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**Volume V3**  
**March 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.*

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## What are you doing for lent?



*Pastor Jill Leveck*

Lent has begun for another year. The ashes have been scrubbed from the forehead and the journey to Easter happens in the midst of life: life that is busy to the point of being frantic at times. For centuries, Christians have tried different ways of preparing for Easter, of living to the fullest obedience grown from the seed of repentance.

When I make banana bread, I sometimes leave out the nuts to please one family member or another. For many, Lent is a time of leaving out/giving up something like chocolate or TV as a way of acknowledging Christ and the great sacrifice He made for us. This doing without is accompanied by prayer and a desire to draw closer to God. But is this the only way to journey to Easter?

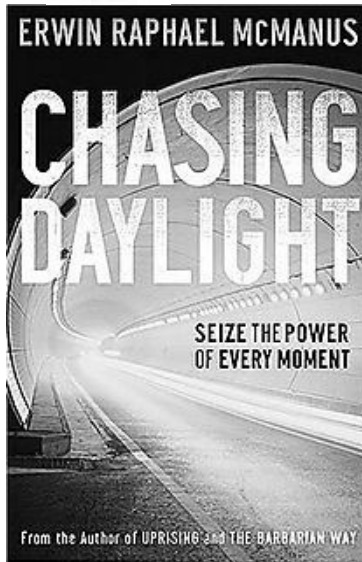
Perhaps, rather than or in addition to giving up something we can add something: maybe more time alone with God getting immersed in His Word and waiting on Him in prayer. We could add on time for reading biographies of great Christians or devotional works that touch our hearts and challenge our spirit. What about spending more time in service to others? Write that note to someone you've been thinking about. Drop by to visit someone who hasn't been in church for a while. Volunteer at a school or shelter. There is so much that we can do and maybe, just maybe we will find so much satisfaction that we'll continue 'adding to' our life even after Easter is over for another year.

*Give up harsh words: use generous ones. Give up unhappiness: take up gratitude. Give up anger: take up gentleness and patience. Give up pessimism: take up hope and optimism. Give up worrying: take up trust in God. Give up complaining: value what you have. Give up stress: take up prayer. Give up judging others: discover Jesus within them. Give up sorrow and bitterness: fill your heart with joy. Give up selfishness: take up compassion for others. Give up being unforgiving: learn reconciliation. Give up words: fill yourself with silence, and listen to others.*



## Reader's Corner

*Letters From Maybe by Michael Pearson*



Erwin McManus is a pastor who works outside the box. His message centers around living our faith with all that we are and all that we have every moment of every day. I heard him speak when he was a co-professor for one of my leadership classes. His book, *Chasing Daylight*, is the foundation for our Lenten study this year.

The book guides us from moving from first-dimensional faith which "... is responding in obedience to what God has already spoken..."(p.88) to following Christ into the unknown "...to relinquish security, and to exchange certainty for confidence in Him."(p.91)

The exploits of Jonathan during the war between the Hebrew people and the philistines form the pivotal events for the book's discussion. When King Saul drags his feet and fails to act, his son Jonathan takes one sword and his armor bearer and heads into the enemy camp. His courage and faith are used by McManus as an example of seizing the power of the moment. If you want to read a book that gets your juices going and impels you to action, *Chasing Daylight* is a good one to tackle.

## Mission Minute

*Being a Mission Minded Church*



2007 is 'in process' and each church in the parish is beginning to set their course in terms of mission. All three churches were a part of the Ingathering, Operation Christmas Child and the PET Project last year and will continue to reach out to others taking advantage of these opportunities. Think of all the families who will find life a little more manageable and who have learned about salvation in and through Christ because of your efforts. WAY TO GO!!!

Perhaps this year we can do even more in our global outreach and add a push to reach folks closer to home, in our own community as well. If you have ideas, contact Susan Gunnell or Penny Reed (chairs of Outreach and Missions in Bussey) or Gayle Hasting (chair of Outreach in Lovilia.)

## Youth Annual Conference

The Youth Annual Conference, a leadership development event for grades 6th through 12th will be held June 29-July 1 at Simpson College in Indianola. The theme will be "It's Your Network." "YAC includes workshops, worship, a keynote speaker, crazy auction YSF fundraisers and the opportunity to grow in your leadership ability and connect with other United Methodist youth in Iowa." Early bird registration - \$85 by May 1, 2007; regular registration - \$100 by May 25.

## Changes in the Conference

"In June of 2006, the Annual Conference voted to implement some major changes in the structure and organization and, hopefully, the way that ministry is carried out in the Iowa Conference. There will be 8 districts (instead of 12) and the district offices will be moved."

