

# Good News

From Darrtown United Methodist Church  
for May / June, 2006



The following is not new. However, in the spirit of our Risen Lord and the excitement of Resurrection Sunday, I share it again.

Why Go to Church? A church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead

today."

Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment. I would be spiritually dead today!" When you are DOWN to nothing... God is UP to something! Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible! Thank God for our physical AND our spiritual nourishment!

"When Satan is knocking at your door, simply say, "Jesus, could you get that for me?"

We are very blessed. Time and again those members we honored on Resurrection Sunday spoke of the warmth and loving Spirit that Darrtown United Methodist Church had and still has.

Praise God!

See YOU in church!

*Rev. Ed*



# Darrtown UMC Newsletter

May / June, 2006

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

## Upcoming Events

- May 1: 7:00 pm United Methodist Women, Darrtown (Women from both churches welcome)
- Church Mission for May – SERVE CITY, a ministry of area churches. Watch bulletins for details.
- May 2 and 4 at 6:30 pm: New Talawanda School Staff meeting at Darrtown UMC
- Wednesdays: Choir Rehearsal and Bible Study, 7:00 pm
- May 4: National Day of Prayer
- Each Sunday: Worship: 9:00 am Darrtown; 10:45 am McGonigle-Millville; Sunday School 10:00 am Darrtown; 9:30 am McGonigle- Millville
- May 7: Noon – New Members Class for both churches at McGonigle-Millville
- May 8: 6:30 pm Trustees and 7:00 pm Administrative Council at Darrtown
- May 12: 6:00 pm Mother's Day Family Banquet – Joint church event at Darrtown. "Undivided Hearts"
- May 14: Baptisms and Reception of New Members; Recognition of our Mothers and Grandmothers
- May 18: 7:00 pm Spirit Seekers at McGonigle-Millville (Women from both churches welcome)
- May 20: 8:00 am Robyn and Ed participating in a Celiac Walk at Sharon Woods. Sponsors welcome.
- May 21: 9:00 am United Methodist Women's Day, Sally Hansel to speak; alternate date to welcome new members
- May 28: Memorial Day Sunday; Recognition of our Veterans
- June 2: Talawanda High School Graduation
- June 4: Graduation Sunday; all new graduates to be recognized
- June 5: 7:00 pm United Methodist Women
- June 10: Darrtown Community Yard Sale and UMC Rummage Sale
- June 11: Noon Father's Day Picnic, a joint church event. Show our father's how special they are. Bring covered dish and tableware. Held at McGonigle-Millville
- June 12: 7:00 pm Administrative Council at Darrtown
- June 14: Darrtown UMW and choir to sing at the Matrix of Oxford. Meet at church at 6:30 pm
- June 15: 7:00 pm Spirit Seekers at McGonigle-Millville

- June 17: Pork Chop Dinner at Darrtown; bring family and friends
- June 18: Father's Day – Recognition of our Fathers and Grandfathers
- June 18-22: KICK Camp for grades 4,5,6
- June 19-24: JUMP Camp for grades 7,8
- June 19-24: SCREAM Camp for grades 9-13

## LOOKING AHEAD TO JULY

- July 2: Independence Day Sunday
- July 10 – 14: Vacation Bible School
- July 16: VBS Sunday
- July 9 – 14: BIKE Camp for grades 9-13

## HOSPITALITY SCHEDULE

May: Helen and Wayne Weber

June: Reid, Jenn & Emily Shoker

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

## ACOLYTES

May: Megan Beckemeier

June: Stephanie Ison

## ALTAR FLOWERS

Fill out the sign-up sheet in the Annex to order flowers in honor or memory of a loved one.

## OUR SIGN BOARD

We are in need of two volunteers to help keep upcoming church events posted on the large sign board that sits near Rt. 177. If you can help, contact Donna at 523-2748.

## PRAYERS REQUESTS

Jill & Dave Morris (Iraq)

Thomas Streit (Iraq)

Chris Williams (Afghanistan)

Jessie Shepherd

Peggy Metcalfe

Tyler Weisman

Ellen Simpson

Mike Lane

George Tome

Connie Wagner

John Winter

Family of Ginger Raby



Mel Snider

Ersia Coombs

JoAnn Coombs

Melva Ward

Patty Stephens

Hazel Etheredge

Wanda Ruth Settles

Laura Gover

Thomas Richardson

*Looking Forward*

**BECOME A MEMBER**

Twice a year we present an opportunity to become a member of this church fellowship. You do not have to be a member to fully participate in any or all of our activities. However, we all know what a difference BELONGING brings to us. Belonging to this YOUR church is even more significant.

