

TOGETHER *in 2011*

*Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
The People of the Frostburg United Methodist Church.*

Volume XVI, Number 1

January-February, 2011

Dear Church Family,

I cannot thank you enough for all the support and understanding you've offered Nelson and me during this time of transition. The luncheon on December 19 was very special. The children and the speakers touched us deeply. Thank you, also, for the gifts, cards, prayers and good wishes. While I feel that going into hospital chaplaincy is the direction God is leading, it's still very hard to say good-bye to you.

We will always be grateful for the loving way you helped me get through the summer of 2009. But it's been working with you in the day-to-day routines of ministry that has meant the most.

God has done some new things through us over the last several years, but God never runs out of new ideas. I can't imagine what's next for Frostburg UMC, but we can trust it's going to be good!

Keep growing in your faith and your willingness to take a risk now and then. God holds the future so you don't even need to be afraid to fail! And keep learning to show your love to each other. In the end, that's the best gift we can offer.

Blessings and Peace,
Rebecca



WELCOME TO REV. GARY TRAIL

Rev. Gary Trail was introduced by SPRC Chairperson Don Weser during worship on December 26. Rev. Trail will serve as our part-time interim minister January-June, 2011.

Rev. Trail is currently retired after serving churches in our region. He attended Frostburg State University as an undergraduate and lives in Ridgeley, WV so he knows our area very well. He brings with him much experience and many gifts for pastoral ministry.

January 2 will be a Transition Sunday in which both Rev. Vardiman and Rev. Trail will take part. Please join us as we welcome Rev. Trail to Frostburg and Frostburg United Methodist Church.



NEWS FROM THE MEN'S GROUP

During December the Men's Group provided food baskets for 22 families with a total of 67 people benefiting from this project. The group meets the second Saturday of every month and is open to all men in the church.



CONGRATULATIONS

Amie & Corey Armstrong on the birth of their daughter Brinnley

Meg & Mark Roque on the birth of their son Ripken

Sylvia Twigg received the Mission Award during the Mission Dinner. The award is presented by United Methodist Women to an individual for their dedication to the mission of our church. Along with her position of assistant custodian, Sylvia also serves on the Food Pantry board, Wedding Coordinator, Altar Coordinator, Outreach Committee member and so much more. Recipients of this award receive a UMW pin and a donation is given in their name to missions.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

If Sunday School and/or Worship is cancelled, Helen will put a message on the church answering machine by 8:30 a.m. A message will also be announced on WCBC 107/FM radio. If possible, emails will also be sent.

VOLUNTEERING WITH UCM

If you have a passion for young adults and concerned about their faith formation, you may join our UCM ministry team. Please make an appointment to chat with our chaplain Cindy to discuss your gifts and talents and time you have to give. We need many spiritual gifts and talents at work to reach-out to young adults. If you feel God calling then call today 540-303-2309 or email: c.zirlott@frostburg.edu

THANK YOU ...

To the Members of the Frostburg United Methodist Church,

I wanted to personally thank you for your generous donation of hats and gloves. In an elementary school it is a constant battle to keep kids properly dressed for the winter. Usually this is because they either lose their gloves and hat or are not able to afford them. Your donation will cloth these many children who sometimes go without. Thank you very much for thinking of our school and our students.

Andrew Ferguson
School Counselor, West Side Elem.

Our church was very generous filling 126 Salvation Army Christmas gift bags for needy children in our area. Each bag was filled with marvelous gifts, which obviously had been carefully selected. The bags hold much more than the stockings in previous years, and there were more gifts than ever this year. People really love this project! Again, thanks for helping.

Martha Weser

I want to take this opportunity to thank each member of the congregation who stepped forward to donate a winter coat to a child in need. There was never any doubt that my request would be fulfilled by my church family. I just didn't realize how quickly you would respond. Within three hours of the plea for twelve tiny coats for children in our early intervention program, eight of them had been spoken for! Allow me to extend a "warmest" thank you on behalf of the families and children who are the recipients of your generosity. What a witness to the true meaning of Christmas. Because you cared, twelve little boys and girls can face the cold winter and snow snuggled inside beautiful and warm new coats.

Natalie Tenaglio

ENCOURAGING PREDICTIONS FOR 2011

With all the problems the World is facing, it can be unsettling to the mind.

