



Almena UMC

Newsletter

February 2010 – March 2010
269-668-2811
www.almenaumc.com

2-7-2010

Greetings friends,

I want to take this opportunity to share with you an exciting new way that Almena UMC will be in ministry in the coming year. Thanks to God's abundant provision and your generosity our Administrative Board approved a new and improved "Helping Hand" fund for 2010. The Helping Hand Fund is intended to help those in our church family, as well as neighbors in our community who have short-term needs for financial assistance. If you or someone you know are in a bind and need a helping hand, please contact Pastor Donna. The intent is to help with things like gas, medical bills, utilities, child-care costs, auto repairs, and other basic necessities. The fund will be administered confidentially by Pastor, and two other leaders. We will not generally give cash, but will make payments direct to service providers. I am grateful that our church can minister in this way. Remember too, that food assistance is available at Eleanor's Pantry located at 221 Drew Street in Paw Paw.

On another note, the season of Lent begins Feb. 17th. We will have an Ash Wednesday Service at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. This is the one "holiday" of the year that the church finds absolutely no competition from our friends in the commercial world! Join us in a reverent service with the imposition of ashes as we acknowledge our sinfulness and mortality, and kick off the Lenten season.

This Lent we will concentrate on deepening our commitment to being Disciples of Christ. In an adult Pathfinders class (9:45 Sun AM starting 2-21), as well as in worship we will explore the topic of "Leading from the Heart". All of us are leaders at some level: leaders of ourselves, our families, leaders in the workplace and school, community and church. Come see how God's plan for sharing the good news flows out of his leadership of his "body" the church.

As a special event, we will have an all-church field trip to see the Passion Play at Andrews University, in Berrien Springs on April 3rd. See details later in this newsletter.

May God bless you with a Christ-like heart of compassion,

Pastor Donna

PATHFINDERS

LENT is a great time to start a new habit of the study of God's word. PATHFINDERS is our Christian Education program that meets Sunday mornings at 9:45. We have classes for 3 year olds through adults. Nursery is provided. Hope to see you in a PATHFINDERS class soon!

Youth have an additional opportunity to learn and have fun. Youth Group (grades 6+) meets for a service project and games on Feb. 20 from 6-8. Bring a friend as we clean up the Soup Supper dishes then hang out in our youth room. Pool, Darts, Foosball and Ping Pong are just a few of the games we play. On March 13, youth will travel to Caledonia to take part in the Bishop's Day for Evangelism program. Hear the inspiring story of Scott Rigsby, a double amputee who runs Iron Man Triathlons. See Greg Rozeveld for details.



Wednesday, February 17 at 6:30 PM we'll have a gathering of worship with songs, scripture readings and the imposition of ashes. Join us for this holy day that begins the 40 day season of lent.

Tentative Easter Week Schedule:

Maundy Thursday, April 1st
7 p.m. service at Almena UMC

Good Friday, April 2nd
Community service at First Christian Church, 119 North Niles, Paw Paw
Time to be determined

Saturday, April 3rd
Passion Play at Andrews University, times to be determined

Easter Sunday, April 4th
11 a.m. service at Almena UMC



Almena UMC Visits the Andrews University Easter Passion Play Saturday, April 3, 2010

http://passionplay.andrews.edu/staff/Ron_Whitehead.htmlIn 2003, Andrews University put on its first Easter Passion Play. The introduction of this play was through the vision and dedication of Pastor Ron Whitehead who spent his childhood attending passion plays around the world with his family, including the world-famous play in Oberammergau, Germany. Today, student leaders, campus faculty and staff, and the community continue to portray Christ's ultimate gift of love. By offering viewers a chance to be engaged with the story, we are reminded of Christ's sacrifice. Here's how it works:

- Participants walk in groups thru a series of scenes across the Andrews University Campus. A triumphal entry, a Middle Eastern marketplace, Roman Encampments, a Last Supper scene, Gethsemane, Via Dolorosa, and a Crucifixion scene are portrayed interactively. Live animals, Roman soldiers, sights and sounds of Jerusalem keep this interesting and engaging.
- At the end, the audience enters a darkened gym to sit down for a moving sound-and-light show climaxing with the Savior emerging from the tomb.
- We'll arrange for groups of 10 from Almena to pair up and view the Passion Play. The play flows on a rolling schedule, starting every half hour from 9 am till 6:30. It takes 90minutes to see the entire play. We'll make reservations (hopefully for the morning) ahead of time. Stay tuned for sign up details. There is no charge, but suggested donations of \$10 are gladly accepted.

