

Downs UMC NEWSLETTER

September 2006
Volume 15, Issue 9



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He Will Never Fail

By Rev. Kathy George

George Mueller said: "Be assured, if you walk with Him and look to Him, and expect help from Him, He will never fail you."

The problem is we are not sure that He will really help us when we are needy.

I love the story in Acts 12 about the angel coming to escort Peter out of prison. What seems the most unbelievable about the story is the reaction of those who were praying so fervently for Peter's release. When young Rhoda says, "Peter is at the door," they say, "You're out of your mind!"

They couldn't believe God had actually answered their prayers.

God must have a sense of humor. Christians praying desperately for his safety. She runs in the room, shouting that she's heard Peter's voice outside, nobody believes her. Peter was in prison, about to be executed. If the girl really heard his voice, "It must be his angel (ghost)."

How often are we that way? The gathered church certainly hoped that God would save Peter. But believe it? Why, they didn't believe it when the prayer was answered! I suspect that God must have been chuckling over the scene with something like delight. I can almost hear Him shout, "Surprise." The Christians gathered, realized Peter really was free, and jumped for joy, the Lord may well have laughed an infectious happy laugh, right out loud.

We pray for God's provision, yet we hardly know what to say when He responds. We should be more like the Psalmist: "In the morning, I lay my request before you and wait in expectation" (Psalm 5:3). "God, Our Provider" will help you watch for His provision in your life. God can answer prayer, even

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when our faith is weak and doubts are strong. Answers to prayer depend on our great God, not on our jumbo faith. God will never fail you!

