

## GUNNISONVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Est. 1888

March 2010 Newsletter

MARK JOHNSON, PASTOR

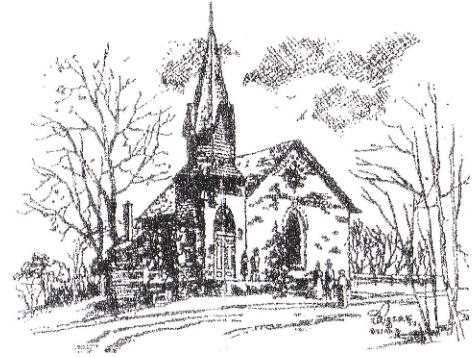
Home Phone: (517) 641-6436

Cell Phone: (517) 898-6960

Email: [mark123johnson@gmail.com](mailto:mark123johnson@gmail.com)

Church Phone: (517) 482-7987

Website: [www.gunnisonvillechurch.org](http://www.gunnisonvillechurch.org)



Dear friends,

When I filled out my annual Pastor's Report I confessed that one area for personal growth was in the level of physical activity in my day-to-day life. And lo and behold, soon after that I received an email from the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits introducing a Wellness Program offered to clergy and spouses. It's called ***StepUp To Health***.

The principle is quite simple. It is designed to improve health using physical, mental and spiritual activities which are recognized to enhance physical health. The program specifically targets clergy, which is a relatively inactive group. Participants in this program use pedometers to count the number of steps they take each day. They can add "bonus steps" to this count with a variety of healthy activities. Each day they report the total with the goal of accumulating 50,000 steps each week.

Johnie and I signed up for this program and it occurred to me that the benefits do not need to be limited to parsonage families. Therefore, I invite you to join Johnie and me in this experience. I suggest that you purchase a pedometer and track your daily steps. I can share information with you about the "bonus steps" to add to your count.

I offer this challenge: Over a twelve week period beginning on March 14<sup>th</sup>, for every one of you who successfully amass 50,000 "steps" in a week I will contribute \$5 to church camp scholarships or any other United Methodist mission project of your choice. This challenge is good up to a total of \$1,200.

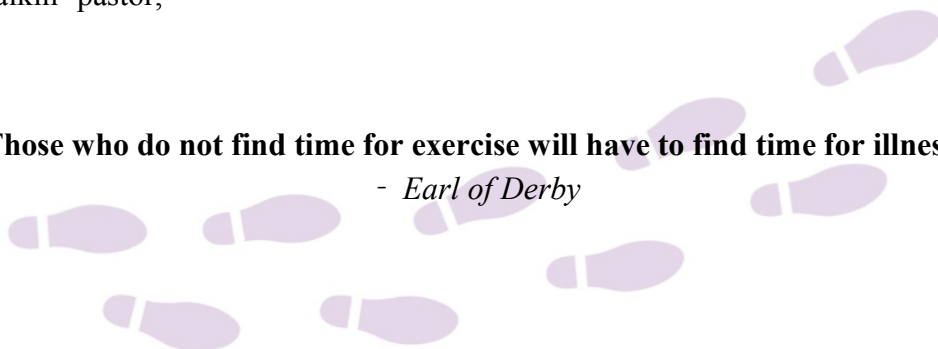
In addition, for all of you who successfully reach this goal all twelve weeks I will make an additional \$100 contribution up to that \$1,200 ceiling.

Your walkin' pastor,

Mark

**Those who do not find time for exercise will have to find time for illness.**

- Earl of Derby



## **MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

08 Alta Catherine Reed  
10 Austin Proux  
11 Grace Swanson  
14 Marv Rhynard  
14 Netty Wellman  
16 Barbara Best  
17 Billie Gladstone

19 Irene Livermore  
19 Fred Wellman  
21 Darlinda VanEtten  
23 Alice Demmon  
25 Johanna Balzer  
26 Alex Proux

## **MARCH ANNIVERSARIES**

03 Stan & Phyllis Murray  
09 Bill & Joyce Barker

11 Stephen & Kathryn Reed  
25 Bernie & Virginia Zeeb

## **MARCH HOSTESSES**

07 Lois Baumer  
14 Johanna Balzer

21 Alta Reed  
25 Barbara Price

## **SERVICE CLUB**

The next meeting of the Service Club will be Wednesday, March 10 at 12:00 noon. We will attempt to finish our Valentine Party by revealing our Secret Angels and drawing for new ones. Please bring your sandwich. Everyone is welcome.