We will be as of July 1 in the South Central District with the district office in Osceola. The restructuring will involve reformulating all the district and conference committees and boards, after the move takes place. Chuck Kellogg, our DS will finish his 6-year term and will take an appointment in June. He is a good DS and I will really miss working with him.

## Parish News

### Pass It On Youth

We have three get-togethers in March. Our first meeting is Sunday, March 11th from 4:00-6:00PM at Bussey. We will finalize plans for the St. Patrick's Baked Potato Supper which will be Thursday, March 15th from 5:00-7:00PM at the Bussey Church.

The next event is the Baked Potato Supper on the 15th which our group will set up and serve. Please be at the Bussey Church as close to 4:00PM as possible. The money raised from this meal will go into the youth group account and will be used for our mini work mission to Wesley Woods in April.

Our second meeting of the month will be March 25th at Lovilia from 4:00-6:00PM.

### For the Irish in All of Us

Are you a fan of oven-baked, giant baked potatoes topped with all sorts of good things, salads and a selection of mouth-watering bars? Then the Pass It On St Patrick's Baked Potato Supper is where you should be on Thursday, March 15th from 5:00-7:00PM at the Bussey Church. Enjoy good food and fellowship and a bit of the blarney and support our youth. There will be a free-will offering.



### "Chasing Daylight"

Our ten week Lenten Bible Study "Chasing Daylight," based on Erwin McManus' book of the same name will be in full swing by the time you get this. We meet on Sunday evenings at 6:00PM at the Bussey Church. After watching an inspiring and thought-provoking DVD, we talk about it using the questions from the workbook as a springboard.

Come and join us. Workbooks are available on the table in the sanctuary. This is a great way to spend time with fellow Christians and make the journey to Easter more meaningful.

### Frankie Valens Cancellation

The weather we had several weeks ago forced Frankie and Phyllis Valens to cancel their concerts in our area and in Missouri. They come all the way from Kansas and the weather was just too bad for them to get here. We will be rescheduling and will let you know when you can hear their music and witness.



### One Great Hour of Sharing

Our special mission offering for One Great Hour of Sharing will be taken on Sunday, March 18th at all three churches. The money goes to UMCOR and is used for their emergency response efforts as well as long term projects here in this country and around the world.

### United Methodist Men

If you haven't had a chance to attend one of the great United Methodist Men's breakfasts on the first Saturday of the month at 7:00AM, it's not too late.

Our group has sent cut wood for more than 120 PET Mobiles since we've started working on the project. That is so awesome!!!

## Finances

Our offerings for January totaled \$1,439.25 and our monthly expenses according to the budget established for the year are \$2,267.45. I think the weather really hurt us.

We were able to pay only ten months of our apportionments last year. Good stewardship is one way we show our gratitude to God for the many blessings He has given us - not the least of which is the salvation He makes available to us through faith in Jesus Christ. I know we'll do better this year.

## LUMC News

### Kids Club

If you are in first through fifth grade it's not too late to be a part of our Close Encounters with the Messiah Kids Club. We're learning about Jesus and what life was like during His day. Thank you to Bill Barnes for building our Nazareth House so that we get an idea of the kind of house Jesus may have lived in.



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.

**UMW Notes:** The evening UMW will be working on UMCOR kits throughout the year. At the March meeting members are asked to bring new hand towels for the health kits. Items that make up the health kits are listed at the end of this article.

Each year the UMW has a reading program for its members. If you are interested in finding out what books are on the reading list for this year, contact Pastor Jill. Categories include Education for Mission, nurturing for Community, Social Action, and Spiritual Growth.

Health Kits - 1 new hand towel (15"by25" up to 17"by27"; 1 bath sized bar of soap in wrapper (3oz. or larger); 1 4.5 oz. or larger tube of toothpaste; 1 new toothbrush in original sealed wrapper (no child-sized); 1 new washcloth; 6 band aids (3/4"); 1 large sturdy comb (not pocket sized); 1 nail file or fingernail clipper (no emery boards or toenail clippers)

## That Was Then



### The Early Days

In some material that Goldie loaned me I found an article by Bessie Askren and Cleo Edinger about the Methodist WSCS. Below is the full story:

"In 1940 it was decreed to unite our Ladies Aid, Missionary Society, etc. with the national organization of Methodist Women's Society of Christian Service. It was with heavy hearts that many women who had given the best years of their lives to Ladies Aid and Guild were now seeing the wheels of such an old and honored institution roll to a stop. Looking back on twenty years of achievement, it is impossible to evaluate our work in a few words. Surely some of the highlights would be in the recollection of attending district meetings and being associated with zealous missionaries. Then there were the times when we passed on our inspiration to others such as visits to the Monroe County home with baskets of goodies. Remember the radio we donated to them? Remember the Christmas boxes we sent to boys overseas, and the robes we made for the choir? Remember the bazaars, and fried chicken dinners, and the quilts and potholders we made, and the money we sent to help repair the Eddyville Church after the flood?

