



- WORSHIP
- TEACHING
- EXAMPLE

Volume V12
December 2006



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
- ✦ **LUMC News (pg.3)**
 - Birthdays and Anniversaries
 - In Our Thoughts & Prayers
 - Kids Club
 - Finances
 - That Was Yesterday
- ✦ **Parish News (pg. 4)**
 - Pass It On Youth
 - Parish Bible Study
 - United Methodist Men
 - Christmas Eve Services
 - **Parish Shirts (Deadline: Dec. 10)**
 - Christmas Potluck in Lovilia
- ✦ **December Calendar (pg. 5)**
- ✦ **2007 Officers List (pg. 6)**
- ✦ **PIO Youth Skating Pics (pg. 7)**

Holiday Togetherness

Pastor Jill Leveck



As I write this, leftovers from Thanksgiving fill many refrigerators and the shopping frenzy has begun. Fresh in my mind is our unusual but very meaningful Thanksgiving dinner yesterday. Cooking and food preparation were done in Albia and at my mother's house in Des Moines before being transported to the Care Center where my father resides. We gathered in a conference room to share a few precious moments together. It was not easy, but it was worth it because our relationships are far more important than a perfectly decorated table or fancy place settings.

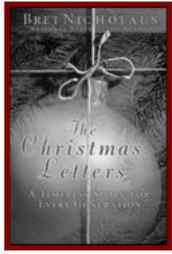
Relationships - they are at the very heart of the Christmas season. Generations celebrating together, sharing memories and making new ones as they gather "over the river and through the woods" at grandmother's house, in a high-rise at the center of the city or in a care center.

God sent His Son to bring us back into relationship with Him. Into a world of cruel and insecure kings and humble shepherds, a trusting young woman and her faithful betrothed, a baby came whose name was called Immanuel (God with us). The prophets with their words of warning and messages of hope couldn't do it so God gave us His Son to live and grow among us, to show us just how much He loves us and how very much He wants us to be with Him always. I can't think of a better reason to embrace the joy, love and peace of this most holy season. And let's do it with those we love!

Reader's Corner



The Christmas Letters: A Timeless Story For Every Generation by Bret Nicholaus



The title caught my attention - *The Christmas Letters*, as did the description - "A Timeless Story for Every Generation." It only took about an hour to read Bret Nicholaus' book, but the message reached to the heart of the season.

Centering on a gathering of four generations at a Christmas Eve dinner, the story is told by a grandson looking back and remembering the event of a year before.

Each letter in the word Christmas is given special meaning by Grandpa as he shares his wisdom and his feelings with those gathered around the full and festive holiday table. You'll

have to read it yourself to find out the extra letter he produces - "the most important of all."

This would be a good book to read aloud when the family is gathered around. Just a warning - have the tissues ready.

Mission Minute

Missionary News



Nearly every week we receive news from at least one missionary from either the United Methodist or Quaker tradition. They tell of what's going on in their part of the world in terms of outreach and attempts to stop that witness. But they tell, as well, about their families, the joys and concerns, the highs and lows they experience just as we do.

So, during the season when we are especially intentional about making time for family activities, I want to tell about 2 missionaries on different continents who are serving the Lord in their own special way.

From Mutare, Zimbabwe Larry and Jane Kies report on life in mission in a very volatile and needy part of the world. They work at Africa University and speak of what's going on at the farm (which is a part of the college) and in the villages surrounding the school.

They also share about what's happening in their family. They have a 16 year old who is studying for his driving learner's permit, an 11 year old who loves to work with the animals on the farm, and a 19 year old heading off to college for the first time.

From Kathmandu, Nepal - John and Sanji Vanlalhriata tell of a harrowing experience they had while trying to attend a church service in a nearby village. Because of a rise in petroleum prices, protests were stages all over the city and access roads were blocked with burning tires and angry townspeople. Their way was cut off and they sought a place to hide until the mob dispersed. In their newsletter they thanked God for His protection. They ask for continued prayers for their ministry and for the whole country of Nepal which is at present in a transition period that often shows itself in (to use their word) "chaos."

Beyond the Local Church

Leadership Training Event

It's hard to think about the new year already but mark your calendars now if you have a leadership role in one of the churches for a Leadership Training Event to be held on January 21st from 1:30-5:00PM at Trinity United Methodist Church in Albia. the theme will be "Ottumwa District ALIVE: All Leaders Inspiring Visionary Energy."

