

Downs UMC NEWSLETTER

February 2010
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REACHING FORWARD, PRESSING ON

By *Rev. Ron George*

"I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." Phillipians 3:14

Remember how God fed the Israelites with manna in the wilderness. Every morning they would wake up, step out of their tents, and there would be the manna on the ground just waiting for them. The quickly discovered that the manna would not stay fresh overnight. In fact, God did not want them to live off the manna from yesterday. The Lord wanted them to be dependent on Him on a regular basis and gather it FRESH each day.

In the same way you can't live off the wonderful experiences of last year or years ago. God wants to do something fresh and new in your life TODAY and TOMORROW and the NEXT DAY. You can't live off past experiences, but you can learn from them.

The Apostle Paul (then named Saul) went out of his way, to persecute and hunt down Christians. But through an encounter with Christ (a wonderful experience, to be sure) he came to the realization that he was not serving God in what he was doing. Then he was transformed, and went on to become the apostle Paul. He would later say, "Now I press on" (now I reach forward). I wish this would be true in all of our lives as Christians. What a difference it would make in this world around us if we never looked back and had that kind of ambition, that kind of drive to serve God as we used to serve ourselves and other things. And that we would remember our encounters with Christ and know He is with us and through His Spirit) and Living Word (manna) providing what we need each day.

So knowing within that we need FRESH manna daily let's recommit ourselves to the ongoing study

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of the Word of God. Let's recommit ourselves to worship, prayer, Communion with Christ and fellowship one another. And let's commit ourselves to encouraging at least one person to Christ that we know to do the same.

As Christians, we have unprecedented opportunities for our lives to make a difference. There is so much to do - so much growth that needs to take place. And so much more to accomplish for the Kingdom of God. And it starts with what God is doing today in your life.

On the other hand, I know, without question, life is full of troubles. We have concerns about our future, concerns about our health, concerns about our family, concerns about our finances, and the list goes on. Things happen that scare us—and sometimes even terrify us. There are things that concern us, things that alarm us, and things that cause us to be filled with anxiety.

But let us remember, if you have a big God, then you have a relatively small problem. Look to Him asking for His peace and His strength to help you get through whatever obstacle it is you are facing. That is what God does for those who put their trust in Him.

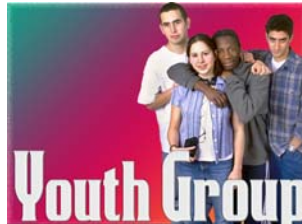
PRESS ON! *Pastor Ron*

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.

Should school be canceled due to weather, Family Night will not take place.

- 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



SR. HIGH YOUTH GROUP had a great time at Laser Tag.

There were 6 youth and 2 adults. They were able to play for 1 ½ hours to two hours for the same price. Watch for additional events in the coming months.

Please remember to keep the youth and chaperones that are going to the Timber-lee retreat on February 12th lifted up in prayer.

- | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Dalton Balagna | Dakotah Beck | Kyle Boward |
| Morgan Campbell | Mikaela Carr | |
| Katrina Colclasure | Kyle Connour | Shelby Cooper |
| Gabriel Cripe | Landon Cuba | Trey Draper |
| Christina Emery | Amber Fisher | John Fisher |
| Kendall Gher | Travis Goveia | Trevor Goveia |
| Trevor Halloran | Tyler Halloran | Holly Hammer |
| Ericka Hayes | Brandon Hillary | |
| Lauren James | Erin Kelley | Hannah Lessen |
| Molly Lessen | Brett Lewis | Logan Manuel |
| Megan McNaught | Blaise McNeese | |
| Austin O'Neill | Jacob O'Neill | Leah Powers |
| Ashley Reynolds | Kate Riley | Jimmy Roach |
| Chad Roberts | Madison Roberts | |
| Austin Schenkel | Cody Schenkel | |
| Blake Sonka | Tyler Sonka | Kelsey Spelde |
| Chelsea Stark | Chris Stark | Paige Wagner |
| Ryan Walters | Allison Wells | Jen Wiltse |
| Carrie Cobstill | Dave Cobstill | Becky Connour |
| Michelle Forbes | Andre McNaught | |
| Rhonda Nalley | Jon Nelson | Craig Solvie |
| Steve Stark | Glenda Walsh | Brent Ward |

Mission Minutes by Ginger Campbell

We received \$171.33 in our Mission Buckets for January, 2010. What a blessing this is. This was rounded up to \$200 and sent to Jesus House. The Youth Group is putting together kits for Mid-West Distribution for Haiti. Good Sam will be sending money to help with the shipping of these.

