

Downs UMC NEWSLETTER

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The GOOD Trade

By *Pastor Ron*

"Here's an old saying that deserves a second look: 'Eye for eye, tooth for tooth.' Is that going to get us anywhere? Here's what I propose: 'Don't hit back at all.' If someone strikes you, stand there and take it. If someone drags you into court and sues for the shirt off your back, giftwrap your best coat and make a present of it. And if someone takes unfair advantage of you, use the occasion to practice the servant life. No more tit-for-tat stuff. Live generously. You're familiar with the old written law, 'Love your friend,' and its unwritten companion, 'Hate your enemy.' I'm challenging that. I'm telling you to love your enemies. Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst. When someone gives you a hard time, respond with the energies of prayer, for then you are working out of your true selves, your God-created selves. This is what God does. He gives his best—the sun to warm and the rain to nourish—to everyone, regardless..."

~ Matthew 5:38-45a (The Message Version)

Can you remember the last time you felt that someone wronged you or someone you know? Maybe it was a boss, a coworker or even a friend. How did you respond?

Some people trade (or respond to good) with evil. This is Satan's way of doing things. We see this attitude demonstrated over and over by criminals and by some extremely tyrannical governments in the world. You offer these people your best, and they hurt you in return.

Some people trade (or respond to evil) with evil. It is the nature of wild animals to react this way. If you step on a snake's tail, you can expect to feel his fangs in your ankle.

Some people trade good (or respond to good) with good. This is the most natural human response, so we find this easy to accept. In fact, when we do good for others, we expect good in return.

But we seldom see people trading (or responding to evil) with good. In fact, this idea is

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very backward to our most natural response.

But Jesus' love is **SUPER**natural! Jesus, said, "if someone takes away your coat, let that person have your cloak also. If someone wants to borrow from you, do not turn away. If anyone asks you to go one mile, go two miles." If we were to always respond in this way, we'd see God do tremendous things through us in those we trade with.

Jesus, in His great love and compassion, has told us how to respond to others, especially those who hurt us! But it's very hard to respond this way on our own; it's not part of our human nature. So, we must turn to Christ Himself, who responded to ULTIMATE evil with ULTIMATE good. Christ went into the very depths of ruin and hell for our evils, and in His goodness He suffered for us and conquered evil for all time. Only through Christ can we gain the ability and the desire to go the second mile, or turn the other cheek to those whom Jesus calls us to love.

Often when we judge others, we do it in a way God wouldn't, so its' best to leave it to God. We fret and fume about their sinfulness, when, in truth, we can't know what has transpired between them and God. In the meantime, we become spiritually tired by carrying an unnecessary burden God didn't intend for us to bear.

Instead, let us offer patience, encouragement and support for our fellow travelers along life's way.

"Never does the human soul appear so strong and noble as when it forgives, does not seek revenge and dares to show forgiveness." - Edwin Hubbell Chapin

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

May Meals
 5th Turkey Sandwiches
 12th Pizza

Mission Minutes by Ginger Campbell

"I knew I would overlook someone last month when I was trying to acknowledge everyone who helped with the Chili/Potato Soup Supper. I would like to give a big thank you to Darla Lanchester. Every year we are so grateful to her for creating our advertising signs and our tickets! She does such a great job - and so creative!. Sorry for missing you last month Darla!"

Our Mission Buckets for April were \$161.21. We added another \$139.00 to round out the total to \$300.00 to send to Special Olympics for our area. I am so grateful for your generous support for this ministry. We have truly helped so many different and varying families and missions.

Our gifts for April, so far have been: Missions \$900.00

We have also been taking meals on Wed. nights to a local couple who have come upon some hard times. They are very appreciative of our generosity.

We will also be making some additional gifts toward some Mission Trips and providing fuel for our own kids who are going on the Mission Trip from our church in August.

Thanks so much for all of your support and help.

