



**In This Edition: February 2008**

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Troop 324 Celebrates 30 Years  
Join the Book Study**

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## Let's Grow from the Inside Out

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, of spiritual preparation for celebrating Easter. Lent began as a time of fasting to get ready for the waters of baptism by converts and then became a time of penance by all Christians. Even during Lent Sundays are always considered little Easters, so the somber spirit of the season is tempered with joyful expectation of the Resurrection.

We were beginning to recover from the August flooding and the river rose again. On Ash Wednesday this year we traded in the symbolic dry ashes on our foreheads as a sign of our mortality and repentance, for the swirl of rising water, anxiety, frustration, mourning and heaviness.

Isaiah 61:1,2c,3 says "The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me... To comfort all who mourn, To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified."

If you are a follower of Jesus Christ, the Spirit of the Lord God is upon you. You are called to do the Spirit's bidding to comfort, console, give beauty, joy, and praise that you will be righteous tree planted by the Lord for his glory.

Jeremiah 17:8 says "For you shall be as a tree planted by the waters, that spreadeth out its roots by the river, and shall not fear when heat cometh, but its leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit."

Spirituality is concerned with how to live a full life, not an empty one. The fact is, all we have in life is life. Things—the cars, the houses, the educations, the jobs, the money—come and go. They turn to dust or float away between our fingers eventually, they change and disappear. No, things do not make life. The gift of life, the secret of it, is that life must be developed from the inside out, from what we bring to it from within ourselves, not from what we collect or consume as we go through it, not even from what we experience in the course of it.

It is not circumstances of flood, fire or age that make or destroy a life. Anyone who has survived the death of a lover, the loss of a position, the end of a dream, the enmity of a friend knows that. It is the way we live each of the circumstances of life, the humdrum as well as the extraordinary, the daily as well as the defining moments, that determines the quality of our lives. Yet, each of us has the freedom to live life either well or poorly. Ironically enough, it is a matter of decision. And the decision is ours.

During this period of Lent let's make the decision to grow from the inside out, to Love God, Love people and follow Jesus. During these forty days of preparation let's make the decision to refocus on living our life well, in spite of the external circumstances that have come our way. From now until Easter let's remember that we won't live in these bodies forever let's repent of our sins and unhealthy ways. As we prepare for Resurrection let's make the decision to develop life from the inside out and thrive where God planted us.



## Social Time Schedule

February 10  
Jean Adams'

February 17 (B-Day)  
Willford's

February 24  
Fox's

March 2  
Nancy Harmon

March 9  
Elizabeth Snyder

March 16 (B-Day)  
Leona Core

## Pumpkin Cake

For those who requested the pumpkin cake recipe served on February 3. Mix together: 1 large can of pumpkin (not pie filling), 1 box Angel food cake mix, 1 cup water, 2 TBS pumpkin spice. Pour into 9x13 pan and bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. Add a dollop of whipped topping if desired. This recipe came from the nurses at Cardiac Rehab at BVH and is heart healthy.

## Honor Roll

Congratulations to Jacob Fenstermaker for the all A&B honor roll at McComb Middle School.

## Dear Zion Family,

Imagine this: your children are grown and gone, and you miss them terribly. Much to your sorrow, they call home only once in a blue moon – or not at all. This is loosely akin to the relationship that many of us have with God. There are some who check in with Him regularly, and some who never bother to call Home. We know how we feel when our children don't call, it also matters deeply to God when we fail to connect with Him in prayer. God wishes us to be as near to Him as our very breath. There is simply no way to have a relationship with Him unless we talk to Him...and also listen.

When I recently read these words of author Jan Karon of the "Mitford" series, I thought that is exactly the idea that I wanted to share with you as your Prayer Coordinator. One of the most essential parts of our lives is prayer and yet we often forget or are too busy to call Home.

It is my hope, and my prayer, that I can help and encourage you to deepen your prayer and devotional life this year. Prayer is the foundation of our lives and also our church. None of our goals for Zion, no matter how important, will be accomplished without much prayer. When we join the church, the pastor asks us: "Will you be loyal to the United Methodist Church, and uphold it by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, and your service?"

We respond: "I will". Have you kept that promise?

Throughout this year I will be presenting prayer opportunities as well as ideas and resources (see below) on prayer. I welcome your suggestions and please let me know how I can be of help to you.

In His Name,

Ginny

Resources: website on prayer by Guideposts is: [OurPrayer.org](http://OurPrayer.org)

## Prayer Help Needed

Pastor Brett would like to have several people praying for him before each of the worship services. If you would be willing to meet in the back Sunday School classroom on the west side of the hall about 10 minutes before either service to pray for the pastor and the service, please let Ginny know. If we can get enough people to pray, you would only need to serve once or twice a month.



## Student of the Month—Kyle G.

Congratulations to Kyle Grothaus who was recognized as the Student of the Month at Liberty Benton.