Adoniram Judson said: "I never prayed earnestly for anything but it came sooner or later, and oftentimes, in the way I least imagined. But it came."

~~~~~  
**Calling all women of the church:  
UMW will resume meeting Sunday,  
September 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 am for  
breakfast.**

**Peggy Stark, Carrie Cobstill and  
Janice Cuba will be providing  
breakfast.  
Donna Adkisson will have the  
devotions.**

**Plans will begin for the Spaghetti  
Supper.**

## Church Directory to get a facelift!

*The Nurture Committee is working on updating the church Directory, so your individual information is needed. Please be sure to complete the "Getting to know you..." sheets provided in the bulletins.*

## Calling all Musicians of all ages:

We would like to have special music on every Sunday at every service. This can be vocal or instrumental. Please consider sharing your talents with the congregation.

Also, if you are interested in being a part of the praise band, please let Pastor Ron know.

Psalm 92:1 It is good to praise the Lord and make music to your name,  
O Most High.

## September 2006 Mission Minutes

By Ginger Campbell

We collected \$144.80 in the August mission buckets. These funds, along with some other anticipated funds, will be given to the schools as they designate to us their needs. Since the last Newsletter, we have given \$846.00 as follows:

|                      |                                              |
|----------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Vaughan Family       | \$500                                        |
| Utilities for family | \$150                                        |
| Fees for student     | \$ 75                                        |
| Compassion Child     | \$121 (Quarterly pymt. + \$25 for Christmas) |

**PRaise GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW!!**

## September Birthdays

|                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Donna Clark      | 20 Scott Romine     |
| 1 Pam Rush         | 20 Alicia Solvie    |
| 1 Etta Whitted     | 24 Shelby Halloran  |
| 2 Kay Hull         | 24 Patrick Williams |
| 2 Libby LaLande    | 25 Jason Carr       |
| 3 Josh Simpson     | 27 John Young       |
| 4 Laura Walters    | 28 Tom Stark        |
| 5 Andre McNaught   | 29 Conrad Riordan   |
| 7 Tricia Williams  | 30 Emily Lewis      |
| 8 Emerson Wells    | 30 Larry Nagreski   |
| 8 Tom Wells        | 30 Jetsy Sachtleben |
| 10 Keith Campbell  |                     |
| 11 Rodney Fike     |                     |
| 12 Lee Harper      |                     |
| 13 Troy Hall       |                     |
| 14 Deb Hall        |                     |
| 16 Morgan Campbell |                     |
| 18 Jack Edwards    |                     |

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



*Days to Celebrate!*

## September Anniversaries

5 Dave & Bridget Caldwell  
7 Tom & Marlene Wells  
15 Don & Sue Colclasure  
20 Lyndall & Janice Cuba  
22 Steve Moffit & Connie Zumwalt  
24 Curt & Pam Rush

### Dates to Know:

|                           |                                       |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Sun., September 3</b>  | <b>Fall Sunday School</b>             |
| <b>Tue., September 6</b>  | <b>Home Extension</b>                 |
| <b>Wed., September 7</b>  | <b>6:30pm Family Night meeting</b>    |
| <b>Mon., September 11</b> | <b>6pm Trustees</b>                   |
| <b>Wed., September 13</b> | <b>5:30pm Family Night</b>            |
| <b>Sun., September 17</b> | <b>11:30am Get Acquainted Potluck</b> |
|                           | <b>7:00pm PPRC</b>                    |
| <b>Mon., September 18</b> | <b>PreK Screening</b>                 |
| <b>Tue., September 19</b> | <b>PreK Screening</b>                 |
| <b>Wed., September 20</b> | <b>Family Night</b>                   |
| <b>Wed., September 27</b> | <b>Family Night</b>                   |

**Trustees Meeting Minutes      Downs United Methodist Church      July 3, 2006**

**Present:** Jon Spelde, Darla Lanchester, Ken Garling, Ron George, Craig Solvie, Suzann Erlenbush, Mac Fuller

Ron opened with prayer.

**Old Business:**

↓ **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Ken made a motion to approve the June meeting minutes. Mac seconded the motion. Motion carried.

↓ **Memorial Money:** Jon met with the attorney. Darla will write a communication for the newsletter about Russell Wagner's generous memorial gift to sponsor youth attending camps throughout the year. The church will invest the money and use the interest to sponsor the kids. Darla will check with the conference office about a memorial policy.

**New Business:**

↓ **New Building Property:**

Met with school board on June 19. They will only commit to allowing us to connect to the road at the intersection a few yards from Route 150 (the intersection with the road leading to the high school). The cost of a road leading back to the church on the 13.5 acres next to the middle school may be prohibitive. Also, the shape of the lot we want to purchase may be somewhat different than we thought, which would make the road even longer. Ken will check with Brunings to see where the lot line is. Stark will give Jon an estimate on the road, including asphalt, based on the information Ken gets.

We need to figure out what it would cost to run power from intersection to the church building, using a configuration of all-electric with heat pump vs. gas. Craig will follow up, and get a ballpark estimate. IDOT would have to be involved to run electric to property to the 22 acres because of the potential for stringing wires across the street.  We will pay the \$1,500 earnest money while we research. Items to include in the purchase agreement: Land has to be annexed to village; property has to be buildable.