THREE THINGS IN LIFE

Three things in life that, once gone, never come back -

1. Time
2. Words
3. Opportunity

Three things in life that can destroy a person -

1. Anger
2. Pride
3. Unforgiveness

Three things in life that you should never lose-

1. Hope
2. Peace
3. Honesty

Three things in life that are most valuable -

1. Love
2. Family & Friends
3. Kindness

Three things in life that are never certain -

1. Fortune
2. Success
3. Dreams

Three things that make a person -

1. Commitment
2. Sincerity
3. Hard work

**Three things that are truly constant -
 Father - Son - Holy Spirit**

Ad Board Meeting Sunday, April 18, 2010 Call to Order 7:00 PM

Devotion and Prayer by Pastor Ron – “Meetings”

Minutes for the January 18, 2010 Quarterly Ad Council Meeting and the March 7, 2010 Special Ad Council Meeting were distributed and discussed. Motion made by Jon Spelde to accept both minutes. Seconded by Peggy Stark. Motions carried.

Youth – Carrie Cobstill, Andre McNaught, Peggy Stark reported

- Timberlee – 2/4-2/6/11
 - Would like to have a total of 65 attendees including youth and chaperones
 - Suggestion to have the attendees run the Sunday Service after Timberlee as they did this year – Very well received and motivational
 - Peggy Stark made a motion to approve the Timberlee trip for 2010. Ginger Campbell seconded. Motion carried.
 - Fundraisers will be held throughout the year
 - Scholarships have been used in the past to assist those in need – Scholarship applications will be available for those needing financial assistance with the trip.
 - Sunday School Students and Wednesday Family Night attendees will get advance notice of the trip
 - Deposits must be received from participants by June 1, 2010.
- Mission Trip – 8/1-8/6/2010 – Kokomo IN
 - Must have firm numbers by Friday 4/23/2010
 - Suggestion to start planning earlier next year to have more choices of location and dates
 - Fundraisers will be held to help defray the costs for the chaperones
 - Outreach will donate the cost of the gas for this trip
 - Motion made by Peggy Stark to approve this trip and use funds from the Mission Fund Account if needed. Seconded by Ginger Campbell. Motion carried.
- Wednesday Family Night
 - Average attendance – 74
 - Could use more chaperones from 6PM – 7PM to supervise
 - Last night is 5/12/2010
- VBS
 - Directed by Michelle Forbes
 - 7/25-7/29/10 in the evenings
 - Theme – Outer Space

Sunday School – Leigh Hayes reported

- Number of students are maintaining
- 4th grade and up will be starting confirmation for those wanting to participate
- Summer Sunday School for student age will be in VBS format – new materials will not be purchased

UMW – Lyn Edwards and Ginger Campbell reported

- Need help with fellowship for May/June/July – will extend invitation to help to the congregation to try to get different people involved
- No meeting in May/June/July – next meeting will be in August

PPRC – George Lewis reported.

- Discussion regarding the possibility of adding a Youth Lay Minister to our church. Board asked PPRC to look into defining the part-time role and put together a job description to be presented to the Board in the July meeting or sooner. Further discussion will be needed.

Trustees – Jon Spelde reported.

- Discussion on the approval of a Day Care business in the Old Parsonage. DCFS had requirements that a ramp be put in for handicap and exit signs be posted. This would be paid by the tenant. A 1 year lease was suggested. Motion was made by George Lewis to vote on whether to approve the 1 year lease for Tenant. Seconded by Ginger Campbell. Motion denied.
- Trustees will look into other options for the Old Parsonage
- Sewer hook-up is coming very soon
- \$7200 was collected from the cash rent of the Church land
- Bell tower repairs are scheduled for May – weather permitting – Motion was made by Leigh Hayes to approve up to \$1500 to repair the bell tower and surrounding areas. Seconded by George Lewis. Motion carried.

Witness – Etta Whitted via email

- 15 lilies were purchased for Easter Sunday in honor or memory of someone.
- Baccalaureate will be 5/23/10 at 6:00 PM. More details to follow.

Outreach – Ginger Campbell reported.

- Outreach will look into a program with Tim Hannig, a magician, to be conducted at the Church

Nurture – Cathy Finch reported

- About 24 people attended the Seder Feast
- The Easter Cross was decorated with flowers and looked beautiful

Finance – Janice Cuba reported.

- Treasurer's report was distributed with summaries
- Motion made by George Lewis to approve the Treasurer's report. Seconded by Peggy Stark. Motion carried.

Pastor update – Pastor Ron reported.