This would be a great event to bring a friend to. You can view more details and photos online at passionplay.andrews.edu/index.html

Bishop's Day for Evangelism -

All Welcome – Sign up in Fellowship Hall

"No Finish Line in Sight: Practical Tools for Evangelism"

For all people: pastors, lay leadership, church members, and youth

Saturday, March 13, 2010 from 9:00 am - 3:30 pm

SPONSORED BY THE: Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo Districts

Held at the new... Cornerstone Church

1675 84th Street SE Caledonia, MI 49316

You won't want to miss our featured speaker, Scott Rigsby, who is a world class athlete with a testimony to share. He overcame incredible hardships, including double amputations, to participate competitively in the Iron Man Triathlon and other athletic events.

For more information on the workshops and presenters see the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall or go online to grdistrictumc.org/about/99-bishops-day.html

Soup and Salad Supper

Please participate in the February 20th, 2010 Soup and Salad Supper from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall. Please consider helping with this event. 75% of the proceeds go to our building fund and 25% go to the Wesley Foundation for Campus Ministry at Western Michigan University and Kalamazoo College. Bring a Soup, Salad, Dessert or a Bread item to be served. Come and work there are several jobs listed on the bulletin board to sign up for. We are very fortunate this month as the youth group has volunteered to clean- up. Thank you to our youth group leaders Dave Field and Greg Roseveld and all our youth group members. Come and enjoy a reasonably priced dinner, \$5.00 for adults, \$2.50 for children ages 6 thru 12 years of age, 5 and under free. We are also adding another venue to our Soup Supper this month and that is a Bake Sale in the Church Vestibule 4:30p.m. to 7:00p.m. This bake sale is a fundraiser for American Cancer Society- Relay for Life, June 26th and 27th in Paw Paw@ Falen Field. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall to sign up to bring bake goods. Please consider joining the Almena team to walk, if you would like to sign up or support our team go to www.relayforlife.org/vanbureneastmi.

Thank you, In His Service
Sue Tinkler

Missions

Greetings in Christ for the New Year! We collected approximately \$850 and put together 33 Survival Kits for Haiti, greatly surpassing our goal of 15 kits. Thank you so much!

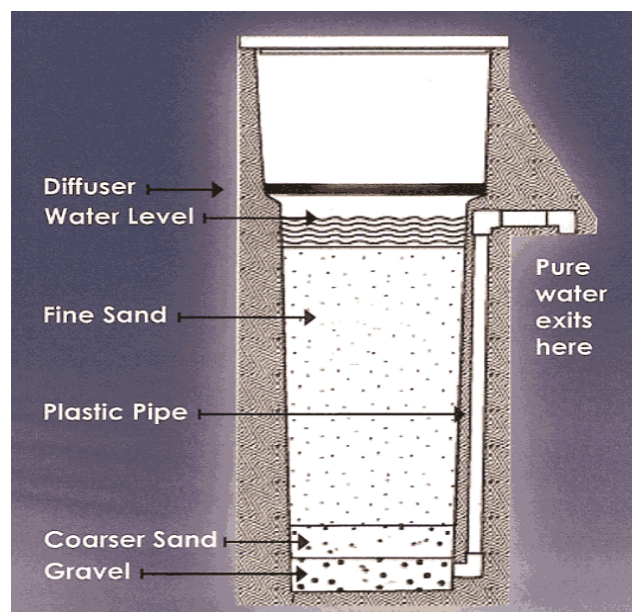
Our **February mission** is 'Sylvia's Place' in Allegan, which provides support services for survivors of domestic abuse. Begun in 1996, their mission is to create and sustain a safe environment that empowers women and children through preventative education and advocacy. This process then promotes stronger individuals, families, and communities. They have provided over 35,000 safe bed nights to women and children. Sylvia's Place also offers residential and non-residential support services to survivors who are looking for ways to change their lives. This is done by contracted counseling services, victim (legal) advocacy, case management, referrals to area agencies, and housing referrals, along with other referrals based on individual needs. They also provide emergency clothing and supplies, personal hygiene products, food, and laundry facilities.

