



**Dear Friends,**

Well, summer is here and we are ready for the heat and more time living out doors. The months of July and August bring a real change from the rest of the year.

We always seem to be recovering from something or planning for something. These summer months are the time to just be. Let us enjoy what used to be called the "lazy, hazy days of summer." Let us catch our breath before the next winds of change catch us and sweep us along.

Meanwhile, use these "calmer" days to go deeper in prayer, in trust, in faith, in our relationship with God. Pray more, listen more, and together let us see where God leads us.

Can you allow God's fresh breeze of the Holy Spirit to carry you through these summer months and set you in the right place before fall comes upon us? I hope so.

And don't forget... I'll see YOU in church on the Sundays of summer!

*- Rev. Ed Beck*

**Events for July, 2013**

- July 4 (Thursday): Independence Day
- July 7 (Sunday): Independence Day Worship with Communion at 9:00 and 10:45 am; Sunday Schools: Darrtown - 9:10 & 10:35; McGonigle - 9:30 & 10:55
- July 7 (Sunday): Darrtown Trustees meet at 10:30 am
- July 8 (Monday): Darrtown Church Council at 7:00 pm
- July 9 (Tuesday): 8:30 am, Darrtown UMW noodle-making
- July 14 (Sunday): Darrtown worship at 9:00; Church School at 9:10 & 10:35; McGonigle worship at 10:45; Church School at 9:30 & 10:55; Love Offering gathered; the Sacrament of Baptism at McGonigle for Logan Scott Lykins
- July 15 (Monday): McGonigle Trustees at 6:30 and Church Council at 7:00 pm
- July 20 (Saturday): 8:30 am, noodle-making
- July 21 (Sunday): Darrtown worship at 9:00; Church School at 9:10 & 10:35; McGonigle worship at 10:45; Church School at 9:30 & 10:55
- ALSO, Sunday, July 21: VBS Picnic at noon at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Darrtown. Covered dish.

- July 28 (Sunday): Darrtown worship at 9:00; Church School at 9:10 & 10:35; McGonigle worship at 10:45; Church School at 9:30 & 10:55
- ALSO, Sunday, July 28: Cluster Picnic at 5:00 pm at St. Mark's UMC, Fairfield

**Events for August, 2013**

- August 3 (Saturday): Darrtown Ice Cream Social, 4:30 - 7:00 pm
- August 4 (Sunday): Darrtown worship at 9:00; Church School at 9:10 & 10:35; McGonigle worship at 10:45; Church School at 9:30 & 10:55; Sacrament of Communion at both services of worship
- August 11 (Sunday): Darrtown worship at 9:00; Church School at 9:10 & 10:35; McGonigle worship at 10:45; Church School at 9:30 & 10:55; Love Offering is gathered for those who have needs
- August 18 (Sunday): Darrtown worship at 9:00; Church School at 9:10 & 10:35; McGonigle worship at 10:45; Church School at 9:30 & 10:55
- August 23 & 24 (Friday & Saturday): McGonigle Yard Sale - 8:30 am
- August 25 (Sunday): Darrtown worship at 9:00; Church School at 9:10 & 10:35; McGonigle worship at 10:45; Church School at 9:30 & 10:55

**LOOKING AHEAD**

- ❖ September 7 - 4:30-6:30 pm: Pig Roast at McGonigle
- ❖ September Church Council meetings on 9<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>
- ❖ September 21: United Methodist Women's Retreat at Darrtown
- ❖ September 29 - noon: Fifth Sunday Potluck at McGonigle

**BE ALERT...**

Be alert for additional plans and events to come. A bimonthly newsletter means some events come after the current newsletter is published.



**BIRTHDAYS  
& ANNIVERSARIES**  
*Refer to our calendar pages.*

**NEXT NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE BY  
August 20, 2013**

Give to Maxine Harris ( [maxakers03@aol.com](mailto:maxakers03@aol.com) )  
Ida Mae Lemmons ( [idamae87@yahoo.com](mailto:idamae87@yahoo.com) )  
or Rita Burns ( [rburns38@cinci.rr.com](mailto:rburns38@cinci.rr.com) )

# Darrtown / McGonigle-Millville Charge, United Methodist Churches

Newsletter for July / August, 2013 - Issue 32

Visit us on the web at [www.darrtownumc.org](http://www.darrtownumc.org)

## **F Y I** (For Your Information)

Please be sure to let the church know if you or a loved one will be entering the hospital. Also, in case of pastoral emergency and you are unable to reach Rev. Beck or Robyn at 513-896-4025, you may contact them by using their cell phone number, 513-226-1314.