- New bike rack – thank you to Dave Bach
- New gravel for driveway – thank you to Nathan and Natalie Whitted
- Confirmation class will be approximately 8 weeks. More details to follow.
- Annual Conference is 6/2-6/5/2010 in Peoria
- Ron Bass will assist with Power Point for the early service
- Kyle Connour – Eagle Scout Project – submitted plans for the landscaping and will be under way shortly.
- Illinois Department of Revenue has issued a new Tax Exempt Number for the church. Contact the office if you need this to purchase items for the Church.

Old Business – no report**New Business** –

- Next Meeting will be 7/18/2010
- Ginger Campbell and Lyn Edwards and in charge of the meal

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Peggy Stark. Seconded by Ginger Campbell. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM - Pastor Ron read the Church Mission Statement and closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Lyn Edwards, Recording Secretary

Present: Carrie Cobstill, Andre McNaught, Peggy Stark, Janice Cuba, Cathy Finch, Ginger Campbell, Leigh Hayes, George Lewis, Pastor Ron, Brent Ward, Jon Spelde, Dave Bach, Lyn Edwards



Mark those calendars for July 25-29, when this year's VBS, "Galactic Blast" will take place. More information to follow. Contact Michelle Forbes to volunteer.



Boy Scout Pancake and Sausage Breakfast is May 22nd 7-1 in the Fellowship Hall

Mark your calendars: Baccalaureate for Tri-Valley will be May 23 at 7:00pm in the Tri-Valley High School Commons. Come worship with the 2010 graduates.



Laws of Unintended Consequences:
Removal of Prayer

On June 25, 1962, 39 million students were forbidden to do what they and their predecessors had been doing since the founding of our nation – publicly calling upon the name of the Lord at the beginning of each school day. The New York school children which prompted the Engel vs. Vitale ruling had simply prayed: "Almighty God, we acknowledge our dependence on Thee and beg Thy blessing over us, our parents, our teachers and our nation." America has experienced radical decline in each of the four areas which the children's prayer touched upon: youth, family, education, national life. Minor recovery has occurred only since 1980 when the election of President Reagan brought forth a renewed emphasis on "traditional" values (David Barton, *America: To Pray or Not to Pray*).

What unintended consequences have resulted since prayer was removed in 1962? Look at the following frightening numbers:

In Young People:

- o For 15 years before 1963 pregnancies in girls ages 15 through 19 years had been no more than 15 per thousand. After 1963 pregnancies increased **187%** in the next 15 years.
- o For younger girls, ages 10 to 14 years, pregnancies since 1963 are up **553%**.
- o Before 1963 sexually transmitted diseases among students were 400 per 100,000. Since 1963, they were up **226%** in the next 12 years.

The Family: Before 1963 divorce rates had been declining for 15 years. After 1963 divorces increased **300%** each year for the next 15 years.

Since 1963 unmarried people living together is up **353%**

Since 1963 single parent families are up **140%**.

Since 1963 single parent families with children are up **160%**.

The Nation: Since 1963 violent crime has increased **544%**.

Illegal drugs have become an **enormous & uncontrollable** problem.

The nation has been deprived of an estimated **30 million** citizens through legal abortions just since 1973.

Education:

Before prayer was removed from schools, polls among educators listed the top offences in public schools as:

Talking; Chewing gum; Making noise; Running in the halls; Getting out of turn in line; Wearing improper clothing; Not putting paper in wastebaskets.

After prayer was removed from schools, polls among educators listed the top offences in public schools as:

- o Rape; Robbery; Assault; Burglary; Arson; Bombings; Murder; Suicide; Absenteeism; Vandalism; Extortion; Drug abuse; Alcohol abuse; Gang warfare; Pregnancies; Abortions; Venereal disease; **(None of the previous top seven problems even make the list).**

How can the simple eradication of prayer lead to so much damage?

It removes God's blessing. "*Whoever honors Me, I will honor. And whoever disregards Me, I will disregard*" (1 Samuel 2:30). Prior to the expulsion of God from American public schools, America was elevated among the nations of the world in achievement, morality, productivity, stability, and reputation.

Post 1962-63, America leads the western world in teenage pregnancies and highest illiteracy rates and are world leaders in violent crime, divorce, and illegal drug use.

And by removing any reference to God, you remove references to respect for authority (including teachers); absolute values used to condemn disrespect, adultery, covetousness, theft, murder, etc. replacing them with relativism and secular humanism - hence the resultant moral mess of removing prayer from school assemblies.

