

# *THE AMBASSADOR*

January 2008

Dear Friends,

My daughter and her family gave me a journal. It has a beautiful leather cover, and inside are many pages, all of them blank, waiting to record my as yet unwritten experiences. As we begin this new year the days before us are much like that journal... they are also a history yet to be written.

It is exciting to know that our attitudes, decisions and actions will greatly effect what will be written on the pages of the days to come. Gratefully we are not left to our own devices or wisdom as we step into 2008. We have a divine Guide and Friend who will walk with us. And, as we seek His wisdom and discern His will we can begin writing the history of the new year with confidence and faith. As Jesus said in the Book of Revelation, "Behold, I make all things new."

How grateful we can all be for these encouraging and comforting words, for in the coming months there will certainly be much that is new, exciting and challenging in the life of Waterville United Methodist Church. New ministries will emerge to reach our neighbors who yearn for an authentic spiritual life. Existing ministries will be expanded and strengthened to help nurture our discipleship in Jesus Christ. We will explore our resources as we look to the future relocation of our church. A new pastor will be selected to help guide the spirit and ministries of this wonderful congregation. Old ways will be examined and new ways explored.

If we tried writing this history alone these changes might sound daunting. But, remember the wonderful words of Jesus, "I make all things new." We aren't going into the future alone. We will walk with faith, knowing that God will be walking with us every step of the way.

As I am privileged to help write the initial pages of 2008 with you I pledge to serve faithfully and fully, for my heart is filled with love for all of you. As another pastor, uniquely called and equipped by God, helps write Waterville U.M.C.'s continuing history I am confident that you will join with that servant of God as a loving, vibrant, risking and faith-filled congregation.

Following Christ by living out love, learning from Him, and boldly sharing our faith, 2008's "history" will become a favorite story to tell around the 'family table' of the church in years to come. I can almost hear it, "Remember 2008? It was a year when Jesus' promise to make all things new happened in awesome ways for our church. Remember...."

Happy New Year!

Your Pastor,

Jim



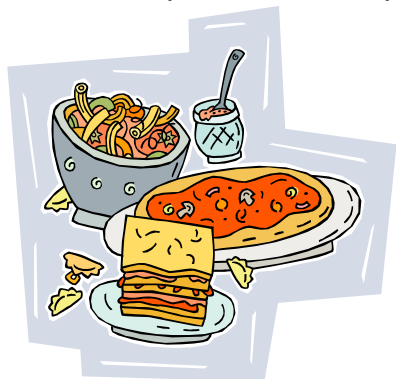
## *Theatre-for-the-World*

It's time to kick off the New Year with a BANG! A fireworks bang, in our production of the comedy, You Can't Take It With You, by Hart and Kaufman. This show is a laugh riot full of outrageous characters. What happens when Tony, the son of a rich, well-to-do family, falls in love with Alice, the daughter of the seemingly mad Sycamores? Watch sparks fly or even fireworks when the two families meet for dinner. Could the deranged Sycamores, led by Grandpa, possibly be saner than the Kirby family? What will happen to Tony and Alice's relationship amidst all the chaos? This is no musical, but it does include music and dancing along with all the other hobbies of the Sycamores and their extended family members.

Please help our cause by attending our show, volunteering to usher or by helping with lighting and sound. Our sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board. If you have questions contact Brian Schultz at 878-2212, I'll do my best to convince you to do it. It is very rewarding. The cast has been working very hard to make this the best show yet, but we need help spreading the word. Please grab a poster in the lobby and take it to a place of business. Share our dates with family, friends and co-workers. We have a lofty goal this year. We are hoping to raise \$2,000 so we can divide it equally between the Otsego and the AW Food Pantries. Gas prices are up and jobs are leaving the area so we know there will be local families really struggling after the holidays. Let's lift them up financially, physically, emotionally and spiritually.



