



In This Edition: January 2008

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**Zion United
Methodist Church
9009 SR 12 West
Findlay, OH 45840
419-422-3010
www.findlayzion.com**



A Message from Pastor Kelly New Beginnings for 2008

New year's resolutions are usually about as effective as politicians promises, but there are many changes that we need in this troubled world and in our own troubled lives. The Presidential candidates have been trying to outdo each other as the "candidate of change", but the "powers that be", whether in Washington D.C., Hancock County or our own sin ridden souls are resistant and hostile to change, so working for change is messy. Enthusiastic supporters might chant "we want change!" over and over again but political leaders words have a tendency do much less than promised or hoped for. We might pray "I want change" over and over again but good intentions without accountability don't get us very far either.

It is social movements that have made changes in the past century for issues like women's rights, civil rights, worker's rights, the environment, peace, anti-nuclear, alter-globalization etc. The church when it works as the body of Christ, has been the place where most social movements have been begun by those who have first experienced personal spiritual change. Words to a troubled pop star Michael Jackson song of two decades ago were: "I'm starting with the man in the mirror, I'm asking him to change his ways. And no message could have been any clearer. If you want to make the world a better place, take a look at yourself and then make that change!" His example may be less than perfect but the lyrics are right on.

As Christians we are all about the power of change, new beginnings and transformation in Christ Jesus. God loved the world so much that He gave us his one and only son. New beginnings happen when we repent and are intentional in partnership with others and with God.

Summing up the Alcoholics Anonymous 12 steps for change is: Knowing that a change is necessary is a good first step. Choosing to depend upon God for those changes, we take responsibility for our problems and make amends wherever we can. While continuing to take inventory of ourselves and to depend on God for the results, change happens. Through the power of prayer, trusting in God and connecting with others in the body of Christ let's become the change that we want to see.

**Social Time
Schedule**

January 13
Deb Core & Carl Etta Capes

January 20 (B-Day)
Newman's

January 27
Tidd's

February 3
Geaman's

February 10
Jean Adams'

February 17 (B-Day)
Willford's

February 24
Fox's

Honor Roll

Congratulations to those making
the Honor Roll for the last grading
period:

Riverdale Honor Roll: Chad Kelly

Liberty Benton All A's: Blair
Harmon

Liberty Benton Honor Roll:
Hannah Cain, Kyle Bowsher

2008 Committees Restructured

Pastor Kelly and the nominations team have presented a plan to reorganize the church committees. The information for each of the committees is below. Please plan to attend the kick-off meeting which is scheduled for January 30 at 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Volunteering for a committee is a great way to share your talents with the church.

The committees are referenced by the acronym "NOW" which stands for Nurture, Outreach and Witness.

Nurture (*formerly known as Discipleship, Fellowship and Worship*) – gives attention to but not limited to education, worship, Christian formation, membership care, small groups, and stewardship. Attention must be given to the needs of individuals and families of all ages. Chairperson – Mel Fox

Outreach (*formerly known as Real Ministry*) – gives attention to local and larger community ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy. These ministries include church and society, global ministries, higher education and campus ministry, health and welfare, Christian unity and interreligious concerns, religion and race, and the status and role of women. Chairperson – Barb Tidd

Witness (*formerly known as Reaching Out and Communications*) – gives attention to developing and strengthening evangelistic efforts of sharing of personal and congregational stories of Christian experience, faith, and service; communications; Lay Speaking Ministries; and other means that give expressions of witness for Jesus Christ. Chairperson – Jen Iliff

Trustees: Tom Brown, Keith Willford, Harriet Adams, Midge Beck, Rhonda Grothaus, Dean Zeisloft, Mike Harmon and Chuck Eichar

Leader Selection and Development: Mel Fox, Susie Stennett, Joe Adams, Sandy Brown, Stephanie Rickle, Nathan Zeisloft, Lynn Dorman and Mary Thomas

Pastor Parish Relations: Marilyn Willford, Jeff Holdman, Deb Core, Ashley Fox, Faye Newman, Bryan Stennett, Carl Etta Capes and Harvey Beck



2008 Leadership

Ad Board Chair: Tom Foust

Vice Chairperson: Denny Dorman

Secretary: Deborah Foust

Prayer Coordinator:
Ginny Geaman

Nurture Chair: Mel Fox

Outreach Chair: Barb Tidd

Witness Chair: Jen Iliff

Worship Chair: Roger Brown

Scouting Coordinator:
Bill Geaman

Pastor Parish Relations:
Marilyn Willford

Charge Conference Secretary:
Marilyn Willford

Finance Chair: Mel Fox

Lay Leader: Marie Eichar

Financial Secretary: Marie Eichar

Treasurer: Carl Grothaus

Trustees: Tom Brown

Administrative Board: 1/7/08

Meeting called to order by Tom Foust who opened with prayer.

Present: Bill Geaman, Carl Grothaus, Denny Dorman, Ginny Geaman, Roger Brown, Tom Brown, Joe Adams, Marilyn Willford, Harriet Adams, Marie Eichar, Brett Kelly, and Deborah Foust.

Minutes for December 2007, read and approved.

Fellowship: Scouts would like approval for Scout Sunday on February 3rd. Approved. Pancake and sausage supper will be Tuesday, February 5th. May they use paper products? Approved. Jon Groves has new phone number if anyone needs to contact him.

Trustees: No report.

PPR: No report.