Our Chili and **Potato Soup Supper** will be held on Sunday, **March 7, 2010**. We look forward to a great evening of fun and fellowship again. We will be getting the sign-up sheets for workers and ingredients out very shortly. We appreciate all of the help and contributions that we received for this fundraiser.

The gifts given out for January, 2010 were:

Missions:	\$200.00
Financial Need:	\$300.00
TOTAL	\$500.00

Please pray for our committee that we will use the money we are blessed with in all the right places for the glory of God.

Ad Council Meeting January 10, 2010 Call to Order 7:05 PM

Devotion and Prayer by Pastor Ron – Distributed “Ways to Increase Worship Attendance”

The minutes for the October 18, 2009 Quarterly Ad Council Meeting was distributed and discussed. Motion made by George Lewis to approve the minutes. Seconded by Peggy Stark. Motion carried.

Sunday School – Leigh Hayes reported. Average attendance – Preschool/7 – 3rd-5th/5 – Jr. High/5 – Sr. High/14 – Adult/18

- Adult class is studying “Fruits of the Spirit”
- Suggested that a confirmation class be done – one for Jr. High and one for Sr. High
- Suggested that a new member orientation might bring more students and families into the Church

UMW – Leigh Hayes reported. Cookie walk brought in \$1072.73 UMW able to meet the goal of \$1900 for Missions

Youth – Peggy Stark reported. Average attendance for Wednesday nights is 63

- Would like more structure from 6-7 for students – need chaperones to supervise and organize some activities such as games, etc.
- Timberlee Over \$1700 was raised during the luncheon on Sunday 1/10
 - 52 young people going on trip – 28 male/24 female
 - 10 chaperones plus Pastor Ron \$825 from Scholarship Fund might be used to help students
- Suggestion to get updated training tapes on Sexual Harassment Prevention
- Andre McNaught would like to organize some youth activities such as laser tag, etc. Advised that he should get the appropriate permission slips and follow Youth Trip Guidelines.

PPRC – George Lewis reported.

- Suggested to work on a duties list for Secretary of the Church Office 2010 planning meeting will take place – TBA

Trustees – Pastor Ron reported.

- Bell Tower Update
 - Additional problems have been detected – Flashing work needs to be done and can be accomplished by parishioners when the weather permits.
 - Additional brick work on the tower is needed. Estimates will be obtained and presented at the April meeting. If necessary to act before this meeting, an email poll will be taken for requests for funding of project.
- Leak by the Annex roof will be repaired when weather permits
- After School Program – Request made to use part of the facility – 20-30 students from 3:15 PM – 5:30 PM M-F. Determined that we cannot react quickly enough for this school year but the Trustees will research for the Fall Term
- Carpets were cleaned by Dave Wysocki. Thank you.

Witness – Etta Whitted reported via email

- 22 poinsettias were purchased from Schnucks. \$8.00 each.

Outreach – Ginger Campbell reported. Chili Supper will be 3/7

- Our Compassion Child has moved to Costa Rica and we are not able to continue supporting. A new packet was sent with Yaoska, a 10 year old girl and we are accepting her as our Compassion Child. Suggestion was made to have the Wednesday night youth write letters to Yaoska.

Nurture – Cathy Finch reported. Thank you to those that helped with the hanging and taking down of the greens

- Kid Gift Bags were distributed on Christmas Eve
- Souper Bowl is Sunday 1/31 Soup cans will go to benefit Jesus House.

Finance – Janice Cuba reported Treasurer’s report was distributed Corrections were made to the report and discussed

- Motion made by Leigh Hayes to approve the report with changes as discussed. Seconded by Ginger Campbell. Motion carried.

Pastor Report – Pastor Ron reported.

- Christmas Eve was very well received. Discussion and approval to start another Christmas Jar – Family was very thankful for the gift.
- Ash Wednesday Service will be 2/17 at 7:00 PM Maunday Thursday – Seder Feast with Communion will be 4/1/10
- No service on Good Friday No communion on Easter Sunday
- Church brochures have been sent out. Extra brochures are in the office. Year end Audit is due
- Pastor Ron and Kathy will start vacation on 2/23 Pastor Ron will spearhead the “Carpet Ball” project for the loft

Old Business –

- Discussion with past members as to their reasons for changing churches were varied. No consistent reason. This is good. But need to find ways to keep and attract more members.

