

# Good News

From Darrtown United Methodist Church  
for November / December, 2006



*Dear Friends,*

What an exciting time in the lives of our churches! We praise God for the growth that is taking place. Activities abound and we find ourselves busy with dinners, family fellowship activities, youth group outings, a growing group of "Spirit Seekers," an active group of United Methodist Women, and the list goes on and on. Church growth continues as we welcome new visitors. Average attendance from July 1 to October 1 was exciting. Darrtown averaged 80 and McGonigle-Millville 51. Both are growing each year and we thank God for this.

In the midst of this growth, we must never forget what's most important: our church's spiritual growth. For without this, none of the rest of it matters. We must seek God's guidance in our lives, share with one another, and encourage one another in our walk of faith. This is the growth that counts in our churches!

As I prayed about this, I was led to Hebrews 10:24-25, "Let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as in the manner of some, but exhorting one another." This is the most explicit text in the New Testament about the necessity of believers gathering for corporate worship, instruction, encouragement and good works. God simply does not design us to grow in isolation. To neglect worship and time with fellow Christians is to give up the encouragement and help of other believers. We gather together to share our faith and to strengthen one another in the Lord. We all will face many spiritual struggles and even times of persecution. Difficulties should never be an excuse for missing church services. Rather, as difficulties arise, we should make an even greater effort to be faithful in attendance.

I encourage you to be in worship each week whether you are on the mountaintop, experiencing tremendous joy, or in the valley seeking to find answers to your hurts and a hand to pull you out of life's quicksand. We are here for you and God calls us to be His vessels of mercy. Come home and let us show our love to you each week, through His awesome power, as we worship together.

*Rev. Ed*

Upcoming Events

- Each Sunday: Worship at 9:00 am; Fellowship and Sunday School at 10:00 am; T.G.I.F. at 10:00 and special events; choir rehearsal each Weds at 6:30 pm
- November 4: Turkey Dinner and Bazaar 4:30–7:00 pm
- November 5: All Saints Sunday – Recognition of deceased church members
- November 6: United Methodist Women at 7:00 pm
- November 12: Sweatshirt distribution at Darrtown
- November 13: Trustees & Admin Council at 6:30 pm
- November 16: Spirit Seekers at McGonigle at 7:00 pm
- November 19: Chris Trumbull, guest speaker
- November 23: Thanksgiving
- November 26: Rev. Nick Matthews, guest speaker
- November 29 (Weds): Hanging of the Greens
- December 2: Darrtown Family Christmas Party
- December 3: First Sunday in Advent; T.G.I.F. makes Christmas cards
- Dec. 1 – 3: The Bethlehem Experience at Preble County Fairgrounds
- December 7: Community Christmas Music Fest at Darrtown UMC at 7:00 pm
- December 10: T.G.I.F. to Woodland Manor Nursing Home, with cards and carols
- December 10: 5:30 pm – Hopewell Christmas Celebration
- December 11: Admin Council at Darrtown at 7:00 pm
- December 17: Children’s Christmas Programs
- December 21: Spirit Seekers at McGonigle at 7:00 pm
- December 24: Fourth Sunday of Advent in the am
- December 24: 7:24 pm – Christmas Eve Service of carols and candles at Darrtown UMC
- December 25: Christmas
- December 31: First Sunday after Christmas / New Year’s Eve

HOSPITALITY SCHEDULE

November: Maxine & Bill Harris; Phil & Carolyn Kincaid

December: Donna & Shawn Gallagher; Bill Coombs

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

ACOLYTES

November: Chloe Hansel

December: Ty Burkholder



Ersia Coombs  
 JoAnn Coombs  
 Melva Ward  
 Debbie Hawkins’ mother  
 Audrey Brooks  
 Gene Weber  
 Henry Geckler  
 Lawrence Baumann  
 Juanita Anderson  
 Family of Mel Snider

PRAYERS REQUESTS

Jill & Dave Morris (Iraq)  
 Chris Williams (Afghanistan)  
 Don Courtney’s family  
 Tracy Flick  
 Joy Cohen  
 Ellen Dennison  
 Horace Akeley  
 Allie Sizemore  
 Keith George  
 Lonnie Risner  
 Family of Ruth Ziglar (Kathy Menke)  
 Family of Betty Coombs  
 Families of lost soldiers

Looking Forward



ANNUAL TURKEY DINNER & BAZAAR

The Darrtown Annual Turkey Dinner will be held Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 – 7:00 pm. This event continues to draw large crowds who enjoy the good food and homemade desserts. We need volunteers to help with a variety of services. Please let Sally Hansel or Donna Gallagher know if you are available.

