

Downs UMC NEWSLETTER

August 2006
Volume 15, Issue 8



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THE WILL OF GOD WILL NEVER LEAD YOU WHERE THE GRACE OF GOD CANNOT KEEP YOU

By Pastor Ron

Greetings in the awesome name of Jesus!

On the wall next to the door going out into the garage in the parsonage, there is a plaque bearing the words in the title of this, our first newsletter article to you. It is a reminder that although changes and circumstances bring new beginnings, God, by His Holy Spirit, always directs our paths within His ultimate will.

"We know that in everything God works for good with those who love Him, who are called according to His purpose."-Romans 8:28

Someone said, "No matter what your past may have been, your future is spotless." That is true every day; in fact every moment of our lives. The past is gone. Nothing we can do can change it. But the future ahead is dynamic. Everything we do will affect it and how we respond to every circumstance can make a difference. Each day brings with it new frontiers, new opportunities, new challenges. Such is the life of a believer in Christ.

Jesus is our perfect example to live by. He knew that His earthly days were short. There was an air of urgency about Him, but there was no hurrying. He spent many hours in prayer. He took time to sit with individuals along the way. He paused to play with little children. To Jesus, ministry is building a VERY CLOSE relationship with God and one another that yields healing physically and spiritually. He didn't keep a calendar - He fulfilled His life. And if we are to fulfill our lives, we must live our days to

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the fullest, putting our whole selves into the present moment whatever it is.

We have just stepped through the threshold of new ministry here at Downs United Methodist Church. For each of us, life has been full of experiences which have brought us to this place - times of joy and happiness, anxiety and sorrow. But there have been special people, places, and times you will never forget. The Lord has been with us through it all. Jesus promised that His Spirit would be with us forever (John 14:16).

Psalms 23 reminds us that there is a path ahead on which the Lord our Shepherd leads us - sometimes through green pastures and beside still waters that provide refreshment, nourishment and strength; and sometimes through long valleys, shadowless and deep. There will be mountains that may seem too high to climb. But God prepares our hearts for the trip reminding us that HE will be with us all the upward way.

In Italy, there is an unusual custom that is still observed in some cities. As midnight approaches on the eve of each new year, they clear the streets. There is no traffic and no people out. Even the policemen take cover. Then, when the clock strikes twelve, the windows and doors of the houses are

suddenly flung open. You can hear the sound of laughter and music and there are fireworks. Each member of the family begins cleaning up by throwing out old possessions - broken dishes, ugly household ornaments, hated furniture and all kinds of things which remind them of something in the past they would like to forget. The day after is the busiest one of the year for their trash collectors.

For all of us, there are some things over time that have collected deep in our hearts that we need God's help to clean out so they won't infect our lives and the lives of others to do damage - things like disappointment, fear, hate, anger, lust, bitterness, and envy. God's will is to replace these with the sweet fruit that comes from His Holy Spirit's influence: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, meekness and self-control. We must yield to Him.

Please join Kathy and I in prayer as we begin ministry together that all of us will join our hands and faith-filled hearts and go forth into the future with God's love and power driving us and His mercy and compassion leading us. As we do, we can be assured that some wonderful, purposeful, prosperous days are yet to come!

For His Glory,

Pastor Ron

August 2006 Mission Minutes By Ginger Campbell

We collected \$170.34 in the July mission buckets. We will give \$300 to the Baby Fold for their work and ministry with children and families. Since the last newsletter, we have given \$2,097.34: \$17.74 Travelers; \$1,000 Bed for special needs person; \$79.60 Phone Bill; \$1,000 The Mike Ready Family from LeRoy

I feel blessed and oh, so grateful to all of you for the generosity that you express to this ministry here at our church. This Outreach Committee has commented so many times that "you can't outgive God". This is so true. We have seen it time and time again, and the people that you are helping are so very appreciative. I will try, with God's help, to see that we, as a committee, continue to fill some of the needs that we hear about or see. If you know of a need, please feel free to call Peggy Stark, Donna Clark, or myself.

August Birthdays

1 Jessica Boward	16 Lanette Draper
2 Matthew Sutton	19 Luke Nalley
5 Madalyn Bidner	20 Sherry Reed
6 Jason Werner	22 Marcia Adams
7 Lyn Edwards	22 Kim Owens
8 Cheryl Bach	24 Mark Castleman
8 Kyle Scott	24 Kurt Harper
8 Cole Wells	24 Jared Holmes
8 Beth Wilsey	25 Chelsie Prochnow
9 Sheila Castleman	27 Marla Brotherton
10 Mickey Lishka	28 Joe Randall
11 George Lewis	29 Charles Scherr
12 Kyler Hardy	30 Cecil Reise
12 Andy Wilkinson	
13 Jessica Cuba	
13 Brett Lewis	
13 Joyce Werner	
14 Dave Jones	

Dates to Know:

Thursday August 3 Library in use
Sunday August 6 Choir Sings
Monday August 7 Trustees 6pm



Days to Celebrate!

