

The Wesley Message From Center Street

Clarence UMC Monthly Newsletter

January 2010

Volume II Issue I



We wanted to share a New Years' story with you, to inspire you, and to remember that as with all things new, a New Year brings renewed hope.

The Little New Year by Ellen Robena Field

One cold morning Maurice awoke from his dreams and sat up in bed and listened. He thought he heard a knock at his window; but though the moon was shining brightly, Jack Frost had been so busily at work that Maurice could not see through the thickly painted panes. So he crept sleepily out of bed, and opened the window, and whispered: "Who is there?"

"I am," replied a tinkling voice. "I am the little New Year, Ho! Ho! And I've promised to bring a blessing to everyone. But I am such a little fellow I need somebody to help me distribute them. Won't you please come out and help?"

"Oh, it's so cold!" said Maurice; "I'd rather go back to my warm bed," and he shivered as Jack Frost, who was passing, tickled him under the chin with one of the frosty paint brushes.

"Never mind the cold," urged the New Year; "please help me."

So Maurice hurried into his clothes, and was soon out in the yard. There he found a rosy-cheeked boy a little smaller than himself, pulling a large cart which seemed to be loaded with good things. On one side of this cart was painted the word "Love," and on the other "Kindness." As soon as the New Year saw Maurice he said, "Now please take hold and help me pull;" and down the driveway and up the hill they traveled until they came to an old shanty.

"Here is where I make my first call," said the New Year. Maurice looked wonderingly at him. "Why, nobody lives here but an old man who works for us; and he hasn't any children!" "He needs my help," said the New Year; "for grown people like to be thought of just as much as children do. You shovel out a path to his door, while I unload some of my blessings; and the little hands went busily at work, piling up warm clothing, wood, and a new year's dinner, the New Year singing as he worked:

"Oh, I am the little New Year, Ho! Ho! Here I come tripping it over the snow, shaking my bells with a merry din; so open your door and let me in."

Old Joe, hearing some noise outside, came to the door, and when he saw all the nice gifts the tears ran down his cheeks for gladness; and as he carried them into the house, he whispered: "The dear Lord has been here tonight."

"Where are we going now?" asked Maurice, as they ran down the hill. "To take some flowers to a poor sick girl," answered the New Year.

Soon they came to a small white house, where the New Year stopped. "Why, Bessie lives here," said Maurice. "I didn't know she was sick." "See," said the New Year, "this window is open a little; let us throw this bunch of pinks into the room. They will please her when she wakes, and will make her happy for several days."

Then they hurried to other places, leaving some blessing behind them.

"What a wonderful cart you have," said Maurice; "though you have taken so much out, it never seems to get empty." "You are right, Maurice, there is never any end to love and kindness. As long as I find people to love and be kind to, my cart is full of blessings for them; and it will never grow empty until I can no longer find people to help. If you will go with me every day and help me scatter my blessings, you will see how happy you will be all the long year."

"A happy New Year!" called some one; and Maurice found himself in bed, and his sister standing in the doorway smiling at him. "Have you had a pleasant dream, dear?" she asked.

"Why, where is the little New Year?" said Maurice; "he was just here with me."

"Come into Mamma's room and see what he has brought you," answered his sister. There in a snowy white cradle he found a tiny baby brother, the gift of the New Year. How happy Maurice was then! But he did not forget his dream. Old Joe and Bessie had their gifts, too, and Maurice tried so hard to be helpful that he made all his friends glad because the happy New Year had come.

Reminder.....

Again, we want to urge your family to fill out the Centennial Questionnaire to be included in our history book to be published later this year so as to include the centennial celebration events and pictures. A copy of the questionnaire was passed out with the bulletins on Sunday morning, and a copy also appears in this newsletter.

Clarence UMC Board Meeting

Members of the Clarence UMC Board met December 2, 2009 at 7 p.m. at the church for their monthly meeting. Members present were Terry Mefford, DeEtte Carroll, Ivan Carroll, Barbara Chittum, Lynda Proper, Kerry McCarty, Jeff Barry, Lee Schoonover, Ruth Wood, and Pastor Larry DeSpain. Pastor Larry opened the meeting with prayer.

Secretary Lynda read the October minutes as there was not a November meeting due to the change of dates from the third Wednesday to the first Wednesday of each month. A November meeting would have been held only two weeks after the October meeting. A correction to the minutes was the wording of the title of Rev. Dick Curry. It should have read "Assistant to the Bishop" instead of Assistant Bishop. The minutes were then accepted after the correction was noted.

Amy Presson was unable to be present, but her prepared Treasurer's Report was reviewed with discussion following. Her report was accepted as presented.