See your church's prayer list each Sunday and remember those named in prayer.

## **LET US REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

Darrtown / McGonigle-Millville Prayer List

Our military personnel	Unnamed persons / families
Rev. Robert Heiliger	Pete & Jan Jewell
Beth Keiser	Helen George
Barbara Cornett	Kim Newcomer
Fred Guiler	Bob Keller
Irene Nutley's family	Noah Trumbull
Rita Burns	Sarah Myers
Carol Beckett	Melba Gross
Rev. Beck & family	David Foley
Robin Dillingham's family	Becky Bee
Carlin Callus	Fred & Betty Geisler
Lois Snider	Angie Rose Gomez
Kevin Messinger	Lester Coleman
Rick Bailey	Margarette Kalivoda
Marie Combs	Jim & Mary Wells
Joy & Don Jones	Charles Sullivan
Sheila & Don Mayberry	Clara Owen
Greta Bell	Nancy Taggart
Harold Simison	Robin Smith
Lonnie Risner	Amanda Irvin
The Park family	

New pastoral changes and churches with changes

## **PRAYER**

Prayer pushes us through life's slumps,  
Propels us over the humps,  
and pulls us out of the dumps.  
Prayer is the oomph we need  
to get the answers we seek.

- Max Lucado, Pastor & Author

Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together.  
Hebrew 10:24-25

## **JOINT CHURCH EVENTS**

### **SUMMERTIME IS PICNIC TIME**

- ❖ **July 21:** St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Darrtown will be hosting the VBS picnic at their church at noon on Sunday, July 21<sup>st</sup>. Both churches are invited. Bring a covered dish.
- ❖ **July 28:** St. Mark's UMC will be hosting the United Methodist Cluster Picnic on Sunday, July 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm. Plan to attend. Both of our churches are part of the Hamilton Cluster.

### **DARRTOWN'S ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL**

Mark your calendars:

**Saturday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> from 4:30 – 7:00 pm**

Bring a friend and join us for a complete meal of great good, homemade noodles, ice cream and desserts.

### **McGONIGLE'S YARD SALE**

**WANTED!!!!**

What: Food, Fun, Fellowship, Searching for Treasures

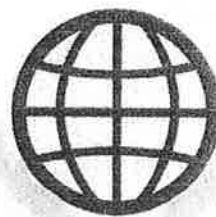
When: **Friday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 8:30 am – 6:00pm**

**Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 am – 3:00 pm**

Where: 2370 Lanes Mill Road

Questions about donating items:

Jim Keller (756-9590) or Ken Coleman (896-4439)



Festival of Sharing

### **FESTIVAL OF SHARING KIT PROGRAM**

We are happy to announce that we are again participating in the Festival of Sharing Kit program this year. As you may be aware, Ohio collects one-third of all kits collected in the entire United States each year! This helps Church World Services respond to the many disasters here at home and around the world. In the past year, Church World Services has responded to hurricanes, tornados, floods and famine. These kits bring relief and hope to those who are suffering either down the street or thousands of miles away. You will find a list of each kit contents in your bulletin beginning Sunday, July 7<sup>th</sup>. All kits will need to be turned in to our Narthex no later than September 22, 2013. I will make sure all kits are marked and delivered to a drop-off point for shipment to a Regional pickup point. Again, please know that your continued support of the Kit Program makes a big difference in the lives of many people. Many thanks for your help.

- Ann Jones

## *Darrrtown / McGonigle-Millville Charge, United Methodist Churches*

*Newsletter for July / August, 2013 - Issue 32  
Visit us on the web at [www.darrrtownumc.org](http://www.darrrtownumc.org)*

Note: For Darrrtown UMC, see Ida Mae Lemmons or Cathy Richardson for information about the Festival of Sharing Kit Program.

