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New Haven United Methodist Church The Cornerstone

Special Points of Interest in this Issue:

- Catch up with Upward Basketball & Cheerleading!
- Don't miss the upcoming exciting Adult Bible Study group with Pastor Chuck!
- Pre-School registration already?
- A new Grief Share class is beginning.
- Join Sunny Seniors for a special program!

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Volume 4, Issue 2

February 2011



Neighbors In Need

The Neighbors In Need mission had a very busy 2010. The economy has put many people in the community in situations they could not avoid. Of the 118 requests 84 clients were helped in the amount of nearly \$13,000 thru Neighbors in Need and Church Members in Need funds.

The Neighbors In Need ministry frequently refers clients to other services to fill their needs such as New Haven Food Bank which is open Tuesdays 9 a.m. to Noon, the township trustee, CANI, "...Unto Others...", Mustard Seed and many other organizations. The most frequent request is for gas to get to work or school. Clients are sometimes promised a portion of their need on the condition that they bring proof that the remainder is

covered, either by bringing a check from another party, or proof from another agency. We have also partnered with another church in New Haven this year to assist some clients.

YOU, the congregation, have been generous in your response to the needs of this ministry thru weekly giving. **YOU have provided almost \$9,000 to help our neighbors. Thank you for caring.**

All monies brought to the prayer rail on Communion Sunday each month go to Neighbors In Need. Everyone's "little bit" becomes an amount that makes it possible to make a difference in the lives of our neighbors.

If The Spirit nudges you to contribute some...big or little...know in your heart, that it **will** make a difference.

-Marilyn Eley

My Neighbor

*I don't live in a mansion,
Just an ordinary place,
And the distance between
houses,
Is a very little space.*

*Yet I hardly know the neighbor,
That I see most every day,
As we come and go about our
lives,
Passing on the way.*

*We don't linger by the backyard
fence,
On a lovely summer night,
Commiserating about our jobs,
As the stars begin to light.*

*We've never shared a cup of tea,
Or learned each others name,
And as I write and think of this,
I feel it's such a shame.*

*I once lived in a neighborhood,
Where I knew each person there.
The camaraderie of families,
Was a feeling very rare.*

*We looked out for each other,
In bad times and in good,
But even the smallest child there,
Had a sense of neighborhood.*

*Perhaps, I have to start with me,
If I'm wanting something more,
I'll take my fresh baked cake
right now,
And take a walk to the house
next door!*

-Author Unknown

The Vances... making a difference in Congo

The Democratic Republic of Congo may be 7,000 miles away from Indiana, but that hasn't stopped Portage Middle School students from trying to make a difference there.

This month, students are conducting a shoe drive for citizens in the war-ravaged central African country. So far, they have collected 281 pairs of shoes.

The shoe drive is the brainchild of social studies teacher Susan Thomas, who has been collecting shoes

since 2000. Thomas got the idea from her friend, Ken Vance, who works as a missionary in Congo for the United Methodist Church. Through Vance, Thomas learned that barefoot Congolese can acquire parasites when they cut their feet. The best way to help, Vance explained, was to donate shoes. Since Thomas started her collection a decade ago, students and staff in FWCS have donated more than 20,000 items, including shoes and clothes, to the Congo.

Instead of giving Christmas presents this year, many students asked family members to donate their old shoes. One student said, "It's nice to do something for people. It seems normal to have shoes. It was surprising to hear that they didn't."





Upward Basketball & Cheerleading

**BE PART
OF A
WINNING
TEAM!!**

*Upward
Season
has
Started!!*

Upward Basketball and Cheerleading is up and running. We have a total of 139 children playing in our league this year. Of the 139 children 36 of them are claiming no church. This is a great way for all of us to reach out and to teach these children and their families what God's love is all about. Matthew 25:40 says "I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!" We are looking for people to

come and share with the parents and families a small testimony of what God has done for you, during the games half time on Saturday. We are also looking for individuals to work in the concessions stand and keeping score during our games on Saturday. If you would like to play a role in sharing Christ with these families please sign up in the narthex or talk with Teresa Coyne in the church office.

Upcoming Events!

**January 23—
February 6:**

We will be collecting cans for the "Souperbowl of caring".

February 5:

Service Project in our community—Charis House.

February 6:

Complete "Souperbowl of Caring" weekend by watching the big game at the church.