Top 10 Predictions for 2011

- 1 The Bible will still have all the answers
- 2 Prayer will still be the most powerful thing on Earth
- 3 The Holy Spirit will still move
- 4 God will still honor the praises of His people
- 5 There will still be God-anointed preaching
- 6 There will be singing of praise to God
- 7 God will still pour out blessings upon His people
- 8 There will still be room at the Cross
- 9 Jesus will still love you
- 10 Jesus will save the lost when they come to Him

NEWS FROM JEFF & ELLEN HOOVER IN THE CONGO

Dear Friends,

Please accept our apologies for the long silence, though we've been in touch with some of you by email, letter, or even in person in the case of those who have visited Congo this year. We will spare you the excuses for our silence and instead try to fill you in on some major happenings here in Lubumbashi, Democratic Republic of the Congo. So stay tuned for School, Uni-News, and Celebrations.

A new frontier for The English-speaking School of Lubumbashi (TESOL)

One of our ongoing activities requires your special attention at this time.

The English-speaking TESOL - Since the school's opening in 1987, Jeff and Ellen have been involved in various capacities with this United Methodist international school. Starting with seven children in Grades 1-3 in September 19787, the school now has a hundred students and offers classroom teaching for pre-k (age 4) through Grade 9 and a correspondence option for Grades 10-12.

Since its first year of operation (1987-88), the school has been located on land granted by the Congolese government to the French embassy for a school. A French school already occupied part of the property, but the plot was very large and we were allowed to build in one corner. Four years later the French school suddenly stopped operations after a civil emergency, and later the non-profit that operated it was legally closed. By agreement with the embassy, we used some of the classrooms in exchange for guarding the property. In September 2009, a new French school opened, using the same name. At first the embassy said that our school and the new French school would have similar agreements with the French embassy, but in the course of the school year, this policy changed (we were informed of this rather late in the last term). Before the end of last school year, we intensified our search for a large plot of land where we could build new buildings, as we had not been able to find any large facility where we could move all or part of the school by modifying facilities to our needs. A large undeveloped plot would mean looking well outside the city center, but since our students live at home, the new site could not be too far from town or on rough tracks for the students' daily commute.

We have now found a site with many advantages, but since the arrangement is not quite official (not officially official...), we can't tell you much about it! We can say that it's a big piece of land (about 50 acres) with no houses or other construction on it. It's flat with no streams or marshes limiting its use. It's on a main artery, which is currently dirt but maintained by a company, and the government has reserved right of way for four lanes in the future.

Our concern right now is to prepare a master plan for the new site, then construct classrooms by August in order to be ready for next school year. What we need right now is funds for building. We have a supportive core of parents who are willing to contact local companies for their financial assistance.

We are now asking each one of you: as individuals, churches, and groups to make a concerted effort to help us raise these funds so that we can build classrooms, lavatories, and an office by August 2011. Some of you may find the idea of raising money for a building to be rather bland and boring. If that's the case, you can help us by raising scholarship funds. Tuition is \$1300 per term (there are three terms) and we need this much for each student to meet the costs of running the school. If you can contribute a part of the scholarship for one child, we'll combine your gift with others to enable that child to continue receive their education at our school.

So what else is new? The University of Lubumbashi (UNILU) is the large government university where Jeff has taught since 1979 as our first missionary assignments in the Congo. He still teaches a full course load and continues to enjoy watching his students increase their skills and knowledge. Since 2007 he has served as head of the university library system, which includes the central library and 13 department libraries. The university has had a multi-faceted partnership with French-medium universities in Belgium focusing on developing 67 new professors to replace faculty members nearing retirement, and one facet has been library development. The reading rooms of the central library have been transformed: formerly gray, dark, and with no open access to books, they are now pleasant, light, and lined with bookshelves.

Katanga Methodist University at Mulungwishi continues to grow, bursting its seams. The Year Without Electricity (2008) is past, the Year Waiting for Computers likewise (the containers arrived in October, 12 months after the first batch of computers were delivered in Virginia). We are both still teaching in the College of Theology which is preparing to open its M.A. and doctoral program. Ellen teaches a course on Islam in Africa to the graduate students and Jeff teaches courses on early church history, Methodist history and African church history.

Celebrations 2010 has been a really big deal as an anniversary year.

- 50 years of independence for Congo
- 100 years since the founding of Lubumbashi
- 100 years of Methodism in this part of Congo
- 125 years since Methodists first began work in Congo as a whole

All these celebrations were occasions for festivities and special activities. The city dressed up nice with road repairs, paint jobs, parades, attractive signs made of lights, and the opening of a fine small park at the city center. Many people bought the specially-printed 50-year cloth to make shirts and dresses for the occasion.