Jeff Barry reported for the trustees. Mike Focht has been contacted about work to be done regarding the walls of the sanctuary and other work. Because of the deterioration of the outside brickwork, leaking has occurred and the plaster walls are crumbling and water stains are extensive. There is also a soft spot in the floor. He was told that the work needs to be completed by February 14, 2010 in time for our centennial celebration. Jeff also stated that David Davidson has been working on the tuck pointing as weather permits, and this week has been working on the west side with much work done on the inside of the tower.

Lee reported that the Lord's Hour Dinner and Auction final count was \$3,921.52. This traditionally goes to the building fund to pay for property insurance. The net amount is short as the insurance premium is \$4,334.00 as stated in the budget.

Barbara reported for the Centennial Celebration. She stated that she was able to get a price on souvenir pens, and would like to know if we wanted to place an order. The pens cost \$.48 each and she would like to order 300. No action was taken. The worship committee of Angie Mefford, Julia Barry, and Dawn Ann Masten will plan the morning and afternoon programs for the February 14th celebration. Barbara also wanted to let the congregation know we have a last call for pictures to be submitted now. An announcement to that effect will be put in the weekly bulletin.

Ruth reported that she had contacted ministers who had served our church in the past, or former church members who had become ministers. She had contacted Stella Burkhardt, Rusty McCollum, Susie Watson, Donna Barton, and Rev. Beryl Cragg. She felt that we should invite our sister churches; Bethlehem UMC and Monroe Chapel. Pastor Larry stated that he would extend the invitation from the pulpit at Bethlehem, and Donna Barton would be contacted to extend the invitation to Monroe Chapel.

Ruth and Barbara Chittum visited Rev. Nadine Thurman to extend an invitation to her, also. While there Nadine donated to the church an oak desk and chair, which had belonged to Karl Thurman. It is 56"x32" and topped by a plate of glass. The board voted to accept the gift and place it in the basement for the Sunday school superintendent to use. Several men will move it to the basement in the next few days.

The choir monitor has been received and is in use.

As Reese Blaine has moved to Shelbina, Ivan stated that we need someone to turn on the heat for Sunday services. In very cold weather it needs to be turned on Saturday and then checked again on Sunday mornings to make sure all is working. Pastor Larry was asked to do this and to make sure it is warm before going to Bethlehem Church.

Ruth stated that the answering machine message at the parsonage needs to be changed so that those calling

know they have reached Pastor Larry. He stated that it is an automated voicemail and that he was only able to insert one word. Ruth replied that it needs to be a more personal message, and it needs to be identified as the parsonage. Pastor Larry will try to change the message.

Pastor Larry reported that he had made 21 visits to hospitals and nursing homes, and four home visits. He had received a letter from a Margaret Rhodes Tollerton who would like to present a pro program about stem cell research. No action was taken. Larry also stated that he would be having a PPR Meeting and a Nominations Committee Meeting by the end of the year. He has mailed letters to former ministers Rev. Bill Koch, Rev Beryl Cragg, and the Assistant to the Bishop, Rev. Dick Curry to invite them to the February celebration, and all have responded that they will attend.

DeEtte closed the meeting with prayer.

January Birthdays And Anniversaries

2. Lynda Proper
5. Mildred Hirrlinger
11. Abbie Sickal
12. Brent Wood
13. Dawn Ann Masten
14. Isabel Hutcherson
15. Danny Walker
18. Nathan Hopper
Brent Weisenborn
Noelle Barr Koch
20. Ruth Wood
Wayne Hutton
Glen Wallace
21. Martha Mason
23. Jeanna Rutter
24. Preston James Burns
27. Sharon Schoonover
31. Ross Hunter Wood
Joslynn Mae Mefford

January Events To Occur

- Jan. 1 New Year's Day
Jan. 6 7:00 Board Meeting
6:00 Youth Meeting
Jan 16 6:30 Men's Breakfast

Centennial Celebration February 14, 2010

Following is the questionnaire information we will be using when writing the biographies for the history book to be included next to each family photo. Please include all the information you would like us to use. Be sure and return this questionnaire ASAP to Barbara Chittum at her address at 606 South Center, Clarence, MO 63437. The deadline is March 1, 2010. Thanks

**Clarence United Methodist Church
Centennial Questionnaire**

1. Your Family Name _____

2. Date of and how your family became associated with the church

3. Names of those in your family who are or have been active in the church

4. Names and special positions held in the church or Sunday school by members of your family and dates

5. Special memories you have of people or events of the church

6. Special memories of yourself relating to the church

Please, feel free to use additional pages if necessary.

United Methodist Church
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