adults would marry, have four or five kids who would grow up and marry other people and raise another generation of families. Many of our churches still rely heavily – if not solely – on this style of evangelism.

What is not working is that our young adults do not raise four or five kids anymore. Moreover they do not even stay in the community. They move out of the area searching for the jobs they want.

Consequently, some of our churches are surrounded by many prospects, but are declining if not dying. There are many people in the community who do not attend church. On the average 50% of our communities do not have a relationship with Jesus Christ or a worshiping community. The opportunity is there, but we do not know how to "adopt" these new people.

I assure you that it takes some persistent work and ample grace. I remember moments of frustration and aggravation as well as many moments of joy and wonder. But we persisted because each of us had a very dear and treasured relationship with our parents. We were committed to seeing the promise and potential in each other that our parents saw in us. We also knew that the best of what our parents had to share with us was never fully contained in any one of us. As we came together, we discovered the richness and fullness of our family heritage.

Can churches do that? Would we adopt new people because of our relationship with God? Would we look for the promise and potential that God has placed in each of us? Would we discover the richness of our heritage that God has intentionally placed in people who are not yet adopted?

Who among you knows what it means to be adopted? Who knows what it means to reach out to someone and bring them into the family? In this lies the gift of our present and the promise of our future!

Tom Hanover, Superintendent, Wilmington District

# Darrtown UMC Newsletter

January / February, 2006

www.darrtownumc.org

## Upcoming Events

(DT - Darrtown / MM - McGonigle-Millville)

- Every Wednesday: Choir Practice at 7:00
- January 3 (Tuesday): DT United Methodist Women's monthly meeting
- January 8: Sacrament of Communion - both churches
- January 8: DT - remove all seasonal decorations after the morning service
- January 9: DT Admin Board meeting
- January 15: MM Church Conference after church to vote on renovation of Sanctuary
- January 16: MM Trustees and Admin Board
- January 19: Women's Group, Spirit Seekers, at MM
- February 5: Sacrament of Communion - both churches
- February 6: DT United Methodist Women's monthly meeting
- February 8: Souper Bowl
- February 12: Love Sunday at MM
- February 13: DT Admin Board meeting
- February 20: MM Trustees & Admin Board
- March 1: Ash Wednesday

## HOSPITALITY SCHEDULE

Jan: Bob Ison & Sandy Beckemeier

Feb: Cathy & Lora Richardson

\* When a trade is needed, contact Etta Jean at 524-2144.

## ACOLYTES

Jan: Stephanie or Stacey Ison

Feb: To be determined

## ALTAR FLOWERS

If you would like to honor or remember a relative or friend with flowers, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the church annex. Fill in the appropriate information and Caren Hansel will handle the arrangements.



## PRAYERS REQUESTS

Jill & Dave Morris (Iraq); Jessie Jones (Iraq); Michael Eversole (Iraq); Thomas Streit (Iraq); Chris Williams (Afghanistan); Matthew Ziglar (Iraq); Mel Snider; Ersia Coombs; JoAnn & Bill Coombs; Melva Ward; Frank Mottolo; Ellen Dennison; Tim Roberts; Patty Stephens; Robyn Beck; Al Taylor; Hazel Etheredge; Janet Bates; Jacob Schwab; Pam Hatten; Thomas family; Somerville UMC, Jennifer Clark; Lawrence Baumann; John Holcolm; Wanda Ruth Settles; Louise Haddock; Condolences to the family of Paul McDade.

## Looking Forward

### HAPPY NEW YEAR

November and December, two months filled with the spirit of "high energy." Looking forward to the new year, we can take a breath of relaxation and begin to plan anew for 2006 and thank God for our accomplishments. We ask for continued guidance with strength and wisdom.

Ida Mae Lemmons  
Radical Hospitality Chair

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

The winter quarter of Sunday School material is "God's Word for God's Children." The three units are, "Get Ready," "Touched by Jesus," and "Healed by Jesus." Cathy Richardson and Lora Richardson will be teaching for the rest of this quarter. Helpers will be needed.

Carolyn Russell

### T.G.I.F. (Teens Growing In Faith)

All youth grades 7-12 are invited to enjoy our youth fellowship. We encourage all youth to bring their friends. The UPCOMING EVENTS tentatively scheduled are:

Saturday, Jan. 21 - Movie & Pizza - time to be determined

Saturday, Feb. 25 - Game night (cont)

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For further information contact Rev. Ed and Robyn at 896-4025 or e-mail them at [robued2@yahoo.com](mailto:robued2@yahoo.com) In November, the youth enjoyed an outing to see the movie "Dreamer" followed by pizza at CiCi's.

