

**GUNNISONVILLE UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH**

EST. 1888

JANUARY 2010 NEWSLETTER

MARK JOHNSON, PASTOR

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Dear friends,

One of the most overlooked holidays in the church is Epiphany. Twelve days after Christmas the church has traditionally set this day aside to remember the visit of the Wise Men as they presented their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to Jesus. The name "Epiphany" literally means "a revelation." On this special day we celebrate the revelation that these wise men understood that there was something special about this child of Mary and Joseph. As the Apostle John reminds us, Jesus is the light of the world!

Epiphany is January 6th. This year we will celebrate this special occasion on the following Sunday, January 10th as we revel in the light that Jesus brings to us. On that Sunday I invite you to participate in this celebration by bringing candles from your home to add to an altar display of light. Bring as many as you like. I hope to have a large and varied collection of candles all burning brightly before us that day as we lift up our praise before the One who shines his light in the midst of our darkness and who calls us to be the light of the world as we reveal his grace to all we meet.

God bless you as we enter this New Year together and may the Light of Christ shine brightly in our midst!

Your Pastor,

Mark



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

09 Linda Parkinson
12 Allen Reed
13 Ron Balzer
19 Harold Hayes
25 Norma Jean Crowell

25 John Hagy
26 Pat Fillwock
26 Kathryn Reed
29 Elwin Fulkerson
29 Sam VanEtten

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

01 Thomas & Ande Glasmacher

30 Larry & Nancy Drolett

HOSTESSES

03 Florence Hartman
10 Lorna Coulter & Norma Jean Crowell
17 Kathryn Reed

24 Katie Drolett & Sarah Hundt
31 Phyllis Murray

JANUARY 10 Epiphany Sunday. Bring candles to light up the sanctuary.

JANUARY 10 The church is invited to tour the MSU Cyclotron with Thomas Glasmacher as our guide. Meet at the church at 2:00 to car pool. All church people, friends and family are welcome.

JANUARY 17 Birthday potluck. Bring table service and a dish to pass.

SERVICE CLUB

There will be no service club in the month of January. Our next meeting will be **February 10, 2010** when we have our Valentine's party and reveal our Secret Angels.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

We truly appreciate the Christmas gifts you gave to us at the Sunday School Program. The monetary gift will be put towards our Ireland trip fund and Mark will have to find opportunities to wear the "special" green glasses. Thank you for these and the many other expressions of generosity and affection you bestow on us. God bless you all!

Mark and Johnie

SCHEDULING OF CHURCH EVENTS

To schedule any events, please call Florence Hartman at 333-3616

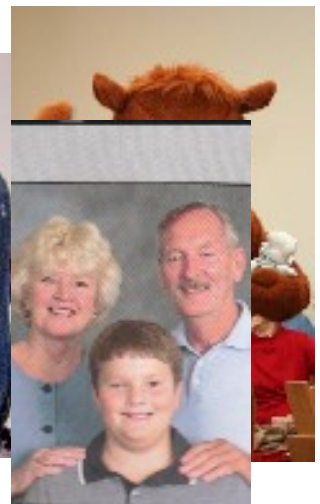
FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Sunday, January 24, 2010 bbest@4wbi.net

DECORATING THE TREE



HEIFER SUNDAY



LYLE AND LORRAINE SAMPLE
Interviewed and written by Alta Reed

Lorraine was raised in the Laingsburg area and graduated from Laingsburg High School. Lyle grew up in Dewitt in the Valley Farms area and graduated from DeWitt High School in 1955. His class gave DeWitt sports team their name, The Panthers.

Lyle was a marine serving his country two years in Okinawa. After returning home he lived 22 years in Mason.

Lyle and Lorraine raised six children and all but one lives near by. They are blessed with 12 grandchildren. One is living with them while his mother is ill.

Lyle worked at Oldsmobile for 45 years retiring in 1999 and related that the workers in Olds at that time were like one big family celebrating each others special occasions, but in later years the camaraderie no longer existed.

Lorraine was a secretary for a construction company and was a cashier for the Shell gasoline station in Mason.

