

December
2011

NEW LIFE NEWS

The
Monthly News
Magazine of
New Life
United
Methodist
Church



***“Here there are no strangers;
only friends we have not met before.”***

From The Pastor

As we begin the season of Advent, we do so with a spirit of expectation and hope, looking forward to the coming of Christ once again. There are many ways of preparing our hearts and turning our lives toward the Christ in this holy season. In the Hispanic tradition of Latin American countries, one way in which this is done is with the service of Las Posadas (Service of Shelter for the Holy Family). It is a service in motion, with “pilgrims” journeying from home to home seeking shelter, hoping for compassionate hospitality from those who live there. Here is some of the liturgy in the service (scripture verses are in quotations):

“Listen, I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me.”

Who will give lodging to these pilgrims who are weary of traveling the roads? We have come exhausted from Nazareth. I’m a carpenter, by the name of Joseph. In the name of the heavens, I beg you for lodging, my beloved wife can no longer travel.

Although you tell us that you are weary, we do not give lodging to strangers. We don’t care what your name is; let us sleep. We are telling you that we will not let you enter.

“He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God.”

Who are the children of God? “All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.” To what does the Spirit of God guide us?

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”...

How do we know we love the Lord and have faith? “What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you?...Faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.”

*Lodging we will give you with much happiness; enter, good Joseph; enter with Mary. Enter, holy pilgrims. **Receive this corner not of this humble home, but of our hearts.***

At New Life, we are committed to a ministry of compassion and hospitality. These days, the number of people, and the increase in needs is at times overwhelming. Still, we open the doors to those who come, do the best we can to meet their needs, and offer the love and mercy of God revealed in the Christ. We pray that we would be led by the Spirit of God, and be ready to welcome the Christ into our homes and hearts, not just in this holy season, but always.

— Pastor Jennifer

A Christmas Memory

Christmas has always been a day of hope for me. As a kid I remember lying awake all night on Christmas Eve. It always seemed to be the longest night of the year. I listened for sleigh bells and for prancing hoofs on the roof. I'd drift off to sleep about 1:00 AM wondering if Santa got lost on his way to our house. Unfortunately Santa seldom came to our house. I didn't attend a church like New Life. There were no food pantries and we were not on anyone's food basket or gift list.

We had one source, God. We had great faith that one day things would be better. After Christmas we would go to the alleys and select the freshest tree that someone else had thrown away. We made homemade Christmas cards and mom would pull together enough ingredients for chocolate chip cookies or homemade fudge. We were usually invited to an Aunt's house for Christmas dinner. My mom would go to Goodwill and buy dresses with full skirts. She would take the dresses apart and use the fabric to make a new dress for my sister and me. She'd make a new shirt for my brothers. We didn't have a sewing machine; she'd sew them with just a needle and thread! We were a far cry from being rich, we weren't even close, but when I think back on those days, I feel blessed. We pulled together and my mama was great at making something from nothing.

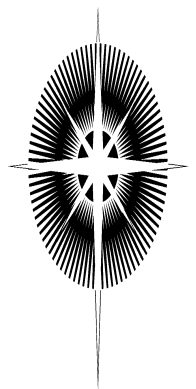
One Christmas day we didn't even have construction paper to make cards. We were not invited to eat dinner with my Aunt. Things didn't look so good. We tried not to be sad, but we were disappointed. To our surprise late that afternoon my Aunt Carmen came over with her seven kids. She had packages for all of us. We could hardly believe it. I received a small purse and a can of hair spray. I felt like a queen! God used my Aunt to bless us.

Sometimes we receive gifts when we least expect it. We can learn to be content in every circumstance. You never know when God will send someone your way with a blessing. As we receive these gifts we can learn to be grateful. We never know what God has in store for us. Be thinking of how you can be a Christmas blessing this year. Think of your neighbor! Can you be God's hand and give a blessing to a friend? Pass the Christmas Spirit along this year! It will warm your heart and bless someone else!

Merry Christmas! -Pastor Rosie

Teen Scene—Dates to Remember

Sat. Dec 3	Confirmation Field Trip, Beth Messiah @9:30 AM-1:30 PM Christmas Play Practice @6-8 PM
Tue. Dec. 6 & Dec. 13	Plugged In
Tue. Dec. 20 & Dec. 27	No Plugged In
Fri. Dec. 9	Friday Night Live: Christmas Play Practice and Party
Sun. Dec. 11	Christmas Drama: "Broadcasting Christmas!"
Sat. Dec. 17	Make and Take @ 9:30 AM
Sat. Dec. 24	Christmas Eve
Sun. Dec. 25	Christmas Day



Clothing Room

(Editor's note: Vickie Moseley, Clothing Room Steward, represented New Life and Community Ministries of the Capitol Area North and South, on "Mission Saturation Sunday" on October 30th. She spoke at Pharisburg and Magnetic Springs Churches in Marysville, Ohio. Here are excerpts of her speech.)

