

# *THE AMBASSADOR*

February 2007

Dear Friends,

Have you discovered new windows opening for you in the past few weeks? I certainly have!

Have you been as amazed as I at the incredible energy that is buzzing around the church? I've been deeply impressed with the level of involvement in our "70 Days of Purpose." It has also been great to be involved in a few of the many action planning task groups that are diligently working on the recommendations that have come to us in our consultation. Just a month ago the idea of creating dynamic action plans for over 160 recommendations seemed like an impossible dream. Today I'm convinced that we will make our February 28<sup>th</sup> deadline, and will be ready to begin the implementation phase on those recommendations we've approved by the middle of March. Wow! God is really smiling on our congregation... and the congregation is smiling back at God!

We're approaching the halfway point in the "70 Days of Purpose", and the reports from the small groups are incredibly positive. God is changing lives, and our church, through this dedicated time of prayer, reading, discussion and more prayer! I continue to give thanks for the ten hosts who are continuing to express Christian hospitality to their groups. I also pray daily for God's continuing blessing on each participating individual.

It is my deep hope that those of you who can't participate in a small group are praying and reading your "Discover Your Windows" book. Take time to frankly ask yourself through which window you see the world. These are not just academic questions... they stand at the very center of your Christian life! My prayers are with you, as well.

All this is taking place in addition to the wonderful ministries that continue to edify us, challenge us and help us grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. Every area of administration and ministry is vibrant and active. We are certainly an 'alive' Church! Thanks go to God!

I have begun to work with the action planning task group which is dealing with those recommendations that surround our Mission Statement and Philosophy of Ministry. Soon I'll join with the task group working with restructuring recommendations. The staffing task group has finished its work, and I'm excitedly anticipating participation in the action planning task groups that deal with spiritual gifts and alternative worship options.

Let's continue to invest ourselves fully in this challenging, exciting time of growth and meaningful change in our Church. I truly believe it will pay handsome 'dividends' to us as individuals and to this great church for years to come.

God bless, Pastor Jim



Please join us on **Wednesday, February 21, at 7:00 p.m. for our Ash Wednesday Worship Service.** Celebrate the beginning of the Lenten season as we take time to reflect, repent and feel the forgiveness God gives us.



## Children of Aging Parents Support Group



**CAPS** will have our monthly meeting on **Wednesday, February 28.** (Please note change in date due to Ash Wednesday). Diana Waugh, an Independent Consultant for Long Term Care, will be our speaker. Please join us at 7p.m. and bring others that would benefit from our discussions.

## Family Life

Family Life invites you to **A Valentine Party!** Wear your red or pink and show up at Fellowship Hall Friday, **February 9th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.** We'll have door prizes, light refreshments, dancing, crafts and games. We'll also be taking pictures of the couples, whether it's Daddy/Daughter, Mother/Son or even the whole family! It will be a night to remember so save the date!



Family Life invites you to our first **Family Movie Night.** We will be showing **Facing the Giants** (rated PG) on Sunday March 4th at 6:00 p.m. at WUMC. The Youth will have a bake sale to earn money for their mission trip. Babysitting will also be available. Please sign up on the bulletin board. We look forward to another night of Family fun!

Now that winter has arrived, it's time to get out those ice skates and head to Bowling Green for our second annual Ice Skating and Potluck Party. We will meet at the BG Ice Arena on **Saturday March 17th.** The **potluck will start at 7:00 p.m. in the private lounge.** **Public skating is from 8:00 to 10:00pm.** Please bring a dish to share. Donations toward the rental of the lounge are appreciated. Hope to see you there!



## SPARC UPDATE



There has been so much happening since Dr. Hunter was here in November, that it is rather mind boggling to those of us on the SPARC Committee and Task Force, and it hasn't always been crystal clear for those of you in the congregation. So, I want to assure you that the SPARC Committee is still alive, and bring you up-to-date on activities.



