

Downs UMC NEWSLETTER

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Dying to Live

By *Pastor Ron*

Jesus, said, *“Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit”* ~ John 12:24

This Easter passage is really Jesus’ ultimate call to discipleship, so that fruit-bearing could begin. Let me explain. After Jesus’ death on the Cross and resurrection He began to be seen even more than before. “Where I am, there shall my servant be also.” Jesus is seen through all those who have continued his ministry. His disciples are not just in Jerusalem and the Holy Land where the events of the Gospel took place; they are everywhere now. So the metaphor of a grain of wheat falling into the earth to die so that it can yield fruit is far richer with meaning than we can know.

Unless a grain (seed) of wheat dies (is planted), it reaches a “dead end” to its potential. But if planted, its present form and substance changes and it multiplies its life to others. A seed grain of wheat can last thousands of years and remain not only edible, but still grow into a plant. Its work is not finished until it falls to the ground in order that a stalk of wheat might rise. That is the potential for every grain, to be multiplied and produce endless fruit.

As Jesus walked toward the Cross He understood that his potential would not be realized unless He died. If he played it safe, He would only be known as a great teacher. But, if He took the narrow path that leads to death, the whole world would know of Him. And His message of God’s unconditional love would spread in ways the never imagined. The mystery of God’s presence would be made known to all people and draw them to Him throughout the ages. The seed of Love planted by Jesus would be multiplied through His followers from Jerusalem to the uttermost parts of the earth.

Jesus’ death and resurrection would call into formation a new community that thinks and lives differently than the rest of society. Those who would walk in that Light of Christ (God’s light), those who embrace the Light, who allow the Light to penetrate their being and shine through them would become united as a family. They would become the children of Light, the children of God’s love. Together they would shine in the midst of darkness and show the world God’s better way, just as Jesus did.

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As a fully human being filled with the Spirit of God, Jesus opened the way for all humanity to be as open to God’s Spirit. The seed of consciousness in Christ was sown in humankind.

The grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies in order that it may not remain just a single grain, but that it may bear much fruit. Jesus’ death on the Cross was not so much a tragedy as it was a strategy. Although Jesus expressed a moment of hesitation when He indicated that his soul was troubled, He walked on with commitment and resolve, willing to face the consequences of His love for humanity. He knows He is the seed that must be planted in order that love might be multiplied. And in His dying and rising, Jesus conquered evil and destroyed the power of sin and death.

The season of springtime is here and we will once again plant seeds in the dark moist ground in order that plants bearing bright blossoms and rich fruit will come to life. For us as Christians, the season of Lent and Easter is the springtime of the spirit.

We are the seeds borne of stalks of wheat from previous generations of Christians. We are the seeds of Christ’s continuing presence in the world. And we have a choice to make. We can simply remain in the seed bag, or we can be like Christ and dare to plant ourselves in the soil of service, where Christ’s life can grow, bearing fresh fruit and multiplying the love of God in the world.

Have a wonderful Easter!

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.

Family Night will conclude on Wednesday, May 12th.

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

April Meals	
7 th	Chicken & Noodles
14 th	Breakfast
21 st	Chili Mac
28 th	Italian Beef

Mission Minutes by Ginger Campbell

Our Mission Buckets for March were \$81.52. This money will be used for Easter Gifts for our community and any others who we hear of where there is a need.

The Chili Supper brought in \$892 this year and we served approximately 30 less people. We had no potato soup left and two roasters of chili, which were divided up and given to some we knew could use it and some frozen for future use on Wednesday evening. I would like to thank everyone who brought solicited items, monetary donations and those who helped the night of the supper. A big thank you to Peggy also, for her many hours of organizing and helping me see that everything went smooth. I don't know what we would do without her! Also, I would like to give a big thank you to the Boy Scouts who have been donating their time to help with the dining room for the chili supper as well as the spaghetti suppers. Thank you boys!!!

We are so blessed in our church. Even with our lower attendance, we still manage to pull off a dinner without a hitch. This is because of all of the faithful people who return each year to help. I don't want to slight anyone, because we need all of you, but I also have a lot of help and support from Kay Hull and Mary Romine. Thank you to you also!

Our gifts since the last Newsletter totaled \$750. Thank you once again for all your support and generosity.

Trustee Minutes February 1, 2010 6:02pm

Present: Ron George, Darla Lanchester, Dave Bach, Dave Wysocki, Jon Spelde, Brad Weichman, Rick Hayes, Jeff Curtis, Andy Whitted

– Ron opened with prayer.

– Dave W made a motion to approve the January meeting minutes. Andy seconded. Motion carried.

