



Jaana Glasmacher

GUNNISONVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Est. 1888

2031 E. Clark Road

Bath, MI

September 2011 Newsletter

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Dear friends,

"I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Wonderful are your works; that I know very well."

Psalm 139:14

The Psalmist was correct. The human body indeed is a marvelous creation, a wonder to behold. As we begin a new school year we will explore the mysteries and complexities of our anatomy and discover what our bodies can tell us about our spiritual lives. We will glean wisdom from a book written by Dr. Paul Brand with help from Philip Yancey entitled ***Fearfully and Wonderfully Made, a Surgeon Looks at the Human and Spiritual Body.***

Besides eighteen years of brilliant pioneering research on the disease of leprosy in India, Dr. Brand attained world stature as a hand surgeon. As he gained insight on the functioning of our human bodies he observed parallels with how we live our spiritual lives. Over the course of eight weeks we will delve into this intriguing book in our worship services and in our Wednesday morning Bible studies. I encourage you to purchase your own copy of the book. You may get it new or used from amazon.com or order it at your favorite bookstore.

May God bless us all as we gain a deeper understanding of what it means to be created in the image of God!

Your pastor,
Mark

September 18:	Cells: Diversity	Romans 12:1-8
September 25:	Cells: Unity	Ephesians 4:1-16
October 2:	Pastor on Vacation	
October 9:	Bones: Framework	Matthew 5:17-20
October 16:	Bones: Growth	Matthew 22:34-40
October 23:	Skin: Touch	Luke 8:43-38
October 30:	Skin: Boundaries	Matthew 5:13-16
November 6:	Muscle: Balance	Proverbs 27:17

November 13: **Muscle: Cooperation** 1 Corinthians 10:23-33

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

02 Steve Reed	12 Stan Murray
05 Barbara Price	14 Alice Clark
07 James Wicker	14 Dennis Johnson
09 Alan Demmon	16 Julie Reed
09 Larry Drolett	18 Sarah Hundt
09 Bernie Zeeb	18 Nancy Kay Drolett
10 Phillip Chalfant	19 Leif Swanson
11 Kay Jolley	21 Ileen Wilkinson
12 Katie Drolett	23 Elaine Cable

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

12 Marvin & Jamie Boyle	20 John & Laurel Headley
30 Sam & Darlinda VanEtten	

SEPTEMBER HOSTESSES

04 Jamie Boyle	18 Norma Jean & Lorna
11 Lora Mae	25 Barb Wicker

A reminder to all coffee hour hostesses, you will need to arrive a little early to make coffee. In the past Florence has always made the coffee, but she will not be doing this anymore. If you have any questions about this please ask Florence. Also don't forget the drink and snack for the children's table.

NEW DIRECTORY

In the brochure you received it says, "You're part of the family! It won't be the same without you! Sign up now to be a part of our pictorial directory and receive your complimentary portrait and free directory" Register with **Kathy Hundt** soon to save a time that is convenient for you. The dates are September 8, 5:30 to 9:00PM, September 9, 2:30 to 9:00pm, and September 10 9:30AM to 4 PM.

SERVICE CLUB

The next meeting of the Service Club will be held on Wednesday, September 14 at 12:00 noon. Our speaker will be Julie Gordon of the Cherry Marketing Institute, Inc. who will tell us all about the Cherry Industry. Please bring your own sandwich and everyone is welcome. **Lora Mae Higbee**

BAZAAR OCTOBER 21, 2011

It is nearing time for the bazaar so start getting all your pretties and Christmas goodies ready. We will also need baked goods for our bake sale. We will be setting up on October 20 and the Bazaar is October 21, 2011. I will be needing lots of help so watch for the sign up sheet around the 1st of October on the table downstairs. There will be more about this in the October newsletter.

Billie Gladstone.

Wedding Shower for Katie!

All the ladies of the church are invited to join us on Sunday, September 25 at 3:00pm for a wedding shower for Katie Drolett. We ask that everyone bring a copy of one or two of their favorite, tried and true recipes for Katie to put in her recipe binder. It will be the perfect way for her to remember her church family!! The shower will be held at the church and refreshments will be served. Katie is registered at Kohl's, Bed, Bath & Beyond, and William-Sonoma. If you have any questions, please see Lois Baumer, Lora Mae Higbee, Phyllis Rhynard or Kathy Hundt.



NORMA J. BRAGDON-CROWLEY INTERVIEWED BY ALTA REED

Norma and her two brothers grew up in Lansing. She went to Old Central High going on to graduate from Sexton High.

She was married to Mr. Bragdon for 41 years. After his death she married Mr. Crowley. They had 18 years together.

She raised three sons all retired and has eight grand children, seven great grandchildren and two great greats.