**MARCH 14** Daylight savings time begins. Turn clocks ahead an hour.

**MARCH 21** Birthday potluck at 12:30 PM. Bring a dish to pass and your own table service.

## **SCHEDULING CHURCH EVENTS**

To schedule events, please call Florence Hartman at (517) 333-3616

## **APRIL NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

Sunday, March 21, 2010 [bbest@4wbi.net](mailto:bbest@4wbi.net)

**New phone number:** Barbara Best (517) 614-5709

## **PRAYER GROUP UPDATE**

At the present time our prayer group meets every Wednesday at 10:30 AM at my home. We currently have 8 attendees and meetings usually last 30 to 60 minutes. We pray about current events, such as Haiti, our church family, families and friends, etc.

Please contact me if you have any special prayer requests or if you are interested in being part of a prayer group.

Lorna Coulter (517) 702-1355

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

**Extending the Table**

When we serve communion on Sunday mornings it is possible for members of the congregation to bring the communion elements to people who were unable to attend the service

Training will be offered following the Birthday Potluck on Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup>. If you are interested in being one of these communion servers please contact Pastor Mark at (517) 898-6960.

### **LARGE SILVER BOWL**

The worship committee is in need of a large, silver bowl for use at the Maundy Thursday service. Something along the lines of a silver punch bowl would be ideal. If anyone has a bowl they would be willing to loan us for just one evening, please see Nancy Drolett or Kathy Hundt. Thank you so much!

### **GETTING THE COUNT RIGHT: SNOWBIRD GUIDELINES**

**From "The Michigan Voter, a newsletter of the Michigan League of Women Voters. Submitted by Johanna Balzer.**

Problem: Michigan can lose up to \$200 million in federal funds per year (\$ billion per decade)! And may also lose a seat in the US House if snowbirds are not included in the Michigan census.

Solution: Snowbirds receiving a census form at their winter retreat should enter "0" for the number of people living at their winter address and then write only these words, "Usual residence elsewhere" so the person reading the form understands why "0" was entered. When they return to Michigan, they can fill out the census form that was delivered to their Michigan address or wait until a census worker visits them at their Michigan home. There is no penalty for having a census worker make a home visit.

Counting Michigan snowbirds as residents of another state reduces Michigan's political influence in Congress, reduces the level of federal funding received by state and local agencies and reduces the accuracy of the census data.

Help Michigan be counted correctly! Please circulate this information to your snowbird friends so that Michigan can receive all the resources it deserves!

### **THYME IN A GARDEN BY LORNA COULTER**

March 17<sup>th</sup> is the celebration of St. Patrick's Day. I thought it might be interesting to research the shamrock plant.

Actually shamrock is the common name for certain plants with three leaflets. The shamrock was supposedly used by St. Patrick as a symbol for the Holy Trinity and is now widely associated with Irish heritage.

The wood sorrel is sometimes called the shamrock plant because it has the three lobed leaves of the shamrock. Some type of sorrel may be found everywhere in the United States. The common wood and yellow wood sorrel are found in yards, woods, and waste places. The shamrock shaped leaves are sour to the taste and are sometimes used in salads for flavor. They can grow to be almost two feet tall.

The flower is yellow or pink, with five petals and is on a separate stalk from the leaves. The flowers give way to seed heads that are cigar shaped and usually point upward. The plant blooms throughout the growing season and is a welcome ground cover wherever it occurs.

The wood shamrock as it is sometimes called often grows in patches along with ferns and mosses. Even when this plant is not blooming it is still impressive because of the large number of shamrock like leaves it produces. The leaves and flowers droop at night as if they were sleeping.

Throughout Europe it bears the odd name of “Halleluiah” because it flowers between Easter and Whitsuntide, the season when the Psalms sung in the churches resound with “Halleluiah”.