Dr. Hunter gave us much to think about and consider, and I hope most of you have had a chance to see his report or watch the DVD of his presentation. Shortly after his departure, SPARC met to establish a **Task Force** to take on the process of working through all the recommendations and turn them into Action Plans. That group of 6 from the SPARC Committee is headed by Jim Page and you have heard him during

worship several times in the past month as he explained the work they have done and asked for volunteers.

They have divided all those recommendations into 12 categories (noted below) and sought out other church members to work on writing the Action Plans. On Sunday, January 7, those assignments were handed to the sub-committees and they now have deadlines for completing these plans. Now, what they are actually doing is **not putting anything into motion**, but merely **writing up the steps we need to take to get things into motion**. For example, if a recommendation was made to start a new Bible Study group, the team is NOT deciding on a study, finding a leader, establishing a time and place.....they are simply listing those steps, with suggested dates for action and completion.



### 12 Categories:

Discovering Your Windows	Facilities—New
Philosophy of Ministries	Facilities—Maintain
Leadership	Education
Spiritual Health	Missions
Staff	Worship
Outreach	Celebrate

When all these Action Plans come back to the Administrative Council and SPARC Committee, they can then lay all these plans out, look at them chronologically, and see where they are meshing together nicely, and where they are conflicting, either time-wise, energy-wise or resources-wise.

We also need to find the **best way** to share these with you, the congregation, whether it be during worship, a special congregational meeting, a potluck...so that **you** can understand them and see them laid out logically. Only then can we join together in a

**united focus**, can you take ownership of some of the Plans and find you own “fit” for the work ahead.

When this process is completed, we will then have a **Master Plan** for the next several years that will put us all working with the same purpose and moving together toward what the future holds for WUMC. And though we were all dismayed last week to hear of Pastor Jim’s upcoming retirement, **having this plan in place** will assure us the forward motion we need, no matter who God has chosen to take Jim’s & Karen’s places in our pulpit, our parsonage, and our hearts.



This past month began the “**70 Days of Purpose**” study groups, which is one of the 12 categories I spoke of earlier. I hope each of you can read this book, even if you can’t participate in one of the study groups, because it will open your minds and hearts to many simple concepts that should be guiding us as a congregation.

So, rest assured nothing has come to a grinding halt! In fact, if truth be told, it is in **hyperdrive** right now! Even if those of you who aren’t directly involved on a committee or working group can’t always see the “behind the scenes” activity, **it is happening**. In fact I called Penny the other day to try and get a meeting on the church calendar and was hard-pressed to find a date that didn’t conflict with something!



If you have questions at any time, please talk to me, or one of the Task Force members. We really **don’t want any of you confused or in the dark**.

Task Force:

Jim Page, Chair  
Doug Box  
Glen Lammon

Jason Born  
Ted Myers  
Tom Wiggins

Thank you for your constant prayers and willingness to travel on this journey. If we continue to seek God’s leading at every step, it can only **mean great things for this congregation and what we are about in this community**.

*Karen Wiggins*  
SPARC Chairperson

SPARC hotlines have now been activated. If you have any questions for a member of the SPARC Committee or the Task Force, you can call the church at 419/878-3645 and press #3 and leave a message; or e-mail to [SPARCChotline@earthlink.net](mailto:SPARC hotline@earthlink.net). Someone will be back in touch with you as soon as possible.

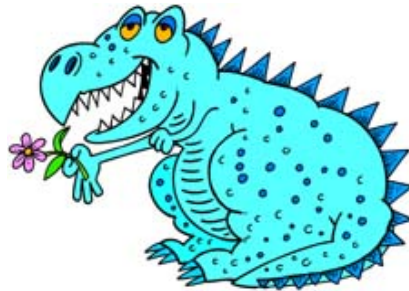
*As a man thinks in his heart, so is he.—Proverbs 23:7*