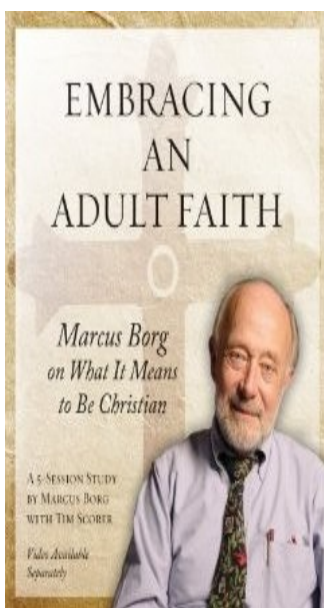
The big game is right around the corner and that means it's nearly SOUPERBOWL SUNDAY! Thank you for helping make this a success for our local food bank and rescue Ministries. With the food and money collected you will help us serve hundreds of local people in need. In just a few days the students will be serving locally at Charis House. It is so wonderful to see

students being the hands and feet of Christ in our community. On Sunday evenings we have spent some time talking about the fact that Christians really are the hands, feet, mouth...Jesus to the world. At times it can be difficult to be Jesus to the world, but our students are so blessed to have such a loving and supporting congregation to make it possible.

On Sunday February 6th we will be watching "the big game" at the church. I do not have expressed written consent from the NFL to tell you what big game we will be watching, but it's so big you could even say it's "super" sized. Ok, not a funny joke, but we plan to have a great time together on the 6th.

Student Ministries

Adult Bible Study



by Marcus Borg

Beginning February 2nd please join me in the Parlor at 6:30 pm for a time of study and discussion about adult faith. There is a signup sheet in the narthex and your email address will allow me send you some thoughts and questions to ponder before the class begins. This is a study that will also have a short (10-15 mins) DVD segment to help guide our discussion. This is a 5 week discussion/study group and I

hope to see many of you there.

Lenten studies will begin in March and we will be using material from Adam Hamilton entitled "the last 24 hours." The discussion material and leader's guide will be available later this month. This study will be offered on Sunday mornings, Wednesday evening's, as well as other times through the week.



Preschool News

As we face these cold, snowy, icy days of January, it is hard to believe it is time to think about preschool for next September. However on Tuesday, February 1st we will begin registration for the 2011-12 school year. Children that are 3, 4 or 5 by August 1st are eligible to register.

If you would like to volunteer your time in the classroom, please

speaking with Kim Linker or Pastor Chuck. We are in the process of coordinating a program where members can be involved with the preschool. Often the teacher has projects that require more than her two hands can accomplish. Or if you would prefer to offer your driving services that would be beneficial too. Sometimes classes do not get to go on a

field trip because not enough parents sign up to drive. As you can imagine this is very disappointing to the children.

The preschool number is 493-3064 if you have any questions concerning registration or volunteering your time.

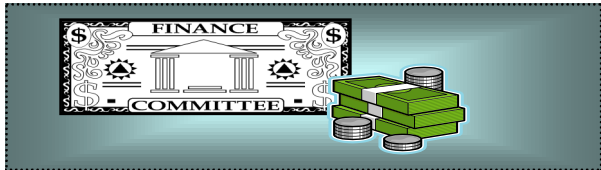
Thank you for your prayers and interest in preschool.

Miss Donna



From the mouths of babes...

Heard in the hallway this past week. A mother says to her son, "Did you have fun in school today?" He replied back, "if you want to call it that."



Financial Notes

2010 found us falling short of our contribution goals. However, by diligent efforts from all departments to reduce spending, we were left with a positive cash balance. With that balance, we were able to meet our goal of completing our tithes to the conference.

We are finishing up the budgeting process for 2011 and have asked specific departments to further review their budgets to bring

spending in line with the giving levels of the congregation. This process will be complete by the end of the month of January. At that time the budget will be finalized and presented to the committee for approval.

It is our intention to continue to provide quality programs and ministry to our congregation and community. These programs are made possible through your generous gifts to the church.

Thank you for all of your gifts – not only financial, but also your gifts of time and talent. The ministries of New Haven United Methodist Church are the outward reflection of our love for Christ.

*Dave McIntosh
Chairman,
Finance Committee*



Sunday, February 20th is UMW Recognition Sunday.

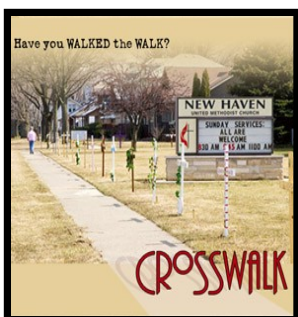
We are asking all UMW members to wear "red" for this special Sunday.