The English title, “cuckoo-bread” refers to the appearance of the blossoms as the season when the cry of the cuckoo is first heard.

Some uses for this plant may surprise you. The name sorrel is from the Greek word for sour which refers to the acrid juice of the plant that gives zest to salads and sauces. It’s been used to treat fevers and urinary problems and as an external wash for rashes and boils. Native Americans used it to remove cancerous growths from lips and they fed the root to horses to increase their speed.

It is noted that it is dangerous in large quantities. I personally would not consume it in any form for any reason.



WOOD SORREL

The first person to contact me using the word SHAMROCK wins a traditional shamrock plant. My number is: 1-517-702-1355



### **BIRTHDAY OPEN HOUSE**

Happy Birthday to Irene Livermore who will be 100 years old on March 19, 2010.

There will be an open house for Irene on Friday, March 19 at her home at 1065 E. Stoll Road, Lansing from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

No gifts, please.

## **FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**



Matt Walker, Lorna Coulter, David Hundt  
Helen Holcomb, Phyllis Park, Florence Hartman

### **GUNNISONVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AND SCHOOL COMMUNITY THE HISTORIC MARKERS**

Gunnisonville's Church and its 1907 Schoolhouse are recognized both by the State of Michigan and the United States of America as historic landmarks. The history of the designation relates to the activities surrounding its Bi-Centennial and was the outgrowth of the restoration project for the 1907 Schoolhouse located across the road. The school restoration commenced in 1968 ending in time for the nation's Bi-Centennial in 1976.

We have a long history on this corner dating back to the 1830's when Elihu Gunnison and his family settled in the area just west of the church and schoolhouse sites. The Community originally not only contained the first log schoolhouse which opened in 1835

and the church which opened in 1888, it also boasted a general store/post office located on its northwest corner and a farmer's weighing scale on its southwest corner.

Some of the information relating to the establishment of "Gunnisonville Corners" is contained on the Michigan Historical Markers which were placed on each of the two buildings sites as a part of the nation's Bi-Centennial celebration in 1976

The celebration surrounding its historic designation was a festive occasion and the dedication was made by Lieutenant Governor Damien. The ladies of the church also hosted an open house that day offering refreshments to the large crowd of local and area people as well as dignitaries from the State Historical Society and many of the school's alumni attending the affair.

Also among the attendees on that auspicious occasion were reporters from the Lansing State Journal and the then, "Clinton County Republican" newspapers with articles appearing in their publications. Pictures of our school restoration committee together with one of Vita Lavengood, a granddaughter of Elihu Gunnison accompanied the articles. Members of our church were a large portion of that committee, chaired by Oliver Angell of our church and co-chaired by George Anderson, the school principal at that time. Margaret Stampfly was our area historian representative, Nancy Cheney was treasurer and I served as secretary.

Our original historic marker is located on the front corner of the sanctuary. It was ordered in the 1960's by our Historical Committee and is topped with an image of the circuit rider which is part of the Methodist tradition. However, a second dedication was held on the actual 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the completion and opening of the church when Jerry Roe of the State Historical Commission dedicated the second small marker appearing by the front door of the sanctuary.

That original marker had been created under the auspices of the Michigan Historical Commission which was a part of the Department of State where I worked. They worked with me in preparing the wording for the plaque, however it was ordered prior to our having received our designation as a State of Michigan Historic Landmark. Since this was required in order to have the official state marker logo on the plaque, we chose the circuit rider. We later applied for and received the official marker in time for our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1988.

An additional interesting fact is our community's history even pre-dates Michigan's having achieved its statehood status which occurred just two years later in 1837. Thus at the time of the official establishment of Gunnisonville, Michigan, it was still a territorial entity.

Therefore, we are older than the State of Michigan! Who says we don't have a tradition?

Lois R. Baumer  
For Your Historical Committee



## **MISSISSIPPI 2010**

From the February Bath Newsletter

After additions and subtractions we ended up with 14 people to continue the work on Katrina houses. The group included Sandy and Jerry Taylor, John and Laurel Headley and Joyce Barker all from Gunnisonville. Ken Robertson, Mark Johnson, Shirley Garrity, Fran Thurlby, Naomi Opphile, Charlotte Morton, Jerry and Sue Boyer went from Bath church. We were excited to have some new people in our group.