## SPIRIT SEEKERS

All women are invited to attend a very special group called "Spirit Seekers." We meet monthly, on the third Thursday, at McGonigle-Millville UMC at 7:00 pm. Our purpose is to fervently seek God's guidance and be open to accepting and recognizing the Holy Spirit within us. We are not a Bible study, though our search for God constantly takes us there. We are not a social group, yet our love of God and one another creates strong bonds of endearment and friendship. We are not a mission group, yet our belief and practice of intentional prayer serves our church, those around us, our nation, and our world. Prayer takes us further than we could physically go.

We ARE women of prayer, united for the purpose of growing in faith. We acknowledge the work of the Holy Spirit within and want to share this excitement with others. Our journey takes us to the Bible for guidance and wisdom, Christian books and studies for growth, one another for practical advice and shared experiences, and ultimately to the Spirit within, which keeps us on God's chosen path.

We invite you to join us for an uplifting, spirit filled evening. You will meet new friends and feel the warmth of God's love among us. Help us bring in the new year on Thursday, January 19 and Thursday, February 16 at 7:00 pm. You need not be a member of this church or any other church to be a part of this group, so please invite your friends and family.



## PACKING DAY IS ALMOST HERE

It's not too late to make plans to join us for the Packing for Jesus Day on February 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am at the Goshen United Methodist Church. We have had a great crew come out to help pack the past couple of years and are looking for the same this year. We always have a great time working and know that the clothing, shoes, handbags, belts and accessories that you donate for this event will be beneficial to many. Master Provision takes to heart Jesus' admonition in Matthew 25 to feed the hungry and cloth the needy. Your donations do just that by providing employment for Christian workers and a means to share the gospel with those who frequent the clothing centers. Donations are still needed; call the District Office if you would like to have your donations stored until packing day. Lunch will be served at the church; menu and cost to be announced.

## COOKBOOK FOR SALE

The Talawanda Middle School has compiled a cookbook with recipes from the staff. Illustrations are designed by previous students of Jan Hunsche's art classes. All proceeds go to the *Tammy McCartney Scholarship Fund*. The cookbooks sell for \$12 each or two for \$20. Please see Caren Hansel if you would like to purchase one. Let's all buy a cookbook and donate to this wonderful cause in Tammy's memory.

## WINTER ADDRESS

To keep in touch during the next few months:

Ken & Carolyn Russell  
Ellenton Gardens Travel Resort, Lot #133  
7310 US Hwy. 301 N  
Ellenton, Florida 34222

Jerry & Myra Krauth  
Same address as above - Lot # 85

# Darrrtown UMC Newsletter

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## TRUSTEE'S REPORT

The church phone is now working correctly. It is on top of the file cabinet until a new wire can be run around the room to the desk. The answering machine is temporarily out of service until the new wire can be run.

The carpet in the back of the church has been stretched and is looking better.

The Trustees are looking at bids to have the ramp into the Social Room upgraded. This will be a project for the spring of the year. We are currently looking to replace the decking and railing with the new vinyl material which is maintenance free and has a 30+ year life span.

Shawn Gallagher

## Looking Back

### DARRTOWN 2005

A preliminary report shows that our average attendance in worship for 2005 was 55.5. Sunday School averaged 14.8. Again in 2005 we have paid all our bills, including the fair share (apportionments) to the Wilmington District and the West Ohio Conference.

### ANNUAL TURKEY DINNER

Our November 5<sup>th</sup> dinner and bazaar was a big success again this year, with approximately 300 dinners served, and proceeds of over \$1700. Thanks to all who participated with donations, gifts and service! It was a pleasure to see some of our newest church members pitching in to help, and a pleasure as well to work side by side and enjoy the fellowship of new and old friends.

### RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to new members who joined the church on November 6, 2005:

Chyrl and Neil Akeley - transfer  
Jerry Krauth - profession of faith / baptism  
Nancy Wolterman - transfer

And on November 13:

Ron and Pam Hatten - transfer.

## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

I want to thank Corrynn Decker, Anna Clark and Reese Lindley for being out precious angels in our Christmas program. Those who had parts in the Traditions of Christmas were Wyatt Bolser, Shelby Cook, Brooke Bolser, Tucker Lindley, Chandler Gase, Dustin Beckemeier, Caden Decker and Adam Blalock. Thank you, children, you all did a great job.

