

Downs UMC NEWSLETTER

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A GREAT NEW YEAR AHEAD ~ 2010

By *Rev. Ron George*

By faith I am encouraged to believe that 2010 is going to be a tremendous year for us here at Downs UMC - as a church body as well as for each individual member. The beauty of a new year is that God offers us so much opportunity. As pastor I am looking forward to seeing God bless each of you in unique and personal ways throughout the year. But in order for us to receive the things we desire from God we must position ourselves for His blessing. We have heard and undoubtedly quoted the old adage, "In the right place at the right time." Just as it applies to our world around us, it is true in our relationship with God.

Position is always important to being successful. In the auto racing world the better you are positioned in closeness to the pole quite often determines who takes the checkered flag. In military strategy the most motivated, best equipped army with the strongest position will most always win the battle. Being in the best position creates an inspirational feeling of success.

Can't we all relate to being in the wrong place at the wrong time? How many times have you said, "If I had only known, I would have been ready." Well, being in the right place is far more critical than timing. Because when you are properly positioned all you have to do is wait for the right time. God has your blessings already prepared. He's just waiting for you to get yourself positioned.

There are three things that must be properly positioned to receive the maximum that God has prepared for us. They are: **#1 ~ a right heart of faith, #2 ~ an attitude that's positive and #3 ~ a vision that honors God.** These three work hand in hand.

The most critical of these three is our heart. Jeremiah 17:9 states, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" Only God knows the heart and the true intentions of it. This is why we must first insure our hearts are right with God.

The soft drink Sprite used to advertise on billboards by saying, "Image is nothing, thirst is everything." I would like to borrow that idea, but restate it as, "Image is nothing, attitude is everything." Many times the difference between our success and failure is the attitude we bring to the situation. I believe when living for God, attitude is everything. When we allow God control by His Spirit of our attitudes, it will change our vision and how we see and ultimately accomplish things. Proverbs 29:18 says, "Where there is no vision, the people

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

A Great New Year Ahead-2010	1
Family Night/Timberlee Fundraiser/Meetings	2
Church Basement Ladies	3
Mission Minutes/Stewardship	3
Dates to Know/Birthdays & Anniversaries/ UMW	4
Opportunities to Fellowship	5
Sunday School/Volunteers	5
2010 Official Role/Office Hours	6
Newsletter List	6

perish." Simply stated, no vision-no future; great vision-great future. Isaiah 9:2 says, "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined." Now they can see the right path ahead that leads to life.

Your outlook (vision) is affected by your heart and your attitude. Again these three work hand in hand. When we have a clear vision of His plan for us we can look past the discouragement and disappointment and know in our hearts that this is just temporary. A right attitude helps us see beyond the present circumstances of today toward a better tomorrow. Have you ever met someone that you knew was going through a very difficult time in their life, but still they smiled and remained cheerful? Have you wondered how that could be? It is because they have a vision that looks past the present into the future. Vision allows us to see through to the purposes and blessings of God.

So, in 2010 let us ask God to help us position our hearts, attitudes and vision.

I encourage each one of you that considers Downs UMC your church to dedicate yourself to God and His plan for the new year. I think we will all be amazed at the results we will see.

Kathy and I would like to thank you all personally for your part in making the ministry at Downs United Methodist Church throughout 2009 so successful and memorable. Thanks also for the outpouring of Christmas cards and gifts this year. We love and appreciate you all so very much.

May God richly bless you in 2010 with the happiest of new years!

Pastor Ron

FAMILY NIGHT ON WEDNESDAYS

5:30pm-8:00pm

We as a church have many opportunities and a responsibility for passing God’s love on to others. We are also responsible to help mold the children to grow in their faith and understanding on how much God loves them, as well as continuing our own spiritual education, so please consider being a part of this vital program.

Here is a our schedule.

- 5:30-6:45pm Dinner
- 6:00-6:30pm Drama
- 6:00-7:00pm Choir practice in Sanctuary
- 7:00-7:15pm Praise Music in Sanctuary
- 7:15-8:00pm Free2Praise Practice in Sanctuary
- Bible Study for Adults in Old Parsonage
- Sr. High Youth Group in Annex
- Jr. High Youth Group in Fellowship Hall
- PreK—5th Grade in Church with a VBS format which include crafts, games, snack & lesson.



Helpers are still needed in **Crafts/games** and **Lessons for younger group**. Please contact Peggy Stark at 378-4546 to let her know how you can serve in this vital ministry.

Choir and Praise Band are also ministries that practice on Wednesday nights and anyone is welcome to give these areas a try. There is a Bible Study for the adults, so all ages are included. It is always a great night of fellowship. Don’t miss this opportunity.

~~Should school be canceled due to weather Wednesday nights will not take place.~~

TIMBERER-LEE FUNDRAISER

Our second and final fundraiser for Timberlee is coming up on **January 10**. We will be hosting a Pork Roast Dinner at the church following second service (**11:30am**).

