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# Resolutions for a New Year

By Jonathan Fell, Student Pastor

Each year millions of people make commitments to improve something about themselves or commit themselves to making a change in how they live their life. For some of us this includes

spending money on gym memberships and running shoes, while for others it involves trying to break one habit or another.

Regardless of what our resolutions are, chances are, come February, they will become nothing more than the memory of January's good intentions.

Each year my resolutions tend to fall into two categories; exercise and prayer. Each year I promise myself that I will get myself into shape and I make a vow to spend more time journaling or in quiet contemplation and prayer each week. And every year my resolutions are pushed aside faster than the retail stores can put out candy for Valentine's Day. There is just so much to do! I end up laughing at myself for thinking that I could add one more thing to my already busy schedule. How can I possibly commit to spending time with God or on bettering myself

when there are so many other people, tasks, and due dates demanding my attention? There will always be time for a jog tomorrow and surely God knows I am a faithful person—I go to church on Sunday, isn't that enough?



These are the kinds of excuses I give myself. Sure going to church on Sunday is a way of living into our faith and there probably will be time for a jog tomorrow, but I know that come tomorrow I will use the same excuses and will probably feel pretty crummy about letting myself go another day without doing what I told myself I was going to do.

Committing ourselves to getting in shape or to spending more time in prayer are not as far removed from one another as they might seem. Sure one is more physical than the other, but they both involve more than a simple verbal commitment. To really make being healthy a priority, one needs to make changes to their overall lifestyle. To truly live a more healthy life we need to do more than exercise once or twice a week, we need to supplement that exercise with eating and living right as well. This is true for a life of faith as well. To truly live in to the life Christ calls (See "A New Year" p.2)

## A Ministry of Welcome

Did you know that guests to worship typically make it back to their cars within three minutes of the service ending if they are not greeted? The biggest question our guests are asking is, "Will I fit in here?" Each of us can help people to feel like they "fit". Pay attention to those who sit within ten feet of you in worship, and then make a point to try and greet them immediately after worship, beginning with those you don't know. If you aren't sure if people are new or not, simply extend a hand say, "I don't know if we've met before, I'm..." Hopefully that will spur more conversation. But, if you are at a lack for words, you can try, "Have you been attending here long?" "Do you live in the area?" Feel free to share something about you, how long you've been a member, something you like about the church, or even an explanation of our building project. The "Ministry of Welcome" is everyone's calling!



# 2008 Annual Church Conference

Our 2008 Annual Church Conference was held on Sunday, December 7th with Rev. Marge Rice Myers of Burlington UMC presiding. Thank you to everyone who attended and participated. The main points of business included:

- Approval of the Committee Nominations for 2009
- Approval of Housing Allowance and Accountable Reimbursement for the pastors
- Approval Ann Snyder and Lucia Granger as Lay Speakers
- Removal of five inactive members
- Approval of the Statement of Inclusion, as shown here:

## Statement of Inclusion

Franksville United Methodist Church is committed to the reconciliation of all persons as sacred, beloved children of God. Our welcome knows no boundaries. We support the full inclusion and participation of all persons in the life and ministry of the church, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, marital or socioeconomic status, age, family formation, or physical and/or mental ability. At the same time, we recognize and respect the differences of opinion among us.

We welcome all in our journey together in faith toward greater understanding and mutual respect.

We proclaim this statement of welcome to all who have known the pain of exclusion and discrimination within the church.

## Children's Sabbath

On Sunday, January 25th we will be celebrating our Annual Children's Sabbath at both services. The Children's Sabbath is a way of recognizing the value of the children in our midst. Each child is created with their own uniqueness and beauty. They bring life, creativity, and hope for the future. We will celebrate them through our worship, through seeing some of the things our Sunday School kids have been working on, and then we will have the chance to play with them at the Carnival after church. Come and enjoy!

## Into the Stillness: A Women's Retreat

There is still time to sign up for the January Women's Retreat. We will once again be gathering at the Siena Center for 21 hours of fun, relaxation and spirituality.

The retreat is scheduled for 7 p.m. Friday, January 23rd through 4 p.m. on Saturday, January 24th. Or, if you can only come on Saturday, that can also be arranged.

