

## GREENSKY HILL TIDINGS- FEBRUARY 2009

### **Pastor's Pondering**

I was recently in the airport mindlessly looking over the magazines displayed in a kiosk outside of an airport version of a convenience store. A small child had just purchased a toy in the store with the idea that the child would have something to pass the time while they waited for their flight to depart. The toy was packaged in a sealed, very hard plastic wrapping. The packaging of the kind that usually takes me 10 minutes to open with a good pair of scissors. The child and his father had a problem! Since scissors, knives, and any other sort of tool that could open the packaging are NOT allowed in the airport, there was no way for the toy to be removed from the packaging. Even the store employee said they were not allowed to have scissors. The child had to wait until he arrived home before he could play with the toy.

Sometimes we look at the “abundant life” that Jesus Christ invites us into like the toy in the package. It would be wonderful if our lives were filled with “*love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control*” (Galatians 5:22-23), but we don't believe there is any way we can have access to that kind of life this side of heaven. We seek meaning and fulfillment in our lives through Jesus Christ, but believe we can only achieve it after we die.

Jesus Christ came to earth to rescue us from this wrongful thinking. Jesus said, “I am the way and the truth and the life.”(John 14:6). It is a present tense reality. We have all the tools we need to open our lives up to the abundant life Jesus invites us into: prayer, worship, serving others, the Bible, friends, meditation, nature, etc. The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of the living Jesus Christ, can empower us to pick up and use the tools we have to unpack each day to reveal the life Jesus promises !

I encourage you to begin each day with a prayer acknowledging your willingness to journey through the day with the Holy Spirit - expecting to experience more of the abundant life Jesus promises, no matter what the day brings.

Pastor Tim

### **“The Shack” Book Study**

**Beginning Monday, Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00-8:30 pm in Susan Hall.** Come join in discussing how the book relates to you, God, and your life. If you have not read the book, please come and the first meeting can be a starting point for you to begin reading. The study will last 6 weeks and you can join in at any time.

### **Jesus in the Passover**

**Sat. March 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm at Horton Bay UMC.** A visual presentation that aims to enrich the believer's understanding and appreciation of the Jewish background of the Christian Communion. Ancient and modern Jewish customs are discussed and described with an emphasis on the aspect of the redemption, which Christ accomplished on the cross. This presentation provides a dynamic experience for believers and includes a clear and sensitive presentation of the gospel for seekers.

**“The gods aren’t angry” - by Rob Bell**

**Sunday Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> 5:00-6:30pm in Susan Hall with food/fellowship after.** Rob Bell goes beyond relevant in this amazing presentation. The Gospel presented in a refreshingly new perspective that will touch you whether you are a follower of Christ or not. Bring friends. It will be shown in Susan Hall. This presentation will be in place of the normal Sunday evening worship service.

**Grand Traverse District’s Bishop’s Day III**

We are excited announce to you the **Grand Traverse District’s Bishop’s Day III**, set for Saturday, March 7th at the Kalkaska United Methodist Church. The theme for the day will be *“The Renewal of Christ’s Church.”* We are especially blessed to have **Bishop Jonathan Keaton** *in person* as our preacher for the day. There are 12 small group learning opportunities:

- 1. Clergy Conversations with Bishop Keaton-am/ Pastor Parish Training with Robert Mayo-pm**
- 2. Unleashed Ministry for Young Adults with Matt Bistayi**
  - Raising up, nurturing, and unleashing those in their 20’s and 30’s for leadership and ministry
- 3. Spiritual and Physical Benefits of Fasting with Ken Nash**
  - Spiritual disciplines designed to break our addiction to food and increase our intimacy with God
- 4. Crafting Openness to Change with Ken Vanderlaan**
  - Helping congregations move past resistance to engage positive change for the cause of Christ
- 5. Growing Existing Churches using New Church Ideas with John Scott**
  - New church strategies that can fuel momentum and result in growth
- 6. Worship that Connects with Gary Step**
  - Worship options that enable a sense of divine presence and connection with God
- 7. Simple Church with Brad Kalajainen**
  - Proven strategies to focus your church on what’s really most important; doing less to accomplish more
- 8. Designing Effective Family and Children’s Ministries with Becky Scott**
  - Ways to connect families and children in a changing culture to your church’s ministries
- 9. Practices of Effective Youth Ministries, with Eric Falker, Zachery and Sarah Wessels**
  - Effective practices that will stimulate interest and grow your congregation’s youth ministries
- 10. Resurrecting Passion for Connectional Ministry with Rachel Harvey and Deb Harmon**

- Igniting passion for second mile giving through Advance Specials and local mission projects

#### 11. **Spiritual Well-being for All God's People with Devon Herrell and Bil Chu**

- Crafting moments in worship which enable faith communities to experience spiritual healing and wholeness

#### 12. **Growing the Small Membership Church with Mike Riegler**

- Reaching up and reaching out to create a great small church

Care has been taken to include groups that will strengthen and empower ministry for your local congregation. We are again incorporating District Conference with Bishop's Day III. The expense for the day is only \$7 per person, and includes a box lunch for all those who pre-register. Mark your calendars now and plan to bring a carload to celebrate God's goodness and receive the inspiration of practical encouragement.