*But the greatest of these is love.— 1 Corinthians 13:13*

# February 2007 Birthdays

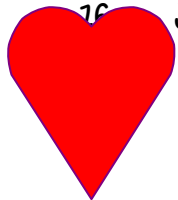
## Day Adults

1	Jeff Monroe	20	Sue George
1	Bill Parker	20	Ron Hood
3	Loraine Welker	21	Sue Deardurff
8	John Henry	23	Jessica Loebig
8	John Rose	24	Lucile Young
13	Pastor Jim Caldwell	26	Frank Lipinski
14	Bill Martin	26	Joyce Neumann
18	Pastor Roland Perkins	27	Katie Monroe
19	Robert Stearns		



## Day Youth

2	Rebekah Deardurff	16	Allison Wagner
4	Betsy Martin	17	TY Henry
9	Amy Plassmann	27	Katie Martin
13	Geoff Stafford	29	Eryn Doyle
16	Jennifer Doyle		



Knowledge is power.—Bacon



The most difficult thing in life is to know yourself.—Thales

**You may be disappointed if you fail,  
but you are doomed if you don't try.—Beverly Sills**

# LUNCH BUNCH

The **Lunch Bunch** will meet **on Wednesday, February 21, at Biaggi's Italian Restaurant in Levis Commons, Perrysburg**. Please join us at **12:45 p.m.** for good food and great fellowship. If you need a ride, please call Tehya Collinsworth at 419-878-8616. In case of school closing due to bad weather, we will not meet.



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## Trustees Notes

Our Youth Room renovation is now complete with new furniture. Make sure you stop up and see the new youth room. Many thanks to the Youth Fund donations.

Our Sanctuary pews were cleaned and waxed by Geoff Stafford and Boy Scouts from Troop #101 as part of Jeff's Eagle Scout project. Looks great - thanks Geoff and all your Scout help.

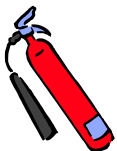
Work has begun to construct a level wheel chair parking area in our Sanctuary. This is something that we have needed for many years. This should be completed by late January. Thanks to Wendell Welker and all who are helping.

An unused CD surround sound system has been moved to Fellowship Hall where it can now be used for youth functions and any functions held in Fellowship Hall.

Work is progressing on a closed circuit TV system in the Fireside Room. Cable has been run and final hookups and testing should occur in the near future. This will enable our Sunday services to be seen on closed circuit TV on our lower level.



We have recently replaced the fire extinguishers at the church. The ones we had were no longer deemed efficient for commercial use. They are, however, still okay for home use. If you need a fire extinguisher for your home, please contact the church office. They will be given out on a first come bases.



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## CHURCH AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Outreach is forming a Meal's Ministry to provide meals to members of our congregation who have just come home from the hospital or have extended health issues. We want to offer meals to help them through their transition of healing. Anne Stevens chairs this ministry, please let her know of anyone that has just come home from the hospital or could use this service. We are composing a list of people who would be willing to help provide meals for this ministry. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board, please take time to add your name to the list. We thank you for your time and your service.

Our next Parents' Night Out is scheduled for Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup>. Watch for more details and a sign up sheet for volunteers in the next few months.



An important note to those helping with fellowship time. A few of our children have peanut allergies. If you serve something with peanuts in it, please label it.



# YOUTH NEWS "Unite"



On January 16, over 30 youth (including 5 from our church) gathered at the new youth center in Waterville. It is called *The Octane Center*, and is housed in the old Something Special building. The new owners have completely renovated it to include a huge array of arcades and games, a stage with a sound system, projectors and screens, lots of bean bag chairs, and a cafe-like snack bar area.

The youth leader from Hope United Methodist began meeting back in November with other youth leaders from the area with the goal of creating a monthly service for all the youth of the Anthony Wayne area. The new Octane Center has proven to be the ideal location for these services. The new program for the Anthony Wayne area youth is called "Unite".



