

THE TRUMPET

Vol. 4, No. 1

Feb./March 2010

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**April & May Trumpet Newsletter
Deadline February 7th**



HOPE HOSPITALITY WARMING SHELTER *by R. Hertz*

As 2010 comes upon us, I am pleased to share with you some wonderful news. This season, thanks to the ongoing efforts of our volunteers, and to a generous grant from The Jewish Fund, H.O.P.E. Hospitality & Warming Center was able to open the doors of its winter emergency shelter in Pontiac on November 27th—more than a month earlier than in years previous! Additionally, the shelter will remain open as late into the month of April as possible, amounting to a 60% expansion of our operating season.

What does this mean for our community? Each evening that HOPE operates, it is able to provide meals, showers, dry clothing, a warm place to sleep, nurse visits, rapid-rehousing assistance, service referrals, and more for up to sixty-five people struggling with homelessness. This winter alone, we have the capacity to provide up to 10,000 nights of accommodation.

Howarth & Paint Creek will be volunteering March 26th, 27th & 28th (Fri, Sat, & Sun); we are sharing the week with Troy UMC again this year. Signup sheets will be made available for both Howarth and Paint Creek.

p a s t o r ' s c o l u m n



The Journey of Lent: Paczki or Preparation?

Happy New Year! In my message last Sunday we heard about a comedians comment on resolutions: “Don’t worry about

keeping those 2010 New Year’s resolutions, you only have to deal with them until February and then you can give them up for Lent.”

Fat Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, is that time when many of us enjoy the Paczki’s associated with those wonderful bakeries in Hamtramack.

And that’s what the season of Lent is about for many

Christians. What it needs to be about for you and I is prayer and preparation to celebrate Easter. A time for introspection, self-examination, and repentance. It begins in ashes on Ash Wednesday, journeys through darkness, and ends in the depth of sorrow and tragedy as we walk with Jesus through His darkness of Good Friday. Ash Wednesday is a day of reflection on what needs to

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Change in our lives if we are to be fully Christian. It's really a preparation to celebrate God's marvelous redemption at Easter, and the resurrected life that we live, and hope for, as Christians. Lent *presents* a natural time to study and practice prayer much more intensively.

Lent occurs at a time when the seasons are turning from winter to spring. The heart of the Lenten experience for us is based on another kind of turning which is called repentance, reconciliation, and renewal.

Palm Sunday, the beginning of Holy Week, is celebrated with palm branches signifying Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Holy week is when God joins us in our suffering. The suffering that has taken up residence in the lives of some in the pews all around us, all of that is met and touched and shared by the suffering God.

We will take this journey together, you and I, and we will look forward to be in a position together, to hear God in ways that we have not heard Him in a long time. I pray that it will be the beginning of a healing for which we have so longed.

Grace, Peace & Love,
Pastor Tom

PAINT CREEK NEWS

MISSION REPORT:

Submitted by Jan McCall

Christmas Eve Mission:
The special Christmas collection this year was for Rochester Area Neighborhood House and the Methodist Children's Home. Our congregation donated a total of \$554.00 with \$277.00 being sent to each organization. In these difficult economic times, both groups will find these

donations very helpful. Thank you for your generosity!

Christmas Family
December 14th, Heidi Paterson and Jan McCall delivered all the groceries and gift card donated by the congregation to the family of 4 that PC sponsored. Our family was recommended by Rochester Area Neighborhood House as a family in need of special help during the Christmas season. Heidi and Jan reported back the family was most appreciative with both gals receiving big hugs in thanks. Our congregation stepped up to the plate this holiday season and helped put a smile on the faces of our family. Hats off to the congregation for their generosity this holiday season!!

Christmas Gifts for RANH Children
Members who provided Christmas gifts for fourteen children are to be thanked for shopping and purchasing dolls, skate boards, a baby doll stroller and gift certificates to area stores. You assured these children that they had a gift under their Christmas tree they had requested. Again, PC members demonstrate great compassion for those not as fortunate this holiday season.

Food Pantry
PC will continue throughout the year to collect dry and canned goods for the Food Pantry. You can bring items each Sunday and Jan McCall and Betty Wilber will see they are delivered to the Congregational Church where the pantry is located.
Fact: RANH reports that there was a 40% increase in requests for their services in 2009.

