



- Worship
- Teaching
- Example

Volume V1
January 2007



Lovilia Circuit Writer

*Our mission at the Lovilia United Methodist Church
is to show the love of Jesus the Christ to our community
through worship, teaching, example and tangible acts of love.*

... In This Issue...

- ✦ **Pastor's Column (pg. 1)**
- ✦ **Reader's Corner (pg. 2)**
- ✦ **Mission Minute**
- ✦ **Beyond the Local Church**
 - Leadership Training Event
 - Youth Strike For Christ
- ✦ **Parish News (pg. 3)**
 - Pass It On Youth
 - Parish Bible Study
 - Valens-Tine Concert
 - School in Denver
- ✦ **LUMC News (pg. 4)**
 - Birthdays and Anniversaries
 - Kids Club
 - Thoughts and Prayers
 - Finances
 - UMW Notes
 - That Was Yesterday
 - This Is Now
- ✦ **January Calendar (pg. 5)**
- ✦ **We Laid the Bricks in 2006 (pg. 6-7)**
- ✦ **2007 Budget (on Address Page)**

The Dawn of a New Year

Pastor Jill Leveck



As I write this, we're on the cusp of a new year that will offer new challenges and a myriad of possibilities for each of us and for our church. One of the wonderful things about the way God has created us is that a challenge or obstacle to one offers a horizon of possibility to someone else. There are folks in our church who have great ideas and others who are well skilled at organizing and still others to do the work necessary to turn those ideas into realities. We work together and draw on the strength of the Holy Spirit and ministry and mission happen.

There is a sense of excitement as a new year dawns: where will God lead us in the coming months? Perhaps it's a good thing that He shows us only one day at a time and promises to go with us every step of the way.

I have been using a calendar this past year that has snippets from the Psalms and then a whimsical little remark for each day. For March 2nd, Psalm 37:3 - "Trust in the Lord" was highlighted with the "reminder: You can't trust someone you don't know." The better we get to know our heavenly Father the more secure will be our foundation and the better we will be able to face whatever 2007 holds for us.

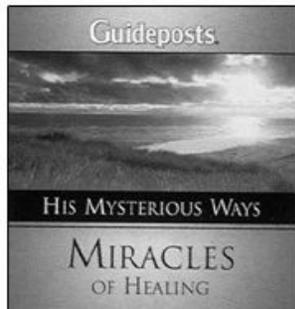
So, the first resolution we need to make is to pray and dig deeply into God's Word and get to know Him. We'll be awed and humbled by how much He loves us and how far He is willing to go to bring us back into a right relationship with Him.

Isaac Watts wrote a hymn several hundred years ago that grounds us in the past even as we look to the future - it's a good way to approach this or any other new year:

*O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home!*

'Reader's Corner

His Mysterious Ways: Miracles of Healing



By the time you read this the lights and tinsel will be tucked away for another year and we will be about the business of 2007. But, as the sounds and sights of the season fade, often, so too the sense of wonder that captures our hearts as we kneel beside the manger of the Christ child.

How do we keep that mystery and awe throughout the year? One way is to approach life with minds open to the light of God that shines in and through those around us. The Guidepost's organization has compiled from their magazine examples from the column "His Mysterious Ways" in a book entitled *Miracles of Healing*. As the Foreword

suggests: "From ordinary people come these extraordinary accounts of lives touched by unforgettable grace....All of us have times when an unseen hand brings us the comfort and hope we need to go on - powerful moments of mystery and grace when we meet the divine in our everyday lives."

The true stories in this book probe the mystery of faith from its first tentative cry to its strength as an anchor in the worst of storms. For example, in "I saw the Hand of God Move" a father seeking healing for his son learns about faith that moves beyond logic and concludes, "At last I fully believed in a God whose love knows no bounds..."(p.147)

This is a book that's hard to put down. I wanted to savor each miracle while at the same time I was eager to press on to see where next God's hand would move. Again, a cautionary note - have some tissues handy.

Mission Minute

Heifer Project



Heifer International spans the globe reaching out to families and communities with programs to preserve and improve life. One of their efforts is called "Kids to Kids" and focuses on getting goats into the hands of families in need of milk. "In addition to being mild-mannered enough that children can take an active role in their care, a mature milk goat can provide a family with up to a gallon of milk a day!"