The United Methodist Women will hold a bazaar that evening as well. Browse the selections of baked goods and crafts.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY – NOVEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>

The ancient church recognized and honored their Saints on All Saints Day or All Saints Sunday. We have done this in the past, and shall do so again this year.

During the morning worship service, there will be a time to remember the members of our church who have passed on to their heavenly reward during the past year.

In the past year, we have said goodbye to:



Mary Lou Simison



Melvin E. Snider

# *Darrtown UMC Newsletter*

*November / December, 2006*

[www.darrtownumc.org](http://www.darrtownumc.org)

## **ADULT BIBLE STUDY**

Rev. Beck and I would like to invite all adults to our new 30 minute Bible Study on the Book of Mark. We meet in the room off the kitchen immediately after morning worship service. Bring your coffee and donuts. Bibles are available.

Ida Mae Lemmons

## **THANKSGIVING**

In 1621, after a devastating first year in the New World, the Pilgrims' Governor, William Bradford, proclaimed a day of thanksgiving in honor of their good fall harvest. The festival was celebrated by the colonists and their neighbors, the Native American Indians.

Later, during the American Revolution, the Continental Congress declared a day of national thanksgiving. By 1817, New York State had adopted Thanksgiving Day, which was celebrated by many other states by the middle of that century.

Since 1863, when President Abraham Lincoln appointed a national day of thanksgiving, each president has designated a day, usually the fourth Thursday of November, as Thanksgiving Day.

It is more than a day on the calendar, however, it is a day for us to recognize where our blessings come from: the Creator Himself. Amidst the busyness of your day, be certain to stop for a spirit of gratitude!

Rev. Ed

## **ADVENT**

Historically, in the Christian Church, Advent is seen as a time of preparation. We prepare ourselves to celebrate Christ's birth into our world, and look forward to His return to establish His kingdom. In our church calendar, the first Sunday of Advent is the beginning of the church year.

However, what was at one time a celebration of God becoming human, one of us, has evolved into a full scale, weeks long secularized party. You can see it in the faces of people you meet, or even in your own face as you see your reflection in the mirror or store windows. We can become so overwhelmed with everything to be done, that we lose track of why we are doing it.

With this newsletter covering Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas, I invite you to pause in these two months to be thankful and allow yourself to recapture the meaning behind all of this.

As you celebrate some old traditions and perhaps create some new ones, allow the Holy Spirit to work within you to

recapture the wonder of God loving us so much that he became one of us in the baby Jesus.

Each Advent worship experience, as well as Christmas Eve, will express the celebration of God coming to dwell among us, and I hope you will be drawn to these services. It is also a wonderful time to invite someone who is searching to come to church with you.

My prayer for you and your family is that you will renew your relationship with Christ as we celebrate his birth.

In Christ, Rev. Ed

## **ANNUAL FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY DECEMBER 2**

Plan to join the fun and fellowship on Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at the church at 6:30 pm. Bring your favorite covered dish. The United Methodist Women will provide meat, drinks and table service. This evening is a time to share small gifts of appreciation to our pastor and his wife for their dedication and work during the year.

## **COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS MUSIC FEST**

This year's annual Community Christmas Music Fest will be held on Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. This is a time that we can joyously celebrate the birth of Jesus by sharing our God-given talents. Come and enjoy many surprisingly talented performances. Also plan to bring some canned goods for donation to the Oxford Family Resource Center.

## **CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL FLOWERS**

As of this writing, it is too early to give details on memorial flowers. Watch and listen for the announcements about how to share your love and memories through flowers to enhance our Advent and Christmas worship.

## **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**

The traditional 7:24 pm Christmas Eve Service will have to be held at Darrtown church this year. The McGonigle-Millville Church will be out of their sanctuary for renovation / remodeling.

This is a worship service with choir, carols, scripture, and candles. It has grown a lot in the last three years.