### HOW'S THE "STATE OF YOUR UNION?"

Experience a great Valentine with your spouse, a Marriage Encounter Weekend. Open, sincere and honest communication can restore the spark and romance in your relationship. Find out how on a United Methodist Marriage Encounter weekend! From Friday evening to Sunday afternoon married couples can get away from jobs, kids, computer, TV and phones - and totally focus on each other. The next Marriage Encounter is scheduled on Valentine weekend, February 13-14-15 at Youth Haven Ranch between Lansing and Jackson. Contact Registration Couple, Chuck & Dalice Yost at (313) 937-1051 or CYOST@twmi.rr.com. For more information see [www.encounter.org](http://www.encounter.org).

### PRAYER REQUESTS

OUR MILITARY: Phillip Slocum, Joshua Gloria, Courtney Marulli, and Brittany Shute

George & Marcie DeGraeve	Dan Pardee	Tammy Speigl
Rose Greane	Katie	Elizabeth Koski
Angeline Genia Family	Kim & Mary	Rose Kassube
Phyllis John	Marsha	Rosemary & Howard
Russell & Karen	John	Chris & Libby
Lucy Funk	Rosaura Pajol	Marsha Stewart
Margo & Kala	Don & Carol	Janice Smith
Dan McCreery	Matthew B.	Shirley Oldman
Carol Satori	Little Nicole	Mildred Speigl
Calvin Hill	Matthew Cross	Ty Russell
Trimper Family	Linda Tezak	Debra Belamy

Kevin & Emily Calhoun  
Glen & Linda  
Harry & Betty Potter

Jane Bailey  
Fran Tollas

Jackie Wassenaar  
Border Patrol

Homeless and oppressed people throughout the world.

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### LITURGISTS

#### FEBRUARY

1 Dave Wassenaar  
8 Bonnie Dominic  
15 Alice Harvey  
22 Matt Koontz

#### MARCH

1 Albert Colby, Jr.  
8 Mike Marchewitz  
15 Sue Bice  
22 Inga LeDahl  
29 Ray Bice

### BIRTHDAYS

#### FEBRUARY

2 Kara Perry  
3 Clayton Walker  
7 Rose Greane  
7 Daugherty Johnson  
11 Dan McCreery  
18 Richard Tunison  
20 Irene Mitchell  
22 Molly Tate  
27 Marcie DeGraeve

#### MARCH

4 Carol Roznoski  
9 Ryan Willis  
9 June Cross  
12 Brett Perry  
14 Toni Drenth  
16 Kala Kalilimoku  
16 Lori Willis  
29 Harper Johnson  
31 Ivan Byard

### ANNIVERSARIES

#### FEBRUARY

26 Byron & Colleen Wright

#### MARCH

13 Carole & Roger Tally

## ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

This year's Ash Wednesday Service will be at the Horton Bay UMC on Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. The *United Methodist Book of Worship* defines Lent this way: "Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word lencten, which means spring." Historically, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts and then became a time for penance by all Christians. Because Sundays are always little Easters, the penitential spirit of Lent should be tempered with joyful expectation of the Resurrection."

As the season of Lent begins, Many Christians automatically think of giving up something as a spiritual discipline. A better idea is to take on some discipline or action for the season. Spend more time in prayer, read a daily devotional such as the Upper Room, volunteer to help at a food pantry, be more aware of helping others. Let this time of Lent, assist you in your spiritual growth. Start off the Lenten season by attending the Ash Wednesday service at Horton Bay UMC.

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### **Demanaeus Adoption Update:**

Hi All,

We've had a lot of people asking us about our adoption, so we thought we'd include some info in the newsletter and keep everyone updated. First, we'd like to thank you all for your interest and support. It's comforting for us to know that when we finally do bring our adopted child home, he or she will have a supportive church home.

Our decision to adopt was not an easy one, and Rene and I had many discussions regarding the pros and cons. Finally, though, we felt that if we were going to start a family, we wanted to have a family that represented our feelings about our relation to the people of this earth. Rather than have biological children, we chose to reach out to a child who was already here but didn't have a home or family. Feeling led to adopt internationally, we decided to adopt from South Korea because we study a South Korean

martial art and the culture is already a part of our lives, so that just sort of fell into place.