They spend six months of each year in Florida and have traveled extensively. They have been to Hawaii, Nova Scotia, Aruba, Cayman Islands and California

They both like Gunnisonville Church and feel as comfortable here as they do in their church in Florida. Lyle said he found the Lord about four years ago and regrets not finding Him sooner.



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Lorraine Sample, Jaana
Glasmacher, Jamie Boyle and Tess
Boyle



2008 SUMMER MISSION PROJECT

The following is an email sent by Sue Carrol, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity of Clinton County to Jerry Boyer of the Bath UMC regarding the Habitat Build that took place this past summer in Wacousta, Michigan.

Hi Jerry,

I'm just following up with you to let you know how many hours you and your buddies provided to Habitat on the build. I hope that I got everyone that was involved.

Jerry Boyer 120.50, Al Gladstone 5.00, John Headley 5.75, Laurel Headley 5.75, Ross Hill 16.50, Ken Robertson 82.25, Lyle Sample 43.25, Jerry Taylor 9.00 and Mark Johnson (hours not reported). Total hours: 323.75.

Jerry, I can't thank you enough for your dedication to this project and the expertise and perfectionism you brought to it. Without you, we would not have the high quality craftsmanship that we are so proud of. It was an honor and a pleasure to work with you. I hope you will consider another Habitat home next year. We'd be privileged to have you join us!

By the way, your group's hours amounted to 20% of all the hours recorded at the house. A great showing for the Gunnisonville and Bath Methodist churches!

The dedication of this house was on November 21. What a thrill it was for the people from Bath and Gunnisonville to see the finished product and the elation for the young family that will soon be living in their own brand new home. Many new friendship[s] were formed and precious memories acquired. We hope, if we become involved in another project many of you will be able to join in and share in the experience of God's work in action.

FROM THE TRUSTEES

The following is a list of suggestions received as of 12/09/09 of ideas to be considered when meeting with architects about possible improvements or additions to our existing church building:

Enlarge Sunday school rooms

Larger cork board on wall by back door for kid's art work

Enlarge coat hanging area

Expand church building to the west for elevator, larger bathrooms and larger kitchen

Enlarge church to the east for new kitchen and fellowship space including an elevator

Change current fellowship hall and kitchen into Sunday school and gathering area, use current kitchen for new bathrooms and expand Sanctuary over the new fellowship hall.

- Enclose current ramp and install a chair lift**
- Build a whole new church**
- Better sound system both up and down**
- Better access to Sunday school area or move to first floor**
- New storm windows in the sanctuary**
- More storage space for tables and chairs**
- Replace back entry**
- Ceiling fans in Sunday school rooms**

We appreciate your ideas and hope that those who have not as yet expressed an opinion or made suggestions will please do so. Please grab a piece of paper and a pencil from the sign-up/information table before or after church or during coffee hour and jot down things you would like to have considered. Give to John Headley, Dave Hundt, Gary Baker, Alan Reed, Nancy Drolett, Al Gladstone or Al Holcomb. **WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU.**

THANK YOU NOTE: To Reverend Johnson and members of the Gunnisonville Methodist Church.

Dear Reverend Johnson,
 Lois has kept us informed of all the prayers you and your parishioners have offered in our behalf.
 They are deeply appreciated and have, added to so many others, restored me to as much health as an old man deserves and more and has been a considerable comfort to Bev also. Gunnisonville Church is the Genesis of my faith today. Though we may sit on different sides of the aisle, we are seeing the ONE altar together.
 May God bless you all richly, Beverly and Le Rhynard

Beverly and Le are Lois Baumer's brother and sister in law.



THYME IN A GARDEN

By Lorna Coulter

Take a deep breath...the holidays are over...You have taken down the tree, stored the decorations, ribbons and wrap. You have run yourself ragged. Now it is time to reward yourself for all your hard work.