↓ **New Property Purchase Details:** Cost is \$10, 000 an acre. Ron Turner is Bill Bethel's attorney. We will split the survey costs with Mr. Bethel. There will be a 1% down payment. Mr. Bethel will sell us a strip of land that borders Bruning's property (i.e, an easement). Jon will check to see how wide the strip needs to be. (It was agreed between the seller and us that the purchase agreement will include a "first right of refusal" for the easement area.)

↓ **Parsonage driveway:** The original driveway is 5 inches of concrete on top of 12 inches of gravel. Jon will call the IDOT representative to see if they will make repairs using the same amount of materials when they tear up the driveway for the Washington St/Route 150 construction.

↓ **Work Orders:**

Signs directing people to our church: Signs are up. ↓ Ken made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Craig seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:33 pm.

**Trustees Meeting Minutes      Downs United Methodist Church      July 30, 2006**

**Present:** Jon Spelde, Darla Lanchester, Ken Garling, Ron George, Craig Solvie, Suzann Erlenbush, Mac Fuller, Andre McNaught

Ron opened with prayer.

This was a special meeting of the trustees to discuss new development about the land purchase for the new building.

Jon received the estimate from Stark for the cost of the new road we would have to build if we were to buy the 13.5 acres next to the middle school: \$96,000! This estimate includes culverts, ditches, no hauling of dirt, 6" base of concrete, no curbs. This estimate does not include the cost of hauling dirt, nor the cost for the property the road would be built on (which the school would lease or sell to us).

A group of doctors approached the land owner, Mr. Bethel, asking if they could buy his entire farm, so we need to make a decision as soon as possible. Owner is meeting with this group next week. The entire Bethel farm includes the 22 acres we across the street from the 13.5 acres we were initially interested in.  A local business man may be interested in excess acreage if we buy the entire 22 acres. The group of doctors may also be interested in the excess acreage.

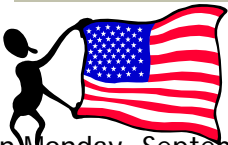
Owner said he would sell us 10 acres (of the 22 acres) for \$15,000 an acre. Most people present felt it would be a much better deal to buy the full 22 acres.

Darla made a motion we rescind the former agreement to buy the 13.5 acres. Suzann seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Andre made a recommendation we recommend to the Ad Council we buy the 22 acres at \$10,000 an acre. Darla seconded the motion. Motion carried.

There are still some unknowns about the 22 acres: IDOT and the road entrance from Route 150, the cost of electric/water for property, our ability to sell extra acreage (although two potential buyers are known), the outcome of the civil engineering that will need to be done, the outcome of the subdivision process we will have to undergo to sell a portion of the land, our tax status on the land if we sell a portion for a profit.

Darla made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Craig seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.



FREEDOM IS NOT FREE!!!!  
Fly the Flag

On Monday, September 11th, 2006, an American flag should be displayed outside every home, apartment, office, and store in the United States. Every individual should make it their duty to display an American flag on this fifth anniversary of our country's worst tragedy. We do this in honor of those who lost their lives on 9/11, their families, friends and loved ones who continue to endure the pain, and those who today are fighting at home and abroad to preserve our cherished freedoms.

In the days, weeks and months following 9/11, our country was bathed in American flags as citizens mourned the incredible losses and stood shoulder-to-shoulder against terrorism. Sadly, those flags have all but disappeared.

Our patriotism pulled us through some tough times and it shouldn't take another attack to galvanize us in solidarity. Our American flag is the fabric of our country and together we can prevail over terrorism of all kinds.

Action Plan: So, here's what we need you to do...

- (1) Contact everyone you know. Take a moment to think back to how you felt on 9/11 and let those sentiments guide you.
- (2) Fly an American flag of any size on 9/11. Honestly, Americans should fly the flag year-round, but if you don't, then at least make it a priority on this day.

Thank you for your participation. God Bless You and God Bless America

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DUMC TRUSTEE MEETING MINUTES      Monday, August 7, 2006

Members Present: Pastor Ron George, Mac Fuller, Andre McNaught, Ken Garling, Suzann Erlenbush, and Craig Solvie

Meeting opened with prayer by Pastor Ron at 6:05 pm.

July minutes will be approved at the September meeting.

Ken Garling asked if we are legally required to keep the handrail at its current location at the front entrance of the church. He would like to move it to the other side of the steps where it could be more stably secured. Pastor Ron nor any of the trustees knew of any legal reason it couldn't be moved. Ken and Craig Solvie were going to work on it after the meeting.

In regards to the Bethel 22 acre property, the following purchase agreement contingencies were suggested:

1. All parties agree on location of two accesses to property.
2. Utilities must be accessible.
3. Property acceptable based on survey and Perk test. (May not be able to perform either until crops are harvested.)
4. Church membership agrees to purchase 22 acres (Vote passed 50-2 on Sunday, August 6, 2006).
5. A closing date be set according to CD cashing dates and when Perk test and survey can be completed.