### **UPCOMING EVENT – PIG ROAST**

Mark your calendar for the 8<sup>th</sup> annual McGonigle-Millville UMC Pig Roast! Saturday, September 7, 2013 – 4:30-6:30 pm. *Roast Pig and all the fixings!*

This is a great event with delicious food. Invite your friends, and remember to order your tickets early and save a few bucks. Purchase tickets from a church family member. This event is sponsored by the choir, and we thank you in advance for your support. Proceeds go to the general fund. We're looking forward to another great Pig Roast!

Tickets: \$8.00 pre-sale price / \$9.00 day of event  
\$5.00 children 3-10 years  
Carry-out available

### **THANK YOU!**

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard and faithfully to make the 2013 Vacation Bible School such a success, and to Debra Steger for organizing this community event – Kingdom Rock, Where Kids Stand Strong for God.

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## **MCGONIGLE-MILLVILLE NEWS**

### **PAST EVENTS AND NEWS**

#### **LIFELINE SCREENING**

Thank you to all who helped and who took advantage of the Lifeline Screening on May 21<sup>st</sup> at McGonigle. Screenings were done by Atrium Medical center and The Dayton Heart and Vascular Hospital at Good Samaritan.

#### **LOVE OFFERING IN ACTION**

With your generous support of the love offering, your church helped a person in need to obtain shelter. Please ask in your prayers this week for strength and perseverance for all people seeking shelter.

#### **LAKESIDE, OHIO, ESTABLISHED 1873**

The theme for the 2013 West Ohio Annual Conference was "Taken; Blessed; Broken; Given." Bishop Palmer wants you to know you have been TAKEN! God has already taken you to be loved and there is nothing you can do about that.

I could hear a siren off in the distance as I walked to my car. When I arrived at the car, I noticed that the siren was silent. That's when it happened; the earth was shaking beneath my feet. What could it be thoughts went through

my mind. Maybe it's a tremor or an earthquake. Then I remembered that yesterday I read that the Marblehead Stone Quarry would be blasting today.

Thank you for the opportunity to represent your church at the Annual Conference. - Ken Coleman

### **NEW DIRECTORY INFO**

Phone number change – put in your directory.  
Janet and Richard Boling:  
Home: 513-979-4511 Cell: 513-307-3860

### **FIRST FRUITS CAUGHT RESTING**

Since the previous newsletter:

- Collected and put trash to curb as needed
- Prepared leftover yard sale inventory for shipment
- Stored yard sale road signs; erected VBS signs
- Set up and took down tables and chairs as needed
- Sprayed weed killer around fixtures in yard
- Returned ladders to owners
- Met with contractor and opened building for window caulking project
- Opened building for Roosevelt Thrift Store to pick up leftover yard sale items
- Opened building for health screening setup
- Met with HUAC contractor to diagnose and repair air conditioner
- Yard work as needed
- Cleaned out picnic shelter, grate and BBQ grill
- Set up fellowship hall for painting

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## **DARRTOWN NEWS**

### **PAST EVENTS AND NEWS**

#### **RUMMAGE SALE**

Our 17<sup>th</sup> annual rummage sale and lunch on June 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> was a success, even though the proceeds seemed to be less than previous years. This year we made a profit of \$1500 for the sale and lunch, and the United Methodist Women made \$110 from the bake sale. More important than money, this event inspired community outreach. Our church was responsible for printing and distributing flyers to the west side of Darrrtown and the Lutheran church distributed flyers to the east side of town. It was so nice to see many people come out on the days of the sale and it provided an opportunity to invite new people to our services.

## *Darrtown / McGonigle-Millville Charge, United Methodist Churches*

*Newsletter for July / August, 2013 - Issue 32*

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Thank you to everyone who helped in any way. It was fun to spend time with together while we were working and I really appreciate all the effort put forth. Thanks, also, to Jim and Noah for picking up our leftovers for McGonigle's sale in August.

I have some ideas about doing something different next year, possibly in conjunction with the Bicentennial Celebration in Darrtown. I think the rummage sale and lunch have become too large an undertaking for so few people to handle. I hope with some new ideas we can get more people enthused and involved in a fun event.

- Phyllis Flick

### **RUMMAGE SALE NOTES**

As per Ida Mae Lemmons, the highlight of the rummage sale was the "cozy café," where the tables were covered with red and white tablecloths. The little room became like a family eating and sharing place. The food was so delicious. Thanks to the lunch committee!