Show dates are Friday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 and Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 and 7:30. **All performances will be held down in the Historic Town Hall theatre in Grand Rapids.** There are no advance tickets. Donations of non-perishable food items will be welcomed at the door. We will also take a free-will offering upon leaving the theatre. If you cannot attend, but still wish to help our cause financially, you may simply write a check to W.U.M.C. and put Food Pantry on the memo line. We also truly appreciate the gift of prayer. We are all grateful for the support this congregation has shown in years past and we hope you'll consider joining us this year for another great run.



\*\*\*Our youth group will once again be offering a lasagna supper before the Saturday evening performance at 6:00 in the fellowship hall. (\$7 adults / \$5 for ages 10 and under.) Proceeds from the dinner will benefit their 2008 mission trip. Help their cause and our cause by creating an evening of dining and entertainment. **Reservations are required for the dinner.** Please call Penny or Cathy in the office at 878-3645 to make a reservation. Nice seats will be reserved at the theatre for folks attending the dinner.

## SPARC Update

Still good things happening among the various Task Forces! We recently had an update meeting with chairpersons from each of them and were amazed at all the activities scheduled, recommendations completed, and goals they have established. Please remember that any of you are welcome to attend our monthly SPARC meetings....it is eye-opening and encouraging to see the church in action!

After our congregational vote in November, you will especially be hearing more from the New Facilities Task Force (Building Committee) as they work through all the steps investigating a physical move. Keep in mind there will be several more times when the congregation will be asked to vote on very important issues which will either move us forward or cause us to stop and regroup. Nothing will be finalized without your input.

Along these lines, the **New Facilities Task Force** is in need of an **Administrative Assistant** to help them with documentation, scheduling, and follow-up. Time commitment is unknown at this point, as we are turning into uncharted waters here! However, if there is someone in the congregation who has an inclination in this area and would like to be considered to help this group, please let me know.

As always, keep SPARC and our Task Forces in your prayers. We only move forward with God's guidance and it is so much easier to feel that guidance when you are supporting us in prayer.

Karen Wiggins, Chairperson



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### NEW BUILDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

As a result of the Special Church Conference held on November 18th, a Building Committee has been established. The following members have been named to serve on this committee:

Bob Spychalski, Chairperson  
Dick George  
Ted Myers

Doug Box  
Rob Greenlese  
Terry Myers

Steve Crandall  
Tom Kahl  
Jerry Robinson

Please contact one of these members if you have any comments on the information they have presented or questions on future plans.



Our members have been very generous and have helped support many projects during the holiday season. Please remember that we continue to collect the following items all year long:

- Non-perishable food for the Anthony Wayne Food Pantry
- Empty ink cartridges from printers
- Campbell soup labels
- New greeting cards that are sent by our Cares and Concern Ministry group.

All items may be placed on the counter outside the church office.



### Hospitalized in December

#### Recently Hospitalized

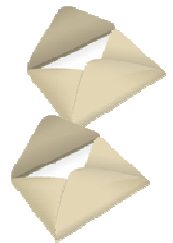


- Margaret Hayes**
- Alaina Hem**
- Twig King**
- Helen Welsh**

Helen's address is incorrect in the directory that was sent out recently. You can send her get well wishes to Mrs. Helen Welsh, c/o Mrs. Vickie Welsh Botkin, 2211 Three Bridge Road, Powhatan, Virginia 23139. (Please make the change in your directory.)

2008 Calendars, complementary from the Geoff Wells Funeral Home, are available at the church. Please feel free to stop in the church and take one.

The 2008 Offering Envelopes are ready to be picked up at church. They are on the counter outside the church office. Please help with mailing costs by picking yours up.