"*In all your ways, acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths*" (Proverbs 3:6).

"Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports - And let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion - reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle." George Washington. (All information is taken from the book: *America: to pray or not to pray?* By David Barton, 1988).

May Dates to Know

1	8:00am	Moms In Touch in Old Pars.
	4:00pm	Edwards Wedding
2	6:00pm	Bible Study
3	6:00pm	Trustees
		Boy Scouts in Annex
4	9-1pm	Home Extension
5	5:30pm	Family Night
6	NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER	
7	6:30-8pm	Boy Scouts in Annex
8	8:00am	Moms In Touch
9	HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY	
	6:00pm	Bible Study
10	5:30pm	Boy Scouts in Fellowship Hall
12	5:30pm	Family Night
13	7:00pm	PPRC Meeting
15	8:00am	Moms In Touch
16	6:00pm	Bible Study
17	6:00pm	Boy Scouts in Annex
21	6-9:00pm	Boy Scout Pancake Set up
22	7-1:00pm	Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast
23	10:30am	Free2Praise
	7:00pm	Baccalaureate
24	6:00pm	Boy Scouts in Annex
17	7:00pm	PPRC Meeting
31	6:00pm	Boy Scouts in Annex

May Birthdays

2	Deb Bricker	
3	Lori Rogers	
4	Jacob Stark	
6	Lindsey Cuba	
6	Maggie Durbin	
10	Sarah Wilson	23
11	Anthony Williams	24
14	Rhonda Nalley	24
16	Brandon James	24
17	Shelbi Miller	25
18	Kathy Hammer	26
19	Beth Randall	27
19	Brandon Weichman	29
20	Audrey Moss	29
21	Brad Adkisson	30
21	Ed Clark	30
21	Andrea Kleinlein	
22	Loghan Sutton	



Stewardship report— Giving for 2010

	Last 4 Weeks	YTD
Tithes & Offerings	11,660.61	44,843.58
Total Need	12,484.00	53,057.00
Difference	-823.39	-8,213.42
Building Fund	7,870.00	10,868.15
Mission & Special Project Giving		
Good Sam	1,211.21	7,504.76

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, August 8th.

Hostesses are: Donna Clark & Jessica Cuba.

Devotions are by Ginger Campbell

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!

May Anniversaries

2	Brett & Michelle Roop
2	Keith & Jody Simpson
2	Keith & Ginger Campbell
3	Bud & Mabel Courtney
5	Chris & Tandy Chaszar
27	Jeff & Elizabeth Werner
28	Dennis & Jill McNeese
31	Dave & Darcie Jones

MILESTONES

Someone is turning 30 and another person is will be 60! There are couples celebrating 35, 45 and 50 years of marriage!

Congratulations & Blessings to you all!

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. WE ARE IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS FOR THE 2ND SUNDAY OF JUNE AND JULY. PLEASE LET DONNA CLARK AT 378-1573 KNOW IF YOU CAN HELP ON THOSE SUNDAYS.

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.

The group is studying a new topic each week, so you can join in at any time! 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.

May Volunteers~~We Appreciate You!

Power Point Operators

	<u>8:00 am Service</u>	<u>10:30 am Service</u>	
2	Blaise McNeese	Ron Bass	2
9	Rhonda Nalley	Laura Walters	9
16	Kyle Connour	Tom Coulon	16
23	Sue Colclasure	Jean Riordan	23
30	Help Needed	Help Needed	30

GREETERS 10:30 am Service

2	Betty Harvey/Madelyne Gelsthorpe Kathy Bustle	2
9	Kay Hull/Sherry Reed/Rhonda Nalley	9
16	Tim Riley Family	16
23	Jean & Colby Riordan/Karen Walters	23
30	Brent Ward Family	30

NURSERY SCHEDULE

10:30am Service

2	Michelle Forbes
9	Brian & Janelle Zachow
16	Jen Nelson
23	Leanne Sutton
30	Jamie Ward

Fellowship Coordinators

2	Ladies of the Church
9	Rick Hayes/Michelle Forbes
16	Lyn Edwards
23	Jean Riordan
30	Peggy Stark

Downs UMC

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Pastor Ron

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Secretary:

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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