New Business:

Landscaping: Kyle Connour attended to discuss his Eagle Scout project—landscaping the front of the church (tentative date: April). Prochnow's will donate materials. Need to measure for nativity scene and paint off on grass. Rick Hayes made a motion we approve the Eagle Scout project. Dave Bach seconded. Motion carried.

After School Program: Tandy Chaszar opened Wee Care Daycare in the park in the building, following DCFS suggestion for two phases: Phase 1 preschool (completed) and Phase 2 (after school). After school (ages 6-12) can't be mixed with preschool kids, so Tandy needs another building and would like to use our old parsonage. Rules are more lenient for after school than preschool. Building needs: Need male and female bathroom. Health dept checks plumbing, steps. 1 adult per 20 children. \$75 a week before and after school. M-F only. We will check with our insurance agent. Outside space: Within 3 blocks of the park; so they exercise there. Ron will check with other churches to search for answers. Tandy will give us a copy of the DCFS handbook. Day care Task Force: Dave B., Jon, Rick, Darla, Ron

Front steps: Peeling again in a new place. Andy suggested putting 1" limestone slab (veneer) on top of steps. Dave B will check with Prochnow. Brad will check with Darnall.

Microphones: 700mHz frequency use will be prohibited in June 2010. We are checking our mikes.

Old Business:

Culvert install: Completed. Grading later.

Parking lot: There's still money left to dress-coat it after winter is over.

Facility usage report: Completed and distributed. Will review next week.

Furnaces: Damper in the fellowship hall needs to be replaced with a plain piece of pipe. Brad will help Ron take care of this.

Railings: Annex porches (both front and back) have railings due to the Daves (B and W).

Wheelchair ramp: Ad Council would like a high priority placed on this. There are people who would attend church if they had a ramp.

Bell tower: Still leaking. Rick and Ron looked in attic. Guy Campbell volunteered his services for more tuck pointing. Possibly need to remove gutters and add new fascia board.

Annex roof over kitchen: Rick will replace when the weather gets better.

Snow removal: Jeff Misch offered to be a second source (donated) for plowing snow.

Speaker for nursery: Still waiting on speaker. (Everyone LOVES the nursery!)

Annex attic: Trim work done. Still waiting for a couple of items.

LOFT: Craig will be putting in a stairway rail. Exterior light: Waiting on better weather. Propane: We seem to be going through a lot of propane to heat the LOFT.

Railing for side entrance to sanctuary: Richard Randall has design finished. Waiting on install. Dave B. motion to adjourn. Rick seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm.

Trustee Minutes Special Meeting February 8, 2010

Present: Ron George, Darla Lanchester, Dave Bach, Dave Wysocki, Jon Spelde, Rick Hayes, Dave Caldwell, Andy Whitted

-This is a special meeting of the Trustees to discuss forming an after-school daycare program under the direction of Tandy Chaszar, a member of our church.

-Ron contacted the Tremont Methodist Church (TMC) and obtained a Parent Policy Handbook and a list of director's duties. He also obtained one of their budgets.

-TMC is using their old church building after building a new church building.

-TMC considers it a mission, so there are no taxes involved, except for the wages of the people involved (some payroll taxes). You are allowed to make a profit, but you have to use it exclusively for the daycare program.

-Tandy has suggested two options: The church take charge of the after school day care and hire her and the staff, or the church rent the old parsonage to her.

-Tandy's license won't transfer to a non-profit organization because her's is a for-profit license.

-Outdoor play area: This requirement is satisfied by the park.

-Summer program: P'nut Catering will handle meals.

-When Tandy was estimating costs for on her own to set up an after school program, she set aside \$2000 to get the program up and operational, and a budget of \$1000 a month for the program.

-We need to determine the additional cost to bring the building up to speed.

-DCFS here Feb 16. Maybe Tandy can have them look through our parsonage. Rick will go through building with Tandy before that and estimate repair costs. He'll have estimate together on Sunday.

-Fire Marshal will probably insist on lit exit signs at both doors.

-Tandy would prefer not to use the upstairs and would like an additional bathroom downstairs.

-If she rented, she would pay \$400 per month. We would have to pay taxes on the profit and on the house (real estate taxes).

-Andre made a motion we send a recommendation to the ad council the old parsonage be considered and be updated to be used for an after school and summer program. Andy seconded. Motion carried.

-Ron closed in prayer.

Rick made a motion to adjourn at 7:53 pm. Darla seconded. Motion carried.

Ad Council Special Meeting
March 7, 2010

The meeting was attended by Bill Erlenbush, Peggy Stark, Ginger Campbell, Leigh Hayes and Brent Ward.