How do I become a member?

I am so glad you asked. On May 7<sup>th</sup> at noon (after McGonigle-Millville's worship) there will be a new Member Luncheon. Rev. Ed will share information about the United Methodist Church and specifics to enable a smooth and exciting day when you join. We will invite someone who is already a member to attend the luncheon with you. Ample time is given to get better acquainted with each other.

A simple information sheet is distributed to be sure we have what we need to facilitate your becoming a member. Brenda and Amy Graham will provide our meal. They did a great job last fall!

We hope everyone will be able to join the next Sunday, which is Mother's Day. The following Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup> has been set as an alternative, in the event someone can't be at worship on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

Be sure to let Rev. Ed know you want to join church this spring! (896-4025)

**MOTHER'S DAY FAMILY BANQUET**

On Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, this joint church event will be held at Darrtown. Though we honor our mothers and grandmothers each year, we do it best by the whole family celebrating together.

Darrtown's United Methodist Women will play host and prepare the meal to begin at 6:00 pm.

Entertainment will be provided by "Undivided Hearts." They are an inspiration and a joy to hear.

We need to have an idea of how many to prepare for, therefore, we're asking that you contact Robyn (896-4025) or Ida Mae Lemmons (726-6433) to let us know how many family members plan to attend.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2006**

**F I E S T A !**

Where Kids are Fired Up About Jesus

July 10 – 14

VBS Sunday, July 16

Held at Darrtown UMC

We will need decorations to convert the church into a Mexican village. We will need crew members. More information coming! VBS is only 10 weeks away!

**PLAN NOW FOR  
SUMMER CHURCH CAMP**

Posters are up in both churches.

- KICK Camp for those entering grades 4, 5, and 6 – June 18-22
- JUMP Camp for those entering grades 7 and 8 – June 19-24
- SCREAM Camp for those entering grades 9 – 13 – June 19-24

These three camps will be held at King's Domain on State Route 350 next to Fort Ancient and across from Morgan's Canoe Livery.

There is a fourth Southwest Ohio camp. It is a BIKE Camp that begins in Milford for grades 9 – 13 – July 9-14.

Funds are available at each church to help our youth attend any of these camps.

**GRADUATION**

June 2<sup>nd</sup> will be Talawanda High School's graduation. We are aware of some of our youth that will be graduating. We would like to honor them on June 4<sup>th</sup> during worship. If you know of any graduating senior, please contact Rev. Beck.

**SPIRIT SEEKERS**

Spirit Seekers continues to meet the third Thursday of every month at 7:00 pm in the McGonigle-Millville fellowship hall. All ladies of both churches are invited to join us. We enjoy prayer, devotion, study and fellowship.

# Darrtown UMC Newsletter

May / June, 2006

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

## EMMAUS WALK

Luke relates the story of two disciples of Jesus who were walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus. As they walked they shared their deepest concerns about the death of Jesus.

An unknown person joined them and explained the scriptures to them as they walked. Toward the end of the day they shared a meal. As the stranger blessed and broke the bread, their eyes were opened and they recognized the risen Christ.

An Emmaus Walk is an opportunity to meet Jesus in a new way. It is a 3 day, 72 hour experience of New Testament Christianity. It is a powerful and blessed experience.

The weekends are for men only and for women only. The next Men's Walk is September 7 – 10. The next Women's Walk is October 5 – 8. There is an \$85 cost.

Now is not too early to plan to attend. There are a lot of people involved in planning and providing for a Walk to Emmaus. Rev. Ed has application forms.

## A BRIEF DISTRICT UPDATE

Beginning July 1<sup>st</sup> the Wilmington District will cease to exist. I will miss it. I recall hitch-hiking from Oxford to Wilmington on a Saturday spring morning to appear before the District Committee on Ministry.

It took a long time to get there (in a suit) and then a grueling grilling by what seemed like half the ministers on the Wilmington District. Fortunately, I had been in church camp each summer since seventh grade (only Junior High and High School were offered then), so I knew all but one of my questioners. And that began my ministry in the Methodist itinerant system.