But giving is only a part. In Paul's letter to Timothy we read "Study to show yourself approved unto God." Our study course is a vital part of our new work. Our beginning charter shows a membership of 55. Beulah Edwards was the first president. Others that followed were Marie McNeish, Grace Ballard, Eva Samuelson, Cora Mick, and Hattie Gaddis. Margaret Cobb is our present president.

"For the years we have been permitted to serve, we give thanks. For the years that lie ahead, we humbly ask to be guided and led."

## This Is Now



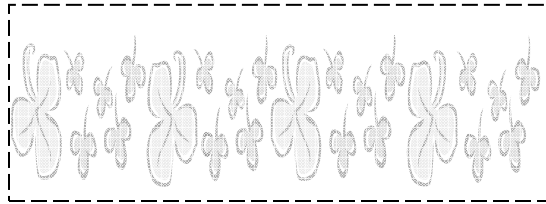
### Change

Bessie and Cleo highlight the accomplishments of the ladies Aid in their article. They also show how difficult and painful change can be. What will change for our congregation in 2007? We have to change in order to grow and there are so many opportunities and challenges available to us.

Soon we will be part of a new and much larger district. There will undoubtedly be many growing pains. But, we're in this together and we have Christ as our cornerstone. The ladies end with a quote that is just as important now as it was then: "For the years we have been permitted to serve, we give thanks. For the years that lie ahead, we humbly ask to be guided and led."

# March 2007

☘ Sun	☘ Mon	☘ Tue	☘ Wed	☘ Thu	☘ Fri	☘ Sat
Sunday, April 1 <sup>st</sup> – Palm Sunday Thursday, April 5 <sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM Maunday Thursday Service (L) Friday, April 6 <sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM Good Friday Worship (B) Sunday, April 8 <sup>th</sup> – Sunrise services at Bussey and Lovilia						
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
6:00 PM Parish Bible Study (B)			1:00 PM UMW (B) 3:30 PM Kids Club (B) 5:00 PM Kids Club (L) 6:00 PM Choir (B)			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
4:00 PM Pass It On (B) 6:00 PM Parish Bible Study (B)	District UMW Mission Study in Fremont	1:00 PM UMW (H) 5:30 PM Worship Committee (B) 6:30 PM Mission Committee (B)	3:30 PM Kids Club (B) 5:00 PM Kids Club (L) 6:00 PM Choir (B)	5-7 PM St. Patrick's Baked Potato Supper (B) 7:00 PM Ad Board		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
One Great Hour of Sharing 2:00 PM Worship at Westridge Care Center 6:00 PM Parish Bible Study (L)		6:00 PM Finance Committee (B) 6:30 PM Ad Council (B)	3:30 PM Kids Club (B) 5:00 PM Kids Club (L) 6:00 PM Choir (B)			
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
4:00 PM Pass It On (L) 6:00 PM Parish Bible Study (B)			3:30 PM Kids Club (B) 5:00 PM Kids Club (L) 6:00 PM Choir (B)			



**LOVILIA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
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*BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES*  
**March**

- 1 Dawn Maughan
- 3 Jennifer Chamberlain
- 6 Debbie Conner
- 9 Kaye Morgan
- 20 Eddie Weldon
- 23 Curtis Davis
- 26 Gordon Vickery
- 28 Lynn Hogeland
- 30 Angie Geno

S J H G L K J G V L N X Z F A D P M W D Z I V Q J  
 I C T F O W E F N A Z K L E K M D E C E M D K V D  
 V Y X Y M R I W G O Z V C N R F A Y X B V F L I Z  
 A P V V D S D R D J D L E O S K C D H B Y S S N M  
 D U U P Q L O O Y H Y L L O E C T T L I S T L L T  
 S Z D N P M J E N N I F E R C H A M B E R L A I N  
 I L X A E V X L N V U K Q W A Z O I S C Y S B F P  
 T P X Y J A U H M P I Y J S E Y B Z F O D V N J P  
 R J A T Q E O T N S A C A N G I E G E N O B C Y B  
 U K H R N G H W H T S M K I H F D U B N Q B U Q D  
 C D I C E W W P A C G G T E X B P D V E V I Y M B  
 G L R L W A W E Y G C Z J L R F Y U E R Q N P N Q  
 G N A H G U A M N W A D K G D Y Y C X E W H R D Q  
 L N H N F X R I D J U O Y O P A W A P F X H E U T  
 D H N V P B T W N L F S R M A S H P Z N J H M N D

Our church celebrates nine birthdays in March. Can you find their names in the word search to the left?