The Christmas Story was given by the youth: Taylor Cook (Elizabeth); Cameron Hansel (Innkeeper); Stephanie Ison (Shepherd); Megan Beckemeier (Mary). Well done! The youth then sang "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing." Those in the youth choir were Stacey Ison, Taylor Cook, Cameron Hansel, Stephanie Ison, Allie Sizemore, Megan Beckemeier and Chloe Hansel.

Remember, our Sunday School starts at 10:00 each Sunday and is over at 10:45 am.

Carolyn Russell

## CHRISTMAS MUSIC FEST

Thanks to all who made the Christmas Music Fest happen on December 14<sup>th</sup>, those who shared their talent and those who came and participated, even though the winter weather was threatening. It was an enjoyable evening and the spirit of the Lord certainly was there among us. The donated canned goods will be delivered to the Oxford Family Resource Center.

## DECEMBER CLOTHING MISSION

All donated children's clothing will be delivered to the Talawanda Middle School. Thanks to everyone for participating and thanks to Cathy Richardson for organizing this mission.

### *Gift of Friendship*

*When you ask God for a gift,  
be thankful if He sends  
Not diamonds, pearls, and riches  
but the love of real true friends.*

### 2005 ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Despite the approaching ice storm, several families attended our Christmas carry-in dinner on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Once again, Rev. Ed and Robyn were very appreciative of all gifts received and sends thanks to everyone. Rev. Ed presented a beautiful "one of a kind" framed wall hanging of the cross and flame to the church.

Rev. Ed stole the show by winning the "Santa" Bingo three times! He also was the lucky one who guessed how many pieces of candy were in the candy jar!

Below is the poem written by Donna Gallagher for this event.

### Christmas Party 2005

*What a great time we've all had tonight... The food and the fellowship have been better than just alright.  
Our church family has grown by leaps and bounds...  
Our love for each other shows smiles, certainly not frowns.  
Our beloved pastor and his beautiful wife have shown us what God's love can do... And for all their generosity toward us, we just want to say a big thank you!  
Their dedication and caring seems to keep going and growing... They never stop giving of themselves and their love for us all is ever glowing.  
We've had a busy year with I'm sure more to come our way... So thanks, Robyn and Ed and everyone else for giving us this day.  
Go home tonight with love in your heart... Knowing you helped this year by doing your part.  
We have a paved parking lot, new windows, a clean carpet and a soft place to sit... what more can we do??  
Just know we should all love GOD, because GOD certainly loves all of you.*

### **\*\* Notice \*\* Deadline for Newsletter Articles**

The next deadline date for submitting articles for the newsletter is **February 15, 2006**. Items can be given to Maxine Harris or Ida Mae Lemmons. We will be including monthly calendars and we need your help to keep upcoming events, birthdays, anniversaries, etc. noted on these calendars. You may also send information via e-mail to Maxine at: [maxakers03@aol.com](mailto:maxakers03@aol.com).



### NO COATS ON THE COAT RACK!

On Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, the temperature outside was a brisk 46 degrees. The temperature inside the church was also a surprising 46 degrees! As more and more people entered the building, their coats, scarves, gloves and earmuffs obviously remained attached to their bodies. It was so cold, one could see his breath. Several people were frantically trying to find the problem with the furnace. A call was placed to Dunkelbergers, and they promised to get there as soon as possible. A brief discussion was held as to whether or not to cancel the morning service.

In the meantime, preparations were being made to proceed as usual. The choir members were getting into their robes. The robes sure felt good today. No one said they were too hot! Our guest minister, Bob Klingel, arrived and people were taking their seats. This was Thanksgiving Sunday 2005. Fifty-eight people braved these uncomfortable conditions to the end of the service, including the small Shoker baby who remained in her mother's arms, feeling the warmth of her body the entire time. Tonya Cornthwaite sang a capella "My Tribute" and the choir sang "Count Your Blessings."

The only warm spot in the building was the kitchen oven. When Maxine was deciding what to provide as a snack for the day, she never dreamed what a big hit her warm peach cobbler would be! Even the Dunkelberger repairman enjoyed a warm cup of coffee!