After the sale, all leftovers were packaged for further giving either to Matthew 25 Ministries or our sister church, McGonigle UMC. Thank you to the Chair, Phyllis Flick, and all others who helped.

### **MISSION REMINDER**

We are collecting for "Love Packages" – all used and new Christian materials that you have lying around, including tapes, videos, etc. After a month, a contact will be made for the collector and the date will be announced for pickup. For further info, call Ida Mae at 513-523-6285.

### **MEMORIAL DAY SUNDAY**

On Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, our worship service was blessed with the presence of two tiny people from Tennessee with a wonderful gift of singing. Bill Harris's beautiful grand-nieces, Sarah and Katie Bremner, ages (almost) 5 and 6, sang "God Bless America" and "The Lord's Prayer." Our congregation was so impressed and enjoyed the singing so much that they gave the girls a standing ovation!

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES OF 2013**

- Mark Sadler, Carolyn & Richard Sadler's grandson, from high school and going on to graduate school
- Shelby Cook, Carolyn & Kenny Russell's granddaughter, from Talawanda High School
- Megan Beckemeier, from college. On July 27<sup>th</sup> Megan will be married to Josiah Stuhmer, son of former pastor, Rick Stuhmer

### **NEW DIRECTORY**

A new church directory will be published this month. If you have changes, please notify either Rhonda Knight (513-863-1585) or Rev. Ed.

### **UPDATE ON LOIS SNIDER**

From daughter Kathy.... Lois was able to have a home visit to determine if she could manage and things are looking good. She has been up and walking with a walker and getting stronger. The staff said she should go home in a couple weeks. She has missed keeping in touch with everyone by e-mail. Thanks for all the cards. She loves to read your messages.

## **UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

### **From Our President, Cathy Richardson:**

WOW, what a busy spring!!!!

- In May, three members attended the UMW Spring Retreat at Otterbein and visited with Lois Snider.
- Our group hosted the Church Women United Annual Friendship Day on May 5<sup>th</sup>. Seven members attended. Thank you to all who baked and helped clean up.
- Thank you to Maxine and Phyllis for our May refreshments and to Malka and Ida Mae for June refreshments.
- In June, we had the rummage sale, luncheon and bake sale. Many thanks to all who worked and donated items.
- We have donated 38 fleeces to Project Linus and more are ready to go! More fleece is available. Please call Cathy.
- On June 22<sup>nd</sup>, four car loads of ladies, clothing and medicine bottles traveled to Matthew 25 Ministries and worked for two hours. Thanks to all who attended and to Phyllis for organizing the trip.
- We had a lot of discussion and planning for our Women's Retreat in September.
- The noodle-making group met and worked hard. They will meet again in July. Please contact Ida Mae if you can help.
- No meetings in July or August but will need your help with noodle-making and the Ice Cream Social.
- Remember our on-going missions over the summer. Enjoy your time in the sun and keep those flowers watered. Next meeting will be TUESDAY, September 3<sup>rd</sup> with hostesses Carolyn Sadler and Donna Gallagher.

### **FORGIVENESS**

Look for opportunities to fill the empty spaces in other people's lives, not only with things, but more importantly, with loving energy in the form of kindness, compassion, joy, and forgiveness.

*- Wayne W. Dyer, Author*

### **UMW TRIP TO MATTHEW 25 MINISTRIES**



Over the years, a group of our ladies has made several trips to serve at Matthew 25 Ministries. Each trip has been a unique experience. We never know what we will be getting involved with, but the couple hours spent at their warehouse has always been exciting and rewarding.

This time we were especially awed and impressed by the opening tour which explains their operation. Their new display areas were amazing. We were taken through the "media" room and explained how advances in technology help inform of breaking news of a disaster. Then we walked through replicas depicting natural disasters such as earthquakes and tornados. Another area showed living conditions of people who survive on items found in garbage dumps. Another showed living conditions in shacks of third world countries. A separate room displays a map of the entire world, showing all countries that have been served by this ministry which began in 1991.

Ten ladies participated on June 22<sup>nd</sup> including three from the Collinsville church. Those attending from the Darrtown UMW unit were Phyllis Flick, her daughter Tracy, Pam Hatten, Etta Jean Crawford, Maxine Harris, Lori Richardson, and Rhonda Knight. From Collinsville were Roxane Beckett, Debbie Mull and her daughter, Rachel.