Happy New Year

*May 2011 bring many blessings
to each family at FUMC*



Happy Birthday!



JANUARY

- 1 Eva Biggs
- 3 Amy Meek
- 7 Rob Duncan
- 14 Tim Pegg
- 15 Nancy Cotton
Frank Palumbo
- 18 Ryan Clark
- 20 Mardelle Coffroth
Martha Meek
Winnie Davis
- 25 Meg Roque
- 28 Julie Hardy
Natalie Norris
- 31 Susan Precht

FEBRUARY

- 7 Don Weser
- 9 Janey Moore
- 10 Kay Nelson
- 13 Laura Whetzel
- 19 Sarah Clark
- 21 Elizabeth Myers
- 22 Nancy Wolford
Charlene Beeman
Carol Lease
- 26 Janet Harden

Thanks to Nancy Folk for her help in gathering and organizing these birthdays. Please send any additions or corrections to her at nancyfolk@verizon.net or call 301-689-6587.



CHARLOTTE'S CHUCKLE



After the service a young couple talked to the minister about joining the church. He hadn't met the husband before, and he asked what church he was transferring from.

After a pause, he replied, "I am transferring from the Country View Golf Course."

A dentist came home to his wife excited about serving in the mission field using his dental skills.

When she was against the idea, the dentist replied, "I am sure the Lord is calling me to do this."

The wife was skeptical, "How do you know the Lord is calling you to do this?"

"It's in the Bible. Psalms 81:10"

So she looked it up. I, the Lord, am your God, who brought you up from the land of Egypt; Open your mouth wide and I will fill it.

Letters to the Pastor

Dear Pastor, I know God loves everybody but He never met my sister. Yours sincerely, Arnold, age 8

Dear Pastor, My father should be a minister. Every day he gives us a sermon about something. Robert, age 11

Dear Pastor, Please say a prayer for our Little League team. We need God's help or a new pitcher. Thank you. Alex, age 10

Dear Pastor, I liked your sermon Sunday. Especially when it was finished. Nancy, age 12

Shut-Ins

Frostburg Village Nursing Home & Assisted Living

One Kaylor Circle

Frostburg, MD 21532

Bill DeVore

Colleen Gordon

Joline Nelson

Jerry Reeves

Frostburg Village Apartments

100 Honeysuckle Lane

Frostburg, MD 21532

Eleanor Kenney

Faye Plummer

St. Vincent DePaul

48 Tarn Terrace

Frostburg, MD 21532

Anna Beachy

Martha McKenzie

Egle Nursing Home

57 Jackson Street

Lonaconing, MD 21539

Mary Cutter

Sylvia Barnett

Mary Layman

Shut-Ins at Home

Grace Jones

Daphne Bradshaw Ledong

Bernice Lucas

Bill McKenzie

DIRECTORY

Interim Pastor

Organist

Choir Director

Community Youth Director

Business Manager

Financial Manager

Church Secretary

Sexton

Ministers

Gary Trail

Sean Beachy

Debi Beachy

B. J. Lewis

David Bohnert

Joe Lewis

Helen R. Davis

John Ward

All Members of the
Body of Christ

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Jim Lancaster

Boyd Twigg

Expectant Couples

Matthew & Sarah DeValk

BJ & Siobhan Lewis

SERVING OUR COUNTRY

Ryan Clark (Army, Afghanistan)

Dan Conklin

Matthew C. Sisco

Dimas Henriquez

Bobby Smith

Jared Jacobs

Matthew Sullivan

PENNIES INTO POTATOES

The Society of Saint Andrew is modeled after Jesus and feeds those who are hungry every day. Volunteers collect potatoes by gleaning fields (going back after harvest and collecting what is left). They also collect potatoes that have been rejected by commercial markets due to slight imperfections such as size or shape. The potatoes are perfectly edible and donated by the farmers. Last year, Saint Andrews collected and distributed over 11.4 millions pounds of potatoes across the United States. The potatoes are free and funds are only needed for packaging and distribution. This means that a pound of potatoes can be given to those in need for a mere 6 cents a pound.

Our church contributes through a program called **Pennies Into Potatoes**. All pennies in the offering plate each Sunday go to this project. Jars are also in the entry way for collection. Volunteers are always needed to sort and bag potatoes when

Coins for Care

Remember your change does make a difference! The coins in our offering goes toward our Coins for Care fund. This fund helps our needy neighbors pay for utilities, rent, medicine, and so on. If you would like to give a larger donation, please make your check out to FUMC and mark it for "Coins for Care." Thank you!