### STATISTICS

DATE	WORSHIP ATTENDANCE	GENERAL FUND	CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL
November 25	165	\$4,330.25	32
December 2	174	6,948.00	31
December 9	162	3,783.00	28
December 16	Worship service and all events cancelled due to snow storm		
December 23	213	9,851.00	32

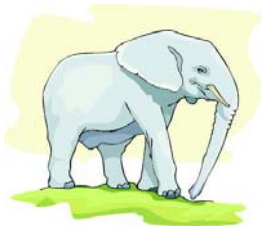
Recent donations to the building fund - \$8,500.00



**The Alternative Worship Implementation Group** is looking for people inside and outside our congregation who have the spiritual gift of music and would like to join the **praise and worship music team for our church's planned alternative worship service**. This team is scheduled to begin practice in several months. We are praying to find people who would like to share their vocal or instrumental musical gifts, have experience being in a band or choir, are eighteen or older and would like to be considered for this team. We are interested in finding several vocalists, a pianist, guitarist, electric guitarist, bassist, drummer, and brass and woodwind instrument players who are dedicated and can play and sing contemporary Christian praise and worship music and would regularly be involved in the praise and worship team that will be part of the alternative worship service. A praise and worship team music leader is also needed. Please contact Adam Shelton if you are interested or know of someone who is.

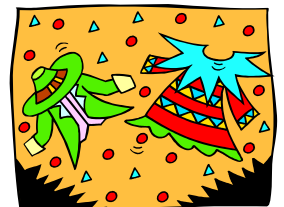


**Couples with Young Children  
White Elephant Dinner Party  
Fellowship Hall  
Saturday, January 12<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-8:00**



It's time for the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual White Elephant Dinner Party in the Fellowship Hall. Mark your calendars for Saturday, January 12<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-8:00. **Bring your children already fed for the evening.** Childcare will be provided for the bargain price of \$5.00 per child. Proceeds will help our youth with their next mission trip. Please sign up on the bulletin board so we can get an accurate count of kids and adults hoping to attend.

Our theme for 2008 is "Everything Tacky." Guys, pull out that old plaid suit, knit tie, parachute pants or big belt buckle for this extravaganza. Ladies, you were always told you'd be able to wear that bridesmaid dress again; well...what are you waiting for? This is the perfect occasion. C'mon raid that closet for mismatched clothes shoes or something just terribly out of date. It will be fun. You'll be among friends.



Each person should bring a white elephant gift to share in the exchange and each couple should dig out a hideous photo from the past. We all know they exist so why not let others enjoy them.

P.S. Don't worry about feeding yourself. Dinner for the adults will be all taken care of...trust us! Brian and Sandi Schultz

## United Methodist Men

December's events focused on electing officers for 2008 & The Women's Christmas Dinner. The Election of Officers was very exciting. We ran a tough, clean campaign, but we were elected anyway. Results = Tom Wiggins, President and Jason Born, Vice President. Jason will become president in 2009 and a new VP will be elected. This process should help with transition & continuity. Both Jason & I are looking forward to a very successful year, with your help and prayers.

At the Women's Christmas Dinner, I'm not sure who had the most fun, the women or the men. It was certainly unlike anything ever attempted in our church's long history to my knowledge.

Kudos #1 goes to Gerry Robinson, HCDOSP (Head Chef & Dinner Organizer Supervisor Person). What a meal! He received a much deserved "*standing o*" from everyone. All of the men had assignments, whether working in the kitchen or serving. In addition, we had a dress code including Santa hats. Several ladies did a fabulous job decorating one table each with their own Christmas dinner wear & decorations.



## WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Ladies, it's time to get those creative juices flowing again. Let's get scrapbooking and crafting! We will meet on Wednesday, January 2 at 1:00 p.m. and on Sundays, the 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Bring whatever you want to work on or just join us for some fellowship and snacks. We'll share ideas and fun!

The evening's entertainment was the presentation of "*Radio WGOD*". Kudos #2 goes to Brian Schultz, who wrote & directed this hilarious skit about an evening's programming at Radio Station WGOD. The ladies, who made up the studio audience, laughed and applauded whether we followed the script or not, knew our lines or not, or knew what was going on or not. Not surprising, they understood all the male humor that was mixed into the story.