Here is a relaxing way to enjoy your bath:

Bath bags are made by placing ingredients (herbs and spices) into a piece of muslin or a handkerchief, then securing them by tying the corners together or tying with a ribbon or string. Place the bag in the tub while you're filling it with water, or hang it from the taps releasing their fragrance into the water. Acting like a giant tea bag, it turns your bath into an herbal tea. You may then use the soaked bag to scrub and cleanse the surface of the skin. If you prefer showers, take the bag of herbs into the shower with you, soak it and then use it like a

wash cloth.

You can use bath bags several times, provided you squeeze them out after each use and hang them in a dry place to completely dry.

This is one recipe or you can create your own. Don't be afraid to experiment.

Lemon balm and orange blossoms will soothe the nervous system and skin surface. Violet leaves will soften and cleanse the skin. Oats contain plenty of necessary proteins and vitamins.

1 Tbs. lemon balm, fresh or dried

1 Tsp orange blossoms

1 Tbs. violet leaves, fresh from your yard if they've not been sprayed or use dried.

¼ cup rolled oats

Place all ingredients in a muslin bag. Now you're ready for a long relaxing bath.

Happy, Happy New Year



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Nathan Reed, Santa Martinez,
Bernice Green,
Charlene Bisel and
Madisyn Reed

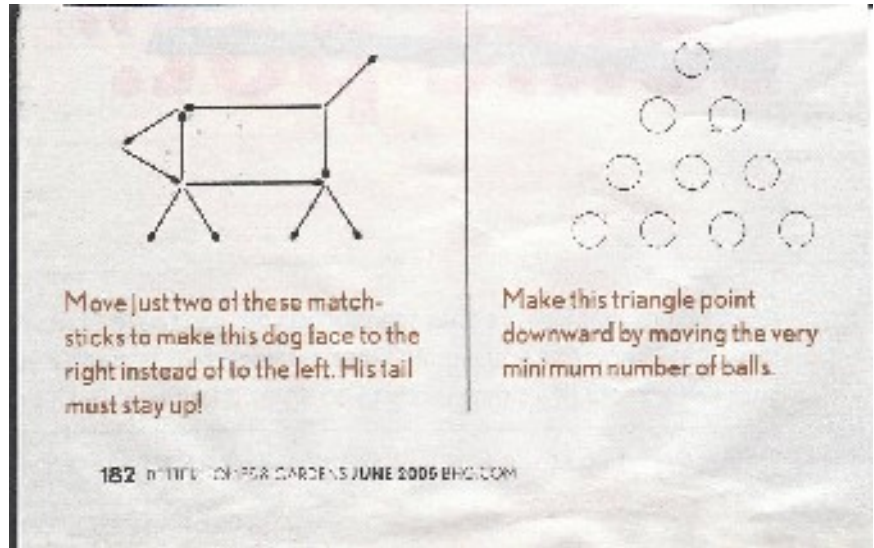
MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY

Do you have a habit of reading daily obituaries? We are looking for an individual or a group of people who would identify families who live in the Gunnisonville area, find their addresses and address two envelopes for each.

One envelope would be used to mail a form letter letting the family know we are praying for them. The other envelope and the obituary would be given to our prayer team so that they could pray for these families when they meet each week. That second envelope would be saved and used to mail out another letter in December inviting the family to attend our Blue Christmas worship service.

The easiest way to gather the address information would be via the Internet. Yet, this task could be accomplished the old fashioned way with phone books. Let Pastor Mark know if you are interested in exploring this opportunity further.

This puzzle is solved by using the lateral thinking method, a problem solving technique that teaches how to shake off preconceived notions and approach a problem from new directions.



Answers on page 12

January Sunday School Update

Our B.I.G. Idea for January is:

We believe that as Jesus grew, he learned more about God and what God wanted him to do.