Be certain to work your Christmas Eve activities around this 7:24 pm service. Since Christmas Eve falls on Sunday, we will observe the Fourth Sunday in Advent during morning worship.

# Darrrtown UMC Newsletter

November / December, 2006

www.darrrtownumc.org

## SPIRIT SEEKERS

Our women's group is blessed to be in our third year and going strong! We are currently doing an interesting study of the women of the Bible. We are pleased to welcome six new Darrrtown ladies to our group. Our total membership has now grown to 30! God is indeed at work in our churches. He is encouraging us to take our spiritual lives seriously, and groups such as Spirit Seekers provide opportunities for that spiritual growth. We meet the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm at the McGonigle-Millville church. All ladies are invited and welcome to bring a friend. If you would like to join us, please call me and I will get you a study book.

Robyn Beck

## CONDOLENCES

- † To the family of **Mary Lou Simison**
- † To the family of **Melvin Snider**
- † To the family of **Beulah Mason**  
(Etta Jean Crawford's mother)
- † To the family of **Ruth Ziglar** (Kathy Menke's mother)

*"Let the peace of God rule in your hearts..."*  
*Colossians 3:15*

## DECEMBER CHRISTMAS MISSION

Our Christmas Mission will be collecting clothing for needy children.

- o Sweatpants only for children's sizes small, medium and large
- o Girl's and boy's underwear, sizes small, medium and large
- o Winter gloves, preferably water resistant
- o Children's socks, sizes small, medium and large
- o Boy's T-shirts, sizes medium and large

Cathy Richardson will be leading the project. Details and instructions will be announced in the upcoming bulletins.

## HISTORIC HOPEWELL CHRISTMAS

You are invited to the special Hopewell Christmas Program on December 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm. The church is located north of Morning Sun, Ohio, off St. Rt. 177, west on Camden-College Corner Road, approximately one-half mile.

## YEAR END TAX STATEMENTS

There is a need to match a name with the following numbers on offering envelopes, if you wish to have a year end statement for tax purposes:

**#2, #6, #10, #18 and #33**

Please write your name on the next envelope.

Tonya Comthwaite

## NEW ADDRESS

**Horace Akeley:** The Waterford at Fairfield  
1460 Coreydale Drive #227  
Fairfield, OH 45014

## Looking Back

### PROMOTION & RALLY DAY FOR 2006-2007

During our worship service on Promotion & Rally Day Sunday, it was a great joy to see thirteen elementary and youth receive their Bibles. Congratulations to all who received Bibles, to the teachers, helpers, and leaders of the Education Department.

While sitting in the end aisle pew, it felt like a brush of angels when the youth, dressed in the white robes, passed by in their procession. What a joy came over me to know we have youth growing in the love of the Lord who give us a promise of continuity for the love of the Lord in future generations. Their song was beautiful. We need to hear more music from our leaders of tomorrow!

Ida Mae Lemmons

## THANK YOU NOTES

- ♥ Re: **Mary Lou Simison:** Larry Simison and family wish to thank Rev. Beck and Robyn and everyone for their nice cards and kind words expressed in the loss of our dear Mary Lou.
- ♥ Re: **Beulah Mason, age 101:** Etta Jean Crawford would like to thank everyone for all the cards, prayers, and generous gifts that was received in the loss of her mother who lived in Missouri. They were greatly appreciated.
- ♥ Re: **Melvin Snider:** Lois Ann Snider and family would like to express their thanks to everyone for the continued support and prayers over the past two and a half years.

**DARRTOWN CEMETERY PLANT-A-TREE PROJECT**

Marna Evans, project organizer, would like to add her "thank you" to those from the Milford Township Trustees. This appreciation should go to everyone from the Darrtown United Methodist Church who contributed individually or collectively to the Darrtown Cemetery Plant-A-Tree Project. The old rotted silver maples were taken down in September and the new trees were planted in October. A dedication program will be held on Memorial Day 2007 to recognize the donors and to focus on the remembrance inscriptions beneath the newly planted trees.

**TAKE ANOTHER LOOK...  
at our beautiful white church**

The new double coat of white paint makes our 1871 church building and education/fellowship wing even more beautiful. However, we didn't have the money to pay for it. Through some internal borrowing from unused funds, we could pay the entire bill. However, we need to reimburse those funds. The church is accepting special gifts for the painting of the church's exterior. Mark your gift for the "building fund" or "painting."