The evening concluded with a chocolate trifle dessert. Each table received one large serving dish after it was paraded around the room while the surround sound system played the Mannheim Steamrollers version of "*Hallelujah Chorus*" before placing them on the tables.

Many, many thanks to all who helped & attended! What a night!

### Looking Ahead...

Our January meeting will be on **Saturday, January 12, 2008, 9:00am, at the Grand Rapids Town Hall Theater**. A light breakfast will be served. Following a short business meeting, the men will help with set construction for the upcoming Theatre-for-the-World production of "*You Can't Take It With You*" on January 23 & 24.

See ya' there..... Tom



The Lunch Bunch plans for January are a trip to a new restaurant called The Neighbors. It is located on Dutch Road just ¼ mile west of Rt. 24. All ladies are invited to join us on Wednesday, January 16<sup>th</sup> at 12:45 p.m. If you need a ride, please call Tehya Collinsworth at 419/878-8616.



# January 2008 Birthdays

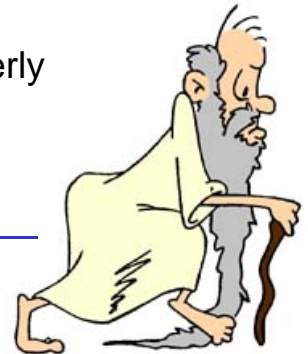
Obviously, time is one of our most precious possessions. We can waste it. We can worry over it. We can spend it on ourselves. Or, as good stewards, we can invest it in the kingdom of God.—Steven B. Cloud, *Pulpit Helps*, Vol. 14, # 2



<u>Day</u>	<u>Youth</u>
23	Malachi Lipinski
23	Mikael Lipinski
25	Samantha Banks
29	Joshua Shelton
30	Elaine Jakubowski



<u>Day</u>	<u>Adults</u>		
6	Anna Emahiser	17	Tom Shoemaker
7	Kim Jakubowski	19	Nancy A. Stafford
9	Kevin Jakubowski	19	Bernard Utz
12	Phyllis Henry	25	Ann Nightingale
13	Karl Kirkman	29	Verna Rose
13	Kim Marshall	30	Tedd Munn
13	Sandi Schultz	31	Fritzie Schifferly
15	Christopher Stafford	31	Jim Simpson



## When Are You Too Old?

When asked how it was that she has lived so long, one 91-year-old woman replied, "I think God is testing the patience of my relatives."

When is "too old"? At what age do we give up? At 100, Grandma Moses was still painting, and Titian painted "Battle of Lepants" when he was 98. At 93, George Bernard Shaw wrote "Farfetched Fables." At 91, Eamon de Valera served as president of Ireland. At 90, Pablo Picasso still drew and engraved. At 89, Arthur Rubinstein gave one of his greatest recitals in New York's Carnegie Hall, and Pablo Casals, at 88, still performed cello concerts. At 82, Winston Churchill wrote the four-volume work, "A History of the English-Speaking Peoples," Leo Tolstoy completed "I Cannot Be Silent," and Goethe, at the same age, finished "Faust." At 81, Benjamin Franklin engineered the diplomacy, which led to the adoption of the U.S. Constitution.

When are you "too old"? Only on the day when you truly have nothing left to give. And the good news is this: that day never has to arrive!—from "One Minute Can Change a Life", Steve Goodier

*Thank You!*  
**THANK YOU!**

Thank you to the Sanctuary Choir, the Church Band, the Kinder Choir, Olga Meade, our wonderful pianist, Russ Schifferly, Ted Myers, Anna Emahiser, Jack Ellison and all those who provided all the beautiful music during the Advent Season.



I would like to thank you very much for the beautiful prayer quilt that you Gave to my husband, Walt Obeytacz (Kris Marshall's uncle). It made him very happy when I gave it to him and told him where it came from. Thank you for your prayers and for caring. Sandra Obeytacz



Thank you to Jim Pease, the Trustees, and the December ushers for all the snow and ice removal around the church. Let's hope the winter storms, if we really have to have anymore, will pick another day of the week rather than Sunday.