If you don't have anything red, that's OK, but please make sure you come. Let's all celebrate together!

CROSSWALK 2011

In celebration of Easter and the Lenten season, the church will again be lining the church's sidewalks with wooden crosses decorated by people who want to share the message of Jesus' love with the community.

Everyone is invited to participate—individuals, families, children and youth groups, Sunday School classes, Small Groups, Bible Studies, etc. The crosses will be in place from Ash Wednesday, March 9, through Easter, April 24.



Be sure to "walk the walk".

CHILDREN'S Ministry

The children meet Wednesday evening in rooms 45 & 46 at 6:30 PM, for a time of games and fellowship, and then we break up in to groups according to age. This allows children to learn at their own level.

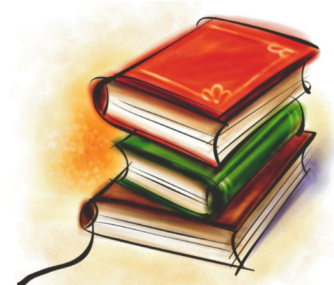
- Cubby Bears (4 yr old to K)**
Room 41
- Son Surf Beach Club (1st to 3rd grade)**
Room 45
- Tweens (4th & 5th grade)**
Room 57

We also have adult classes offered on Wednesday evenings. Contact the church office at 749-9565 if you have any questions.

New Haven United Methodist Church Book Club 2011 Schedule Parlor 7:00 PM

February 17, 2011 At Home in Mitford By Jan Karon

Discussion led by Angela Spieth





Thank you so much for adopting my family this year. You truly saved Christmas for us. I feel very blessed! A great burden was taken off my shoulders when I picked up the gifts. Because of you, my children and I had a most wonderful Christmas. I could never thank you enough!

-Leslie

To the wonderful people of NHUMC,

Words alone are not enough to express the gratitude we feel for the love and support shown to our family this past year. My mom has enjoyed the visits very much. We all have enjoyed the prayer shawls and appreciate the love and time put into each one.

-The John & Jean Starkey Family

A BIG THANK YOU!

Dear NHUMC Quilting Ministry,

Thank you very much for your support of the U.S. Military. What a wonderful way to show the love of your country and the troops. The Patriotic Pinwheel Quilt is beautiful and has a place of honor in our living room. We are honored you thought of us. We had a wonderful holiday season together, the first in three years and many more families have spent even more holidays apart. It is always uplifting to receive messages of support from the public. Have a wonderful new year!

-Todd & Jennifer Schroeder

NHUMC,

The Outlaw family would like to thank you very much for the much needed prayer request. I'm very blessed to have Theresa Lambert as my friend as well as my new found friends in NHUMC. God's blessings on all of you!

-The Outlaw Family

Dear Pastor Rick,

Thank you for making Marie Havens' memorial service a meaningful, memorable one. When we arrived to provide music for the service, you and your staff were so welcoming and helpful. Mark is obviously a "Jack of all trades" and that included giving us a sound-check and words of encouragement. Marilyn answered my request for directions to a coffee shop by handing me a cup of hot, delicious coffee. You and your staff have truly blessed our extended family.

-Jerry & Chris Michael

Dear my NHUMC family,

Thank you so much for all your prayers, the prayer shawl and cards that I received during my illness.

Your kindness is appreciated more than words can ever express.

-Betty Purvis

What a wonderful Church family. We so much appreciated the visits by Pastor Rick and others, the cards, the phone calls and especially the prayers during the time of Marie's illness and death. We particularly want to thank the ladies who prepared lunch after the service. Thanks be to god.

-The Havens' Family

Dear NHUMC Friends & Staff,

I cannot thank you enough for the wonderful gift bag of goodies I received from you. Also, the Poinsettia is beautiful. I appreciate all the cards you send me throughout the year, and most especially, at Christmas. I feel so blessed to have you as my church family and for remembering me. My prayers are with all of you for a healthy and safe New Year with many blessings. I send my love to you all.

-Vivian Schreiber

Congregational Care Ministry

"Encouragement is awesome," writes Chuck Swindoll. "It has the capacity to lift a man's or woman's shoulders. To spark the flicker of a smile on the face of a discouraged child. To breathe fresh fire into the fading embers of a smoldering dream. To actually change the course of another human being's day, week, or life."