Maxine Harris

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## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



Women's Fellowship

*All women of the church and community are invited to be a part of this caring and sharing group, locally and globally. Our reason is to be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the local and global ministries of the church.*

### JANUARY 3<sup>RD</sup> MEETING

Hostesses: Carolyn Sadler; Sally Hansel; Irene Hansel. Agenda: Installation of Officers; Review of New Program Books; Distribution of New World Thank Offering Boxes. Come and enjoy the fellowship while we decide on a mission project for the new year.

### FEBRUARY 6<sup>TH</sup> MEETING

Hostesses: Sandy Beckemeier; Rhonda Knight. Agenda: Planning for the Garden Seed Ministry.

### 2005 MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

\$250 = Wilmington District Pledge to Mission & Special Missions  
\$50 = Red Bird Mission, KY  
\$50 = Living Water Ministry, Hamilton  
\$50 = Otterbein Home  
\$50 = Oxford Family Resource Center  
\$50 = Butler County Parachute Program  
\$50 = Tammy McCartney Scholarship Fund  
\$50 = Matthew 25 Ministries, Cincinnati  
\$50 = Wilmington Children's Home  
\$650 = Total

Our unit has also met all obligations in order to become a Five-Star Unit! *Congratulations!*



### TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance as of December 15, 2005 was \$860.27.

### WORLD THANK OFFERING

Thanks to everyone who helped make this annual giving the best one ever! A total of \$222.35 was donated to this Thanksgiving world mission.

### UMW NURSING HOME VISIT

On November 7<sup>th</sup> a group of 15, including children, visited the Woodland Country Manor and conducted a hymn sing. Many residents joined us in singing their old favorite hymns.

At least a dozen beautiful lap robes, made by the UMW, were presented to the residents and they enjoyed selecting their favorite colors. Thanks to all the women who made this special act of giving possible.

Terry, the owner/manager, pointed to Maxine Harris and said "there is the dog lady." She remembered Maxine and Bill bringing their golden retriever Buddy to visit the residents.

### NOVEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup> BAZAAR

The UMW's bazaar realized over \$600, including \$85 from the silent auction for the beautiful flannel throw made and donated by Etta Jean Crawford! Many of our women had been busy embroidering kitchen towels and crafts, and these were offered for sale. Thanks to everyone who donated the baked goods, and thanks to Caren Hansel for chairing this very important UMW event again this year!

### VISITS TO SHUT-INS

The UMW visits to shut-ins included JoAnn Coombs, Barney Beckemeier, Melva Ward, Lawrence Baumann and Horce Akeley.

### THANK YOU TO UMW

JoAnn Coombs sends a big "Thank You" to all the gals who recently spent time with her! Much appreciated.

# Darrrtown UMC Newsletter

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## UMCOR RECEIVES GOVERNMENT GRANT

Eight weeks after one of the worst hurricanes on record displaced more than a million Gulf Coast residents, UMCOR relief officials said the agency will lead a consortium of providers in a two-year case management grant worth \$66 million. The agreement with FEMA will benefit 300,000 people scattered by the winds throughout the 50 states. UMCOR's role will be to coordinate, monitor, and report on the work of 3,000 professional and volunteer case managers in delivery of services to people who were living in Alabama, Louisiana or Mississippi when Hurricane Katrina displaced them.

## TEXAS RESPONSE CENTER OPEN

The Texas Conference Disaster Response Center site is now up and running: [www.txcumc.org](http://www.txcumc.org). Partners in Mission and UMCOR are launching a Call Center to coordinate volunteer efforts for Disaster Response Teams. The center is located on the second floor of the United Methodist Center in Houston and is now open for business. If you are interested in volunteering for Disaster Relief in Texas, please call 713-533-3713. While we continue to focus on the destruction caused by Hurricane Katrina, let's remember those impacted by Hurricane Rita. Thank you for your continued prayers and support of all those impacted by these hurricanes.

## MISSIONARIES

### A NOTE FROM TOM AND SHARON CROWE

God laid it upon our hearts when we first started our ministry that we were to "teach a man to fish, not give him the fish." Because of this the people at Nyembo Umpungu are now doing a fine job. Tom and Sharon plan to go back once a year to the mission station for a follow-up on the work. Tom taught agriculture and Sharon taught health. We thank God for all their years of teaching.

## CAMPBELL LABELS

Over 600 Campbell labels were recently mailed to the Henderson Settlement in Frakes, Kentucky, for "meeting basic human needs in Appalachia" for the Laurel Fork Valley, and a letter of thanks was received from this mission.

Thank you and please continue to save your labels and place them in the pink shoebox in the Annex.