The cost for the entire retreat is \$62 which includes a private room, two meals and materials, or \$24 for Saturday only which includes the noon meal. You must be signed up and have a \$10 deposit to Pastor Kaye by January 9th.

## A New Year

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us to live, we need to make changes to our overall lifestyle. We have to do more than exercise our faith once a week, we need to supplement the time we spend with God on Sunday mornings with prayer and meditation throughout the week.

There will always be something else to do, someone else to attend to, or another due date to meet, but if we neglect to take care of ourselves along the way we will never be able to be all that we

have the potential to be for those around us. So when you think about your New Year's resolution — or what you might add to your list of resolutions for this year — remember try to set aside a few hours a week to spend time with God and with yourself and I'll do the same. We'll thank ourselves come February.

Happy New Year!

— Jonathan

# BUILDING OUR LEGACY

AN UPDATE ON OUR BUILDING EXPANSION  
DECEMBER 30, 2008

Three feet of snow – below zero temperatures – two inches of rain – fifty degree temperatures – what else could go wrong?

I'm sure lots of people were thinking that during our amazing December. I know I was.

I tended to get frustrated when I stopped at our construction site and saw nothing going on. But then, it's Wisconsin, and things will get better.

In fact as I'm writing this I just came back from the church and believe it or not, there are people working there. The masons are laying block and hopefully they will be able to set the steel roof trusses tomorrow, (Wednesday, the 31<sup>st</sup>) so all is not lost; the project will get done – eventually.

I would like to mention a couple people that have really gone above and beyond during some of the weather related problems we've experienced. Norm Dearth and Lou Monty. During the rain storm we had last Saturday, these two worked all day and half the night to keep ahead of the potential flooding we might have experienced. At one time we had four pumps working to pump out the water that was coming in from the rain and melting snow. It worked. Nothing was damaged and now things are back on track.

Our schedule was backed up by about three weeks because of the weather, but once they get the roof on, they should be able to get some heat in the building and continue working on the inside. Let's hope we don't lose a lot more time.

There have been some significant things accomplished. The storage garage is complete and the roof drainage piping is in to the pond. The entrance drive curbing is in and a significant amount of electrical piping is done in the new basement. The committee working on the interior finishes have made good progress and the audio/visual planning is well in place. There will be lot's more decisions to be made as time goes on, but we have great people in place to make those decisions and I'm confident the end result will be just great.

Keep the faith folks! When complete, our church will be something we will prize.

Arnie Sieg  
Chairman, Building Committee

# Stewardship

**Give Willingly. "...all that is mine is yours." Luke 15:31b**

**Did you know that giving is good for you? Givers are happier people** than non-givers. Albert C. Brooks, professor of business and government policy at Syracuse University stated the results of a survey by The Social Capital Community Benchmark Survey of 30,000 Americans showed that folks who gave money to charity were 43% more likely than non-givers to say they were "very happy" with their lives. A study conducted by the nation's top universities – Harvard, Princeton, Yale and Stanford – showed that people who are givers see the benefits of delayed mortality, reduced depression, increased well-being and good fortune. Brooks found that people who give charitably make significantly more money than those who don't. Research has found that more giving doesn't just correlate with higher income; it causes higher income. And when people earn more, they give more so the wealthier they become.

Develop your giving plan. **Donating money is a personal decision so you get to set the rules!** The secret is to start somewhere knowing that you can make adjustments as you go. Commit to your giving for a while and make it a habit. Develop the "give and save first, then spend" philosophy. Giving a few dollars in the beginning may fill you with gratitude which in turn is a powerful gift. You never know. As the survey showed you may be a happier, healthier and/or wealthier person by giving willingly.

Robin Smerchek

<b>Finance Committee Monthly Update</b>	<b>November</b>
Average weekly giving	\$ 4,735
Amount needed to meet weekly budget	\$ 5,854
Amount received YTD	\$231,761
Amount needed YTD to meet budget	\$280,992
 Asset Account Balances	
Building Fund (money market)	\$ 53,399

Note that the year-to-date giving is lower than anticipated and the expenditures are lower than budget. For 2008 through November expenditures have exceeded giving by \$304.26.