Previous offer on the Bethel 14-acre parcel will need to be rescinded and the earnest money and purchase agreement should be presented to the Bethel family as soon as possible.

We also discussed location of the church sign, the possibility of cash renting the farm property next year for income, and as soon as property is purchased, a sign be put up indicating the property is the future home of our church. Also indicate our address and phone number in case someone would like to donate money to us for the new church.

Pastor Ron suggested purchase of communion cup holders for the back of the pews so people do not have to hold their cups following communion. He will look into cost and availability of these.

Pastor Ron plans to clean rocks and debris off of back roof of church. No one knew of any soft spots in roof to be concerned about.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Fall Sunday School Classes start Sunday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

PreK through 6<sup>th</sup> will be using a new Hands on Bible Curriculum from Group Publishing. It includes object lessons.

Teachers:

PreK - K Sherry Riley 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> Jamie Ward

Becky Duncan to help where needed in these classes

3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> Dawn Ramirez

5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Peggy Stark until someone comes forward

Jr. High: Rhonda Nalley

Sr. High: Carrie Cobstill & Craig Solvie

Young Adults: Bridget Caldwell Adults: Larry Stark until someone comes forward to teach a topic class.

Men: Dave Caldwell

**Family Nights start**

Wednesday, September 13, 2006

5:30 Dinner for DUMC Choir and family

Angel Choir

Drama

6:00 Dinner

Downs UMC Choir

Homework Room

7:00 Youth Groups and Bible Study for all ages and a nursery will be provided.

**Family Night Teachers**

**Pre K – 1<sup>st</sup>** Dawn Ramirez  
**Brittnay Whitted Helping**  
**2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>** Mike & Julie James  
**5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>** Rita Harsh  
**Jr. High** Brenda LaLande/Kathy George  
**Sr. High** Bridget Caldwell & Shannon Ramirez  
**Bible Study** Larry Stark

Please keep all of our education programs lifted up in prayer.

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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
 This helps save the cost of producing the newsletter.
 Thanks!
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**Christ**

*Jesus had no servants, yet they called Him Master. Had no degree, yet they called Him Teacher. He had no medicines, yet they called Him Healer. Had no army, yet kings feared Him. He won no military battles, yet He conquered the world. He committed no crime, yet they crucified Him. He was buried in a tomb, yet He lives today. Feel honored to serve such a Leader who loves us.*

**Thank You September Volunteers**

Power Point Operators

8:00 am Service 10:30 am Service

|    |                |                |
|----|----------------|----------------|
| 3  | Rhonda Nalley  | Robb Erlenbush |
| 10 | Sue Colclasure | Laura Walters  |
| 17 | Rhonda Nalley  | Tom Coulon     |
| 24 | John Fisher    | Jean Riordan   |

GREETERS 10:30 am Service

|    |                                       |
|----|---------------------------------------|
| 3  | Glenda Fike/Bill & Suzann Erlenbush   |
| 10 | Kay Hull/Jodi Simpson/Michelle Forbes |
| 17 | Scott Holmes Family                   |
| 24 | Jon Spelde Family                     |

NURSERY SCHEDULE

10:30am Service

|    |                        |
|----|------------------------|
| 3  | ?????????              |
| 10 | Brian & Janelle Zachow |
| 17 | Jen Nelson             |
| 24 | Michelle Roop          |

## 2006 Official Role (Positions being Served)

### Downs UMC

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

**E-Mail:**  
Pastor Ron  
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Secretary:  
[officedumc@juno.com](mailto:officedumc@juno.com)  
Hours:

**Wednesday-Thursday**  
8:30 am - 10:30 am  
**Tuesday and Wednesday**  
Afternoons

|                           |                 |                                |
|---------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| Ad Board Chairperson:     | Tim Mikel       | <u>FINANCE:</u>                |
| Recording Secretary:      | Lyn Edwards     | Rhonda Nalley, Larry Stark,    |
| Finance Chairperson:      | John Werner     | Donna Kleinlein, Janice Cuba,  |
| Lay Leadership Secretary: | Jamie Ward      | John Werner, Trustee, Bill     |
| PPRC Chairperson:         | Brent Ward      | Erlenbush, Dave Caldwell       |
| Lay Leader:               | Dave Caldwell   | <u>TRUSTEES:</u>               |
| Lay Member to Confer.:    | John Werner     | Andre McNaught, Darla          |
| Treasurer:                | Janice Cuba     | Lanchester, Jon Spelde, Mac    |
| Financial Secretary:      | Rhonda Nalley   | Fuller, Craig Solvie, Ken      |
| Nurture Chairperson:      | Sherry Reed     | Garling, Suzann Erlenbush      |
| Outreach Chairperson:     | Ginger Campbell | <u>PPRC:</u>                   |
| Witness Chairperson:      | Etta Whitted    | Tim Riley, Glenda Walsh, Larry |
| UMW President:            | Donna Clark     | Stark, Brent Ward, Becky       |
| Youth Director:           | Peggy Stark     | Duncan, Jean Riordan           |
| Camping Coordinator:      | Pastor Curt     | <u>NOMINATIONS:</u>            |
| Church Secretary:         | Janice Cuba     | Jamie Ward, Ed Clark, Jan      |
| Trustee Chairperson:      | Jon Spelde      | Holmes, Glenda Fike, Sherry    |
|                           |                 | Riley                          |

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*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

[www.downsumc.org](http://www.downsumc.org)

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