



# The Shepherd's Messenger

January 2009



KNOWING JESUS THE GOOD SHEPHERD & SHARING THE RISEN CHRIST WITH ALL



## Pastor Sunny's Rays

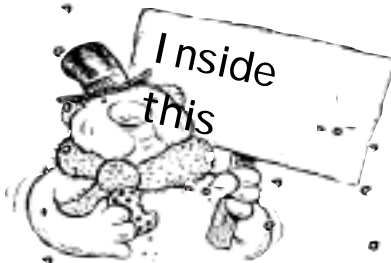
Most of us make New Year's Resolutions with all the good intentions of keeping them but it seems invariably life gets in the way for some reason or other. If you stop and think about the resolutions you have made in the past, I would wager that they were things that we kept to ourselves and proceeded to try to keep them all by ourselves. The thing that I have noticed as I have gotten older (and hopefully wiser) is that things get done more easily and with better results when we share the goals with others. What is that old saying: "Many hands make less work" or something to that effect? We need to share more. I know some of you are very private people and I understand that but you know when you are struggling with something and you are in need of other people's prayers but you don't ask for them, did you ever think about the fact that you could be denying another from receiving a blessing from God? Haven't you been blessed when you did something for someone else? Why would you want to not allow others to be blessed? I don't think you would, I think you just hadn't thought of it in that way before. So let's make a resolution/goal together; let us share the joys, the blessings, the worries and the sadness; so that we might also share the blessings that God has for us.

God has blessed the Cuba United Methodist Church in many ways this past year. We were lucky enough to get the new boiler to save us money in heating costs and it is paid for fully!! We have given generously to those who were in need, and have been blessed. I have seen the feeling of family grow within the congregation. We gave the community a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner that was so very much appreciated. There have been a lot of things accomplished and many blessings felt. But we can't now set back on our laurels; there is still work to be done. But remember as you read this that "Many hands make light work".

A month or so ago I was asked by the PPR committee to present some goals for the ministry here at Cuba UMC. There are a few that in order for us to be blessed, I am going to need some help to make them happen. So here are my goals:

1. Increase attendance by 10%. I don't believe that is an unreasonable goal. We have already begun to see some of this happening with some younger families attending. We need to keep up the good work in telling the story of love and salvation that is ours to tell.
2. Sunday School enrollment also needs to increase by 10%. We are looking at times and we may need to look again at how we do Sunday School before we reach the correct formula but I do believe that we are taking the correct turns in the road to make it to our destination.

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## Prayer Requests

Our World situation  
The Rothfus Family  
Jan Clement  
Corey Comes  
Mayme Giles  
Sue Kayes

### THOSE AT HOME..

to those at home....

Mayme Giles  
Ernestine Green  
Alice Sweet  
Adaline Wakefield

to those at other residences...

### Cuba CMH:

Lucille Wildrick  
Laura Clayson

### Eden Heights:

Dorothy 'Dee' Petit  
Gladys McIntosh  
Bernice Lackey

### Absolut of Houghton

John Lawton

### Waters of Westfield

Dawn Durkee

### Bath VA Center

John Visser

### Iris Park Commons

Marge Bly  
Jane Wright  
c/o Patricia Brunsing

Military personnel and their families...

Bob Aaronson  
Daniel Bunk  
Kevin Desaultels  
Brad Frank  
Mark Kenan  
Karl Linderman  
Justin Linza  
Car Randall  
Alfred Reynolds  
Greg Rogers  
Brandon Snyder  
Justin Sweet  
Dan Thompson  
Ron Truax  
Miles Ward



### November

Jan.4 District Lay Leader/  
Leslie Haggstrom  
Jan.11 Holland/Robert Zimmerman  
Jan.18 Hornell/Marian Luce  
Jan.25 Jasper/David Barnard



### STATISTICS

<u>Date</u>	<u>SS</u>	<u>Worship</u>	<u>Offering</u>
12/7	16/	64	\$2215.00
12/14	13/	75	\$1824.35
12/21	16/	91	\$3304.00
12/28	90		\$1708.00

## January Celebrations

### Birthdays:

2 - Jeff Hewitt  
3 - Ernestine Green  
Ericka McKelvey  
4 - Eliana Whitford  
8 - Mayme Giles  
Chris Hulburt  
10 - Justin Freeman  
11 - Karl Hodge  
14 - Marcia Loftis  
Ray McKelvey  
Todd Mosher  
15- Lisa Ricci  
16 - Derek Edwards  
Pat Kennedy  
Kristin Whittaker  
17 - Amanda Clayson  
18 - Janet Enderle  
Meghann Warren  
19 - Butch Holden  
20 - Erin LaFave  
Brittany VanNess  
21 - Edward Dalton  
Will Landon  
Mary Naud  
Brock Stadler  
Thomas Steen  
23 - Jessica Clayson  
Art Higby  
25 - Pete Simmons  
Laurie Torpey  
Maggie Watson  
26 - Carol Fisk  
**Pastor Sunny**  
27 - Stacy James  
28 - Kayla Noll  
Andrew Thornton  
30 - Diane Karle  
Elizabeth Ray  
31 - Pearl Hamilton  
Bernie Hawks  
Kimberley Sweet

### Anniversaries:

8 - Butch & Mary Ann Pfouts  
16 - Leo & Christie Reynolds  
18 - Bruce & Patti Metler  
23 - Nick & Molly Axe





## December UMW

*Submitted by Patti Petroni,  
President*

Twelve spirited ladies met in Wesley Hall for fellowship on the morning of December 13, 2008 and enjoyed a brunch prepared by Deb Battistoni and Shirley Mosher. We had lively personal discussions on Christmases past and proceeded to have a short business meeting followed by a wonderful "Secret Santa" exchange. Everyone opened their gifts together and marveled at their treasures. It was a good time and most likely will be repeated in 2009.