## CALENDAR PLANNERS

Planners for the new year are still available for \$1.00, and are located in a basket in the back of the Sanctuary.

## *Happy Birthday Therapy*

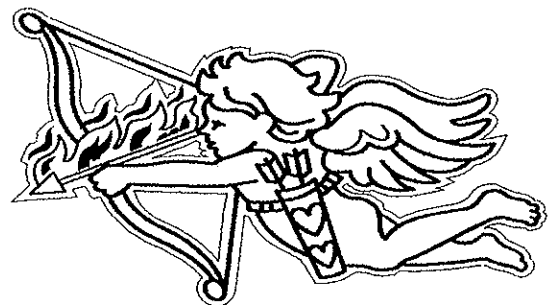
*Don't ignore your birthday.  
A birthday is a wonderful opportunity for  
renewing, rejuvenating, rejoicing!*

Jan. 1 - Carolyn Russell  
Feb. 4 - Joan Dyer  
Feb. 9 - Ida Mae Lemmons



## *Forgiveness Therapy*

*Forgiveness may seem futile when you see no  
immediate results. But healing and growth are  
like fine aged cheese -  
not instant mashed potatoes.  
Give forgiveness time.*





# Darrtown United Methodist Church



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <u>Happy New Year</u> Carolyn Russell Birthday	2	3 UMW Meeting at 7:00 pm	4 Choir Practice at 7:00 pm	5	6 Chris Meador Birthday	7
8 Communion Remove seasonal decorations	9 Admin Board Meeting at 7:00 pm	10	11 Choir Practice at 7:00 pm	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 Choir Practice at 7:00 pm	19	20	21
22 Bill & JoAnn Coombs Anniversary	23 Roxanna Otto Birthday	24	25 Choir Practice at 7:00 pm	26	27	28
29	30	31				
<u>Hospitality:</u> Bob Ison & Sandy B. <u>Acolyte:</u> Stephanie or Stacey Ison						

**DARRTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
2006 BUDGET (accepted)**

<b><u>Radical Hospitality</u></b>		
Bereavement Flowers / Meals		\$ 250
Bulletins, Newsletters, Postage, Copy Machine		1,000
Other		40
		\$ 1,290
<b><u>Passionate Worship</u></b>		
Music		\$ 100
Decorations		75
Altar Care, Flowers		100
Communion		25
Christmas Program		20
		\$ 320
<b><u>Risk Taking Service</u></b>		
Conference Apportionments		\$ 4,879
District Apportionment		531
Local Mission		300
New Member Orientation		50
Community Events		125
Publicity		650
Resurrection Sunday		40
		\$ 6,575
<b><u>Faith Forming Relationships</u></b>		
Sunday School Literature		\$ 500
Vacation Bible School		500
Other		100
		\$ 1,100
<b><u>Administrative Council</u></b>		
Administrative Expenses		\$ 500
		\$ 500
<b><u>Board of Trustees</u></b>		
Utilities		\$ 8,000
Maintenance		10,000
Insurance		1,100
Custodian		600
Other		200
		\$ 19,900
<b><u>Pastor-Parish Relations Committee</u></b>		
Pulpit Supply		\$ 400
Paid to Charge PPR Committee (\$1,300 month)		15,600
Includes: Pastor salary, travel, housing, phone		
		\$ 16,000
<b><u>Lay Leadership Committee</u></b>		
Supplies		\$ 100
Total Expenses	\$ 45,785	\$ 100
<b><u>Income</u></b>		
Ice Cream Social	\$ 1,750	
Turkey Dinner	\$ 2,000	
Miscellaneous	\$ 1,000	
VBS Donations	\$ 200	
Fish Fry	\$ 1,000	
Weekly Pledges, Tithes, Gifts	\$ 39,835	Total Est. Income \$ 45,785

Average needed each week = \$766.00

# Darrtown United Methodist Church



## 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Hospitality:</b> Cathy & Lora Richardson			1 Choir Practice at 7:00 pm	2	3	4 Joan Dyer Birthday
5 Communion	6 UMW Meeting at 7:00 pm  Cass Cohen Birthday	7	8 Choir Practice at 7:00 pm	9 Ida Mae Lemmons Birthday	10	11
12	13 Admin Board meeting at 7:00 pm	14	15 Choir Practice at 7:00 pm	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 Choir Practice at 7:00 pm	23	24	25
26	27 Ken Russell Sr. Birthday Mary Lou Simison Birthday	28				