So, that is more or less how we got where we are today.

As of now, we are on a waiting list. We have completed a rigorous training program and a home study and have been accepted as eligible to adopt. It is now in the hands of the Korean adoption agency. With their program, they tend to assign children on a first-come, first-served basis, so the waiting period for us is relative to the length of a list of waiting families. Our estimated referral time (a referral is when they match a child to us and ask if we accept) is sometime this summer/fall.

Our main efforts between now and then involve the financial burden of the adoption. When we accept our referral, we will incur a \$15,000 international adoption fee. As of now, we have \$6,000 set aside. We have much fundraising to do. To that end, we have talked to the church council and will be working with them on our fundraising. Our deepest thanks to those of you on the council for helping with this burden. We look forward to sharing this adoption experience with all of you, our church family.

Until next time,

The Demanaeus Family

#### IMPORTANT TIDBITS

1. Swiss Steak Dinner/Variety Show

The Greensky Hill Men's Group Swiss Steak Dinner/ Variety Show will be held Saturday, March 21, 2009 in Susan Hall starting at 5:30 PM. The variety show will consist of several different individuals and groups to entertain the diners. Tickets will cost \$8 each. This is a fund-raiser project for the Men's Group- your support is deeply appreciated.

2. Greensky Hill needs a person to play organ and/or piano at the PM

Church service on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month. This is a paid position. If interested, please contact Judy Johnson.

3. Charlevoix Food Pantry- donations for the Pantry can be placed in the large basket inside the front door of Susan Hall. Thank you for your donations .
4. Women's Resource Center- please help with our donations to the Resource Center; there is a tub for donations in Susan Hall.

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Greensky Hill UMC Council Meeting  
December 8, 2008

Council meeting opened at 7:10 with prayer Attending were: Dennis and Bonnie Dominic, Carol and Craig Adams, Christopher Demanaeus, Carol and Richard Tunison, Pastor Wright and Susan Bice.

The minutes of the November council meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer's Report was discussed and approved.

Pastor's Report:

Christmas Eve Service. Jessica and Chris Dominic will sing, Christopher Demaneus will do a reading, the Drum Group will play, and Matt Koontz will play the flute.

On January 11, Pastor Tim will not be preaching; he will find someone to do the service.

On January 3rd, an "unhanging" of the greens will be held with potluck and game night to follow.

On January 24<sup>th</sup> Pastor will start his vacation.

Standing Committee Reports:

Trustees: Did not meet

Men's Club: Did not meet.

Worship Committee: Pastor will meet with Carol Tunison to finalize Christmas Eve service plans

Newsletter: Deadline for February newsletter will be January 18, 2009; 104 copies were printed for the December-January issue.

Motion approved to send money to support chaplain services at Northern Michigan Hospital. \$200 will be sent.

Old Business:

Planning Meeting: This will be discussed at the January meeting.

Janitorial Job Description/Pay raise: Tabled until January council meeting.

Motion made and approved to support Pastor Tim's efforts to spend fellowship time following the 9AM service at Greensky Hill.

New Business:

Christopher Demanaeus asked council if the church would consider helping he and Renee with fundraising actives to help them obtain financing for their adoption. This will be discussed further at January Council meeting at which time Pastor will have more information.

Motion made and approved to pay for meat for our Christmas Party; Kevin Willis will be asked if he is willing to obtain and cook the meat.

Christmas basket and stockings: Church will furnish fruit baskets for the DeGraeves, Madlyn Heise, Midred Spiegel and others whose names may be provided. Motion made and approved to provide up to 10 fruit baskets to our elders.

Communications: Thank you notes received from Deb Slocum's daughter and friend for scholarships from the church.

Dates:

December 9, Christmas party at 12:30

Dec. 24, Christmas eve Service.

January 3, take down greens and tree.

The next council meeting will be January 15th at 7PM.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Bice

#### REFLECTION ON I CORINTHIANS 7:29-31

*“I mean, brethren, the appointed time has grown very short; from now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, and those who mourn as though they were mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the form of this world is passing away.” I Corinthians 7:29-31*

Paul’s words has confused me over the years. Scholars tell us that Paul was anticipating the return of the Lord immanently and wanted his followers to be aware that our time “... is short...”

While the return of the Lord did not occur as Paul envisioned, I think Paul’s words are worthy of some reflection in the sense that all too often we find our attachments are stumbling stones in our walk with Jesus and we need to be aware of the dangers. There are occasions in my own life, where attachments caused distortions in my actions, what I thought important in my life and even caused me to misplace priorities with the most important relationships God gave me to cherish. I became a slave of the paradigms I constructed around myself. Does that sound familiar to you?