Experience the joy and peace of giving,

Robin Smerchek

Thanks to all of you who made a financial commitment. If you have not yet submitted an Intended Giving form you are encouraged to do so. You are indeed investing in God's ministries.

**DID YOU KNOW that the tax law** for donating distributions from your **IRA** has been extended through 2009? Yes, if you are at least 70 ½ years young, you can donate funds from your IRA directly to a charitable organization. These funds qualify as your distribution and they are tax free. For details consult your financial planner, tax advisor or the website [www.wumf.org](http://www.wumf.org) and click on the "Sample – IRA gift request letter."

## United Methodist Women's Update

At the February 17th UMW meeting, we will have Linda Balfanz share with us her experiences as an antique collector. She will bring in some articles from her collection. If anyone would like to bring an object to the meeting, Linda will share her opinion on it. Bring a friend to this February 17th meeting. Linda will be here at 7:30 p.m. It should prove to be a very interesting evening.

At our Christmas party, the United Methodist Women voted to donate \$3,000 from the Turkey Supper profits to the kitchen renovation fund, \$300 will go to the Racine County Food Bank (which is in dire need of help at this time), and the remaining monies will go for kitchen supplies as needed and general expenditures.

### United Methodist Women Reading Program "Book Share" Event!

All Women of the church: please join us at 6 PM, February 17 for another fun, fantastic, and fabulous "Book Share!" It is the night of the general meeting of UMW, so just come at 6 PM and take in both events. Check out a book from the UMW Reading Program Library and plan to share what you loved or didn't love about it. Come and see our nice library of books in the Ellis Lounge - many new ones just added for 2009!

Questions? See Leah Hinze or Linda Botts

### A Primer on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

You turn on the TV set and there it is again: the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, Golan Heights, Jerusalem. It seems like it's been going on forever, this conflict between Israel and Palestine, and no one really even understands what it's all about anymore. The United States, as a supporter of Israel, usually covers the news with a pro-Israel bias. But what about the Palestinians? They are a largely Arab group with very little voice in the press.

*Through the Eyes of the Victims* is written by Palestinian author Alex Awad. Yes, this book does have a bias toward the Palestinians, but it also sheds gives a different perspective on the current events and the blips we see on the news regarding the Israeli occupation. The book is a primer of the

events that started in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and intensified after World War II, when Zionism really came into being. The Israeli state is a created state, carved out of Palestine without their consent. Since the creation of the State of Israel, Palestinians have been a nation of refugees.

The book is quite short and includes maps of the different border treaties and occupations, making it very easy to understand. Recommended reading for anyone who travels to the Holy Land or who desires to understand the long conflict surrounding that area.

*Education for Mission.*

## Membership Committee Update

Please make the following changes in your directories:

### Birth

Hayden Cooper Thomson, son of Aaron and Kathy Thomson

Born November 1, 2008

### New Addresses

Rich Wilhelmi  
3024 Chicory Road  
Racine, WI 53403

Bill and Grace Ostergaard  
5728 Cambridge Cr., #3  
Racine, WI 53406  
262-886-4018

### New Phone Numbers

Wally and Barb Ott  
262-498-9649

Pastor of Discipleship Ann Bullis  
Cell: 262-323-9138  
Home: 262-886-3119

### Name Change

Cindy Wilhelmi to Cindy Welch

### Removed by December 7<sup>th</sup> Charge Conference

Craig Lashley  
Jeff and Sheri Lloyd  
Megan Lloyd  
Sara Lloyd

### With sympathy, Removed by her death

Angie Perrault

## Men's Club

It is always difficult to ask people for things at this time of the year. Everyone is so busy preparing for the holidays, decorating, baking, shopping, going to children's and grandchildren's Christmas programs, all which take a lot of time. When I first asked for support in buying a gift for the homeless men at HALO, I was a little skeptical as to its success. Boy, was I wrong! HALO gave me fifty cards and as of Sunday the December 14th, all of the cards were taken, and a gift was bought, wrapped and returned to church to be delivered to HALO on the 17th of December.