Birthdays & Anniversaries

December

- 1 Bill & Debbie Conner (A)
Lynn & Leroy Hogeland (A)
- 3 Heidi Conner
- 11 Tom Hastings
- 13 Steve Gilkerson
- 15 Taylor Hastings
- 18 Lindsey Wilson
- 20 Breanna Ross
- 31 Jason Howe

Finances

October was a five Sunday month and that is reflected in the giving. Offerings for October total \$2,179.29 and our monthly expenses (according to the budget) are \$2,076.51.

LUMC News

Kids Club

We're off and running with our new and improved Kids Club that meets from 5:00-6:30PM at the church on Wednesdays. Our young people have already had their first opportunity to use their accumulated tickets at our Close Encounters with Creation Store.

We will finish up over Christmas break with an all morning adventure that will end with lunch. If you are first through fifth grade, it's not too late to become a part of the learning and fun.



Pat Frye, Warren Jones, the family of John Waters, Ed Weldon, Frank Schmitz, Walter Bunch, Donnie Tucker, the family of Ralph Bryant, Thelma Smith, Dale Allison, Lois Walter And from the other communities in our parish - Jack McConnell Pam Briggs, Marcella Clark, Beverly Mick, Margaret Conner, Todd Spaur, Lola Baltzley, Lucille Boyer, Margaret Ann Dunkin.

That Was Yesterday



The East Room

Long before consolidation of educational facilities became the norm in this state, one room schools dotted the landscape and provided a strong foundation for many rural young people. Today our children are bussed here and there and most of the structures themselves are gone.

But here at the Lovilia United Methodist Church we are blest to have one of those school houses as part of our church. The old Hinton School was moved to town and literally attached to our building and is now the East room that we use for Kids Club and Sunday School classes.

And, did you know that one of our members, Norma Barnes, used to teach in the Hinton School? Today she teaches the adult class in that very room - things have come full circle and we have a bit more of the rich legacy of our history and heritage.

These 16 messages have appeared on billboards and busses in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. The Smith Agency in charge of the advertising campaign said an anonymous individual is footing the bill. They have caused quite a stir.

- You think it's hot here? -God
- Need a marriage counselor? I'm available. -God
- Tell the kids I love them. -God
- Need Directions? -God
- Let's meet at my house Sunday *before* the game. -God
- C'mon over and bring the kids. -God
- What part of "Thou Shalt Not..." didn't you understand? -God
- We need to talk. -God
- Loved the wedding; invite me to the marriage. - God
- Keep using my name in vain and I'll make rush hour longer. -God
- I love you. I love you. I love you. -God
- That "Love Thy Neighbor" thing, I meant it. - God
- Will the road you're on get you to my place? - God
- Follow Me. -God
- Big bang theory; you've got to be kidding. -God
- My way is the highway. -God

Parish News

Pass It On Youth

December meetings for our parish wide youth group tentatively will be held on December 10th at Bussey (time to be announced) and on December 17th from 2:00-4:00PM (place to be announced). plans are in the works to spend some time helping at one of the animal rescue leagues close by. Watch your mail for details.

The youth group wants to thank Steve and Ginny Stewart for offering to supply t-shirts for the whole group with our group name "Pass It On" as part of the shirt's design.

Congratulations to our youth for filling 7 Operation Christmas Child boxes. Thank you to Susan and Jerry Gunnell and the Bussey Mission Committee for paying the money for shipping for the 7 boxes.

We learn to give by giving.



Parish Bible Study

The Rapture may arrive before we finish our parish Bible Study on Revelation. Such a lot has been going on in the lives of the participants. We pretty much decide week by week whether or not we'll meet on Sunday evening at 6:00 PM in Lovilia.

United Methodist Men

Recently, Steve and Ginny Stewart took wood for 40 PET Mobiles cut by our parish men down to Missouri to be combined with the metal parts to make completed transports. They were told that the output of that factory is 15 PET Mobiles per week and the wood we sent came at just the right time.

Thank you, Ward, for allowing us to use your workroom, to the men for giving their time and expertise to get the job done and to Steve and Ginny for delivering the wood. We're ready to begin the next 40.

Christmas Eve Services

Again this year all three churches will have a Christmas Eve service. Come and worship Christ the newborn King with friends and neighbors in the community of faith. Make it a part of your family celebration. One good thing about being a part of a parish is that if the time decided upon for your church interferes with a family gathering; either of the other two churches will welcome you with open arms.