August Anniversaries

3 Nathan & Natalie Whitted
4 Greg & Darla Lanchester
4 George & Kim Lewis
5 Andy & Etta Whitted
8 Andre & Debbie McNaught
12 Shannon & Dawn Ramirez
13 Jon & Karyn Spelde
15 Miles & Rosella Young
16 Dan & Glenda Walsh
18 Rodney & Donna Kleinlein
19 Tom & Kitty Coulon
20 Tom & Deb Hall
22 Brad & Dee Dahms
27 Larry & Margaret Nagreski
31 Chuck & Diane Scherr

The Odd Job List is posted on the Bulletin Board by the North Door. Check it out and see how you can serve.

Ad Council Minutes by Lyn Edwards

July 16, 2006 Call to Order 7:15PM

Pastor Ron opened with prayer.

The minutes for the April 23, 2006 Ad Board meeting and the Church Conference meeting May 7, 2006 were distributed and discussed. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Jon Spelde. Seconded by Brent Ward. Motion carried.

Finance - John Werner and Janice Cuba reported.

- Treasurer's report was distributed for review. Contact office for report.
 - Noted that postage was up from budgeted amount due to several mailings to the congregation.
- Motion to approve the report was made by Rhonda Nalley. Seconded by Donna Clark. Motion carried.
- General fund has stabilized but still looking for some growth to make-up for the shortfall earlier in the year.
- Parsonage was paid off by undesignated building funds, funds from the sale of the easement on the parsonage property and one family that re-designated funds to help pay-off the parsonage.
- Recommendation was made by the finance committee to apply to the conference for partial reimbursement of moving expenses incurred by Pastor Ron. We can receive up to 50% because his previous charge was less than 6 years. Motion to proceed with the application for reimbursement was made by Brent Ward. Seconded by Jon Spelde. Motion carried.

Nurture - Sherry Reed reported.

- National Prayer Day was May 4th. The church was open to public.
- Carnations were given on Mother's Day
- Bookmarks were given on Father's Day
- Committee will start the process of updating information on church members. Darla Lanchester is looking into taking pictures to merge with the information.
- Let's Get Acquainted gathering scheduled for September 17th. More information will be in the bulletin and newsletters.

Outreach - Ginger Campbell reported. Mission Buckets for April, May, June - \$555.44

- Donated - \$6,949.87, received \$2,941.43
- Donations to: Mission Trip - \$500; Various organizations - \$1,000; Travelers - \$79.14; Family assistance - \$1000

Witness - Etta Whitted via email

- Baccalaureate was held Sunday May 21st in the HS Commons.
- Churches that helped - Living Hope Christian Church, Ellsworth United Methodist Church, Pleasant Grove and Downs United Methodist Church. St. Mary's was asked but declined due to prior engagements. St. Mary's helped with cookies for the reception
- Blood Drive - DUMC is sponsoring a Blood Drive with the American Red Cross on Thursday, August 31st from 3PM to 7PM. Look for information on donating and helping with this event in the newsletter and bulletins.

Trustees - Jon Spelde reported.

- Update on property search
 - Drawings of options on land were distributed.
 - Trustees met with the school board and they would consider a road built on the school property to access the church from the main drive. This would be under a 99 year lease renewable each year.
 - Trustees will get an estimate on cost for the road and electric for the property located next to the school.
 - Trustees are also inquiring about land located across route 150 and will obtain costs for road and electric to this location also.
 - Any significant changes in the purchasing of land will be brought before the congregation.

PPRC - Brent Ward reported

- Pastor Curt and Pam's celebration was held.
- Met with Pastor Ron and Kathy prior to the move.
- There will be a PPRC meeting in August.
- John Werner thanked the PPRC for the manor in which they handled the transfer of pastors.

Youth Group and Sunday School - Janice Cuba reported for Peggy Stark

- There will be a meeting for Sunday School Teachers. Time and date TBA.
- There will be a meeting for Youth Group Teachers and Helpers. Time and date TBA.
- Anyone interested in participating in teaching or other ways, please contact Peggy Stark as soon as possible. WE NEED YOUR HELP TO MAKE THESE PROGRAMS WORK!!

UMW - Donna Clark reported.