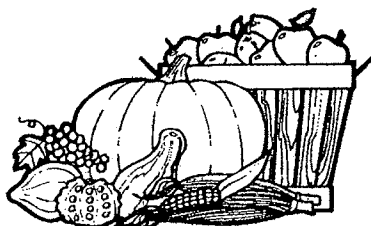
**WORLD THANK OFFERING**

On October 22<sup>nd</sup> the World Thank Offering boxes were collected. A total of \$256 will go to the Board of Global Missions. Thanks to everyone for sharing their pennies and coins in recognition of their blessings during the year.

**THE NOODLE CREW  
OF DARRTOWN UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

Two weeks in a row the group came together to make noodles in preparation for the upcoming Turkey Dinner and Bazaar. Not only noodles were created but a lot of good fellowship and communication. It was good to have Etta Jean back from her month-long trip to Missouri after the death of her mother.

Packages of homemade noodles can be purchased at the Bazaar on November 4<sup>th</sup> for \$1.25 / ½ lb.



**A SPOOKTACULAR NIGHT**

Our third joint church Halloween Fall Festival was a time of fun, food, games, and costume contests. Approximately 90-100 adults and children of all ages attended. Thanks to the decorating crew, the food crew, the judges, and everyone who brought together an enjoyable evening.

We didn't know Rev. Ed could have such a "spooky" voice! Robyn was the "most beautiful" butterfly! Congratulations to all the costume winners! You certainly gave the judges quite a challenge. And if you didn't try the "Kitty Litter Cake", you missed a delicious dessert, although it was an unsightly mess!



**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

*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.*

**COMING UP**

- November 6<sup>th</sup> (Monday) meeting at 7:00 pm; hostesses: Sarah Jane Nichol and Elsie Nichol.
- December: No meeting. Annual Family Christmas Party on Saturday, December 2. Bring covered dish to share.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Balance as of October: \$481.22.

**SEPTEMBER'S PAPER ITEMS MISSION**

The items collected were donated to a very appreciative Oxford Resource Center. As we drove up to their door, they came to help unload. Other volunteers were called. They exclaimed "we only have three rolls of toilet tissue left, and were wondering what to do to get more!" They were so happy. Our donation was worth approximately \$200. Thanks to everyone for contributing to this worthy cause.

**PROUD TO BE A UNITED METHODIST WOMAN**

On Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, Robyn Beck, Maxine Harris and I attended "Annual Day" of the Wilmington District at the First Methodist Church in Hamilton. It was in celebration of the new district, now called "Ohio River Valley."

The speaker, Rev. Ann Bailey, spoke on "transitions" based on the Book of Ruth. The Book of Ruth is easy reading and enjoyable.

Four women of the Wilmington District who will be going on to the new district were introduced.

A luncheon and live music were enjoyed.

The offering of \$172.50 was donated to the Living Water Ministries.

We were dismissed with communion by Rev. Ken Burton and Marsha Jones.

During the program, this Darrrtown United Methodist Women's unit was honored from the New York Office of the Board of Global Ministries with a certificate for being a charter member for women in mission since 1917. In preparation for this honor, I searched and found many interesting minutes of their meetings of yesteryears. In 1917, they had 41 active women and over the years, had seven presidents. Today, we have 26 active women and I am proud of our unit and its accomplished works in mission. We invite all women to be a part of this unit...

Ida Mae Lemmons, President

**CAMPBELL LABELS**

Please continue to save your labels and place them in the pink shoebox in the Annex.

**A change:** Campbells wants only the UPC label with the little man beside it. We no longer need the entire front of the Campbell label.

*"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us..."*

*I John 3:1*

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

The next deadline date for submitting articles is **December 20, 2006**. Items can be given to Maxine Harris or Ida Mae Lemmons. You may also send information via e-mail to Maxine at: [maxakers03@aol.com](mailto:maxakers03@aol.com).