As we were waiting for our "assignment" we observed a group of ladies walking by and noticed that they were all wearing United Methodist Church's tee-shirts. This group of ladies was from Cheviot and had finished their "assignment." We discovered that our group would be continuing in the

same department. Our assignment was disassembling packaged kits donated from the Men's Warehouse. These kits were composed of a matching necktie, cufflinks, pocket hankie and garter – yes, a lady's garter for use at weddings! We separated each item into bins: the necktie in one; plastic in one; paper in another; and the garter and cufflinks in the fourth bin. Boxes and boxes of these packages had been donated and our two hours labor hardly made a dent. We always leave this establishment with a sense of contributing, if only in the smallest ways, to a very well organized, much needed and helpful mission.

*- Maxine Harris*

### **NOODLE-MAKING**

On June 11<sup>th</sup>, I enjoyed the "beauty of the earth" as I drove to Darrtown at 7:30 am to prepare for noodle-making. These noodles will be served at the August Ice Cream Social. The 'plan' was made and we worked the 'plan.' We began work at 8:30 am with one mixer, three machinists and 3 lay-outers. It was another good time of fellowship and sharing. Thank you to visiting Mary Beth, Etta Jean's daughter-in-law; also to Carolyn Sadler, Donna Rumgay, Etta Jean Crawford and Donna Gallagher. Being the 'mixer' today, I got to go home a little earlier than the others!

*- Ida Mae Lemmons*

### **MISSIONS:** On-going missions include:

- Canned food and/or boxes (in Annex)
- Fellowship of the Least Coin (pennies to be placed in oversized jar at rear of sanctuary)
- Project Linus blankets for children in local hospitals
- Love Packages: any left-over Christian material to pass on to others (box in rear of sanctuary)
- Recipe Books (on table at entrance to Annex)
- World Thank Offering Boxes for 2013
- Monthly Love Offering
- Matthew 25 Ministries

### **Happy Birthday UMW!**

<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>
07/13 – Donna Gallagher	08/05 – Robyn Beck
07/21 – Rhonda Knight	08/14 – Rev. Ed
07/27 – Debra Steger	08/26 – Sandy Beckemeier

*Scatter seeds of kindness everywhere you go;  
Scatter bits of courtesy – watch them grow and grow.  
Gather buds of friendship, keep them till full-blown;  
You will find more happiness than you have ever known.*

*- Amy R. Raabe*

**DARRTOWN & MCGONIGLE-MILLVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES**  
**2013 BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<u><b>July</b></u>	<b>1</b> Paul Berger Roxanne & Ron Otto (Anniv)	<b>2</b> Jack Davis	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <i>Independence Day</i>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Jim Meador Norma Coleman Tiffany Baker
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Phyllis Jones	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Mike McCartney	<b>13</b> Donna Gallagher
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Tim Conyers	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Mike Baker Joshua D. Berger	<b>18</b> Amy Hecke	<b>19</b> Amy McDiffett	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> Rhonda Knight Andy Petri	<b>22</b> Jim Leitsch	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Shawn Gallagher Mary Harrison Richard & Jan Boling (Anniv)	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Randy & Becky Rice (Anniv)
<b>28</b> Sheila Mayberry	<b>29</b> Patty Lykins	<b>30</b> Bob Rumgay Debra Steger Paul & Sherri Berger (Anniv)	<b>31</b> Jerry Krauth Bob Rumgay			

**DARRTOWN & MCGONIGLE-MILLVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES**  
**2013 BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b><u>August</u></b>				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Wayne Weber
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Emily Shoker Robyn Beck Calla Maria Jones David Sackenheim	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Shelee & Noah Webster (Anniv)	<b>8</b> Pam & Ken Russell (Anniv)	<b>9</b> Lawrence Schlabach	<b>10</b> Ray Yordy
<b>11</b> Jennifer Clark	<b>12</b> Beth & Bill Fulmer (Anniv)	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Ed Beck	<b>15</b> Ken Shannon Dick Boling Jim Pate	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Debbie & Mike Hawkins (Anniv)	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Reed Shoker	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Tom Clark
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Sandy Beckemeier	<b>27</b> Darrel Beckett Eric Lykins	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Sarah Petri	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Joy & Don Jones (Anniv)



Join us for an exciting day!