Kyle is involved in football and National Honor Society, and he is looking forward to attending the University of Toledo. He enjoys hanging out with friends, the Ohio State Buckeyes, and playing video games, and his favorite subject is math. His personal goal is to pursue a career in mechanical engineering. **Congrats Kyle!**

## Sports News

Jacob Fenstermaker placed first in his weight class in the OWL Jr. High Wrestling Tournament Feb. 2, 2008. Britta Fenstermaker was a member of the McComb 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Basketball team. They were the runner-up in the BVC Tournament.

## Prayer Chain

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. Thank you!

If you'd like to be included in the prayer chain, simply sign up in the fellowship hall. The clipboard is next to the UMW bulletin board.

## United Methodist Women

The January meeting was very interesting with a speaker from the Open Arms Domestic Violence Center. The ladies donated many paper products to the center. Hostesses for the meeting were Ginny Geaman and Faye Newman. The February meeting will be held on Feb. 14 at 7PM. Ladies please feel free to join us for any of our meetings. The hostesses will be Marie Eichar and Lynn Dorman.

## Cookbooks For Sale

Remember there still are cookbooks available for anyone who wishes to purchase them. The cost is \$10.00. These are great gifts for Valentines, birthday, anniversary, Easter, or just for someone to let them know you are thinking of them.

## Outreach Committee (Barb Tidd)

Each month the mission collection will support the Friendly Center in Toledo \$20.00, Smallwoods \$20.00, LB Partnership \$20.00 and Conference Special Offering \$10.00. The extra collected monies will go to a selected monthly mission. January was Blankets and Tools, February is Domestic Violence, and March is the Heifer Project. The Bibles for the Jail is our special project. We are buying and using about 24 Bibles for the jail each month. You can change someone's life for \$2.40. We are thankful for Carl Etta's ministry to the prisoners. Remember we will collect seeds for the Jackson Area Ministries project in March. This ministry provides seeds for gardens to the folks in the area.

## Celebrating 30 Years: Troop 324

On February 2, Jon Groves and Boy Scout Troop 324 participated in Scout Sunday at Zion. Jon announced that 2008 marks the 30th year for Troop 324. In 1978, seven men identified a need for a Boy Scout Troop to cover the Liberty Benton School District. They were: Rev. Doug Dawson, Bob Groves, Bob Pepple, Don Diller, Earl Blunk, Claude James and Gerald Kidd.

The Troop increased this year by two boys and one of the scouts has the opportunity to become an Eagle Scout which would ironically be the 30th Eagle Scout to be honored from Troop 324.

This summer, the Troop is planning a trip to Yorktown, Virginia to learn more about the revolutionary war and American History. Jon thanked the congregation for Zion's continued support. The annual pancake supper was held on Tuesday, February 5 at the church.



## 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: 2/4/08

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

Present: Tom Foust, Bill Geaman, Carl Grothaus, Denny Dorman, Ginny Geaman, Roger Brown, Tom Brown, Joe Adams, Marilyn Willford, Mel Fox, Lynn Dorman, Mary Thomas, Gregg Fox, Marie Eichar, Brett Kelly, and Deborah Foust.

Minutes: January 7, 2008 approved.

Agenda: Tom Foust mentioned that the agenda was a work-in-progress and is being adapted to meet the new team format. Any suggestions are welcome.

Nurture: Mel offered that there will be a VBS Easter party on March 12. VBS will be July 13-17 with the theme 'Power Lab'. Roger Brown has agreed to be the new Sunday School superintendent. He is currently looking through books that offer teaching materials for the different age groups. A meeting will be scheduled with the current teachers to determine where assistance might be needed.

Outreach: No report, meeting scheduled.

Witness: Getting prices for prayer chain magnets so church family can easily reach prayer request contact(s) and pastor. Looking at creating a database for tracking individual attendance in order to keep open communication with church family and guests. There will be a general communication on Tuesday to remind everyone about the Ash Wednesday service. Jen is in the process of adding all the newsletters to the web site and is getting a new event calendar for the fellowship hall. Getting prices for address and/or phone list of residents within a specified area of the church in order to contact them with events and invitations.

Trustees: Questions about cracks in wall at front of sanctuary getting larger and getting repaired. Also comments about possibility of changing décor, age of drapes, etc.

PPR: Meeting scheduled for Monday, Feb. 11.

UMW: Next meeting on Feb. 14. Looking to move Salad Buffet to May 1<sup>st</sup>. Recruiting will be a focus.

S.T.O.M.P. Youth group has elected to concentrate efforts in a different direction. Will no longer participate.

*Administrative Minutes continued on Page 6*



## Greeter Schedule

February 10

Linda Doolittle & Mary Thomas

February 17

Rettig's & Fox's

February 24

Holdman's & Deb Core

March 2


Harmon's & Stennett's

March 9

Carl Etta Capes & Jean McGuire

March 16

Grothaus' & Jody Rucker



## Thoughts for the Day

"Before you speak, it is necessary for you to listen, for God speaks in the silence of the heart."