Why return? Most people in the U.S. have forgotten about the need for help for the Katrina victims. They may be unaware of the enormity of this storm and the length of time predicted to fix what was damaged or destroyed. The case worker that spoke to us on Wednesday told us she had opened 13 new cases that day. There are still people living in terrible conditions.

Yes many were poor before and had very little, but Katrina ravaged what they had and left them in a situation that brought severe stress, unhealthy living conditions (such as black mold, no heat or hot water, etc.). Many of those have or have had health problems because of and accentuated by these conditions and the stress they have been under for so long. They need help and in turn helps those who go to help enormously.

We spend a week with people of different backgrounds and color and we get to know them. We bring them hope and better surroundings. They bring us knowledge, improve our understanding, improve race relations, help us grow spiritually and teach us new skills. Our time together and at the camp help us to get to know each other better. It brings fellowship in the true sense of the word.

This is not an exclusive group. We will probably be branching into new areas and opportunities with some places closer to home while smaller groups may continue to go farther and possibly returning to Mississippi to finish out the time that UMCOR has said they would continue to help. At this time UMCOR is the only group still on the scene helping. We learned from Bob Sharp, the Mississippi Coordinator for Disaster Relief through UMCOR that there have been 160,000 volunteers who have saved \$100 million in labor cost for that area.

This year we worked on two homes in two different areas. One team was in Moss Point doing dry wall and painting, the other in Vancleave doing floor repair, dry wall and painting.

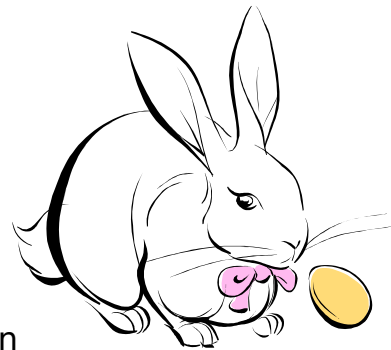
We also got to see a few of the people where we had worked in the past. This was a joyous reunion. We have made friends in Mississippi! We have also made friends in Florida from the group that was at camp with us this year, and from Pennsylvania from the group that was at camp with us the last three years.

We invite each of you to join us in planning where, when, and how to go and do. It is an experience you will never forget.

## **Sunday School Update**

### ***EASTER EGG HUNT***

This year's Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 3. The children will make pretzels for Communion with Pastor Mark at 1:30 pm at the Church. The Egg Hunt will begin around 2:30 at Dawn, Jeff, Katey and Sean Kelly's home. They live in the first house north of the church on Wood Road.



Please bring your family and friends to join us! There will be activities for all ages. The Bath Methodist Church has been invited to join us as well this year. A sign-up sheet for supplies, volunteers and the plastic eggs will arrive Mid-March. Additional information will be announced in Church.

### ***Sunday School Lessons for March***

#### **March's B.i.G. Theme**

A Love to Remember

### **March's B.i.G. Idea**

We believe that Jesus wants us to remember how much he loves us.

### **March's Bible Verse**

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son. John 3:16

March 7, 2010	Mary of Bethany	John 12:1-8
March 14, 2010	The Last Supper	Luke 22:7-23
March 21, 2010	Peter's Denial	Matthew 26:31-35, 69-75
March 28, 2010	Palm Sunday/Holy Week	Mark 11:1-11

### ***Collecting Campbell's Labels and Box Tops for Education***

Each of our children's school districts collects Campbell's labels and Box Tops for Education. Campbell's returns the soup labels for cash and the Box Tops are exchanged for equipment. Bath Elementary PTA has raised \$700 this year so far from the Campbell's labels. We will be placing collection containers in the fellowship hall for anyone interested in collecting these labels for us off from their grocery purchases. The labels will be divided equally between the school districts represented in our Sunday School. Examples on how the labels are to be cut out are below. Any questions please ask Kathryn Reed.