*Thank you everyone for your wonderful response and your generosity. I am sure there will be plenty of smiles on Christmas at HALO.*

Also, we delivered food and gifts to eight families on December 17th. I want to thank everyone who helped collect the food and to Lou Monty, Don Miller, Joe Molnar, Harold & Mary Ann Sustachek, John Lee, John Welch, Paul & Betty Barr, Dave Tianen, Jim & Grace Delk, Gordan & Ann Bullis, Tom & Leah Hinze and Gil Mann for volunteering to deliver the baskets.

The Men's breakfast continues to be a success. We meet on the second Saturday of each month from 8:00 to 9:30. Please sign up in the Narthex or stop in, there is always enough food. I would like to thank Jim and Grace Delk for cooking the December breakfast. There will be no Men's breakfast in January. The next breakfast will be February 14th and Lois Fritchen will be doing the cooking. The guest speaker will be Chaplin Merritt Adams from the Racine County Jail Chaplaincy. Please join us.

January 5th is the date for the Men's Club annual Oyster and Chili supper. It all starts at 6:00 pm - there will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex. There will also be the election of new officers for the Men's Club. More information will be in the bulletin. In closing,

May the miracle that happened  
long ago and far away be  
a special source of joy and love  
within your heart today.  
And may love continue to litter  
your life with blessings !

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

Roger Exner

## Tai Chi

Coming Monday, February 2nd at 6:30! Body Work Practices including Tai Chi Movements will be offered by the Center to Be. In this spiritually reflective and renewing program you will learn simple but effective practices which can help relieve the symptoms of stress. The practices involve gentle movement, quiet reflection, calming breath work, simple finger holds, safe touch and more. All ages can benefit from this program. The cost will be \$15.00 and scholarships are available. Please note: This is a one time class, however, if we get enough participation, we will continue this as an ongoing program. Please sign up as soon as possible on the sheet in the narthex.

Pastor Ann Bullis, Minister of Discipleship

## Adult Forum

Please join us Sunday, January 11 at 9:15 a.m. for our Adult Forum. This month we welcome Dan Mueller from the Aids Resource Center of Wisconsin. This month we are giving our change to the United Methodist Global Aids Fund so to go along with this, we have asked Mr. Mueller to give us a view of the new developments in AIDS research, the treatment, and what role Wisconsin is playing in the fight. Along with a question and answer session.

Pastor Ann Bullis, Minister of Discipleship

## Family Movie Night Features: "Horton Hears a WHO!"

Come enjoy a fun movie night on Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup>. We will gather in the Fellowship Hall and watch "**Horton Hears a Who!**" The movie will be projected on the big screen!

Bring lawn chairs, blankets, pillows, or if it's just yourself then you can sit in one of the provided chairs, if you had rather.

Admission is \$1 per family member (\$5 cap) and free for children age 2 and under. There will also be a snack stand serving popcorn, candy, sodas, and more yummy movie snacks. Please come and enjoy a great movie night here at the church.

**All proceeds will benefit the Washington D.C. Spring Youth Trip.**

Franksville

# YOUTH GROUP

## HERE COMES THIS DREAMER

January  
2009

Throughout the Bible there are great stories of dreamers and their dreams and of prophets and their visions. But all of these stories happened thousands of years ago; are there still prophets around today?

For the remainder of the school year, our theme will be "Here comes this dreamer." This comes from the story of Joseph in Genesis 37. Joseph's dreams foresee a wonderful future. But they also get him in a great amount of trouble. So it is with dreamers. Their hopes and visions for the future are not always met with overwhelming approval, instead they are met with opposition and even hatred. During our first week we'll be talking a lot about dreamers and what makes them who they are and why they might seem so scary or dangerous to those around them.

Who are some of the dreamers and prophets of our own time? Can you think of any? This will be the topic of our second week. We'll look at some historical figures who were both revered and looked down upon for what they believed in and how they pushed us forwards as a society. We will also explore the way

God influenced these people and empowered them for their role in society.

Then during our third week we'll talk about our own dreams. Dreams for our lives, our church, and our world. What kinds of things do you hope for yourself? What kinds of things have you had to deal with that you hope your kids won't? What do you hope for our country or the world? How does God's love and vision of peace and justice influence our dreams? We'll explore all of these things with one another.

Then the last Thursday of the month, as always, will be our Super Fun Youth Night! So come ready to just hang out, relax, and play some super fun games!