Her first husband was a building contractor in Lansing and DeWitt and her second husband was president of the National Management Association. This group had sixty thousand members. Norma worked at Bath schools for 17 years where all of her boys graduated. She enjoyed deer hunting with both of her husbands. They hunted mostly in the Big Rapids area. Her rifle was a Ruger 44. She tells of hunting one season with her grandfather and being successful. Her grandfather had not been so lucky so she let him take credit for the deer even though her tag was on it. A very good sportswoman!

We are all so pleased Phyllis Park invited Norma to Gunnisonville.

GUMBO

Soup's on....

Did you see the carrot move?????

As you all know, the little brick church on the corner of Clark and Wood Rd has a lot of love to give.... So we believe we can hit our goal of \$400.00 by October 1, and another \$400 by December. This is to go to our local soup kitchens to help feed the hungry. Those kitchens are: Open Door Ministries, Lansing City Rescue Mission, Southside Community Kitchen and Volunteers of America.

So when you see the "Gunnisonville Gumbo" soup cans.... Please remember those hungry bellies.... We are "opening" a can at the end of each month and currently we are at \$136.00 (as of August 22) toward our first \$400.

Thank you for all your support in helping others and spreading God's Love.

Bernie & Connie

Darlinda VanEtten

TRINKETS AND TREASURE'S

Thanks to all of you we had another successful Trinkets and Treasures Sale

First of all I want to say a big THANK YOU" to all the people that were involved in setting up, pricing, donating, working and tearing down. and for the shoppers!!!. There was an enormous amount of work that went into this, and without all of you it would not have been possible.

Sales \$969.95.
Luncheon \$62.75
Bake Sale of \$184
Making a grand total of \$1,216.70.
These funds will be dispersed to local organizations to help those in need.

Thank you again for all your support!!!!



UPPER PENINSULA MISSION TRIP
By Sue Boyer (BATH CHURCH)

Ten people from Bath and Gunnisonville churches went to the Keweenaw Peninsula from June 26 to July 2, 2011 to work on homes and build relationships with the home owners and the people from *Amazing Grace Ministries of Keweenaw*. Those who went were John and Laurel Headley, Jerry Taylor, Audrey Nemetz, Charlotte Morton, Ken Robertson, Kerri Besemer, Nikki Boyer, Jerry and Sue Boyer.

As a team we worked on three houses and helped someone move from a 3rd floor to a 1st floor apartment. We roughed in an addition; hung, mudded, and sanded drywall, tore out old carpeting, built some new steps, repaired flooring and did many other little jobs.

As always we felt God's presence in all that we did and saw changes not only in the projects, but in some of the people we met and also in ourselves. It is hard to put into words the sense of doing what God wants you to do and the feeling of enjoyment that it brings. We meet many kinds of people on these trips and constantly learn new things about how we should be viewing all of God's children, no matter how different they are from us. This mission was especially enlightening as we could see firsthand how a group of people drawn together because of sharing some similar problems in their lives could turn those lives to God and dedicate their new selves to God. They used this to create a ministry to help others, not only the ones whose houses they work on, but also the young people that they take with them to do God's work. Their passion and enthusiasm for God is contagious. This also was a little different as this is the first mission where we had someone from the ministry itself work side by side with us on the houses.

We feel blessed to be able to participate. We could feel your prayers and support with us and we thank each one of you. Our money comes from fundraisers and donations from the group that goes. We would love to have anyone who is interested going on a trip like this to join us as we plan new projects.



FUN DAY JULY 17, 2011



ANNUAL CONFERENCE

BY JANE SANSOTE (BATH CHURCH)

I attended the UMC'S West Michigan Conference held June 1-4, 2011 at Calvin College in Grand Rapids. This year's theme was "Take My Hand".

What an exciting time to get to stay in a dorm, walk to the Commons for meals and on to the Arena for our legislative sessions.

We had many petitions presented to be voted on over these four days, but time ran out before we could vote on all of them. Our longest discussions were on homosexuality. Many, many clergy and lay speakers got up to voice their opinions and concerns on this. Time allowed us to vote on a few of them. The petitions not voted on may be forwarded to be voted on at General Conference.

On Wednesday evening at the Marking Sacred Time we welcomed eight new clergy. We also said farewell to 19 clergy. Each retiring member came up front and we heard about each one's love of the Lord and their service to others. It was a very moving service.

On Thursday night we attended the Memorial Service with Robert Mayo preaching, enjoying a strawberry shortcake reception and later fireside chats with UMCOR Cynthia Fierro Harvey and Eric Muland, Student Council President/Africa University.