Our new District will include Hamilton and Butler Counties and parts of Warren and Clermont Counties. The new name will be The Ohio River Valley District. Our new Superintendent will be Randy Stearns. Rev. Stearns is from Monroe, Ohio, and his home church is Faith UMC in Middletown. He is currently Superintendent of the Springfield District. Rev. Stearns is married to Melanie, and they have three children.

Thomas Hanover, our current District Superintendent is moving to the new Foothills District.

## T.G.I.F.

All youth grades 7-12 are invited to join Teens Growing In Faith. The group meets every Sunday at 10:00 am for class with Pam Russell.

Youth fellowship activities take place each month with leaders Rev. Ed and Robyn Beck. For more information, please call them at 896-4025.

The group enjoyed going to see the play "The Pajama Game" at Talawanda High School in March. Our own Cameron Hansel took the lead. April kept the youth busy with church activities. They assisted Robyn in the Easter Sunrise Service and also sang as well. They also practiced all month for another song, "Sweetest Name of All," which they sang on Resurrection Sunday. They have shown us that their beautiful voices must be heard more often!

## DISASTER RELIEF NEEDED IN ILLINOIS

The Midwest Mission Distribution Center, a caring ministry of the North Central jurisdiction, is located in Chatham, Illinois, near Springfield. They have responded to their local victims of tornadoes that struck the Springfield area, but are still in great need and are not prepared for another disaster. The center can be contacted by e-mail at [midwestmisondc@aol.com](mailto:midwestmisondc@aol.com) or to the Northern Illinois Conference Representative, Board of Directors of the Midwest Mission Distribution Center, 1022 New City Road, Chatham, IL 62629.

## Looking Back

### IN APPRECIATION

For those of you who attended the 9:00 am worship service on Easter Sunday, you witnessed Robyn Beck receiving a gift of appreciation. The Administrative Board voted to present the gift to Robyn as a token of the church's appreciation for her many and continued services over the past three years, as she has worked independently and side-by-side with Rev. Ed. The following is Robyn's thank you:

*"Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your sweet and generous appreciation gift on Easter. It was an absolute surprise and I was left speechless by the beautiful flowers and check."* (cont.)

# Darrrtown UMC Newsletter

May / June, 2006

www.darrrtownumc.org

*"You folks are without a doubt the most loving and thoughtful people any church could hope to find. You make all of the time and effort we spend an absolute joy."*

*"It is so uplifting to feel appreciated and both Ed and I feel that from you. You continue to make serving Darrrtown UMC an honor and privilege."*

*"Ed and I work best as a team and our love of God, each other, and you our church family is what makes it all such a blessing. Praise God!"*

*Lovingly, Robyn*

*P.S. Thank you for recognizing our team ministry!"*

*In Jesus' Love, Ed*

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

The new access ramp to the social hall is in place and looks great. No more worries about splinters in the hands and we will not have to be concerned about maintenance for many years. Donations have been coming in but we could still use some more help to offset the cost.

The electrical service in the kitchen has been upgraded so that we will no longer have problems overloading the outlets during church dinners. Dick Bunger, an electrician from Collinsville, donated his time and materials to add four 20 amp outlets to the kitchen. Thanks to Bill Coombs for helping build the knee wall behind the stove which holds the outlets.

Shawn Gallagher

## EASTER FLOWERS

- ◆ In Memory of **Parents and Grandparents**, by Bill, JoAnn Coombs and family
- ◆ In Memory of **Warren Hansel, Charlie Hansel, and Jack Hansel**, by Irene and Sally Hansel
- ◆ In Memory of **Emma Shoker**, by Corby, Caren, Cameron, Chloe and Carly Hansel
- ◆ In Memory of **Paul and Myrtle Jewell, and Gordon and Catherine Gallagher**, by Shawn and Donna Gallagher
- ◆ In Memory of **George Hansel, Warren Hansel, Charlie Hansel, and Jack Hansel**, by Corby, Caren, Cameron, Chloe and Carly Hansel
- ◆ In Memory of **George Hansel, Warren Hansel, Charlie Hansel, and Jack Hansel**, by Jean Hansel and Randy Hansel
- ◆ In Memory of **George Hansel and Minva Hansel**, by Myra and Jerry Krauth, and Patricia Oelrich