There are so many stories of children whose lives have been changed for the better through Heifer Project. In Nepal, Krisha and his family received two pregnant goats. They have already passed the gift on to two other families. The remaining goats will provide milk for them and the sale of just one kid will pay for a year's worth of tuition, books and clothing so that he can go to school. How much we take for granted!

In Honduras, Jose's small body showed the classic signs of malnutrition. His grandmother enrolled in the Heifer Program and, after receiving extensive training, was given a goat that Jose named Aguas. With milk every day, Jose's health is improving and Agua's kids will insure that he will be able to go to school and get medical attention.

The pay-it-forward plan of Heifer insures that our gifts just keep on giving and giving and giving. Let's begin the New Year by deciding how we can reach out to others. Then, let's do it!

Beyond the Local Church

Leadership Training Event

On Sunday, January 21 from 1:30-5:00PM at Trinity United Methodist Church in Albia, the Ottumwa District Leadership Training Event will be held. With a theme of "Ottumwa District Alive: All Leaders Inspiring Visionary Energy", workshops will be held in all areas of our church life. All are invited to attend - those who hold a position or are thinking of volunteering in the future.

Youth Strike for Christ

On February 2-4, there will be a conference wide rally for grades 7-12 in Des Moines. The keynote speaker will be Duffy Robbins and the praise band Broken Yoke will provide the music. For more information, look on the website www.youthstrike.com

Parish News

Pass It On Youth

What a full first semester! We shared devotions, filled seven project Christmas Child boxes, helped with worship at Westridge Care Center in Knoxville, made Christmas cards to take with us when we went caroling, took supplies and helped out at the Heartland Animal Shelter in Ottumwa, went roller skating in Oskaloosa, and had Halloween and Christmas parties, ending each meeting with our prayer circle.

The next five months will be every bit as eventful. We will have lessons, guest speakers, outings and activities and maybe even a weekend work trip to Wesley Woods in the spring.

All 6th grade through high school students are welcome to be a part of the group. We even have our own t-shirts thanks to the generosity of Steve and Ginny Stewart.

Thank you to Kim Williams, Connie and Bill Barnes and Pastor Jill for their leadership. Thank you, too, to the parents and grand parents who have chaperoned and provided transportation for our outings.

Parish Bible Study

After a lengthy hiatus, we will resume our study of the book of Revelation on Sunday, January 14th at 6:00PM at lovilia. We're getting to the challenging part of the battle between good and evil.

Valens-Tine Concert

On Thursday, February 15th, Frankie and Phyllis Valens will fill Bussey's church with music as they present a special concert for our whole parish at Bussey UMC. We will have a meal first and then enjoy the powerful witness and wonderful sounds of Phyllis and Frankie Valens.

The Bussey Outreach Committee is organizing the evening so watch your bulletins and February newsletter for details about time and the meal.

School in Denver

If things hold steady, Pastor Jill will leave for Denver Seminary on the train January 6th and will return on Saturday, December 13th. Kevin will be on call for me while I'm gone. He can be reached at Trinity UMC in Albia (641-932-7393) or at home (641-932-5243). This will be the last class I attend before working on my dissertation.

Blessed are the drugged and God bless the mothers and fathers who drugged us!

The other day, someone at a store in our town read that a methamphetamine lab had been found in an old farmhouse in the adjoining county, and he asked me a rhetorical question. "Why didn't we have a drug problem when you and I were growing up?" I replied, "I had a drug problem when I was young...I was drug to church on Sunday morning. I was drug to church for weddings and funerals. I was drug to family reunions and community socials no matter the weather. I was drug by my ears when I was disrespectful to adults. I was also drug to the woodshed when I disobeyed my parents, told a lie, brought home a bad report card, did not speak with respect, spoke ill of the teacher or preacher, or if I didn't put forth my best effort in everything that was asked of me. I was drug to the kitchen sink to have my mouth washed out with soap if I uttered a profane four letter word. I was drug out to pull weeds in Mom's garden and flower beds and cockleburs out of Dad's fields. I was drug to the homes of family, friends and neighbors to help out some poor soul who had no one to mow the yard, repair the clothes line or chop some wood. And if my mother or father had ever known that I took a single dime as a tip for this kindness, she and/or he would have drug me back to the woodshed. Those drugs are still in my veins and they affect my behavior in everything I do, say and think. They are stronger than cocaine, crack or heroine. If today's children had this kind of drug problem, America would be a better place.