THANK YOU.....Heidi Paterson, Christina Wolf, and Dottie Spitsbergen for reading scripture on Sundays.

Caryl Chamberlin, Heidi Paterson, Colleen Barkham and Gretchen Drader for sponsoring and providing goodies for coffee hour. We will be holding coffee hour 2 times a month for now on.

Hilda Taylor and Colleen Barkham for assisting with Communion.

Hilda Taylor for all the Sundays she has done the welcome, morning announcements and unison prayer. She is stepping aside on a regular basis to share this responsibility with others. A special thank you, Hilda for a job well done. So far Colleen Barkham and Nancy Mikesch have assumed this important role.

The congregation for bringing in 27 bears as a Christmas Mission. These lovely bears went to the Oakland Township Fire Department to be used by rescue units when there are children involved in a stressful situation such as: a car accident, fire or personal injury. These cuddly bears will find a new home with a very special child.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

February:

2nd: Dolores Burkhart

3rd: Lalit Herbert

5th: Jean Helig

7th: Linda Pasternak & Mary Taylor

12th: Jeanne Rinehart & Patricia Summers

15th: Colleen Barkham

March:

3rd: Ruth Barkham

4th: Bernie Gudobba

9th: Susan Wood & Dick Bourez

26th: Walt Poplawski

29th: Clara (Voll) Linton

PC PERSONS OF FAITH:

Reva (Cox) and Bob LaFountain

Reva Cox LaFountain was born in southeastern Kentucky, in a town called Hazard. She is an identical twin and one of 9 children. She graduated from Hazard High School.

At 19, Reva married John Cox and moved to Traverse City (married to John 30 years). They lived in Traverse City 10 years, and all 3 children (2 boys, 1 girl) were born there. Then they moved to Rochester, on Collins Road. Reva has lived in Rochester 50 years.

Reva was a stay-at-home mom until her children graduated from high school. After that she worked at the family business in Detroit (distributor of office supplies). The last 5 years before retiring she worked at the D & C Store in downtown Rochester.

Reva's interests are baking, cooking, reading, and travel in the United States, Canada and Mexico. For many months each year she and Bob live in Montana now. Her daughter, Trish, is a Clinical Psychologist there.

When Reva's children were still in school they had an exchange student from Denmark. Later a trip to Denmark to visit him will be Reva's first trip to Europe. Bob and Reva will travel to Denmark this spring to help her exchange student celebrate his 60th birthday!

Reva started to attend Paint Creek UMC when they moved to Collins Road and her oldest son suggested that the Cox family attend Paint Creek. She has attended church for 49 years.

At Paint Creek UMC, Reva and her 1st husband sponsored the

MYF Youth Group. She has helped with the Easter Breakfasts, coffee hours, bake sales, rummage sales and once assisted Bob in auditing the treasurer's books.

Reva and Bob met in 1978 (a "fix-up" date!) They were married in 1979, so Reva is now married another 30 years.

Mutual interests with Bob include delivering Meals on Wheels together, enjoying outdoor activities, hiking, biking, skiing, walking, travel in U.S.A. Recently they walked the Paint Creek Trail from Rochester to Goodison!

Between Reva and Bob, they have 7 children, 20 grandchildren, and 6 great-grandchildren!

Bob LaFountain was born in River Rouge, MI, and has an older sister. He lived in Battle Creek where his dad was a journeyman printer, but mostly lived on a farm in Newport, MI (north of Monroe, MI) His dad was then an engineer, and during World War II he designed the sheet metal parts that went around the motor of the airplanes used in the war.

Bob graduated from Airport High School and attended Eastern Michigan University as a physics major. He didn't graduate from EMU because he had to drop out due to family illnesses. Later he studied at Michigan State University, and actually self-taught Calculus and other engineering subjects.

Bob worked as a mechanical engineer, test engineer for automotive products and process engineer, working 22 years at Automotive Products in Auburn Hills. He retired 5 years ago.

He also did some computer programming and consulting.

He worked in France as a design engineer while "on loan" from Automotive Products Co. He has several USA patents on automotive equipment.

Bob's hobbies include painting, sketching, and intricate wood carving. He is an avid reader and is an outdoors person.