A little earlier in this same letter, Paul states that “ Were you a slave when called? Never mind. But if you can gain your freedom, avail yourself of the opportunity.” He is encouraging those to exercise the opportunity to be free when it offers itself. I only emphasize that his encouragement also applies to us to be free of our attachments. In each social situation and in our relationships there are hidden dangers of slavery. We all know or belong to the group of people who became slaves of others in order to obtain a better salary, or higher position or find we compromised trusted relationships out of our own desires. Paul says to recognize who we are and to whom are we drawn.

Spend some time this week reflecting on how you identify and support your own priorities in life. What process do you use? Paul reminds us that “... time is running out...” and he is right. Considering I am in the last quarter of my life, If I am blessed to live even that long, the words ring true to me. But in reality, none of us truly knows how much time we have and honestly, even a life of many years is short compared to eternity. Yet God assures it is always enough time for you to find Him, no matter how long or how short.

Pray, reflect and perhaps, discuss your priorities with others you trust this week. Listen for God. We hear the call of the Apostles this week, They were attuned to the voice of God and responded. Can you? Can I? Filter out the noise... God is waiting.

Mike Buchanan

#### I CALL UPON HIS NAME

Whenever I am burdened  
I call upon His name,  
I tell it all to Jesus.  
Then the burden isn't the same.

He died for me at Calvary:  
From sin He set me free.  
Through Him there is salvation.

Oh, how much He loveth me.

I can't get along without Him  
His spirit shall always remain,  
So whenever I am burdened,  
I call upon His name.

Edna Massimilla

## HEALTH CORNER

### 10 WARNING SIGNS OF DEMENTIA AND ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

Dementia is an umbrella term to classify the progressive loss of one's ability to think, judge, focus and learn. More than half of those persons suffering from dementia have Alzheimer's disease. An estimated 10% of all people who are 65 and older have Alzheimer's disease and that number rises to approximately 50% for those persons age 85 and older. By the middle of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, 14 million people are expected to develop Alzheimer's disease. While some changes in memory are normal signs of aging, the symptoms of Alzheimer's disease are more than periodically forgetting where you put your car keys or your glasses.

Because of the nature and seriousness of Alzheimer's disease, it is imperative for persons exhibiting signs of dementia and their families to receive information, care and support at the earliest time possible. The Alzheimer's Association developed the following list of common symptoms associated with Alzheimer's disease.

1. **Memory loss affecting job skills:** frequently forgetting appointments, names, phone numbers etc. and failing to remember them at a later time.
2. **Difficulty performing familiar tasks:** easily distracted and forgetful of tasks at hand, tasks that were once routine ( such as preparing a meal or using an appliance) may now prove to be overwhelming.

3. **Problems with language:** forgets simple words and uses unusual word substitutions when unable to retrieve the proper one.
4. **Disorientation of time and place:** may become lost on their own street, forget where they are, how they arrived at a given location, or how to get back home.
5. **Poor or decreased judgment:** usually exhibited through wearing inappropriate clothing for that particular time, day, or season (ie. wearing a winter coat in the summer or donning a bathrobe to go to the grocery store). They may also show poor judgment in handling money and with driving skills.
6. **Problems with abstract thinking:** exhibits trouble with numbers, balancing a checkbook or making simple calculations.
7. **Misplacing things:** often puts things in unusual places such as an iron in the freezer or a watch in the sugar bowl and has no idea how they got there.
8. **Changes in mood or behavior:** exhibits sudden mood swings for no apparent reason.
9. **Changes in personality:** exhibits a dramatic change in personality. For instance, someone who was once easy going may now appear uptight, fearful, or suspicious of other family members.
10. **Loss of initiative:** Passivity, excessive sleeping, and lack of drive, initiative or interest in things that he or she once enjoyed.

If you or a loved one are experiencing any of the above warning signs, it is recommended that you consult a physician to rule out reversible causes such as drug reactions, urinary tract infections or dehydration. An evaluation with a geriatrician or a neurologist may then be recommended. Early detection and treatment of Alzheimer's disease or some other disorder which causes dementia is critical in appropriately treating, caring for and providing support for the individual and his family.

The Alzheimer's Association

## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT!

I'm writing a book...whew.... it's taking me a long time. But I've got the page numbers done.

Among the most effective labor saving devices I have found is my neighbor.... He borrowed my garden tools.

If you think truth is stranger than fiction you have never heard a teenager explaining why he didn't get home until 3:30 a.m.

The rate changes are occurring everywhere, if you are nostalgic for the good old days you may be yearning for last week!

When I'm using my computer I keep on hitting escape, but so far I'm still here!