The following information is the result of the meeting. A motion to proceed with a lease agreement to be approved by Administrative Council was motioned by Leigh Hayes and seconded by Ginger Campbell. (See recommendation by the Trustees below)

A couple of things that were brought up:

We would like there to be an agreement that states the building would be returned to its original state should the lease be terminated. We also want to make sure any improvements that are done would become the property of the church at the completion of the lease. For example, she wouldn't seek to remove or be reimbursed for the bathroom being installed.

I will have Pastor Ron check on a property tax issue that came up when we tried to rent out the annex, but with us still using the building I don't think it applies here.

Some were concerned on the cost of heating the building through the winter months. And if \$400.00 would cover costs and still generate revenue.

We will want to vote on a final draft of a lease, but were all in agreement to move forward. Motion carried.

Recommendation by the Trustees:

At our regular Trustees meeting this week, the Trustees approved the following regarding usage of the old parsonage. We are asking for a vote from the Administrative Board to move forward with a 1 year lease agreement to Tandy for the purpose of providing daycare to school age children. If possible, the Trustees would like to respond to her quickly so she fills out the required paperwork from DCFS.

The terms of the lease would be as follows:

Provide a 1 year lease to Tandy effective June 1st, 2010 thru May 31st, 2011.

During the school year her lease would state she would have access to the building before/after school (7:00 am – 9:30 and 3:00-5:30). The building would be available for church use outside of these times and on the weekends.

During the summer months, she would have access M-F from 7:00 – 5:30. The church would have access to the building after 5:30 and on the weekends

Tandy will be responsible for any improvements required by DCFS.

The rent amount would be \$400 a month with Tandy paying the entire electric bill during the months of June, July and August.

Tandy will be responsible for keeping the facility picked up. (Our custodian would not be required to clean up after them)

During the summer months, food will be prepared and brought in by a caterer of Tandy's choice.

We would open the building to her prior to June to allow her to get ready for the Summer program and fulfill any DCFS requirements (if needed)

On another matter, the Trustees voted to move forward with hiring a plumber to replace the supply and waste lines at the old parsonage. With the freezing and cracking of the water pipes, it became necessary to act on this quickly. We plan on submitting the expenses of \$1100 to insurance. We are also looking into having an insulation company come in and spray foam insulation against the foundation wall to insure the pipes will not freeze again. We won't have an estimate on this until next month.

Submitted by Lyn Edwards, Recording Secretary



**Boy Scout Pancake and
Sausage Breakfast is April
24th**



“The Passion of Christ” will be shown in the sanctuary on Saturday, April 3rd at 5:00pm.

A movie for the kids will be played in the LOFT or the Library.

The Seder Feast

(A Traditional Celebration of the Passover for Christians)

WHEN: Maundy Thursday, April 1, 6:00 p.m.

WHERE: Here at Downs UMC

This unique candle-light service is for the whole family and is designed to include a complete meal, the Seder and the Lord's Supper. As such, it will take place downstairs. To be sure that there is plenty of food, we are asking everyone who makes reservations below to bring a potluck dish to share (meat dishes, salads, vegetables, deserts etc. are fine). Drinks & table service will be provided. To defray the remaining cost of the Passover preparations and portions of the meal, there will be a freewill offering.

We believe that this service will be one that you will remember for many years.

Please indicate below the number in your family or group that will be attending or call no later than **Tuesday, March 30th** with your reservations (you can leave a message)– Church PH 378-2651 or Parsonage PH 378-2650.

Number in Family/Party _____
NAMES and IF CHILDREN THEIR AGES

The celebration of the Passover commemorates God's deliverance of Israel from the bondage of the Egyptians. The Seder meal (or Passover meal) refers to the service of reenactment of the ancient scriptural traditions. In the course of the meal, scriptures and traditions are recited that proclaim

God's continuing liberating power.

The Passover is not an exclusive Jewish tradition. It belongs to the Judeo-Christian heritage. Jesus celebrated the Passover with His disciples, and there is evidence that the early church continued the commemoration. However, through the centuries regular observances have faded into the background.

The Passover is meant to be a festive occasion. It is alive and joyous. The spirit of thanksgiving anchored in remembrance of God's freeing power is the heart of the feast.

Easter Lily

- The lily is a symbol of purity because of its whiteness and delicacy of form. It also symbolizes innocence and the radiance of the Lord's risen life. It is called the Easter lily because the flowers bloom in early spring, around Easter time.
- The Bermuda, or white trumpet, lily was brought to the United States from Bermuda in the 1880s by Mrs. Thomas P. Sargent of Philadelphia, Pa., and it has become the mainstay of Easter floral arrangements and church decorations.