Our B.I.G. Theme for January

Jesus Is God's Son

Our Bible verse for January says:

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor. Luke 2:52

January's Lessons

January 3 The Wise Men, Matthew 2:1-12

January 10 Jesus in the Temple, Luke 2:39-52

January 17 Jesus Is Baptized, Matthew 3:13-17

January 24 Jesus Makes a Choice, Luke 4:1-13

January 31 Jesus in the Synagogue, Luke 4:16-30

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Nancy Drolett, Chair
Florence Hartman, Public Relations
Jane Casler
Norma Jean Crowell
Katie Drolett
Lora Mae Higbee
Connie LeFever
Alta Reed

Finance Committee

Johanna Balzer, Chair
Joyce Barker, Treasurer
Lois Baumer, Financial Secretary
Marvin Rhynard, Lay Leader
Darlinda VanEtten
Jennifer Dobson
Billy Baker_

Historical Committee

Lois Baumer, Chair
Billy Baker
Katie Drolett
Nancy Drolett
Florence Hartman
Kathy Hundt
Sarah Hundt
Alta Reed
Phyllis Rhynard

Long Range Planning

Lois Baumer, Chair
Katie Drolett
Nancy Drolett
Florence Hartman
Kathy Hundt
Phyllis Rhynard

Memorial Committee

Faye Hagy
Phyllis Rhynard

Missions and Social Concerns

Jane Casler, Darlinda VanEtten, Co-chairs
Laurel Headley, Hunger
Kathy Hundt, Hunger
Joyce Barker
Billie Gladstone
Connie LeFever
Bea Shirey
Sandy Taylor

Nominations Committee

Mark Johnson, Chair
Marvin Rhynard-----Lay Leader
Lorna Coulter-----2010
Darlinda VanEtten-----2011
Alta Reed-----2011
Katie Drolett-----2012
Al Holcomb-----2012
Stan Murray-----2012

Staff Parish Relations Committee

Lois Baumer, Chair & AC Lay Member
Marvin Rhynard, Lay Leader
Ande Glasmacher-----2012
Jerry Taylor-----2012
Darlinda VanEtten-----2012

Trustees

John Headley, Chair-----2011
Gary Baker-----2011
Nancy Drolett-----2011
Al Gladstone-----2011

Allen Holcomb-----2011

Dave Hundt-----2012

Alan Reed-----2012

Worship Committee

Kathy Hundt, Chair

Nancy Drolett, Organist/Choir Director

Don Price

Don Reed

Marvin Rhynard, Lay Leader

Billy Baker, Youth Rep

Welcome Team

Florence Hartman

Lora Mae Higbee

Ron Balzer

Children's Ministry Team

Ande Glasmacher, Kathryn Reed, Co-Chairs

Jamie Boyle

Faye Hagy

Sarah Hundt

Johnie Johnson

Dawn Kelly

Julie Reed

Abuse Prevention

Ron Balzer

Katie Drolett

Faye Hagy

Communion Stewards

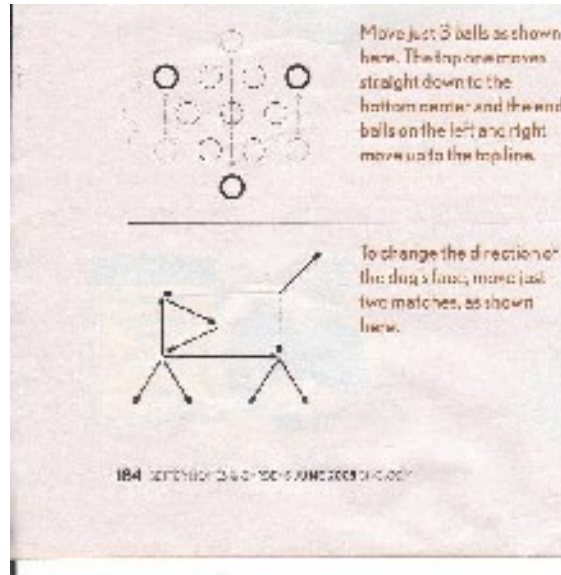
Allen and Helen Holcomb

Stan and Phyllis Murray
Walt Sutton & Beri Wolford
Al and Billie Gladstone

Newsletter

Barbara Best
Alta Reed
Phyllis Rhynard

Answer to puzzle



**A HISTORY OF PASTORS SERVING THE
GUNNISONVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

1860-2008

The Gunnisonville Episcopal Church was opened for its first services on November 4, 1888. However, our oral history indicates that religious services were held in this community commencing shortly after the arrival of the Elihu Gunnison family in this area in 1833, meeting in homes of families and making their home in the “new” community.