**Dear Friends,**

**Karen and I thank each of you for the generous Christmas gift from the congregation. As we use it we will be reminded of your love, your kindness, and your true Christian spirit. Thanks as well to those many friends who sent us cards, gave us individual gifts, and gave generous helpings of love both at Christmas time and throughout the year. You are truly special people of God. We offer our thanks and our love to each of you in return.**

**Jim and Karen Caldwell**



To my Church Family,

Thank you so much for thinking of me at Christmas time. You are all so generous and kind. Once again, you make it a pleasure to work for you. I hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

Penny

The Women's Ministry would like to thank all the men who helped with the Christmas dinner and entertainment. It was such a beautiful and fun night. Thank you also to the women who decorated tables.

Thank you to all the women who brought gifts to the Lunch Bunch tea. 32 toys were taken to the children at Toledo Hospital. Thanks for helping to brighten their Christmas. Tehya Collinsworth



# Scripture and Prayer Calendar



SCRIPTURE		JAN	PRAYER
Genesis 1 & 2	Matthew 1	1	Mr. & Mrs. Ron Dalton
Genesis 3 & 4	Matthew 2	2	Mrs. Alta Damron
Genesis 5 & 6	Matthew 3	3	Mrs. Nancy Davidson
Genesis 7 & 8	Matthew 4	4	The Bob Deardurff Family
Genesis 9 & 10	Matthew 5	5	Mrs. Lenora Dieter
Genesis 11 & 12	Matthew 6	6	The John Doyle Family
Genesis 13 & 14	Matthew 7	7	Ms. Ashlee Ducat
Genesis 15 & 16	Matthew 8	8	The Jack Ellison Family
Genesis 17 & 18	Matthew 9	9	The Thomas Emahiser Family
Genesis 19 & 20	Matthew 10	10	Mr. & Mrs. Carl Fox
Genesis 21 & 22	Matthew 11	11	The Kyle Galton Family
Genesis 23 & 24	Matthew 12	12	The Dick George Family
Genesis 25 & 26	Matthew 13	13	Mrs. Marian Girkins
Genesis 27 & 28	Matthew 14	14	Mr. & Mrs. Rob Greenlese
Genesis 29 & 30	Matthew 15	15	Mr. & Mrs. Bill Gregory
Genesis 31 & 32	Matthew 16	16	The Bill Gregory Family
Genesis 33 & 34	Matthew 17	17	The Phillip Gribble Family
Genesis 35 & 36	Matthew 18	18	Mr. Drew Grogan
Genesis 37 & 38	Matthew 19	19	Mr. Henry Hanzl
Genesis 39 & 40	Matthew 20	20	Mr. & Mrs. Tom Hare
Genesis 41 & 42	Matthew 21	21	Mr. Ron Hart
Genesis 43 & 44	Matthew 22	22	Mr. & Mrs. Donald Harter
Genesis 45 & 46	Matthew 23	23	Mr. & Mrs. George Hayes
Genesis 47 & 48	Matthew 24	24	The Shirley Heimrich Family
Genesis 49 & 50	Matthew 25	25	The John Henry Family
Exodus 1 & 2	Matthew 26	26	Mrs. Phyllis Henry
Exodus 3 & 4	Matthew 27	27	Mrs. Shirley Hiles
Exodus 5 & 6	Matthew 28	28	Mrs. Sharon Hill
Exodus 7 & 8	Mark 1	29	Mr. & Mrs. Bob Hires
Exodus 9 & 10	Mark 2	30	Mr. & Mrs. Ron Holland
Exodus 11 & 12	Mark 3	31	Mr. & Mrs. Ron Hood



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 June. If you have a prayer request, please feel free to call the Prayer Chain: Pam Plassmann 419-878-9432 or e-mail [plassmb@accesstoledo.com](mailto:plassmb@accesstoledo.com): Mary Williams 419-878-5554 or e-mail [margewill@toast.net](mailto:margewill@toast.net).