- ◆ In Memory of their **Parents and Grandparents**, by Harry and Dodie Ogle
- ◆ In Memory of **Lester Brooks**, by Audrey Brooks and family
- ◆ In Memory of **Marcella Baumann and Kelly Rae Kirkpatrick**, by the Baumann family
- ◆ In Memory of **Tammy McCartney**, by Corby, Caren, Cameron, Chloe and Carly Hansel
- ◆ In Memory of **Hubert and Elda Jewell** and family, by Jane Jewell-Menke
- ◆ In Memory of **Robert Lemmons and both Parents**, by Ida Mae Lemmons and family
- ◆ In Memory of her **husband, John**, by Juanita Anderson
- ◆ In Memory of **Janet Metcalf**, by Corby, Caren, Cameron, Chloe and Carly Hansel

## THANK YOU!!!

- ☺ Thanks again this year to **Caren Hansel** and **Karen Meador** for hosting the Easter Sunrise breakfast. At least 84 people were served.
- ☺ Thanks to everyone who donated coffee cakes to help make our Easter Sunrise breakfast more delicious.
- ☺ Thank you to **Ron and Pam Hatten** for donating 30 notebooks to choir members.
- ☺ From Donna Gallagher: (1) Thanks to all the **choir members** who dedicated their time and voices to make our choir the biggest our church has ever had! We have had fun practicing for all the special events and the choir is really a group of dedicated friends. Thanks to **Jane Menke** for leading us. We really appreciate all the men lending their voices to make us seem like a great professional choir. Our song "Gospelfest" for Resurrection Sunday was a challenge, but we did it. Don't stop now Choir! Let's keep coming to practice and sing for the Lord. (2) Thanks to all the people who helped with the Pancake Breakfast. Our committee is so dedicated and Shawn and I want to thank everyone who pitched in!
- ☺ From Robyn: (1) Special thanks to **Donna and Shawn Gallagher** for heading up the Pancake Breakfast. They, along with their many helpers, provided us with a wonderful meal. (2) Many thanks to all the choir members, all 20 of them, for participating in the Easter music as well as the Resurrection Sunday service. What a blessing to have such a large choir! (3) A very special thank you to **Donna Gallagher** for leading the

choir through all of April's special services and for her willingness to try something different in "Gospelfest." Thanks to **Laura Cohen** for ordering the music and to **Jane Menke** for directing us. (4) In appreciation of our choir director's efforts, Robyn Beck wrote a poem which she presented to Donna on Resurrection Sunday, just before the Gospelfest number. This is her tribute:

**A Tribute to Donna Gallagher**

Donna is our right hand man  
Helping out in many things.  
She won't say no to anyone  
Great joy is what she brings.

In the last few months we've worked her hard  
With music everywhere!  
She gets one service over and done  
And whoops, another's there!

When Robyn asked for Gospelfest  
For Resurrection Day,  
Donna smiled and said okay  
And the price she'd have to pay!

Running off music, making calls,  
Practice by the hour,  
Just so she could please us all  
With this Gospel hour.

The choir stepped up and joined right in  
For Donna they do love.  
The music you will hear this day  
Is blessed by Heaven above.

So thank you Donna for all you do  
To bless this (not so little) church.  
And for knowing YOU WILL STAY  
At the organ on your PERCH!

**RESURRECTION SUNDAY**

As part of our Resurrection Sunday service, we took time to honor our seniors over eighty years of age. Listed below is the tribute presented by Rev. Ed for each one. Following his tributes are several "Reflections From Across the Miles" written by relatives who would have loved to be present, but were unable to attend.

☼ **HORACE AKELEY:** Horace and his late wife Ethel loved to travel after his retirement from sales. They finally moved here in 1987 from New York in order to be close to son Neil and his wife Chyrl. Horace and Ethel did a lot of work around the church and we hear Horace was a great "fixer" of broken things. He was still repairing clocks and watches when we came to these churches three years ago. Then in 2004, he moved from Darrtown to Oxford so he could be close to the Senior Citizens Center and easily get his meals every day. Horace loves to talk – that's probably what made him such a good salesperson. He is still very much a people person and quite a joy to visit. If you send Horace a card, expect a thank you call. Horace is here today with his son Neil and family.