We hope you all had a great New Years and we look forward to a great new year with all of you!

-Brittany and Jonathan

### YOUTH GROUP!

#### 1.8 + Dreamers

M.S. + 6:00+7:30

H.S. + 7:00+8:30

#### 1.15 + Dreamers Now

M.S. + 6:00+7:30

H.S. + 7:00+8:30

#### 1.22 + Our Dreams

M.S. + 6:00+7:30

H.S. + 7:00+8:30

#### 1.29 + Super Fun Youth Night

M.S. + 6:00+7:30

H.S. + 7:00+8:30

### SPECIAL EVENTS:

1.11 + Parents Meeting and  
Wildfire Meeting (9:15)

1.30 + Family Movie Night  
(7:00 + 9:00 PM)

### Questions? Comments?

Contact Brittany and Jonathan at  
[franksvillyouth@gmail.com](mailto:franksvillyouth@gmail.com)

D.C. Fundraiser  
**FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT!**

Friday January 30th

7:00+9:00 PM

YOUTH + PLEASE BE HERE NO LATER THAN 6:30 TO  
HELP SET UP!



To the congregation:

I wish to express grateful thanks to the Church for allowing the family and friends of Pearl Johnson to assemble there for her funeral service (on Saturday, December 20th). A special thanks to Pastor Ann Bullis for a very nice service and to church members: Lois Fritchen, Kathy Aiello, Betty Smith, Ann Anderson, Debbie Thomson, Leah Hinze, Jane Ramig, Joyce Treffert, and Betty Christensen for the delicious desserts and relishes and all their work in preparing, serving, and clean-up. I enclose memorials, for Pearl, to the church... Pearl enjoyed her membership in the Franksville United Methodist Church and her service there. Most sincerely,

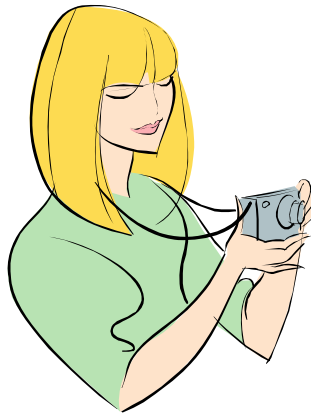
Mavis N. Kimpel, Niece of Pearl Johnson 10213  
Northwestern Avenue, Franksville

### COINS FOR MINISTRY –



Coins collected in January will be sent to the United Methodist Global Aids Fund. Your contribution to this Fund will assist local congregations and conferences in identifying and creating global partnerships for mutual HIV/AIDS ministry; provide support for projects sponsored by local congregations; advocate for increased governmental and non-governmental funding; develop appropriate promotional materials and funding guidelines. 100% of monies collected goes directly to projects. Of the total money raised in each conference, 25% will be retained by the annual conference, 75% will be sent to the Advance. For more facts and figures, please see the informational brochure posted in the narthex.

## Calling All Photographers



Whether you are a serious photographer or not, please consider taking part in a Lenten Project being coordinated by Pastor Kaye.

This year we would like to have a Lenten Walk. Essentially this would be a path to follow through the Fellowship Hall during Holy Week with different stations ending in the sanctuary and time for prayer.

One station will focus on the "Sacred in Daily Life". This will be a photography exhibit with pictures depicting where people see God in daily life. Please turn in your photos with a short narrative on what you have photographed, why it was sacred or where you saw and experienced God in it. These need to be turned in by April 1 and will be returned. If you have questions, see Pastor Kaye.



Franksville United Methodist Church  
10402 Northwestern Avenue  
Franksville, WI 53126



**It's Family Carnival Time!**



Come one, come all to the Franksville United Methodist Church Family Carnival. The Carnival will be held on Sunday, January 25, 2009 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. There will be games, prizes, food and fun for children and adults alike. This will also be a great opportunity for fellowship with friends and family from our church and our community. Please join us and consider volunteering for an hour to run a game, serve food, sell tickets or practice your artistry by doing some face painting. There are volunteer sign-up sheets in the narthex. We will also need homemade cakes (and cupcakes) for the Cake Walk and BINGO prizes. Let's make this the best Family Carnival ever!