We will be serving roast pork, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, salad and dessert.

There’s no set cost for the dinner, it’s by donation.

Please help support our youth. Their trip to Timber-Lee is February 12-14.



JANUARY MEETINGS

Jan 4th	6:00pm	Trustees
Jan 10th	5:30pm	Finance
		Nurture
		Outreach
	6:30pm	Supper provided by Ginger Campbell and Peggy Stark
	7:00pm	Ad Board Meeting

January 1 all committees along with new committee members become effective. Please see the last page of the newsletter or the insert in the bulletin for a list of 2010 committees. You may also obtain a copy from the office. Let’s make 2010 be a fruitful year for Christ!

**BLOOMINGTON CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
PRESENTS**

“CHURCH BASEMENT LADIES”

A New Musical Comedy

Combines the silliness of “Nunsense” with the humor of “Prairie Home Companion”.

“It was great! My face hurt from laughing so much!”—Minneapolis Star Tribune

TUESDAY

JANUARY 19TH

2PM AND 7:30PM

Tickets and Info: 309-434-2777

www.artsblooming.org

Discounts can be given for groups of 15 or more persons.



Mission Minutes by Ginger Campbell

Happy New Year to you all! I pray you had a blessed Christmas and New Year. We are so blessed! God’s grace is amazing and available to everyone. I cannot comprehend all He does for me and my family. Christmas is such a wonderful time of year. Just try to imagine what it was like those thousands of years ago. If you saw Pastor Ron’s clip the last Sunday in December, it was truly something to see and learn a little more about the Star of Bethlehem and it’s possible origin. We just take so many things for granted, which brings me back to the generosity of this church! God works through us in so many different ways. We are truly the outstretched arms of Jesus for many in our area and even other parts of the country and world. If it were not for Him instilling in you giving spirits, what this committee does would be not possible.

Stewardship report–	Giving for 2009
	Month of December YTD
Tithes & Offerings	
Total Need	FINAL FIGURES WERE
Difference	NOT AVAILABLE AT THIS
	PRINTING
Building Fund	
Mission & Special Project Giving	
Good Sam	

The following mission gifts were given since the last Newsletter and I praise God for everyone of them.

Christmas Gifts (includes Tri-Valley, Kid to Kid Program, plus additional gifts)	\$4,050.00
Financial Assistance For Family	<u>500.00</u>
	TOTAL \$4,550.00

God Bless you all, and thank you again for your

January Dates to Know

2	8:00am	Moms In Touch
3	11:30am	Take Down Decorations
4	6:00pm	Trustees Boy Scouts in Annex
5	9-2pm	Home Extension
6	5:30pm	Family Night
7	7:00pm	Girl Scouts
9	8:00am	Moms In Touch
	9:00am	Timber-Lee Dinner Prep
10	7:30am	UMW
	11:30am	Pork Loin Dinner
	1:30pm	4H Meeting
	5:30pm	Finance/Nurture/Outreach
	6:00pm	Bible Study
	6:30pm	Dinner
	7:00pm	Ad Board
11	6:00pm	Boy Scouts in Annex
13	5:30pm	Family Night
16	8:00am	Moms In Touch
	4-7pm	Boy Scouts in Annex
17	6:00pm	Bible Study
18	6:00pm	Boy Scouts in Annex
20	10-2pm	Senior Citizens
	5:30pm	Family Night
21	7:00pm	Girl Scouts
23	8:00am	Moms In Touch
24	10:30am	Praise Band
	6:00pm	Bible Study

January Birthdays

3	Nadia Bollhorst	26	Kitty Coulon
3	Brittnay Whitted	27	Jenna Adams
4	Loretta Terven	31	Julie James
4	Ashlyn Hayes		
5	Joe Young		
6	Tim Mikel		
7	Glenda Walsh		
9	Cathy Finch		
9	Jim Finch		
9	Rachel Zachow		
11	Sheri Mushrush		
15	Mary Lou Romine		
18	Courtney Riordan		
18	Paige Wagner		
18	Kolton Weichman		
21	Mike Stark		
22	Carrie Cobstill		
23	Suzann Erlenbush		
24	Ashley Roop		
24	Mary Schulz		



MILESTONES

Someone is turning 10, 35,
45, 50 & 65

**Congratulations &
Blessings to you all!**

25	6:00pm	Boy Scouts in Annex
30	8:00am	Moms In Touch in Old Parson.
31		SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY
	6:00pm	Bible Study

2009 UMW Officers

President—Donna Clark

Vice President—Kay Hull

Secretary—Sheri Mushrush

Treasurer—Leigh Hayes

Social Concerns Chair—Peggy Stark

All women of the church are encouraged and welcomed to be a part of this Mission Ministry. The ladies meet on the 2nd Sunday of the month for breakfast.

The next meeting will be Sunday, January 10th.