Friday our guest speaker was Rudy Rasmus. What an experience! He talked about "Touch" and told us of his life before he found the Lord. I had to buy his book, "Touch". It reads like his sermon. His church, St Johns UMC in Houston, TX went from 90 members to over 7,000. "Touch" means he ministers to the homeless, the ex-cons, people who "smell", drugies, pimps, hookers, etc. He and his wife Juanita started a homeless shelter that serve hundreds. His philosophy is that Jesus went out to the poor and homeless and showed them that God loves them. His congregation serves the poor, the rich and all of us in between.

The meals were great; you couldn't leave the dining rooms hungry! We enjoyed the UMW's special luncheon where Cynthia Harvey talked about our UMCOR program. We learned that the poor women of Haiti liked the dresses that we sent them, but prefer a sewing machine so they can make money for their families. I am working on finding out about a sewing machine, but I am not sure whether they have electricity or need a treadle machine.

The legislative sessions, ordination services, special dinners, the fabulous Rudy Rasmus, other guest speakers, the youth/young adult

band's music, and love of the Lord to go be of service to the poor was such an awesome experience. I wish everyone could participate and spend time doing God's work with other Christians.

(In closing, I want each of you to know that I love you and you can't do anything about it! Would each of you turn to someone sitting beside you and say: "I love you and you can't do anything about it") Thank you Pastor Rudy for your great words of action.



AN AFTERNOON ON THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL

The maps on each table would help us visualize the trip as Pastor Mark proceeded to enlighten us of the ins and outs of walking the Appalachian Trail. The amazing part of the presentation was the amount of articles that he had concealed in his back pack, all things necessary for daily living and yet he was able to keep the weight to his goal of below 30 pounds. Many of us have been keeping up with his walk via his website, www.trailjournals.com and have been thrilled with an adventure that is wonderful to read about, but not many of us will ever do. Thanks for taking us along on your walk.



From Your Historical Committee

The article appearing in this issue was copied from one which was written by Johanna Balzer. It appeared in a Michigan Christian Advocate's issue, dated 6/8/92. In the article, Johanna enumerates a few of the many activities which have been a part of our church life at Gunnisonville Church, over the years. It also mirrors so many of those we continue to experience as John Headley and our Trustees wrestle with the problems which are a part of keeping our old church repaired, updated and able to meet the needs of today.

Although you may not recognize all of the names mentioned, a few of them were connected to our longtime families here. The person doing the wallpapering and who complained about the uneven walls which made "papering" so difficult, was Evelyn (Evie) Balzer, who is Ron's mother and she was active here for a number of years prior to her passing. Alva Hartman, who served as our Trustee Committee Chairperson, is Florence Hartman's husband who also passed away a few years ago made the humorous remark about the likely hood of being "crooked" after 104 years.

You will however, recognize John Hagy, whose picture was included with the article. At the time it was taken, he was busily installing a then "new" sink in our current kitchen. As you know, John is now very ill now and is being cared for at the Hospice Unit in the Sparrow Hospital (St Lawrence Unit), and being watched over by Faye and his children Nancy, and John Jr. Thus, it seems a good time to talk about the ongoing contribution which he and so many like him have offered to our church over the years.

John and others like him have been the glue which has held this church together over the years, through both good and bad times. He represents a continuing challenge to those of us who remain, one which requires that we continue in the faith as represented by that group of people who dared to take on the challenge of building a "New" church on the corner and those who continue their work to date.

Lois R. Baumer,

Historical Committee



John Hagy

1927-2011

104 YEARS OLD AND

GROWING!

JOHANNA BALZER Lay member, Gunnisonville UMC

"You'll be crooked too when you're 104 years old," joked trustee chairman, Alva Hartman in response to Evelyn Balzer's complaint about the walls as she hung new wallpaper.

The Gunnisonville United Methodist Church, at the corner of Wood and Clark Roads in DeWitt Township, north of Lansing has recently completed a renovation of the kitchen and fellowship hall.

If the hall got new carpet, shouldn't the wallpaper be replaced? Since the colors had been browns and greens shouldn't there be a new color scheme? The kitchen and hallway flooring were 29 years old wasn't it time to replace them also?

First the kitchen was painted in light blues, the fellowship hall trim in white.

Originally the project was to be paid from building funds, the Service Club, the centennial fund and memorials, but as the renovation grew, so did the gifts. The countertop funds came from money the women had earned from the Centennial Cookbook. Totally unexpected was a gift of \$1,000 from the Teamster's Union in appreciation for a retirees' group that meets monthly at the church. Other gifts flowed in. Everyone wanted to be a part of the action, from giving their advice to hours of volunteer time in painting, wallpapering, plumbing, moving furniture, cleaning and buying the accessories, along with cash gifts.

Even the DeWitt Township Police became a part of the renovation. The Bath United Methodist Church donated some seat cushions for the old pews.