After Bob and Reva were married, they tried a few churches but none of them "clicked", so they came back to Paint Creek UMC because this church "has a soul" and a warm atmosphere.

Bob is a Trustee at Paint Creek UMC, as well as helps with coffee hours, rummage sale carry-out and clean-up, and auditing the books. This spring he will be painting the annex windows and the woodwork in both bathrooms.

Paint Creek UMC feels so lucky to have this very talented, helpful, and delightful couple with us!

REMEMBER TO PICK UP YOUR CALENDARS !!

SPECIAL NEWS FROM PAINT CREEK & HOWARTH:

Both Church Councils voted unanimously to compensate Sharon Rowden (secretary) for the extra hours needed to complete the paper work for our Church Charge Conference. Without Sharon's hard work and dedication to both churches a lot of our "special" needs would not be accomplished!! Thank you Sharon!!!

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

FEBRUARY 7th, 2010

Thank you to everyone who has contributed and for the timely manner of your submissions, it is greatly appreciated☺

LAYSPEAKING

CLASSES: Begin February 14th, an awesome class to take part in-not only do you learn more of the Methodist ways but you also learn more about yourself and how as a Christian you can better serve your Lord and Savior. If interested please contact Paul Sandstrom.

HOWARTH NEWS:

HOWARTH'S TRESURER REPORT: *submitted by Stephanie Lamas*

Ending Balance 2009:

\$17,249.83

Beginning Balance 2010:

\$17,249.83

All apportionments and missions paid in FULL!!!!

HOWARTH'S UMW NEWS:

A meeting is scheduled for Feb. 11th, 10 a.m. to plan the 2010 dinner season and mission giving. Donated \$300 for the Angel FISH gifts.

MISSION NEWS:

Wonderful news that all of our Jubilee Missions have been paid in full for 2009.

PORT HURON CONFERENCE SPECIAL REQUEST:

Liberia is in need of a truck for transporting supplies. Instead of collecting Health Kits the conference has asked if each church would donate the money for the cost of the kits to be used towards the purchase of a truck.

Please send check and designate to Liberia truck purchase.

Angel FISH donations were wonderful-gifts for 6 children were bought and the Christmas wish lists of these children were fulfilled.

December Pasty Sale was a success with a profit of \$477.89 for 193 pasties sold. Profit went to General Fund.

Mission project for Cali, Colombia has started with all jar change going to help the purchase of a building for another school. Cali money already raised will be mailed to First UMC of Ypsilanti-c/o Barbara Brooks. There is a team going to Cali and our donations will be sent with them to help in the new building purchase.

Howarth's Church Council gave approval to offer a dinner to the public tentatively for February. The dinner will be offered in exchange for donations of non-perishables to be donated to FISH!! Watch the bulletin for the day and time!!

We are still collecting clothing for both God's Country Parish and men's clothing for Baldwin Center. Please clean out your closets and donate to those in need!!

The Mission Committee sent boxes to the USS McInerney to some of the sailors for Christmas. A total of 16 boxes were shipped and received during the Christmas season. They had asked for snacks and magazines while they are out on deployment through the holidays. Through the generosity of Howarth congregation and Pastor Tom and Lois we were able to complete this mission and bring

a little of our love and thanks to the sailors.

THANK YOU...

Eric Everhart for doing our snow and ice removal-wonderful job!!

Pat Pollitt, Rick Rowden and Paul & Kathy Sandstrom for the Pasty Sale- and most of all, thanks to those who purchased them!!

Love INC. of North Oakland County would like to thank all u who participated in one way or another with the Thanksgiving Service at St. Joe's. Love INC. received \$736 from the special offering. *Sandy Weaver, Executive Director.*

Pastor Tom was part of bringing this special service together. Thank you Pastor Tom for representing us.

John & Pat Pollitt, Rick & Sharon Rowden, Eric Everhart and Casie Rowden for removing the Christmas decorations!! Church looks great!!

To all that went Christmas caroling it was a wonderful time had by all and the singing was pretty good too!! We were blessed to be able to share this Christmas season with those who allowed us to carol!!

A big THANK YOU to Rick & Sharon Rowden for hosting the carolers with a splendid meal and fellowship after!!