New Business –

- Discussions on creating a Youth Ministry to help lead small groups, music, Chrysalis, Mission Trips and other youth activities. Could provide training. Requested Finance to see if we could budget this into 2010 budget.
- Next Meeting – Sunday, April 11, 2010 at 7:00 PM
- Dinner will be at 6:30 PM with Brent Ward and Leigh Hayes serving

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by George Lewis. Seconded by Peggy Stark. Motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:10 PM – Pastor Ron closed in Prayer.

Present: Cathy Finch, Ginger Campbell, Pastor Ron, Leigh Hayes, Brent Ward, George Lewis, Peggy Stark, Janice Cuba, Lyn Edwards

February Dates to Know

1	6:00pm	Trustees Boy Scouts in Annex
2	9-1pm	Home Extension
3	5:30pm	Family Night
6	8:00am	Moms In Touch
7	Scouting Sunday	
	9:30am	Acolyte Training
	11:30am	Timber-lee Chaperone Meet
	6:00pm	Bible Study
8	6:00pm	Boy Scouts in Annex
10	5:30pm	Family Night
12	Timber-lee Group leaves	
13	8:00am	Moms In Touch
14	7:30am	UMW
	1:30pm	4H Meeting
	6:00pm	Bible Study
	Timber-lee Group returns	
15	6:00pm	Boy Scouts in Annex
17	10-2pm	Senior Citizens
	5:30pm	Family Night
	7:00pm	Ash Wednesday Service
20	8:00am	Moms In Touch
21	10:30am	Youth in charge of service
	6:00pm	Bible Study
22	6:00pm	Boy Scouts in Annex
24	5:30pm	Wednesday Night
27	8:00am	Moms In Touch
28	10:30am	Praise Band
	6:00pm	Bible Study

February Birthdays

5	Margaret Nagreski
5	Miles Young
6	Betty Schenkel
7	Dan Caldwell
8	Becky Connour
10	Gavin Walsh
13	Andy Whitted
14	Janice Cuba
14	Amber Fisher
14	Jackie Gibson
14	Ron Terven
17	Tim Riley
20	Barbara Layten
20	Emily Kelly
23	Dave Cobstill
27	Leah Kelly



MILESTONES

Someone is turning 20, 25,
45, 50, 70, 75, 85

**Congratulations &
Blessings to you all!**

Stewardship report— Giving for 2010

	Month of January	YTD
Tithes & Offerings	11,090.00	11,090.00
Total Need	12,484.00	12,484.00
Difference	-1,394.00	-1,394.00

Building Fund	680.00	680.00
Mission & Special Project Giving		
Good Sam	1,571.33	1,571.33

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, February 14th.
Hostesses are: Donna Clark, Ginger Campbell &
Kay Hull**

EQUIPMENT BORROWING

Should you need to borrow chairs, tables, roasters, coffeepots, etc. please check with the office first. The office keeps a list of what items are borrowed, and when they are needed so we know if

February Anniversaries

15	Scott & Mary Romine
24	Larry & Peggy Stark
28	Bill & Suzann Erlenbush

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.

The class is 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.

This is a fun group and all are welcomed to join at any time.

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.

February Volunteers~~We Are thankful for You!

Power Point Operators

8:00 am Service 10:30 am Service

7	Blaise McNeese	HELP!!!!
14	Rhonda Nalley	Laura Walters
21	Kyle Connour	Tom Coulon
28	Sue Colclasure	Jean Riordan

GREETERS 10:30 am Service

7	Brent Ward Family
14	Timberlee Youth
21	Jim & Cathy Finch/ Kathy Bustle
28	Jon Spelde Family

NURSERY SCHEDULE

10:30am Service

7	Michelle Forbes
14	Brian & Janelle Zachow
21	Sr. High Youth
28	Karyn Spelde

Fellowship Coordinators

7	Etta Whitted
14	UMW
21	Rick Hayes/Michelle Forbes
28	Jean Riordan

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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,
Recording Secretary:	Lyn Edwards	Lyn Edwards, Donna Kleinlein,
Finance Chairperson:	Bill Erlenbush	Cathy Finch, Jon Spelde.
Sunday School Super:	Jamie Ward & Leigh Hayes	<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, Andy Whitted.
PPRC Chairperson:	George Lewis	<u>PPRC:</u> George Lewis, Darcie Jones, Kay Hull, Tim Riley, Jon Nelson, Lyndall Cuba, Becky Connour, Jim Finch; Chris Mushrush
Lay Leader:	Larry Stark	<u>NOMINATIONS:</u> Shari Riley, Cheryl Bach, Larry Stark, Jamie Ward, Kim Lewis; Sherry Reed; Rhonda Nalley
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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