**Happy Birthday Therapy**

*No matter what circumstances surrounded your birth or how it was greeted, re-image it with loved ones encircling you, welcoming you into the world, expressing joy at your arrival, delighting in the fact that you are a girl.*

November 29 - Christy Heinrich

December 1 - Elsie Nichol

December 8 - Carey Jones

December 27 - Carolyn Sadler

December 30 - Laura Cohen



**23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm**

The Lord is my shepherd;  
(that's **relationship**)  
I shall not want. (that's **supply**)  
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures  
(that's **rest**)  
He leadeth me beside the still waters.  
(that's **refreshment**)  
He restoreth my soul (that's **healing**)  
He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness  
(that's **guidance**)  
For his name's sake (that's **purpose**)  
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death (that's **testing**)  
I will fear no evil (that's **protection**)  
For thou art with me (that's **faithfulness**)  
Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me  
(that's **discipline**)  
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies (that's **hope**)  
Thou anointest my head with oil  
(that's **consecration**)  
My cup runneth over (that's **abundance**)  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life (that's **blessing**)  
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord  
(that's **security**)  
Forever (that's **eternity**).

## Teens Growing In Faith

### Old Business:

- Corn Maze – was a little chilly but lots of fun
- Flower Fundraiser – we made \$400+

### Upcoming Events:

- October 29, the youth will be helping with the Halloween party, and will be decorating the side porch that Sunday after church
- November 4, the youth will help with the Turkey Dinner
- December 3, we plan on making cards for the Woodland Manor Nursing Home
- December 10, we plan to visit the nursing home to sing carols and deliver cards

### Prayers for Youth:

- Keep in prayer those sophomores who will be taking the OGT (Ohio Graduation Test), for they will start their study sessions in a few weeks
- Allie Sizemore, in her troubling ear surgery as she ventures back to school
- Those who are playing in competitive sports, may God help them realize the true fun in the game
- Mallory Hollister, and how wonderful it was to have her join the adult choir
- And everyone else...

### Featured Youth:

- **Cassie Eck** is an eighth grader at Talawanda Middle School and a very active member in the youth group. She is in some advanced classes and on the Middle School Cheerleading Squad, with fellow member **Ciara Miller**. Both are very promising youth in our church!

## Just for Kids



Merry  
Christmas

# Darrrtown United Methodist Church

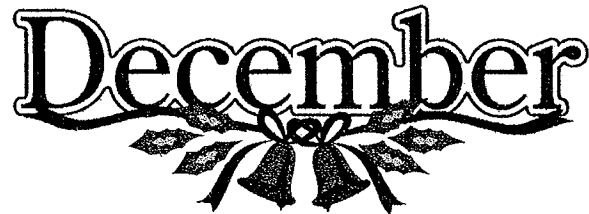


## 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:30 Choir Practice	2	3	4 Turkey Dinner & Bazaar 4:30-7:00
5 All Saints Sunday Harold & Cathy Richardson Anniv.	6 7:00 pm United Methodist Women	7	8 6:30 Choir Practice Cindy Gilbert's birthday	9	10	11
12 Sweatshirt distribution Megan Beckemeier birthday	13 6:30 Trustees & Admin Council	14	15 6:30 Choir Practice Al & Jane Menke's Anniversary	16 7:00 Spirit Seekers at McGonigle Rick & Sharon Blalock's Anniv.	17 Tucker Lindley's birthday	18
19 Guest Speaker, Chris Trumbull	20	21	22	23 Thanksgiving Harry Ogle's birthday	24	25 Ken Russell Jr. birthday
26 Guest Speaker, Rev. Nick Matthews	27	28	29 6:30 Choir Practice Christy Heinrich's birthday Hanging of the Greens	30		



# Darrrtown United Methodist Church



## 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Elsie Nichol's birthday	2 Family Christmas Party 6:30 pm at church
3 First Sunday in Advent	4	5	6 6:30 Choir Practice	7 Community Christmas Music Fest at church at 7:00 pm	8 Pam Lindley's birthday JoAnn Coombs' birthday	9
10 T.G.I.F. to visit nursing home Hopewell Christmas at 5:30	11 7:00 Admin Council meeting	12	13 6:30 Choir Practice	14	15	16
17 Children's Christmas Program Dodie Ogle's birthday	18	19	20 6:30 Choir Practice	21 7:00 Spirit Seekers at McGonigle	22	23
24 Fourth Sunday in Advent 7:24 Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas Day	26 Zach Russell's birthday	27 6:30 Choir Practice Carolyn Sadler's birthday	28	29	30 Laura Cohen's birthday
31 New Year's Eve						