**Next Meeting:** Saturday, January 10, 2009 at 10 AM Wesley Hal Hostesses are Patti Petroni and Maggie Watson Program: re-organizing for 2009, officers, budget

**Flood Buckets:** We will concentrate on filling ten flood buckets for UMCOR. Please see the list on the bulletin board, write in what you can contribute, place your items in the Green Street foyer, and Patti will place in the holding area until we are ready to put together the buckets. Thank you for your contributions so far.

**Cheer Person:** As most of you know, Sue Simmons is our "cheer lady" meaning that she sends many cards of cheer, birthday, sympathy, seasonal etc... to all members and friends of our church. Please remember to let her know of anyone that you feel should be remembered. Also, please provide an address along with the name. She is very happy to do this "work" for our church.

**Coming Events:** Painting of Wesley Hall, Kitchen clean-up and shower.



Member Directory  
*Submitted by Mary Ann Pfouts*

The Year-End Report booklet contains colored pages with the Member Directory. Please be sure all your information is current with the church office. This would include address, phone number birthdays and anniversaries. Deadline for any corrections/additions will be Monday January 12th.

The directory should be made available by the beginning of February (providing all committees submit their reports by the deadline).

Any questions, please call the church office, or email me at: cubasec@verison.net



*Submitted by  
Dean Wildrick*

The newly re-elected United Methodist bishop of Germany declared that mission is the vocation of the church as she rallied its leaders to greater efforts in evangelism and starting new churches.

Speaking during the Nov. 19-22 meeting of the Germany Central Conference, Bishop Rosemarie Wenner said that "mission is not one area or field of ministry for the church. Mission is its vocation. The church is mission."

Wenner, 53, was re-elected to lead the church's 65,000 German United Methodists in 500 congregations. She received 90 percent of some 100 votes on the first ballot. The church's German membership has been stable in recent years.

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3. Increased participation within the church. If you look at any church function whether it is worship services, Sunday School, special music, church dinners, work days, committee meetings or social events, without fail you will see the same people over and over and over again at those functions. We need everyone to be involved for this to work as God intended. Everyone can do something. Maybe crocheting baby blankets, booties and hats for the babies in the Elizabeth program. Making phone calls to the shut-ins or someone who hasn't been in church for a couple of weeks. We need more people to sign up to be ushers, greeter, liturgists, sign up to do children's moments, be in the nursery, sing in the choir, and various other jobs that need to be done. We need to pull together and tell the story together.

4. I also plan on preaching some and teaching some on who we are as Methodists and what the vision of John Wesley was in starting the Methodist church. I don't believe that we Methodists truly know who we are and what we are about.

These are a few of the goals. I believe that the first three are the most important and if you read them carefully you might notice that the pronoun used in those was the word "we". It will take all of us using our God given (need I add freely given?) gifts and graces to the fullest to accomplish them. We can do it!!!! I have seen you do it on more than one occasion.

So my hope and prayer for all of us this coming New Year is that we not make empty and meaningless resolutions to ourselves but rather make promises to God and each other that are fulfilled and bring glory to the most High and Holy God.

May God bless each of you and your families in this New Year, may your soul be filled with peace, joy, hope and love. May we, as a church family, continue to tell the story of salvation and eternal life with Jesus the Christ. Remember also that God loves you and so do we.

*Pastor Sunny*

### **SOME HUMOR FROM KAREN**

My grandson was visiting one day and he asked, "Grandma, do you know how you and God are alike?" I mentally polished my halo, while I asked, "No how are we alike?" You're both old!" he replied.

## **January Helping Hands**

### Nursery

4:  
11:  
18:  
25:

Please see Sandy Tsujimoto to sign up
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### Ushers

Sandy Tsujimoto/Rob Cornell

### Acolytes

4: Josh Enderle  
11: Josh Tsujimoto  
18: Katelyn Cornell  
25: Michael Hupp

### Altar Guild

Communion Stewards  
Thela Snow/Darcy Eastham

### Children's Moment

4:  
11: Kelly Goble  
18:  
25:

### Liturgist

4: Deb Battistoni  
11: Judy Zayac  
18:  
25:

### Altar Flowers

4:  
11:  
18:  
25:

### Fellowship Hosts:

11: Judy Zayac/Patti Petroni

**Please see sheets at the back  
of the Sanctuary to sign up**

# 2009

# January



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday School New Hours 11:00am To 11:45	Bible Study Class Sundays 11:am Thursday 10:30am					6-8am White Crane Kung Fu Class
<b>4</b> 	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Ad Council 7:00pm	<b>7</b> Council of Churches	<b>8</b> Bible Study 10:30am Choir Practice 7:00pm	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 6-8am White Crane Kung Fu Class UMW Meeting
<b>11</b> Bible Study Sunday School 11:00am	<b>12</b> Finance Committee 7:00pm	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Bible Study 10:30am Choir Practice 7:00pm	<b>16</b> Soup and Game Nite 6:00pm	<b>17</b> 6-8am White Crane Kung Fu Class
<b>18</b> Bible Study Sunday School 11:00am	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Bible Study 10:30am Choir Practice 7:00pm	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 6-8am White Crane Kung Fu Class
<b>25</b> Bible Study Sunday School 11:00am	<b>26</b> Trustees Meeting 7:00pm	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 6-8am White Crane Kung Fu Class

# The Shepherd's Messenger

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Deadline for article submission is the third Monday of each month at noon. Please email articles to Editor's email address, or drop articles off to the church office.

*The Shepherd's Messenger* is a publication of the Cuba United Methodist Church, and is published monthly to report news & keep members and friends informed of church programs and events.

**Please take note at new e-mail address  
effective January 1, 2009**