It is indeed a great pleasure to be with you this morning! After hearing from Erma Johnson the many ways that Pharisburg and Magnetic Springs is reaching out to your community I knew that we are celebrating YOU! What an impressive list of partnering with others to meet needs that reach as far as Jackson County and even worldwide. Locally you provide food, blankets, clothing, boxes for shut-ins, baby items and much more. You share with Magnetic Springs in providing a Community Bible School, and raise money for global missions. **The very heart of Jesus' ministry is compassion for those left out, and as Christians we are commanded to care for them. It is important to know that your apportionments support over 70 outreach programs in the Capital Area Districts by providing grants. Apportionment giving also supports workshops to help churches develop outreach ministries and to be more effective in serving those struggling with poverty.**

I represent New Life UMC located in the Short North area of Columbus. As one of four Mission Centers, New Life serves as a learning facility. In 2012 we will receive a \$10,000 grant to support our 4 major outreach ministries: Hospitality Breakfast on Sunday and Tuesday; Free Clothing Room Sunday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings; Free Health & Wellness Clinic on Sunday morning; and various programs for children at risk. Our ministry is shared with 25 partner churches who support us financially, provide donations of used and new clothing, plus household and personal items, and are the resource of dedicated and committed volunteers who find great joy in reaching out to those who struggle with the challenges of homelessness and poverty.

The neighbors we serve are a diverse group: single mothers, families, those suffering mental illness or addiction, former prisoners, chronic and temporary homeless. We provide a safe place where they are given respect and are accepted as worthy children of God. We hear their stories, we cry with them, we laugh with them, we pray with them, we care for them. We become friends. Lives are changed at New Life; lives of volunteers as well as those we serve. My life has been changed. I have a new perspective of homelessness, homosexuality, addiction and poverty. Little would I have believed that I would have friends who are challenged by these conditions or even more be able to hug them.

One great example of a person whose life has changed is the young man who serves as my assistant in the clothing room. He spent five years homeless as the result of a drug addiction. One winter day after freezing in a sleeping bag, covered with snow he decided enough is enough. He came regularly to New Life to be served and attended worship service. **Pastor Jennifer's** words, "never give up" influenced him to know that he could overcome his desperate situation. In December he will celebrate 2 years of freedom from drugs and now is a dedicated and committed member of the church serving as a trustee, a liturgist and an outstanding manager of all donations that flood New Life. He has a strong work ethic, extraordinary perception of what needs to be done, great organizational skills, a compassionate heart and a personality that warms the hearts of all who work with him. And best of all, he is my friend and protector! **He who once was served, generously serves! What better joy is there!**



Christmas Poinsettia Order Form
Due December 18

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

To the Glory of God _____

Total number of plants ordered _____ at \$8 each

Total amount included \$ _____ (Checks payable
to New Life UMC)

Name _____



ORDER
YOUR
POINSETTIAS

Christmas Card Tradition

There has been a long standing tradition in our church family about Christmas cards. Many people bring their Christmas cards for one another to church and deposit them in marked boxes in the Assembly Room. So, if you choose to give Christmas cards, this is a great way to save postage. And everyone loves to look in the boxes on Sundays to see if there are any cards for them! **Please note:** If you are giving cards to people who are homebound and/or not usually in worship, please mail them to make sure they receive them in time for Christmas.

Seeking Part Time Custodian

Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, cleaning and maintaining the lower level of the building (kitchen, dining room, clothing room, restrooms, etc.). The other part time custodian maintains much of the other two floors of the church. There will be overlapping responsibilities as well. Hours vary. If interested in learning more about the position, please speak with **Pastor Jennifer** or **Gary Sansbury**, the Chair of the Trustees. We hope to fill the position as soon as possible.

Church Conference scheduled

Our annual Church Conference will be held on **Sunday, December 4th at 2:30 p.m. at Broad Street United Methodist Church (501 E. Broad St)**. At this meeting, we will gather with several other churches (most of whom are partners with us in ministry) for worship, and to learn about each other's ministries.

We will then meet as a church to celebrate ways we have grown in our ministry this year, how we will continue to seek opportunities to grow by the guidance of the Holy Spirit in 2012, as well as tend to some necessary financial and administrative business.

Members of the Administrative Council are expected to attend, but all church members are encouraged to join us as well.

The Big Give

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Columbus Foundation's day of matching donations called, **The Big Give!** As a result of the generosity of many people who invested in the ministries of New Life, and the Columbus Foundation matching those gifts by a certain percentage, **we will receive over \$6,500!!** How blessed we are for all of the creative ways that individuals, churches and agencies find to share in our commitment to love, welcome and serve ALL people, particularly our most vulnerable neighbors, in the name of Jesus Christ! Praise God from whom all blessings flow!!

Recipe for Holiday Fun!

Peppermint Rice Krispies Treats

1 10.5-ounce bag of miniature marshmallows
1/2 stick margarine
6 cups Rice Krispies
6 crushed candy canes



Grease a 9x13 pan and set aside. In large glass mixing bowl, place 1/2 stick of margarine and marshmallows. Microwave for 3 minutes. Stir well, then add candy canes stirring constantly. Add Rice Krispies and coat well. Pour mixture into greased pan. Let stand for 10 minutes. Cut into squares.