☼ **AUDREY BROOKS:** Audrey and her husband Lester came from Haggerstown, Indiana in 1941 while looking for work. Their children were still in school. As a young bride and mother, she was homesick. One Sunday Lester told her to get dressed and take the kids to church. What a blessing that was! She found a warm, caring group of people. She recalled Georgia Wills, the Davis sisters, the Deckers Mics, Metcalfs, Wolfs, Millers, and Jewels, among others. They bought a farm in Indiana, but kept their Darrtown home, often returning for Sundays at church. In 1954, they moved to Hamilton and returned to Darrtown in 1979. Audrey has been active in dinners and women's groups. Lester taught Sunday School, usually 6<sup>th</sup> grade and junior high. They were married 60 years before he died. What a joy to have Audrey and daughters Phyllis and Linda in church regularly. Another daughter Penelope could not be with us today and sent a note that we placed in the "Reflections" insert. Audrey moved to the Westover Retirement Center in Hamilton in 1999.

☼ **IRENE HANSEL:** Irene moved to the area when she was in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. She went to Collinsville school, then Darrtown, but graduated from Seven Mile because Darrtown school closed in 1939. Her late husband Warren was in that graduating class but Irene was a year behind. They married in the fall of 1940 and had 10 children: Jack, Judy, Charlie, Richard, Sally, Ronnie, Sue, Raymond, Mary and Jimmy. Jack and Charlie are now deceased. Warren farmed the family farm on Rt. 177. Both he and Irene were very active in the church serving on the board. Irene has a lovely voice and sang in the choir for many years. Just recently, she and Ida Mae Lemmons sang a duet in church.

# Darrrtown UMC Newsletter

May / June, 2006

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

She has always blessed this church with her service in the women's group from the Ladies Aid to our current UMW. She loves her church and is here with her daughter Sally most every Sunday. Sally is following in her mother's footsteps with her dedication to this church serving in many capacities. Irene is extremely close to all of her children and grandchildren as evidenced by their presence here today. Her daughter Mary could not be with us today and wrote a tribute that is in the "Reflections" insert. Irene never fails to greet us after the service with a bright smile and sweet words of praise for the service and message. What a lady, raising 10 children and still taking time to make her church a priority. What an inspiration you are to all of us.

★ **IDA MAE LEMMONS:** Ida Mae and her late husband Bob started attending this church in the late 1950s. She is a retiree of the Pillsbury and General Mills Company. Her first loves in the church are Sunday School and music. She has taught both children and adult Sunday School classes as well as Bible School. To try to list all the contributions that Ida Mae has made to this church would be impossible to do in a few moments. She is a rare gem indeed. It is obvious that she loves the Lord and her faith takes her far. Her energy abounds as she serves as President of the United Methodist Women, member of the Wilmington District UMW team, chairperson of missions, she also visits shut-ins and the sick, helps with all dinners, and the list goes on and on. Whenever we need any help, we know who to call. Her smile is radiant and her soul very spirit filled! Ida Mae is an incredible bundle of talent and energy and is an anchor in this church. She has blessed us with her daughter Carolyn who is as devoted to God and this church as her mother. She also works tirelessly for the church. Her other children are Deanna, Steve and Anne. Anne provided the altar flowers today in honor of her mother since she could not be with us today. Both she and Steve, who live out of town, contributed to our "Reflections" insert.

★ **EMMA LEIBFORTH:** Emma and her late husband John lived their early years on a farm in Preble County. After her husband's hip surgery and long recovery, they moved to Hamilton where Emma was employed by the Butler County Clerk of Courts. Emma started at Darrrtown church because a friend who lived here invited her. She had a nephew, Harry, who was a student at Miami and studying to be a minister. He held the worship services here from time to time. Emma has always been active with our dinners and in

the women's groups. She now lives at Westover and is still an active member of the UMW. Emma has one son, Dr. Jeff Leibforth, who has a dental practice in Hamilton. Jeff regrets that he is out of town today but sends his love and greetings to his mother. Since he can't be here, you will also see his "Reflections" in the bulletin insert.

★ **FRED GUILER:** Fred and the late Elsie Guiler began attending Darrrtown UMC in the 1950s. He farmed on Rt. 177 for many years. His eggs were known as the best! He was known as the "potato man" for years, providing the potatoes for all the church dinners. He has a great sense of humor. Now he shares his wonderful nut breads, pumpkin bread and homemade sauerkraut with all of us. After retirement and Elsie's passing, he moved south of the farm on Rt. 177. He is faithfully in church every Sunday. He is an inspiration to all of us as it is not easy for him to get around, yet he never misses a service. Fred has two daughters, Connie and Sharon and son, Bruce. Just ask Fred about his grandchildren and he will beam with pride. Fred's family fills the pews each Christmas Eve as it's a Guiler tradition. His granddaughter has in the past blessed us with her beautiful voice that night. She is now service as a missionary and will be gone several years. We still expect the family this year because Christmas Eve wouldn't be the same at Darrrtown without them.