Lovilia: 6:30 PM **Hamilton:** 5:00 PM **Bussey:** 4:00 PM

Parish Shirts

Need a great idea for a late Christmas gift? Or do you just want to celebrate being a part of the BHL parish? This is your opportunity to purchase a t-shirt or sweatshirt with our parish name, the United Methodist logo and a Scripture on either the front or back.

To order a t-shirt or sweatshirt, contact Kim Williams in Bussey, Marlene Allen in Hamilton or Nathan Chamberlain in Lovilia. To see a full color picture of the design, go to the Lovilia Church website lumc.webs.com. Otherwise, check in church or on the back of your newsletter. Order forms can either be downloaded off the website or picked up in church. Questions? Call Nathan at 641-946-7615

Christmas Potluck in Lovilia

December 7th – 12:00 Noon

Bussey and Hamilton women (and the men as well) are invited to the Lovilia UMW December meeting on Thursday, December 7th at noon. Lovilia women will bring potluck dishes for everyone to enjoy. There will be a \$5.00 gift exchange for those who wish to participate.

LOVILIA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
2007 NOMINATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Chair: Fred Kraber	Vice Chair: Bill Barnes III
Recording Sec.: Judy Conner	
Lay Leader: Bill Barnes III	Asst. Lay Leader: Kevin Maughan
Communion Steward: Linda Weldon	Asst.: Lola Ivins
Treasurer: Judy Conner	Asst. Treasurer: Edith Barnes
Financial Sec.: Marilyn Kraber	Asst. Financial Sec.: Virginia Weldon
Church School Super.: Linda Weldon	Chair of Trustees: will be elected in Jan.
Church School Sec.: Frances Waters	Evening UMW Chair: Virginia Weldon
UMW President: Goldie Kraber	Lay Delegate to Conference: Goldie Kraber
Chair of PPR: Bill Barnes III	Membership Sec.: Christy Newman
Chair of Outreach: Gayle Hastings	UMYF Coord.: Connie Barnes
Youth Rep.: Nathan Chamberlain	Greeters: Edith Barnes

HONORARY MEMBERS AT LARGE

Velma White

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

<i>Class of 2007</i>	<i>Class of 2008</i>	<i>Class of 2009</i>
Ed Weldon	Bill Barnes III	John Hastings
Phil Lundstrom	Judy Conner (Treasurer)	Kevin Maughan
Merrill Baker	Calvin Chamberlain	Scott Huguen

PASTOR PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Lay Leader: Bill Barnes III	Delegate to Annual Conference: Goldie Kraber	
<i>Class of 2007</i>	<i>Class of 2008</i>	<i>Class of 2009</i>
Linda Weldon	Merlin Newman	Nathan Chamberlain
Virginia Weldon	Sheila Lundstrom	Judy Conner
Dawn Maughan	Christy Newman	Gayle Hastings

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Ilene Potthorf Judy Conner Linda Weldon Fred Kraber Bill Barnes III
Frances Waters Marilyn Kraber Virginia Weldon

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

<i>Class of 2007</i>	<i>Class of 2008</i>	<i>Class of 2009</i>
Norma Barnes	Goldie Kraber	Connie Barnes
Sharon Waters	Norma Jean See	Linda Weldon
Edith Barnes	Gayle Hastings	Lola Ivins

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Christy Newman - Connie Barnes - Virginia Weldon - Gayle Hastings - Deb Conner
Linda Weldon - Goldie Kraber - Pastor Jill

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Christy Newman and Marilyn Kraber

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Chair - Gayle Hastings
Helen Baker, Nathan Chamberlain, Norma Jean See, Norma Barnes, Lola Ivins, Pastor Jill.



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

PARISH SHIRTS FOR SALE!



Find More Information on Pg. 4

Lovilia Hamilton Bussey Shirts

Grab an order form and get your brand new high quality clothing for 2007! These will last a long time and make great gifts for the New Year. **Orders Due DECEMBER 10.**
T-shirt Front: The Church Has Left The Building...Gone Outreaching!

T-Shirt Back: Lovilia Hamilton Bussey Parish 2007
lumc.webs.com

Sweatshirt Front: Lovilia Hamilton Bussey Parish 2007
Sweatshirt Back: Faith is being sure of what you hope for and certain of what you do not see. Hebrews 11:1

Featured Articles

- Reader's Corner (pg. 2)
- Christmas Eve Services (pg. 5)
- Parish Shirts (pg. 5)
- Officers for 2007 Enclosed

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