Treasurer: Ended the year owing West Ohio \$4850 in apportionments. District apportionments paid 100%. YTD monies down about \$1000. Transferred \$1300 to Maintenance and Improvements as voted at last meeting to take checking account to \$2500 by end of year. Filed for audit.

Financial Secretary: Approved to move \$1495 in 'other income' account to Maintenance and Improvements. Filed for audit.

Worship: Both Christmas Eve services well attended, about equal in number. Comments made about battery candles, may look at different holders for real candles for next year. There will be a service on Ash Wednesday, February 6th. Looking at a Seder meal for Maundy Thursday service. Easter on March 23rd – Youth to conduct sunrise service, breakfast at 8 a.m., Sunday School at 9 a.m. and combined worship at 10 a.m. Since Easter is combined, the fifth Sunday will have regular schedule of 2 services instead of combined on March 30th. It was proposed to go back to having a carry-in meal following each 5th Sunday combined service. Approved contingent on calendar.

Real Ministry: To schedule meeting soon. Discipleship: No report. Pastor's Report: No report.

Miscellaneous: Building Committee met with Clouse to review revisions and make changes. Have a contract for the drawings and the permits. Do not want to proceed with any



Greeter Schedule

January 13

Roger Brown's & Grothaus'

January 20

Chuck Eichar & Iliff's

January 27

Willford's & Dorman's

February 3

Karl Cramer's & Hooper's

February 10


Linda Doolittle & Mary Thomas

February 17

Rettig's & Fox's

February 24

Holdman's & Deb Core



Thoughts for the Day

“A ship in harbor is safe,
but that is not what ships
are built for.”

~ John Shedd ~

“We turn to God for help
when our foundations are
shaking only to learn that it is
God shaking them.”

~ Charles West ~

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permits until we have at least ½ of the funds raised. It has been confirmed that Code will require reinforcing the existing fellowship hall roof

where it adjoins the Phase 2 addition. Looking at what price would be during this addition versus waiting until the Phase 2 date to tear back into current roof. Looking at setting up fund-raising.

Meeting adjourned: Brett closed with prayer.

Building Update

The building committee met with the Clouse Construction on January 2 to begin to finalize the construction plans. Some modifications to the original plan have been made to maximize the use of the new space that is being proposed.

One modification being considered is replacing the current roof over the fellowship hall. The roof would need to be replaced to meet building codes when phase two which includes the multipurpose room begins. The committee will obtain pricing on the modification before proceeding.

The committee signed a contract with Clouse to cover the administrative costs of the meetings, proposals, drawings and revisions. The contract also includes the work associated with obtaining required local and state permits. Because the permits have a timeline of when the project must be completed, the committee instructed Clouse to hold off on obtaining the permits until we have half the funds raised.

Are You on the Prayer Chain?

Everyone is invited to be a member of our prayer chain. Just sign-up in the fellowship hall to be a member and your phone number will be added to our prayer chain list. You will begin to receive the automated phone calls from our prayer chain telephone messaging system. No people to call, nothing to do except pray of course when called. The calls are 10 cents each. Currently we have about 40 members on our prayer chain list.

Also, if you have a request for the prayer chain, please contact Mary Thomas at 419-424-4034 or Jen Iliff at 419-424-6605. Please do not send e-mails for prayer chain requests.



Treasurer Report



Financial Secretary Report

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Jan 13 Ethan Stennett Birthday	Jan 14 6 PM Choir	Jan 15	Jan 16 Jim Rettig Birthday	Jan 17 Allison Hooper Birthday Becky Wolford Birthday	Jan 18	Jan 19
Jan 20 Birthday Sunday 7 AM Men's Breakfast at Cracker Barrel Clint Jacobsen Birthday	Jan 21 6 PM Choir Dan Harpst Birthday Shelly Hooper Birthday	Jan 22 Faye Newman Birthday	Jan 23 Irene Houtz Birthday	Jan 24 Jack & Pat Brown Anniv.	Jan 25	Jan 26
Jan 27 Building Fund Sunday Walter Allen Birthday	Jan 28 6 PM Choir Collin Svoboda Birthday Nathan Holdman Birthday	Jan 29 Melanie Fox Birthday	Jan 30 Tom Foust Birthday 7 PM NOW Kickoff Meeting Everyone Encouraged to Attend.	Jan 31	Feb 1 Bonnie Rettig Birthday	Feb 2
Feb 3 Mission Sunday	Feb 4 6 PM Choir 7 PM Ad Board Barb Stahler Birthday	Feb 5 Boy Scout Pancake Supper Come and support the Scouts!	Feb 6 Ash Wednesday Service	Feb 7	Feb 8	Feb 9
Feb 10	Feb 11 6 PM Choir Harvey Beck Birthday	Feb 12 Jill Harvey Birthday	Feb 13 Helen Allen Birthday Todd & Lori Washer Anniv. 7 PM NOW Chair Meeting	Feb 14 Jim & Bonnie Rettig Anniv. Nick Cramer Birthday 7 PM UMW Mtg.	Feb 15	Feb 16 Ken Knowlton Birthday
Feb 17 Birthday Sunday 7 AM Men's Breakfast at Cracker Barrel	Feb 18 6 PM Choir	Feb 19 Bryan Stennett Birthday Drew Svoboda Birthday Steve & Kim Benjamin Anniv.	Feb 20	Feb 21 Art & Jane Koch Anniv.	Feb 22	Feb 23 Brittany Kelly Birthday