Who doesn't like to hear encouraging words? Life is hard; and the sudden storms of life often pummel us, leaving us weary and afraid. Health issues, economic uncer-

tainty and job losses, and broken relationships and grief divert our focus from Christ and His promises of hope.

Don't you just love a hand-written note of uplifting praise, hope, sympathy, or guidance? Paul instructs us in 1 Thessalonians 5, verse 11, in the Message Bible: "So speak encouraging words to one another. Build up hope so you'll all be together in this, no one left out, no one left behind."

This past November, Pastor Rick unveiled an ongoing "Ministry of Encouragement" postcard pro-

gram. The postcards can be found in the pews or at the Welcome Center. You can write encouraging words to anyone—to someone who attends church here at NHUMC or to someone who is a non-member. There is a mailbox in the narthex near the Fellowship Hall doors that has been set up to post the "Ministry of Encouragement" postcards. If the recipient does not attend here, please include their address on the postcard. Feel free also to simply hand the card to the individual.

Lighten someone's load today-- lift their shoulders, put a smile on a discouraged face, elevate someone's dream. We can change the course of another's day, week, or life. Post a card.

Life is short. Gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with you.



-Penny Voors
Director
Congregational Care

Ministry in Music

As Sure As My Redeemer Lives So Shall I

Easter is the ultimate celebration for the Body of Christ. Nothing, not even Christmas, is so significant, nor so central to the joy of the believer as is the redeeming power of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus. What a message we have to proclaim to others!

If you would like to be a part of proclaiming that message in a very special way, we have an opportu-

nity for you. In February, we will begin working on our Easter production, "*As Sure As My Redeemer Lives, So Shall I*". We want to make this a joyful and meaningful time of worship as we celebrate what the power of the resurrection means to each and every one of us personally. We have an exciting service planned! I hope that you will consider this opportunity to share with others by lending your voice to the choir or being a part of the drama team for this very special event. If you are interested, please

contact me. I look forward to serving the Lord together with you. Thank you.

We have been given the greatest gift. Help us to boldly share this message and proclaim His name in a mighty way!

In humble service,

Sue Sprunger
Director
Music Ministries



SUNNY SENIORS

A wonderful program has been planned for Thursday, February 10th. Joe Thomas, who plays the grand piano at Von Maur, will be here to entertain us after our meal in the Fellowship Hall catered by Lee's Famous Recipe at Noon. He will be playing on our grand piano in the Sanctuary, so **we want to welcome anyone of all ages** who would like to come and listen to him. If you don't care to come for lunch, come at 1:00 PM to the Sanctuary. He will begin sometime after that when we're finished in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your friends!

February 10, 2011 (Thursday)

Noon in the Fellowship Hall Lee's Famous Recipe \$6

Pianist: Joe Thomas

Co-Ch: Wayne & Arlene Green 749-1564

March 11, 2011

Noon in the Fellowship Hall NH Custom Meats \$6

Speaker: Don & Linda Stebing 486-1132

April 8, 2011

Leave NHUMC—TBA

Tour Bass Mansion, Planetarium

Lunch: Keliyah House of Pancakes, W. State

Co-Ch: Phil & Judy Hoopingartner 749-7409

May 13, 2011

Leave NHUMC—8:30 AM

Jay County Guided Agriculture Tour \$15

Lunch: I.D.C. Restaurant in Pennville (own)

Co-Ch: Bob & June Holt 749-4054

June 10, 2011

Leave NHUMC—9:00 AM

Charley Creek Gardens, Wabash Indiana

Lunch: Market Street Grill

Co-Ch: Marilyn Eley, Ellazine Parks & Joan Rausch



A new Grief Share class will begin on Tuesday, March 1st at 6:30 PM and will run every Tuesday thru May 31st in the Parlor.

Please contact the church office for additional information at 749-9565.



There are still spots available on the 2011 Flower Calendar!

The Calendar is on the island in the Office.

Please stop by to reserve your space.

Fellowship Dinner

Please join us on Sunday, February 27th immediately following the 11:00 AM Worship Service for our monthly fellowship dinner.

Watch for the sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Sign up and bring a friend!



THE BACK PAGE

Categories help us to make sense of the world. We use categories to define everything and everyone. There are trees, flowers bushes, cars and etc. There are people who are doctors, machinists, teachers, students, parents, children and etc.

I met some teachers from the Indianapolis Public Schools at a conference. They asked if I was a school administrator? "Yes," I said, "sometimes." "You must be a teacher," they said. "Yes," I said, "sometimes." "Sometimes," I said, "I'm a student and sometimes I'm all three at the same time." They tried to fit me into one category and I kept introducing them to information that indicated I was more than a single category.