The Waterville United Methodist youth will join "Unite". The monthly services are held **every second Tuesday of the month at the Octane Center from 7-9 p.m.** The youth leaders have been choosing a topic and then presenting it to the youth through a message, personal testimonies, music, video clips, and prayer stations. Although the January meeting was only the second service for "Unite" it is easy to see that God has some awesome things planned for this group of youth and leaders. If you weren't able to make it to the service in January, please be sure to try and join us on February 13 at 7 p.m. at the Octane Center!

Hope to see you there! Adam & Stephanie



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## SCOUT SUNDAY

We will observe Scout Sunday on February 11th during the worship service. All Scouts (Girl Scouts, Brownies, Daisies, Eagles, Boy Scouts, Cubs, Tiger Cubs, Webelos and leaders) are encouraged to attend in uniform.



# PRAYER CORNER

We now have a prayer corner set up in the sanctuary where you may come and have a quiet time of prayer. We have a beautiful new table that was given to the church by an anonymous donor. You are invited to spend as much time as you would like when the church is open.

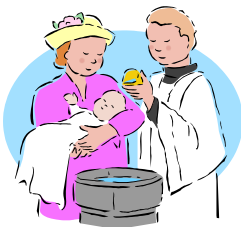


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## STATISTICS

DATE	ATTENDANCE	GENERAL FUND	SUNDAY SCHOOL	
			YOUTH	ADULT
December 31, 2006	142	\$4,127.00	no classes	
January 7, 2007	185	4,163.00	30	16
January 14, 2007	163	5,762.00	23	16
January 21, 2007	196	3,848.00	25	16

Our weekly need to meet budget is \$4,601.10. If you have not received your 2007 offering envelopes, please call the church office. Financial statements for 2006 are now available at the church. Please call the church office if you would like yours mailed to you.



Baptized on January 21 was *Seth David Kirby*, son of Christopher and Sara (Nightingale) Kirby. Seth was born on October 7, 2006. His grandparents are David and Ann Nightingale and big brother is Chase.

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## Hospitalized in January



Ardis Cullen  
Nancy Monroe  
Randy Reihing



## *Christian Hope and Sympathy to:*

Jeff Monroe and Jenny Carter and families upon the death Nancy Monroe on January 19. Nancy, along with her late husband, Bill, had been a member at Waterville UMC for many years. A family memorial service was held at the church on January 22;

April and Jason Born and family upon the recent death of April's grandmother, Betty Stanford;

The family Myron Koontz, who passed away December 30<sup>th</sup>. Mike and his wife, Katherine, were former members at WUMC.



# Thank You

A huge thank you to all of you who have taken on areas to clean at the church. Your dedication to keeping the church clean is greatly appreciated. We are truly blessed by such a caring congregation!

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Dear Friends,

Thank you for the unexpected visitation, lovely card, and cookie tray at Christmas time. I truly enjoyed the visit. And I especially love the prayer quilt I received. Thank you so much. Love, Elnora Mathewson



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Dear Friends, I thank the youth group and their advisers for visiting with us and caroling at the Browning Apartments. We also enjoyed the home made delicious cookies. I appreciated the greeting cards and notes I received from the many members. I do miss the services I am unable to attend. Best wishes to each of you for 2007. God Bless, Lucile Conrad.

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Dear Congregation,

Thank you so much for the Christmas gift and for thinking of us. We have truly enjoyed serving the church this past year. We are so thankful for all the volunteers, youth, and children who have made our positions at the church such a blessing! We hope you all have enjoyed special times with family and friends this Christmas!

Thanks again, Adam and Stephanie Shelton.

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Dear Waterville church family,

More than words can say...your kindness made this Christmas such a Happy Holiday. Thank you so much for remembering me at Christmas with your generous gift. It is really a privilege to be the Kinder Choir Director and I thank you for it. May God Bless you and our church.

Love, Barb Page.