- May/June meetings were held at Shannon's
- There will not be a meeting for July or August.
- Meetings will begin again in September.
- Nominations for officers will take place prior to the September meeting.
- \$150.00 given to camp.
- Gave help to the Mike Ready Family
- New Kitchen fund is being held in a savings account and CD.

Follow-up - Tim Mikel reported.

- Official end of the Stewardship Campaign is 9/30/06.
- Communication to the congregation will go out asking if there are any questions to the status of contribution vs. pledge. Questions will go to Rhonda Nalley.
- Note will be made that continued contributions are welcome and will go to the building fund.

Old Business - no report.

New Business -

- The Russell Wagner estate has given a substantial amount to help sponsor children for church camps.
 - Trustees have given these funds to finance to invest. A committee will be formed to administer this gift. Committee members will be Tim Mikel (Ad Board President), Peggy Stark (Youth Committee), Pastor Ron, and a member of the finance committee to be named.
 - Committee will write policy including process for awarding the funds and bring to the Ad Board for approval.
- Janice Cuba asked for clarification on advertising in the Tri-Valley programs. Discussion resulted in possible advertising in the Fall and Winter sports programs only depending on pricing.
- Request was made by several to update the prayer chain. Sherry Reed will coordinate this project.
- Thank you to the men for providing the meal. Ginger Campbell and Donna Clark will provide the meal for the next quarterly meeting.
- Next quarterly meeting will be Sunday, October 15th at 7:00 PM. Dinner at 6:30PM.

Motion made to adjourn the meeting made by Brent Ward. Seconded by Jon Spelde. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Lyn Edwards, Recording Secretary

Present: Janice Cuba, John Werner, Pastor Ron, Tim Mikel, Jon Spelde, Sherry Reed, Ginger Campbell, Donna Clark, Rhonda Nalley, Lyn Edwards Brent Ward

Finance Committee Update to Congregation

by John Werner

The Finance Committee met at our regularly scheduled quarterly meeting, Sunday, July 16th.

On May 1st a letter was sent to all church families outlining the status of General Fund giving to meet budgetary needs. As outlined in the letter, the parsonage mortgage has been paid off using building funds available from before the Building on Our Faith Campaign and \$25,000 from the state related to highway planning. An additional amount was obtained from a family request to transfer funds from their Building on Our Faith Campaign contributions. The Church is currently debt-free. Our cash flow situation is improved with the elimination of this debt. Praise God that our historical financial resources were able to eliminate this debt.

The early trend from May 1st in Church General Fund giving is positive. General Fund giving overall in 2nd quarter was \$39,034 compared to a first quarter amount of \$31,232. Our General Fund balance is at \$11,671 as of June 30th. Our current quarterly need to meet our revised budget based on a 13 week quarter is \$40,560 or \$3,120 per week. It appears that the Church has responded to a level of giving to meet our budget, but there is no margin for potential emergency need or additional outreach resource.

The Finance Committee and Ad Council are grateful to you as a church for your response. But most importantly, God is grateful for your response in maintaining our church mission. We have much to be thankful for in our church's ability to reach into the community. With continued prayer and the leading of the Holy Spirit, we can continue to respond to God's calling.

In other business, the Finance Committee, with Administrative Council approval, is applying for partial reimbursement of Pastor Ron's moving expense. We are allowed to apply for 50% reimbursement of the \$2,874.18 expense from the Conference. The amount we receive is dependent on the current available funds from the conference.

If We Are the Body

In I Corinthians Paul talks about how the body is a unit made up of many parts. It in many ways is the same as a church body. Just like a hand cannot exist without a body and the blood it supplies, we as a church would not be able to offer many programs without people to fill many different positions. Just as the body continues to make adjustments as things change, the Church also needs to make adjustments.

Since our Sunday school classes have grown and our Wednesday night Family night is such a big hit we need to make adjustments so we can continue to spread God's love throughout our community.

As we plan for the Fall programs we need your help. Please indicate below what position you are interested in serving in. Please provide your name and any comment. You may put it in the offering plate, or give it to me in person. If you are not sure about a position, you are welcome to sit in on any of the classrooms. You may want to share a class with someone or assist them and not teach. Wherever you think God is calling you to, please talk to me about it. If you have filled a position in the past and wish to do so again, please also complete the form below.

The only requirements are that you know the Lord as your Savior and that you are a member or have attended regularly for the past six months.

Peggy Stark 378-4546 peggysue29@juno.com

Sunday School 9:15 - 10:15

- _____ Pre school & Kindergarten
- _____ 1 & 2
- _____ 3 & 4
- _____ 5 & 6
- _____ Jr. High
- _____ Young Adults
- _____ Adults

Wednesday Family Night

- _____ Food (help make dinner, serve or clean up)
- _____ Drama
- _____ Nursery
- _____ Pre-school - 1st
- _____ 2nd - 4th
- _____ 5th - 6th
- _____ Jr. High
- _____ Sr. High

Name _____ Comments _____



Starting August 7, join the Adult Sunday School Class for the study on "The Passion" Contact Larry Stark with any questions.