They were using critical thinking that works well for defining a single category. I introduced them to perceptual thinking that works in the area of creative development and the multi-dimensional nature of life. Jesus used this thinking and discerning.

Remember the woman who was caught in adultery? The authorities wanted her stoned to death since she was a sinner. Jesus seeing the woman in more than one category asked, "Who is without sin?" No one stepped up. Jesus said that her sins were forgiven and to go and sin no more. Jesus saw her beyond one category. Jesus wanted a living disciple not a dead sinner. Seeing people in several dimensions, like Jesus, requires us to expand our thinking and discerning.

Pastor Phil

New Haven United Methodist Church exists to invite you to develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as we grow together on a journey of faith!



NHUMC Staff

Reverend Richard L. Taylor, Senior Pastor
Reverend Chuck Fenwick, Associate Pastor
Penny Voors, Director of Congregational Care
Teresa Coyne, Director of Children's Ministries
Donna Michel, Director of Preschool
Sue Sprunger, Director of Music Ministries
Kathy Spencer-Ehmcke, Organist
Mark Edwards, Maintenance Engineer
Roy Hosfield, Bookkeeper
Melissa Warren, Office Administrator
Marilyn Eley, Administrative Assistant
Tom Huth, Custodian

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<p>Friends Who Care This is a visiting ministry to our members who are homebound or in nursing homes. We don't want them to feel left out because they are physically unable to attend church. You can select how many people you would like to visit and are asked to visit at least once a month. We are in need of many volunteers. Can you help?</p>	<p>Worship DVD Delivery Team This ministry group delivers DVD's of our Sunday worship services to our members who are in nursing homes or are homebound. If we could get three more teams to come forward, it would be a once-ever-two-months service opportunity.</p>	<p>Sunday Office Work We are still seeking individuals to help staff the church office on Sunday mornings during worship service times to answer phones, answer questions, and take messages for the staff. One worship time a month is all we ask. Please call Janice Silk-</p>	<p>Greeters Shake a hand, make a new friend, welcome all to worship. We are especially needed in this service area before the 11:00 service.</p>
<p>Hospital Visitation This is a very rewarding care ministry. You are asked to visit our members when they are in the hospital and pray with them and their families. We have an opening for every other Monday and would love to have some subs available also.</p>	<p>In-Home Communion This is a once-a-month opportunity. Every first Sunday of the month when we receive communion at church, teams also take communion to our members who are homebound or in nursing homes if they wish to partake. We go in teams of two and training is provided. We have openings for two new teams to be used as substitutes.</p>	<p>Sunday School Secretary/Floater We are looking for an individual who can take Sunday School attendance and help in the Sunday School classrooms if needed and/or monitor the hallways.</p>	<p>Worship/Music Ministry Please see Sue Sprunger. Vocals—singing regularly with the Chancel Choir and Praise Team or band and occasionally for solos or ensembles. Pianist/Keyboardist—Playing for worship services or accompanying. Guitar/Drums/ Percussion—Playing with the worship band for the 11 AM service.</p>
<p>New Resident Packets This is a once a month opportunity to help the community and our church to deliver information packets (10-15 per month) to new New Haven residents for the Chamber of Commerce. We also leave them NHUMC information.</p>	<p>Worship Focus/Scripture Readers We need volunteers to occasionally read the worship focus and scripture at the 8:30 and 9:45 AM Sunday worship services. Please contact Melissa in the church office.</p>	<p>Youth Area Pastor Chuck is needing adults to come and hang out with our youth on Wednesday evenings from 6:30—8:00. No teaching involved, just getting to know our middle and high</p>	<p>Drama—Actors for skits or cantatas. Worship Arts—Creating visual elements to enhance our worship. Sopranos—Soprano singers are needed for the Chancel Choir and Praise Team.</p>
		<p>Upward Basketball Volunteers are needed in several areas. Contact Teresa Coyne or John Browning.</p>	<p>Tech Team—Running sound, Power Point or video for services. Training is provided.</p>



Service Vacancies

"Do not neglect the gift that is in you." I Timothy 4:14 NRSV

In the security of Your presence let us lose our fear and hesitancy to be the gifts that this community needs. In the assurance of Your presence, let us boldly unwrap our lives to You. Today, Lord, someone needs the gifts that I am. Amen