Scott Howden & Rick Rowden for replacing the water tank!!

Lois Sayers for being the Sunday School teacher. (Special thanks from Sharon to Lois for allowing me to be in church for the Messages!)

Sharon Rowden, Pat Pollitt, and Rick Rowden for shopping, and delivering the Angel Fish gifts- you are our angels!!

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CONGRATULATIONS Jennifer Rowden and Scott Howden on your engagement!!

Remember to keep Marilyn Foster in your prayers during her treatments.

Keep Claude Parker in your prayers while he is recovering from his fall!!

To keep all our Snowbirds in your prayers through their travel and time away!! Please bring the warmth back when you come!!!

UPCOMING PASTY SALE: MARCH 6TH PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT MISSIONS AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION PROGRAM!!

PLEASE fill out Survey at Church asking your opinion on time and Christian Education programs (Sunday School).

2009 ended on a positive note for Howarth-all things are possible when you have faith!!

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES: FEBUARY:

13th: Rhea Richardson

15th: Megan Spencer

MARCH:

5th: Elizabeth Osterkamp

10th: Keira Getz

14th: Pat Pollitt

15th: Cayden Getz

17th: Betty Paulson

19th: Kevin LaCourse

21st: Erin Spencer

25th: Jennifer Rowden, David Osterkamp

26th: Kimberly Osterkamp

I am personally asking you to join with me on a journey toward tithing, giving the first 10% of our income to the church, as stated in Rev. Bartelt's Spinnaker article below. All that we are blessed to have in our lives belongs fully to God. He is only asking for 10% for the glory of His church as we reach out to our communities to the people "out there" outside our doors by loving each other and loving our neighbors and loving those people "out there" into our churches". **Malachi 3:10 says "Bring the full tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house. "Test Me in this", says the Lord Almighty, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it."** Grace, Peace & Love- Pastor Tom.

A Challenge for the New Year

The holidays are over, and we wonder, where do we put our energies now? I have an idea, no, a challenge to propose. I know that I'm probably preaching to the choir, but some of my prayer time has led me to this. We are in the middle of difficult economic times and at times we will wonder how we will ever survive this dilemma we find ourselves in. Bills are mounting; after Christmas bills need to be paid, the mortgage is due along with the payment on the car. New taxes on property need attending to and renewal on our insurances hit us at the most inconvenient time. Our hard earned money seems to go in all directions and we begin to drown in our indebtedness. What

I am about to propose may sound absolutely crazy, but if you try this I will guarantee you success. January always represents that time when we psych ourselves into thinking this is the time to start over. Gym memberships go up at staggering rates and home exercise equipment fly out of the stores. Diets will begin on the 1st of January and we vow this year will be better than last. We take all these steps truly intent on seeing them through. Along about March our dreams and hoped for results have gone by the wayside. Okay, enough build up. This is my challenge for the first six months of 2010: to tithe 10% of our income and see what happens. Try it; it is amazing what the results are. I tithe and I have been blessed beyond compare. My friends, just try tithing for six months and see what happens. This is not about church apportionments, it is all about giving back to God. Our gifts come from our God, so it makes all the sense to give back a portion. After six months, call me, write me or talk to me and tell me your experiences. Six months is all I ask. Try it, it's an awesome experience. With God all things are possible. Many, many blessings to you and yours this coming year. **Joanne**

HAITI RELIEF

If you would like to donate, you can send a check to the church with Haiti noted in the memo section. These HAITI donations will be sent to UMCOR-United Methodist Commission on Relief. 100% of your donation will be used in Haiti. Please give generously and keep all their people in your prayers.

I May Never Pass This Way Again.

I'll give my hand to those who cannot see,
The sunshine or the fallin' rain.
I'll sing my song to cheer the weary along,
For I may never pass this way again!
I'll share my faith with every troubled heart,
So I shall not have lived in vain.
I'll give my hand, I'll sing my song,
I'll share my faith, because I know,
That the time is now to fulfill each vow,
For I may never pass this way again!

ASH Wednesday Service
February 17
7:00 p.m. at Howarth

Good Friday Service
April 2
Noon at Paint Creek



On the wings of love we will overcome!!!

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