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Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for the wonderful Christmas gift. But it's that warm caring concern and support all year that is the real gift that I especially appreciate. I love editing your newsletter and appreciate the opportunity and privilege to serve. Sincerely, Diana Cox

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We would like to offer our sincere thanks to Pastor Jim for helping our Aunt Jean following the death of Uncle Bert ("Dick" Monroe). Pastor Jim lead us in a celebration of Bert's life and offered just the right words of comfort and encouragement. WUMC has been greatly blessed by the leadership and the true Christ-like character of Pastor Jim.

Thanks also to the many members of the congregation who have blessed Bert's life during his years at WUMC. You were an important addition to his life in so many ways over the years.

Sincerely,

Jenny Carter and Jeff Monroe





Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.-- Romans 12:12

## Scripture FEB Prayer

Exodus 13 & 14	Mark 4	<b>1</b>	Mr. & Mrs. Harold Lumley
Exodus 15 & 16	Mark 5	<b>2</b>	The Chris Marshall Family
Exodus 17 & 18	Mark 6	<b>3</b>	Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Marshall
Exodus 19 & 20	Mark 7	<b>4</b>	The Bill Martin Family
Exodus 21 & 22	Mark 8	<b>5</b>	The Murray Martin Family
Exodus 23 & 24	Mark 9	<b>6</b>	The Donna Martin Family
Exodus 25 & 26	Mark 10	<b>7</b>	Mrs. Elnora Mathewson
Exodus 27 & 28	Mark 11	<b>8</b>	The Chris May Family
Exodus 29 & 30	Mark 12	<b>9</b>	Mr. & Mrs. Elden Mayer
Exodus 31 & 32	Mark 13	<b>10</b>	Ms. Karen Mayer
Exodus 33 & 34	Mark 14	<b>11</b>	Mr. & Mrs. Tom McCausland
Exodus 35 & 36	Mark 15	<b>12</b>	The Rex McQuillin Family
Exodus 37 & 38	Mark 16	<b>13</b>	Mrs. Ann McVicker
Exodus 39 & 40	Luke 1	<b>14</b>	The Arthur Meade Family
Leviticus 1 & 2	Luke 2	<b>15</b>	Mr. & Mrs. John Michael
Leviticus 3 & 4	Luke 3	<b>16</b>	Ms. Deanna Mohr-Damron
Leviticus 5 & 6	Luke 4	<b>17</b>	The Jeffrey Monroe Family
Leviticus 7 & 8	Luke 5	<b>18</b>	The David Morrison Family
Leviticus 9 & 10	Luke 6	<b>19</b>	Mr. Tedd Munn
Leviticus 11 & 12	Luke 7	<b>20</b>	Mr. & Mrs. Ted Myers
Leviticus 13 & 14	Luke 8	<b>21</b>	The Clifford Nelson Family
Leviticus 15 & 16	Luke 9	<b>22</b>	Mr. & Mrs. Harry Neumann
Leviticus 17 & 18	Luke 10	<b>23</b>	The Tim Neumann Family
Leviticus 19 & 20	Luke 11	<b>24</b>	Mr. John Nicholson
Leviticus 21 & 22	Luke 12	<b>25</b>	Mr. & Mrs. David Nightingale
Leviticus 23 & 24	Luke 13	<b>26</b>	The Mark Nowak Family
Leviticus 25, 26 & 27	Luke 14	<b>27</b>	Mr. & Mrs. Larry Noward
Numbers 1 & 2	Luke 15	<b>28</b>	Mr. & Mrs. Tom Overmyer



*For great is your love, reaching to the heavens; your faithfulness reaches to the skies.--*

*Psalm 57:10*

Following each daily Scripture Reading are the names of the families and individuals for our daily prayer list. Please read your Bible and pray for these persons for the month of February. If you have a prayer request, please feel free to call the Prayer Chain: Mary Williams 419-878-5554 or e-mail [gwilliams@tbbs.com](mailto:gwilliams@tbbs.com); Diana Cox 419-823-3110 or e-mail [gcox@wcnet.org](mailto:gcox@wcnet.org)