Opening the School Year in Prayer
August 15 7:30pm Eastview Church
Everyone Invited!



Blood Drive to take place at Downs UMC

Someone in America needs blood every **2** seconds.

The average transfusion takes **6** to **8** pints of blood.

Eligible donors may donate a pint of blood every **56** days.

A single pint of blood has the potential to save **3** lives.

Some numbers can't be changed; fortunately, others can.

50% of the population is eligible to donate blood.

Only **5%** do.

EVERY PINT COUNTS. PLEASE GIVE BLOOD.

Thursday, August 31

3 until 7 p.m.

Downs United Methodist Church

104 South Seminary Street

For an appointment, please call

the church office at 378.2651 or visit www.givelife.org

or talk with Etta Whitted before or after services.

Please bring photo identification.



Together, we can save a life

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If you are receiving this newsletter by regular mail and can receive it electronically, please email Janice at: [officedumc@juno.com](mailto:officedumc@juno.com)  
This helps save the cost of producing the newsletter.  
Thanks!  
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*Amanda Lewis has arrived safely at Ft. Lewis, WA. She will be there until Aug 9 If you would like to drop her a card, her address is:
Cadet Amanda Lewis
ROTC Warrior Forge 2006
11 Reg, B Co, 1 Plt
Box 339543
Ft. Lewis, WA 98433-9543*

Thank You August Volunteers
Praise God, all spots are filled this month!

Power Point Operators

8:00 am Service 10:30 am Service

- | | | |
|----|----------------|----------------|
| 6 | Rhonda Nalley | Robb Erlenbush |
| 13 | Sue Colclasure | Laura Walters |
| 20 | Rhonda Nalley | Tom Coulon |
| 27 | John Fisher | Taylor Zumwalt |

GREETERS 10:30 am Service

- | | |
|----|---------------------|
| 6 | Larry Stark Family |
| 13 | Scott Holmes Family |
| 20 | Jim Walters Family |
| 27 | Rick Hayes Family |

NURSERY SCHEDULE

10:30am Service

- | | |
|----|------------------------|
| 6 | Dee Dahms |
| 13 | Brian & Janelle Zachow |
| 20 | Dawn Ramirez |
| 27 | Karyn Spelde |

2006 Official Role (Positions being Served)

Downs UMC
102 S. Seminary St. PO Box 49
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309-378-2651

E-Mail:
Reverend George
rkgeorge_2000@yahoo.com
Secretary:
officedumc@juno.com
Hours:
Tuesday-Thursday
8:30 am - 10:30 am
Wednesday Afternoon & other
Afternoons When Needed

Ad Board Chairperson: Tim Mikel
Recording Secretary: Lyn Edwards
Finance Chairperson: John Werner
Lay Leadership Secretary: Jamie Ward
PPRC Chairperson: Brent Ward
Lay Leader: Dave Caldwell
Lay Member to Confer.: John Werner
Treasurer: Janice Cuba
Financial Secretary: Rhonda Nalley
Nurture Chairperson: Sherry Reed
Outreach Chairperson: Ginger Campbell
Witness Chairperson: Etta Whitted
UMW President: Donna Clark
Youth Director: Peggy Stark
Camping Coordinator: Pastor Curt
Church Secretary: Janice Cuba
Trustee Chairperson: Jon Spelde

FINANCE:
Rhonda Nalley, Larry Stark,
Donna Kleinlein, Janice Cuba,
John Werner, Trustee, Bill
Erlenbush, Dave Caldwell

TRUSTEES:
Andre McNaught, Darla
Lanchester, Jon Spelde, Mac
Fuller, Craig Solvie, Ken
Garling, Suzann Erlenbush

PPRC:
Tim Riley, Glenda Walsh, Larry
Stark, Brent Ward, Becky
Duncan, Jean Riordan

NOMINATIONS:
Jamie Ward, Ed Clark, Jan
Holmes, Glenda Fike, Sherry
Riley

We're on the Web! **Youth Camp Scholarship Fund Established**

Visit us at:
www.downsumc.org

The Russell Wagner Memorial Youth Camp Scholarship Fund was established in 2006 using a generous gift from the Russell Wagner estate to the Downs United Methodist Church. The family of Mr. Wagner asked the church to designate his gift to be used to sponsor children to attend church camp each year. The church will invest the gift and use the interest to send several children to camp.

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