~ Mother Theresa ~

"Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm.

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson ~

Treasurer: Needed to make an adjustment in insurance amount, deducted from Maintenance and Improvements. Waiting for pension billing. Audit will be done by Carl's office for \$100. Filed for audit.

Financial Secretary: Missions and blanket donations separate – total \$385 for blankets. Ordered 4 cases of Bibles for jail. Filed for audit.

Pastor's Report: Hospital visits, long-term recovery and several conference committees. Ash Wednesday service at 7 p.m. A Maundy Thursday Seder meal will be offered to the Zion family and guests but not be advertised as a public event. Would like to get an idea of preparation of food, service, and success the first time. Doing book study, *The Great Awakening*, on Wednesday mornings, 9:30-11:30, from February 13 – March 19. Advertised through Sojourners web site - public service. Expressed appreciation for all who attended NOW organizational meeting and everyone who is volunteering.

Miscellaneous: DVD player in sanctuary being replaced by youth.

Prayer Coordinator: Setting up a prayer time for pastor. Several people will meet about 10 minutes prior to each service on Sunday and pray for Brett and the service. Devotional "Sanctuary for Lent" will be available to congregation. Children will receive a family devotional during children's message on Sunday.

Meeting adjourned: Brett closed with prayer.

## Book Study ~ You're Invited!

Pastor Brett Kelly is holding a book study on the book *The Great Awakening* beginning on Wednesday, February 13. Everyone is invited to join the study which will meet each Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The study concludes with the final session on March 19. The study will be held at Zion.

Book Synopsis: What will it take to solve the biggest issues of our time: extreme and needless poverty, global warming and environmental degradation, terrorism and the endless cycle of violence, racism, human trafficking, health care and education, and other pressing problems? While Washington offers only the politics of blame and fear, Jim Wallis, the man who changed the conversation about faith and politics, has traveled the country and found a nation hungry for a politics of solutions and hope.

He shows us that a revival is happening, as people of faith and moral conviction seek common ground for change.



**Treasurer Report**



**Financial Secretary Report**

Mark Your Calendar for VBS July 13 thru 17!

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>Feb 10</b> Ethan Stennett Birthday	<b>Feb 11</b> 6 PM Choir 7 PM PPR Mtg. Harvey Beck Birthday	<b>Feb 12</b> Jill Harvey Birthday	<b>Feb 13</b> 9:30 AM Book Study Helen Allen Birthday Todd & Lori Washer Anniv.	<b>Feb 14</b> Jim & Bonnie Rettig Anniv. Nick Cramer Birthday 7 PM UMW Mtg.	<b>Feb 15</b>	<b>Feb 16</b> Ken Knowlton Birthday
<b>Feb 17</b> Birthday Sunday 7 AM Men's Breakfast at Cracker Barrel	<b>Feb 18</b> 6 PM Choir	<b>Feb 19</b> Bryan Stennett Birthday Drew Svoboda Birthday Steve & Kim Benjamin Anniv.	<b>Feb 20</b> 9:30 AM Book Study	<b>Feb 21</b> Art & Jane Koch Anniv.	<b>Feb 22</b>	<b>Feb 23</b> Brittany Kelly Birthday
<b>Feb 24</b> Building Fund Sunday Walter Allen Birthday	<b>Feb 25</b> 6 PM Choir Nancy Harmon Birthday	<b>Feb 26</b> Kim Holdman Birthday	<b>Feb 27</b> 9:30 AM Book Study	<b>Feb 28</b>	<b>Feb 29</b>	<b>March 1</b>
<b>March 2</b> Mission Sunday Tammy Knowlton Birthday	<b>March 3</b> 6 PM Nurture, Witness & Outreach Team Meetings 7 PM Ad Board Kay Frey Birthday	<b>March 4</b>	<b>March 5</b> 9:30 AM Book Study Brian Rader Birthday Mike Harmon Birthday	<b>March 6</b> Kyle Bowsher Birthday	<b>March 7</b> Michelle Brown Birthday	<b>March 8</b>
<b>March 9</b> Eric Newcomer Birthday	<b>March 10</b> 6 PM Choir	<b>March 11</b>	<b>March 12</b> 9:30 AM Book Study VBS Easter Party ~ come join the fun!	<b>March 13</b> Ashley Flick Birthday 7 PM UMW Mtg. All Ladies Invited	<b>March 14</b>	<b>March 15</b> Gene Brown Birthday
<b>March 16</b> Birthday Sunday 7 AM Men's Breakfast at Cracker Barrel	<b>March 17</b> 6 PM Choir Denise Bowsher Birthday	<b>March 18</b>	<b>March 19</b> 9:30 AM Book Study John Newman Birthday	<b>March 20</b>	<b>March 21</b>	<b>March 22</b>