Great Kitchen CleanUp

New Life Kitchen Volunteers-Greetings! We have determined that the Great Kitchen Clean Up will take place **Tuesday December 27, 2011 from 8 am till Noon**. We will not be serving breakfast that day. Our plan is to clean appliances, fans, pan racks etc. All are invited — bring the kids, spouses, partners, in-laws et al, we can find a scrubbing opportunity for everyone! Please let us know if you plan to participate!

Thanks, **Tom & Sharon Poole** (614 214 0175)

IT'S HAPPENING THIS MONTH

****We gather to Worship God each Sunday morning at 10:30AM****

- Sundays: Breakfast Ministry, Clothing Room, Church School, Worship
Drummers Alcoholic Anonymous (1:30PM & 7:30PM)
Narcotics Anonymous (7PM)
- Mondays: Drummers Alcoholic Anonymous (8PM)
- Tuesdays: Clothing Room*, Hospitality Breakfast, Plugged In (6-8PM),
Drummers Alcoholic Anonymous (8:30PM)
- Wednesdays: Clothing Room*, Bible Study (7 PM),
Drummers Alcoholic Anonymous (8 PM)
- Thursdays: Drummers Alcohol Anonymous (8PM)
- Fridays: Drummers Alcoholic Anonymous (9PM)
- Saturdays: Drummers Alcoholic Anonymous (8:30PM)

*Clothing Room hours are 9:00 AM—11:30 AM

In addition to our weekly scheduled ministries, as listed above, please note the following activities for December:

3	9:30 AM 6:00 PM-8:00 PM	Confirmation Field Trip for Youth Christmas play practice
4	10:30 AM 2:30 PM	Worship—Sacrament of Holy Communion Church Conference @ Broad Street UMC
7	7:00 PM	Bible Study
8	6:30 PM	New Life Comm Outreach Board mtg
9	6:00 PM	FNL Christmas play practice & party
11	10:30 AM	Young Disciples Christmas Play
14	7:00 PM	Bible Study
17	9:30 AM	Young Disciples Make & Take event
20		NO Plugged In
20-21		Clothing Room closed; NO Hospitality Breakfast
21	7:00 PM	Bible Study
24	7:00 PM	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
25		MERRY CHRISTMAS!
27		No Plugged In
	8:00 AM-12:00 PM	Great Kitchen Clean Up





**Report of the Treasurer
as of Sept 30, 2011**

Checking Accounts	
PNC	
Beginning Balance	6,941.83
Contributions	10,000.00
Expenses	9,066.50
Balance	7,875.33
West Ohio Credit Union	
Beginning Balance	156,150.88
Contributions	14,182.67
Expenses	160,609.70
Balance	9,723.85

—Steve Waldron, Treasurer

Receipts in	Oct	and Year
Total Plate	9068.23	87,058.42
Friends	687.00	12,457.57
Partner Churches	1,150.00	35,512.22
Breakfast Ministry	1070.00	7,945.00
Youth Ministry	98.00	17,683.00
Clothing Room	210.00	1,475.00
Parsonage Rent	650.00	3,700.00
Healthcare Ministry	111.00	2,131.61
One Great Hr of Sharing	0.00	10.00
Easter Flowers	0.00	227.50
Memorial Fund	0.00	810.00
UMCOR	0.00	780.00
CROP Walk	55.00	55.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	2,806.18
Easter	0.00	2,634.00
Group Meeting	834.06	4,174.06
Pastor Discretionary Fund	50.00	3,750.00
New Life Comm. Outrch	60.00	420.00
Buckeye Fundraiser	138.00	21,748.17
Bluegrass Fundraiser	0.00	6,341.00
Total	\$14,181.29	\$211,718.73

—Tom Householder,
Financial Secretary

**Balance Sheet
as of Sept 30, 2011**

Assets	
Checking accounts	17,699.18
Savings & Investments	269,187.20
Total Assets	\$286,786.38
Liabilities & Fund Balances	
Withholdings	5,830.46
Operations	130,709.84
Youth Ministry Fund	18,703.73
Misc. Ministry Fund	12,775.63
Memorial Fund	67,292.00
Breakfast Ministry Fund	44,923.52
Health Ministry Fund	15,994.21
Clothing Room Fund	5,138.59
Pass Thru Fund (flowers, etc)	3,564.24
Congreg Benev (UMCOR, etc)	2,810.02
Lillian Skeelee Fund	11,723.88
Total Liab & Fund Bal	\$286,786.38

We are in the process of transferring our checking services from PNC to the West Ohio Credit Union. So, our income is divided at this point between the two checking accounts, and a Credit Union Savings Account.

Oct, 2011

Hours of Operation:	
Sunday	7-9:30 am
Tues. & Wed.	9-11:30 am
Weekday Guests	2037
Sunday Guests	863
Total	2900

New Life News

**New Life
United Methodist
Church**
25 West Fifth Avenue
Columbus, OH 43201



MISSION STATEMENT

*To love, welcome, and serve all people
in the name of Jesus Christ*

New Life News

is the monthly news/magazine of
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