(Since the church was closed for ten years in the late 1920’s and some of its documents were kept in the homes of faithful members, areas of our history was lost and is dependent upon that oral history).

The church had its beginning as the Gunnisonville Methodist Episcopal Church, but was known by other names during its history. As noted above, the church was closed in the late 1920’s and was reopened by Reverend Carl Seipp in 1937 as the Gunnisonville Community Church. Later it became the Gunnisonville Methodist Church until it was again officially closed by the Methodist Church in 1952. The church remained open as an independent church and again as the Gunnisonville Community Church until it resumed operation as a Methodist Church in 1956. The church has remained open under the direction of the Methodist Church since that time.

A search of the internet by Alta Catherine Reed in 2007 resulted in obtaining the following listing. She states “The first mention of a pastor in the area was of a Reverend W. S. Atterbury in 1837. there is also a mention of H. Hall being the presiding elder and a James Roberts as preacher in 1862. During this time various circuit riders served the community. Available records show we were served by the following known circuit riders beginning in 1860. The were: A.L. Crittenden, H. Law, George Bradley, William Stafford, Charles Chick, Henry Jordan, William Swift and John Merrihew.

LIST OF PASTORS

1885 Reverend McNutt

1888 Reverend Duncan Ward

1895 A.W.Barnes

1919 Elder Seipp

1927 Reverend G. M Simon

1927 – 1937 Church closed

1937 Reverend Carl Seipp

1938 Reverend C. Harry Moon

1945 Reverend J. Oliver Hall

1949 Reverend Earl Champlain

1952 David Gorton

1952-1956 Church Closed

1956 Reverend Ray Birdsall

1960 Reverend John Keith

1965 Reverend Bill Cessna

1967 Reverend Marcel B. Elliot

1970 Reverend Ted Otto

1972 Reverend Daniel Miles

1975 Reverend Paul Scheibner

1978 Reverend Lynn Pier-Fitzgerald

1983 Reverends Lynn & Tom Pier-Fitzgerald

1984 Reverend Charles Smith

1989 Reverend Carl Staser

1991 Reverend Tom Peters

1994 Reverend Ray Field

1998 Reverend Nancy Bessemer

2003 Reverend Thomas Truby

2006 Reverend Beatrice Robinson



Sunday School Superintendent
Walter Glover and wife



Reverend Carl Seipp and wife and
Jessie Livermore 1937

2007 Reverend Mark Johnson

During the period of the 1952-1965 closure, we were served by David Gorton as an interim pastor. He was a student at MSU at the time and was approached by the remaining members who requested his services. He agreed to pastor our group. An interesting note: He was the grandson of the same Krause family who had originally donated the land upon which the church was built here on the corner of Wood and Clark roads.

The Gunnisonville United Methodist Church Saints

A former pastor at Gunnisonville sometimes centered her sermon on the church's "Today Saints". During my childhood, saints were far off people who wore halos and had lived hundreds of years before our time, and they according to the legends/stories written about them obviously had been perfect in every way. The early leaders at Gunnisonville were well known to all our church family. We were all well aware of each others human foibles, therefore the idea of referring to people whom I had known in my lifetime as saints required some getting used to.

However, certainly those individuals who originally opened the church as well as those who were involved in its two re-opening in 1937 and again in 1952 and those committed to its ongoing struggle throughout the difficult years were and are individuals whom we look upon with a great deal of love and respect, thus they continue to be our "saints".

With this in mind and this being our One Hundred and Twenty First Anniversary, it seems appropriate that we honor those hard souls who made and continue to make it possible for us to gather here each Sunday.

The families participating in the 1927 opening were: Reverend and Mrs. Carl Seipp, Mr. French, The Walter Glovers, Margaret Stampfly, Jessie Livermore, Mrs. George Perry and sons Frank and Keith, The Owen Stids and the Cecil Rhynard family-all six of us.

Lois Rhynard Baumer,
Historical Committee.