LUMC News

Birthdays & Anniversaries

January

- 4 Virginia Weldon
- 6 Calvin & Pam Chamberlain (A)
- 13 Leroy Hogeland
- 14 Lyle Morgan
- 19 Alyssa Gilkerson
- 21 Luke Conner, Anna Ross
- 26 Charles Kraber

Kids Club

Our Close Encounters with Creation wrapped up over the Christmas vacation with a four-hour adventure. We took a look at what happened on each day of creation using discussions, games and crafts. Thanks to all who helped with the lessons, meals and crafts and to Nathan Chamberlain and Pastor Jill for coordinating the effort. February will begin another Close Encounter - so watch your bulletins and the website for details as to date and time. If you would like to help in some way, contact pastor Jill.



Pat Frye, Josie DeLong, Margaret Conner, Donnie Tucker, Thelma Smith, Lois Walter, Dale Allison, Janice Schisel (pastor Jill's mom), our service men and women around the world, our shut-ins and their caregivers, and our leaders.

Finances

The budget worked out by our board appears in this newsletter. With a total budget of \$27,209.40 for the year, we will need \$2,267.45 each month to make ends meet. Prayerfully consider your support for this church in the coming year.

UMW Notes

The UMW ladies will meet at 10:00AM on January 4th to plan the date book for the coming year. Noon luncheon will be soup. Members are asked to bring a dessert. The regular meeting will follow the lunch.

That Was Yesterday



Stained Glass

One of the most striking and beautiful features in our sanctuary are the stained glass windows - both those that filter the light of the sun and those that grace our altar area. Custom made for our church, the glass comes from the Methodist Church which once stood in Lovilia. When the United Brethren and Methodist churches became on new United Methodist denomination, communities like ours faced tough decisions (decisions often taken out of our hands entirely). From what folks have told me, it was a painful time of upheaval for Lovilia. The beauty of our windows symbolizes the spirit of cooperation and community that is at the heart of our church today. We have come through the fire and are better and stronger for it.

This Is Today



Fulfilling Our Mission

The beautiful stained glass windows are the result of something old being made into something new. New within the past year is our website. Almost three thousand folks have logged in to find out what's going on and who we are at the Lovilia United Methodist Church. People half way around the world can look at pictures of our youth group caring for dogs and cats at the Heartland Animal Shelter or discover what our UMW is doing. Nathan Chamberlain, a sophomore at Eddyville/Blakesburg, is our webmaster and is a whiz at using modern technology to get the word out. Speaking as someone who has yet to figure out how to use a credit card at a gas pump, I am amazed at what can be done using computers. But at the heart of the old and the new is fulfilling our mission as a church "to show the love of Jesus the Christ to our community through worship, teaching, example and tangible acts of love." We need both old and new to fulfill our mission.

2007 Budget

<u>CONFERENCE APPORTIONMENTS</u>	
Administrative Budget	\$992.00
World Service	\$1,830.00
Ministerial Support	\$1,672.00
Ministry	\$60.00
Total Apportionments:	\$4,554.00
<u>PASTORAL SUPPORT</u>	
Taxable Salary	\$10,852.20
Health Insurance	\$2,383.20
Direct Billed Pension	\$1,700.00?
Travel Allowance	\$1,000.00
Total Pastoral Support	\$15,935.40
<u>LOCAL EXPENSES</u>	
Pulpit Supply	\$150.00
Water and Sewer	\$480.00
Electric and Gas	\$2,000.00
Office Supplies/Bulletins	\$500.00
Contract Laborer	\$1,500.00
Postage	\$25.00
Parish Fund	\$240.00
Miscellaneous	\$100.00
Total Local Expenses	\$4,995.00
<u>COMMITTEE EXPENSES</u>	
Evangelism	\$100.00
Christian Education	\$100.00
Continuing Education	\$150.00
total Committee Expenses	\$350.00
<u>INSURANCE</u>	
Property and Liability	\$1,300.00
Workman's Compensation	\$75.00
Total Insurance	\$1,375.00
TOTAL BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2007: \$27,209.40	

Visit the Lovilia United Methodist Church Online at <http://lumc.webs.com>

Happy New Year!



LOVILIA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1602 SOUTH E AVENUE
P.O. BOX 255
LOVILIA, IA 50150