# Women's Retreat

"Faith, Hope & Love in Action"

Saturday, September 21, 2013

10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Registration begins at 9:00 am

at

**Darrtown United Methodist Church**

Walnut & Oxford Streets, Darrtown, Ohio

\* Speakers \* Food \* Fun \* Fellowship \* Door Prizes \*



Lunch: Baked Potatoes with all the Fixings,  
Salads, Desserts



Musical Group: "Something Good"



Registration fee: \$10.00 per person.  
Registration limited to 100.



Please reply no later than **September 1st**:  
Send names and registration fees to

Cathy Richardson

5290 Hamilton-Richmond Road

Oxford, Ohio 45056



Questions: Call Cathy at 513-523-4350 or  
e-mail Maxine at [maxakers03@aol.com](mailto:maxakers03@aol.com)

(be sure to type the number "zero" before the 3)



Sharing the Love of God through Mission and Education



# Summer Living

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## Suggestions for Honoring God's Creation: SUMMER

*"He who gathers crops in summer is a prudent son." PROVERBS 10:5, NIV*

### WAYS TO START

1. **Pedal.** With the weather nice, get out and ride your bike instead of driving.
2. **Walk.** Swap a 1-hour television show for an hour of walking around your neighborhood.
3. **Fans.** Use fans instead of your air conditioner. It costs sixteen times more to run a room air conditioner than a ceiling fan; it costs forty-three times more to run a central air conditioner than a ceiling fan.
4. **Grill Out.** Cook outside during warm summer months to avoid heating your house while cooking.
5. **Sell.** Have a yard sale and get rid of anything you haven't used in the past year. Thinning out your stuff is a good spiritual and environmental exercise. Plus, buying and selling at yard sales avoids contributing to our over-materialized consumer culture.
6. **Camp Out.** Enjoy the beauty of God's creation by sleeping outside. You don't have to drive to Yellowstone or even a state park to go camping. Pitch a tent in the backyard and discover the sights and sounds of the night.
7. **Farmer's Markets.** Buy local produce from the farmer's market. This will reduce the number of miles your food travels to get to your plate and will support your local economy and community.
8. **Turn it Up.** Adjust the thermostat up three degrees to reduce energy use and save money.

### More Tips

Host a neighborhood party in your backyard.

**Catch Rain.** A 2,000-square-foot home can collect as much as 36,000 gallons of rainwater in one year by using rain barrels to capture water from downspouts—more than enough to meet the average American family's water needs.

**Stargaze.** Relax on a blanket in your yard with an astronomy guide. Look for constellations and planets and teach your children about the night sky.

**Go on a scavenger hunt.** Create a list of natural things that can be seen outside where you live—pinecones, acorns, flowers, leaves, feathers, insects, rocks. Have your children search for each item on the list.

**Visit a local farm.** Experience where your food comes from by looking for "You Pick" farms in your area. See [www.pickyourown.org](http://www.pickyourown.org) for a list in your area.

Plant a vegetable garden and share the produce with others.

Purchase a programmable thermostat and use it to turn on the a/c just before you wake up or come home.

Close the curtains on hot days to keep heat out.

Replace air-conditioning filters at least three times during the summer.

**Use a Nozzle.** To prevent waste when the water is turned on and your hose is not being used, fit your garden hose with a shut-off nozzle. Water savings: up to 6.5 gallons per minute.

**Plant a Native Garden.** Conserve water by replacing little-used grass areas like your front yard with a native garden. A native garden can reduce street noise and offer more privacy for you and your family. Water savings: up to 75 percent of the water typically used. Growing indigenous plants with low water requirements could save you up to 550 gallons of water per year.

**Wash Clean.** Use a biodegradable soap like Simple Green Car Wash or Gliptone Wash 'n Glow to wash your car. Or make your own eco-friendly car wash by using a few squirts of biodegradable liquid dishwashing detergent or laundry detergent mixed with a bucket of water.

Carry a refillable water bottle with you while on vacation, traveling, in the car, on a walk, etc.

Look for eco-friendly hotels while on your summer vacation.

Get into canning. Canning is a great way to eat local all year-round.