★ **LARRY AND MARY LOU SIMISON:** Mary Lou grew up on Scott Road in Darrrtown. Her parents were active in the church, Opal and Luther McVicker. She continued her parents faithfulness and service to our church. Her father ran the town gas station and garage. Larry was from Spring Valley, Ohio, and he and Mary met at Miami University in 1946. They were married in January of 1949 and recently celebrated their 57<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Everyone knows Larry by his smile. This is a loving and lovely couple who still serve on the Trustees and Board. Larry mows this big lawn each week all season long! Their faithfulness to the church was dramatically demonstrated the Sunday their car was vandalized. They hired a cab so they could worship with us. Mary Lou is described as being like her mother, a wonderful, quiet lady. At 80, she is the youngest of our honorees today. Larry and Mary Lou have two daughters, Nancy and Peggy. Nancy recently became a member, carrying on the family tradition.

☉ **LAWRENCE BAUMANN:** Lawrence came to Darrrtown in 1933 with his dad and brother and lived in a large house that was behind his current one. In 1939 he married Marcella. He began coming to church here in 1951. Both he and Marcella were active, working on ice cream socials and church dinners. Lawrence served on the church board for many years. In the summertime, you will see Lawrence sitting on his porch, smiling and waving to those passing by. He has lived on Scott Road since 1953 so everyone knows and loves him. He is a joy to visit. His children are Jan, Dale, Karen and Pam. Karen and Pam are active in our church and a great help to us. Karen and Jan have asked to close with a few words about their father.

Excerpt from Karen Meador's comments: "Every person says that their Dad is the best. Well I am here to tell you, so in mine. He is the most caring, giving, understanding, sentimental, honest person I know. Dad is always there when we need him... no matter the situation... we are so very lucky to have you as our father. We all love you very much.

☉ **YELLOW ROSES:** A yellow rose was presented to each Honoree. One final yellow rose was laid on the pulpit in remembrance of spouses who had passed away.

## REFLECTIONS FROM ACROSS THE MILES

✉ **IRENE HANSEL, STORY FROM MARY WYANT:** Growing up in a large family meant that "the finer things in life" were not often available. But, as a young carefree kid raised on a farm with never-ending adventures to undergo, who knew? Now, as I look back and muse over certain occasions, I recognize times when Mom may have been trying to treat us with some of those "finer things" of which today many of us take for granted. One such occasion brings a smile to my face. Money spent at the grocery store was indeed for just that, groceries. Only the necessities were purchased, never such treats as pop and potato chips. But, at least once a month, when Daddy attended an evening board meeting, we would hop in the back of the livestock truck, the only vehicle available since Daddy was away in the family car. With Mom behind the wheel we headed to the local carryout. The trip in itself seemed like an amusement park ride seeing as how Mom wasn't the most experienced at operating a standard shift. Off we went, cruising out our bumpy lane, making the descent onto the road and the mile-long drive to the store, all the while being tossed around as

Mom struggled with shifting the gears. We enjoyed it and actually made a game of the jerky ride by seeing who could make the whole trip with both feet planted in one spot using no hands. Mom had seen to it, as she always did on this special evening, that there was enough money to buy each of us a bottle of pop and some sort of snack such as chips or popcorn. I remember usually having some empty pop bottles with us to cash in towards our new purchase. Back home we'd go with our treasures to sit down to a television show of our choice, which was another treat that she allowed on this special night. The events of these nights were secrets best kept from Daddy. Spending money on pop and potato chips was something he considered wasteful and rightfully so. Supporting our large family on a farmer's income wasn't easy. So, by the end of the evening, all evidence of the special night was hidden away before Daddy's return home. We went to sleep that night with just a little extra brightness in our hearts because Mom saw to it that we were able to enjoy some of "the finer things in life."