COOKIE WALK ANOTHER BIG SUCCESS

Thank you to everyone that had any part in the Cookie Walk last month. Proceeds always help the UMW to meet their mission commitments



January Anniversaries

28 Dave & Carrie Cobstill

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES ARE DUE TO THE OFFICE BY THE 20TH OF EACH MONTH. They can be faxed to 378-2651 or emailed to officedumc@juno.com. Input is welcomed. It is your newsletter!

OPPORTUNITIES OF FELLOWSHIP & OUTREACH

Sunday Fellowship

Every Sunday after the 8:00am service

Breakfast items are served.

A freewill offering is taken to cover the cost of the food. Thank you for your support for this ministry, and to everyone that has volunteered to help with this ministry!

We are in need of people that can ‘substitute’ in this area. Please let the office know if you can be a part of this ministry. There are people more than willing to “guide” you in working in this ministry. It would be of great help to have a list of people we can call on in a pinch or a planned absence.

Adult Sunday School Class The Adult Class is now meeting in the LOFT. *January 3rd's topic is Limb-climber or branch-sitter? Which will you be this year in your Spiritual Life?*

Starting January 10th the class will be taking an in-depth look at the 9 facets of the fruit we receive from the Holy Spirit. They will also be making a physical reminder to help them recall these characteristics that Jesus embodied.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES

Downs UMC has a class for ages 3 and up on Sunday Morning.

Ages 3-5th grade meet in the Sanctuary at 9:15 for music and then go to classrooms in the education wing of the church.

Junior High (6-8th) meet in the Jr. High Room (2nd floor) in the Annex

Sr. High meets on the first floor of the annex and the Adults are meeting in the LOFT

Sunday School is coordinated by Leigh Hayes 378-3008 and Jamie Ward 378-4621

GREETERS are always needed.

Contact Sherry Reed @ 663-2999 if you can serve in this capacity.

January Volunteers~~We appreciate You!

Power Point Operators

	<u>8:00 am Service</u>	<u>10:30 am Service</u>
3	Blaise McNeese	HELP!!!!
10	Rhonda Nalley	Laura Walters
17	Kyle Connour	Tom Coulon
24	Sue Colclasure	Jean Riordan
31	Help Wanted	Help Wanted

GREETERS 10:30 am Service

3	Betty Harvey/Madelyn Gelsthorpe Kay Hull
10	Dave & Darcie Jones/Jessica Cuba
17	Mike James Family
24	Jean & Colby Riordan/Diane Scherr
31	Bill & Suzann Erlenbush Rhonda Nalley

NURSERY SCHEDULE

10:30am Service

3	Michelle Forbes
10	Brian & Janelle Zachow
17	Jen Nelson
24	Leann Sutton
31	Jamie Ward

Fellowship Coordinators

3	Peggy Stark
10	UMW
17	Rick Hayes/Michelle Forbes
24	Jean Riordan
31	Peggy Stark

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309-378-2651

E-Mail:

Pastor Ron

reverend@downsumc.org

Secretary:

secretary@downsumc.org

Office Hours

Tuesday 1-3pm
Wednesday 8-12pm & 1-3pm
Thursday 8-12pm

2010 Official Role (Positions being Served)

Ad Board Chairperson:	Brent Ward	<u>FINANCE:</u> Bill Erlenbush, Larry Stark, Brent Ward, Janice Cuba, Lyn Edwards, Donna Kleinlein, Cathy Finch, Jon Spelde.
Recording Secretary:	Lyn Edwards	<u>TRUSTEES:</u> Jon Spelde; Dave Wysocki; Rick Hayes, Andre McNaught, Craig Solvie, Dave Caldwell, Kathy George, Darla Lanchester, Dave Bach; Brad Weichman; Jeff Curtis
Finance Chairperson:	Bill Erlenbush	<u>PPRC:</u> George Lewis, Darcie Jones, Kay Hull, Tim Riley, Jon Nelson, Lyndall Cuba, Becky Connour, Jim Finch; Chris Mushrush
Sunday School Super:	Jamie Ward & Leigh Hayes	<u>NOMINATIONS:</u> Shari Riley, Cheryl Bach, Larry Stark, Jamie Ward, Kim Lewis; Sherry Reed; Rhonda Nalley
PPRC Chairperson:	George Lewis	
Lay Leader:	Larry Stark	
Lay Member to Confer.:	Cathy Finch	
Treasurer:	Janice Cuba	
Financial Secretary:	Lyn Edwards	
Nurture Chairperson:	Cathy Finch	
Outreach Chairperson:	Ginger Campbell	
Witness Chairperson:	Etta Whitted	
UMW President:	Donna Clark	
Youth Director:	Peggy Stark	
Youth Group Leader	Michelle Forbes	
Camping Coordinator:	Carrie Cobstill	
Trustee Chairperson:	Jon Spelde	

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.downsumc.org

Should you be receiving this newsletter and wish to be removed from the list, please contact Janice at 309-378-2651 or secretary@downsumc.org.



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Address Service Requested