The carpet and vinyl flooring were laid on April 9. The church pews were full on Palm Sunday and the enthusiasm for the effort couldn't be contained.

The church building will officially turn 104 years old on Nov. 4. According to the church history, "On Jan. 19, 1862, a little group of people met at the schoolhouse at Gunnison (now known as Gunnisonville) to organize the first religious services. It became a Methodist Episcopal Church and Sunday School Class: Gunnison, DeWitt Circuit, Lansing District, Michigan Conference with H. Hall as presiding elder....In 1885 the Ladies Aid was organized, the Rev. McNutt talked of a new church. Although it looked like a big undertaking it finally materialized in the spring of 1888

Andrew West cut trees in his woods, had the lumber sawn and built the church pews in his barn. When they were finished, he loaded them into his wagon and took them down to the church.

In 1963, an addition was built on which houses the kitchen, bathrooms and four Sunday school rooms. The church has 51 members with an average attendance of 63.

SPRC Committee Report

On August 11th, the Pastor Parish Relations Committee of Gunnisonville met together with Bath's Committee to discuss preparations for the oncoming Annual Charge Conference which will be held on October 9th at the Shaftsbury Methodist Church. Committee Chairpersons are urged to attend and the invitation is also extended to any and all church members who are interested. Our SPRC Committee members are also required to attend an earlier/separate meeting with Pastor Mark and our D.S., which will convene at 1:30 p.m. on that day.

Establishing Church Priorities

During our discussion, Pastor Mark, indicated that one of the challenges which will be issued by our District Superintendent will be to establish future goals for our church/congregation. This will require that our church board, together with its congregants, give serious thought about our current role in the community, and what we want to be in the future. For the coming year particularly, he would like us to really examine immediate goals, and during the coming year to expand our thinking into what we want our church to represent in the future.

During the meeting, each church's individual committee met to discuss plans for its future goals and to articulate possibly the more immediate changes which might result in a greater understanding of our role in our local community and its further outreach into the greater area.

Our members discussed the many instances in which our own members reach out into the community individually and without the awareness of our congregational members. We listed such things as: "Habitat for Humanity," both the larger efforts and the smaller daily ones which men in our congregation contribute on a regular basis, the involvement of the Headley's and possibly other members in the monthly food distribution, the roles played by members in the present "Bike a Thon" effort -as a stopping point for participating bikers, the contributions made to the food needs at the Vacation Bible School which is sponsored by our sister church in Bath and our current "GUMBO" mission project.

We would like to recognize any of you who are or have been involved in the above and other projects. If you know of someone who has participated in such a program, please let us know so we can include the information on our web site &/or monthly newsletter.

Thank You,

Your SPRC Committee

A Note from Ed Milam

We recently received a note from Ed Milam. -You will recall, that prior to Ed receiving his appointment as a full time minister in the Methodist Church, Pastor Mark served as his mentor. During that period he offered a number of sermons for Gunnisonville while covering for Pastor Mark's vacations and during his recent sabbatical, and he was warmly received by our congregation.

Recently Ed received his first appointment to the full time ministry, and has written us to indicate that he particularly enjoyed his time with us and has asked that I pass on his "Thank You" to our congregation. His new appointment is to a three-point charge in the Big Rapids Area and he has extended an invitation to any of us who might be in that area to visit him.

L. Baumer,

SPRC Committee

JUST A SUGGESTION

For all of you who have an email address, the monthly newsletter is available. The nice thing about receiving it online is that the pictures are all in color, the print is bolder and easier to read and you would be helping to save paper and ink used for printing it off. I, like you enjoy holding the newsletter in my hand and reading it at leisure, but give it a try online. I think you will be surprised how easy it is to read. Let me know if you are interested. Thanks. **Barbara Best**



Trinkets and Treasures



OBSERVATIONS

BY LORNA COULTER

A flower is a flower
Cherry, peach or pear
The fragrance of its blossoms
Entice you to be near.
A compulsion to savor the nectar
Like the hummingbird or bee
Or a sailor's deep desire
To always be at sea.

The universe around us
Draws us near and takes us far
To experience the soul's desires
In search of peace and sometimes war.
When we open up our beings to the unknown part of life
Do we ask who will catch us?
Do we know who really cares?
Do you have a deep gut wrenching feeling that the Lord is always
there?

He will send His Angels in for us
Like an eagle hooking a fish
On the sometimes rough waters
Of this life we must not miss.
We cannot forego these challenges
Scary as they are
This is our training field
For the realm of eternity.

So, we will be judged by those who have professed to be friends
The Lord will forgive them and so must we.
Leave them in God's Care
To return the judgment would cause God to glare,
At our Stunning Hypocrisy.

Now, we should prepare ourselves
For that ultimate space in time
The final hours of this life
And the beginning of the next----Yours and Mine.