✉ **IDA MAE LEMMONS, LETTER FROM STEVE AND JOAN LEMMONS:** Dear Mother, As the years go by, I have learned to love you more and more. Thank you for all your love and support through the good times as well as the trying ones. No one has had a more profound impact on me than you. You've set the course that has led to my growth and success. We've had our storms and temporary setbacks, but we've come through because of your compassion and love. It has been and still is exciting to be part of the Lemmons family, Darrrtown Methodist Church and Darrrtown. There are very few days that go by that I don't think of all of you. Thank you for recognizing my mother.

✉ **IDA MAE LEMMONS, "REMEMBER WHEN" FROM MIKE, ANNE, ELI AND YOUR NAMESAKE, MAGGIE MAE BREWER:** Remember when Maw.... (1) took us to the Blue Ridge Parkway for a picnic in Bob's blue truck; (2) sent us gum in every greeting card; (3) made just the perfect color afghan and quilt for our bedrooms; (4) let us help with the dishes, even though we made a big mess; (5) helped us rake leaves and then let us jump in; (6) gave me a Cincinnati Reds' hat; (7) reminded us, "You are what you eat!"; (8) hugged me; (9) made my favorite pink polka dot dress with a frilly collar; (10) sent our Christmas packages in the mail with pretty stickers; (11) baked special birthday cakes decorated with dyed coconut; (12) tried to teach me



# Darrtown UMC Newsletter

May / June, 2006

www.darrtownumc.org

to play piano; (13) made a new hat for my doll, Suzie; (14) laughed; (15) visited us in Virginia every October; (16) wrote a story on the back of every photograph; (17) gave me her favorite book, "The Calico Cat"; (18) came to visit me in college for lunch; (19) played Scrabble and Dominos – to WIN; (20) would always keep singing, even after church!  
We do! We love you, Maw!

## ☒ EMMA LEIBFORTH, POEM BY JEFF LEIBFORTH:

"I am so very fortunate to have you as my very own,  
There is no one like you, with the love and  
Commitment that you have shown.  
Neither birth nor blood may have brought us together,  
But knowing that you chose me,  
That I will always treasure.  
If I had to have chosen a mother,  
It would have been you, I couldn't ask for better.  
You have always been there for me,  
In good times and bad, come whatever.  
So now I would like to take a moment  
To let you know how much I love,  
And treasure every day I have with you.  
There is one thing I know now is true,  
There are such things as gifts from God,  
For I have one, and it is You."

## ☒ AUDREY BROOKS, STORY BY PENELOPE WELZ:

Mother has often told the story of her and Daddy's move to Darrtown when Linda and Bill were tiny children. Mother had never been away from her Indiana home and family and, not knowing anyone in Darrtown, she was very homesick. Daddy said to her, "Dress those babies up and take them over to the church. You'll meet new friends there." Nearly seven decades later, Daddy's wisdom is quite apparent. Through these many years, the friendships Mother and Daddy established at the church have endured and enriched our family. This church has served as the center for many special family celebrations as well as solemn occasions, always in the presence of these same dear friends. Now, as we prepare to celebrate Mom's ninetieth birthday in June ... here at the church, of course ... I'm reminded of what a blessing this church has been to her for nearly her entire life... and, conversely ... as is being recognized today ... what a blessing she has been to the church.

## MS WALK

This year's MS Walk was held in Oxford on April 1. Ida Mae Lemmons and Etta Jean Crawford took part. Thanks for your donations of \$63.00.

## BLANKET DAY

Your generous donations to this mission have purchased 56 blankets. Notes of "Thank You" are on the bulletin board from the "Church World Service."

## 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

- May 1 – Monthly meeting at 7:00 pm; hostesses: Rhonda and Maxine
- May 12 – Mother's Day Family Banquet
- May 21 – United Methodist Women will conduct the 9:00 am worship service with Sally Hansel being the speaker
- June 5 – Monthly meeting at 7:00 pm; hostesses: Carolyn Russell and Christy Heinrich
- June 6 – 8:30 am noodle making

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Present balance as of April 15: \$401.74.

## MARCH 6<sup>RD</sup> MEETING

Our March meeting was devoted to the Prayer and Self-Denial Program, with an offering of \$37.00 going to that program.

## APRIL 3<sup>TH</sup> MEETING

Guest speaker, Sarah Hulse, with the McCurdy School in New Mexico, presented a video and speech for our April meeting. This mission is supported by the United Methodist Church. The UMW gave a donation.