This Year the Lilies can be purchased for \$8.00. Last day to order is Sunday, March 28th.

Please make checks payable to Downs UMC with Lily in the memo line.

Name _____

Phone _____

ordered _____ @ \$8.00

\$ _____ Total

Circle one: Memorial Honoree

Name of Honoree Or Memorial

Please place in the offering plate, or give to the office. Thank you!

April Dates to Know

1	6:00pm	Seder Feast
2		GOOD FRIDAY
3	8:00am	Moms In Touch in Old Pars.
3	5:00pm	“The Passion of Christ”
4		EASTER SUNDAY
5	6:00pm	Trustees
		Boy Scouts in Annex
6	9-1pm	Home Extension
7	5:30pm	Family Night
10	8:00am	Moms In Touch
11	7:30am	UMW
	5:30pm	Finance/Nurture/Outreach
	6:30pm	Dinner
	7:00pm	Ad Board
12	7:30-3:30pm	Tri-Valley Testing
	6:00pm	Boy Scouts in Annex
13	7:30-3:30pm	Tri-Valley Testing
14	7:30-3:30pm	Tri-Valley Testing
	5:30pm	Family Night
15	7:30-3:30pm	Tri-Valley Testing
16	7:30-3:30pm	Tri-Valley Testing
17	8:00am	Moms In Touch
18	3-5:00pm	Boy Scouts in Annex
	6:00pm	Bible Study
19	6:00pm	Boy Scouts in Annex
21	10-2:00pm	Senior Citizens
23	7-9:00pm	Boy Scout Pancake Set up
24	6-12:00 noon	Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast
25	10:30am	Praise Band
	6:00pm	Bible Study

April Birthdays

1	Kyle Connour
1	Darcie Jones
1	Seth Wagner
2	Jill McNeese
5	Judy Weichman
5	Jeff Werner
10	Tyler James
11	Justine Lanchester
12	Bill Erlenbush
12	Joel Werner
13	Kyle Cooperider
14	Holly Hammer
15	Jack Mikel
17	Marilyn Murphy
18	Dale Palmer
20	Betty Harvey
27	Marlene Wells
28	Christy Mikel



29	Dave Caldwell
29	Danny Gibson
29	Trevor Halloran

MILESTONES

Someone is turning 25, & 60.
And one couple will be celebrating their 30th wedding anniversary & another their 35th

Congratulations & Blessings to you all!

Stewardship report— Giving for 2010

	Last 4 Weeks	YTD
Tithes & Offerings	9,395.17	30,726.42
Total Need	12,484.00	37,584.00
Difference	-3,088.83	-6,857.58
Building Fund	785.00	2,773.15
Mission & Special Project Giving		
Good Sam	2,858.53	5,968.55

2010 UMW Officers

President—Donna Clark

Vice President—Kay Hull

Secretary—Sheri Mushrush

Treasurer—Leigh Hayes

Social Concerns Chair—Ginger Campbell

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, April 11th.

Hostesses are: Donna Kleinlein, Mary Romine & Kay Hull

26	6:00pm	Boy Scouts in Annex
28	5:30pm	Family Night
30		Edwards Wedding Rehearsal & Dinner

April Anniversaries

5	Brad & Judy Weichman
12	Corey & Kelly Riordan
15	Ron & Loretta Terven
19	Tim & Sue Mikel
27	Dave & Cheryl Bach
27	Ralph & Kathy Bustle

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.

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

In April they will finish up their study of Easter and then possibly do some Andy Griffith studies. There is always something to learn through these studies and through each other's testimonies.

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.

April Volunteers~~We Appreciate You!

Power Point Operators

<u>8:00 am Service</u>	<u>10:30 am Service</u>
4 Blaise McNeese	HELP!!!!
11 Rhonda Nalley	Laura Walters
18 Kyle Connour	Tom Coulon
25 HELP!!!	Jean Riordan

GREETERS 10:30 am Service

4 Betty Harvey/Kay Hull/Jessica Cuba
11 Madelyne Gelsthorpe/Marcia Adams Sherry Reed
18 Dave & Darcie Jones/Diane Scherr
25 Jim & Cathy Finch/Carrie Cobstill

NURSERY SCHEDULE

10:30am Service

4	Michelle Forbes
11	Brian & Janelle Zachow
18	Sr. High Youth
25	Karyn Spelde

Fellowship Coordinators

4	Easter Breakfast by Church
11	UMW
18	Rick Hayes/Michelle Forbes
25	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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Address Service Requested