Volunteer support is needed in many areas including childcare, children's activities, resident education/life skills, transportation, shelter maintenance, and by adopting a family at Christmas. They also accept used cell phones and inkjet and laser cartridges for recycling, and items needed for women to get started in their new residence once they leave Sylvia's Place. If you would like to donate items, please call (269) 673-8700 to speak with one of their staff. Please join me in supporting this very important safe residence so they may continue their work.

The **March mission** will be the Haiti School Water Project. This project was chosen before the recent earthquake. The United Methodist Michigan Area Haiti Task Force is partnering with the Methodist Church of Haiti, Rotary Clubs in the United States and Haiti, and Pure Water for the World. The Task Force was formed back in the '90s to provide a nutritious hot lunch to every child in the Methodist schools in Haiti, as it was difficult to teach hungry children. The Detroit and West Michigan conferences now support 107 Methodist schools and provide hot lunches — usually beans and rice — for 17,000 school children every school day. Success has been measured by a decrease in malnutrition and diseases caused by malnutrition, a lower school absentee rate, and better test scores. Even children not in the schools participate in the hot lunch program, and other students take extra food home for family members.

However, water is a part of the concern about malnutrition. Water-borne diseases kill more children in Haiti than anything else except related diseases from malnutrition. Almost all of Haiti's water is contaminated and is taken from streams, rivers, collected rain water, springs, and wells. The heavy-duty bio-sand water filter is the technology and means to accomplish the eradication of diseases and dysentery. Reports confirm that under optimal operating conditions, the bio-sand water filter is capable of removing 97% of fecal coliform bacteria, 100% of giardia cysts, 99.98% cryptosporidium cysts, 100% worms, 100% parasites, and up to 90% of organic and inorganic toxicants from contaminated water.

Cement containers are filled with sand and the plastic pipe exiting at the bottom of the filter and returning up the side combine to form a "trap," similar to the trap under a sink. As the adjusted to maintain approximately 2 inches of



water on top of the sand in the container. As polluted water is poured into the container through a diffuser plate that controls the rate of flow, clean water that has traveled through the various layers of the sand filtration process exits the pipe into receptacles.

Money donated will be used to manufacture the bio-sand water filters and also provide for delivery to central points for distribution to elementary and secondary schools and other facilities related to the Methodist Church of Haiti.

The ultimate goal of this program was to demonstrate a model that could be implemented to provide affordable clean water for 300,000 - 500,000 Haitian children by the end of 2010. Please join me in supporting this project which is needed now more than ever to help the children of Haiti.

We will take a special envelope collection for **'One Great Hour of Sharing'** on March 14. Each year, this offering goes to support the relief and hunger administration costs for the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Supporting UMCOR in this project allows UMCOR to send 100% of each mission dollar we collect to the projects themselves, instead of using a portion for administrative costs. (Please see list of Missions for 2010, also in this newsletter.)

Missionary Paul Webster in Zambia sent us a Christmas letter detailing the many improvements made at the Mujila Falls Agriculture Centre in 2009. He said each day they are making progress in producing more food, training more people, building a better training center, and bringing people to the knowledge of Jesus Christ. He thanked us for our prayers and support, which have allowed valuable information to reach the hungry and needy in northwestern Zambia and southern Congo. Please contact me if you would like to read his entire very interesting letter.

Thank you for your continued prayers and generous gifts for Missions. If you have any questions regarding any mission project, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Janet Swigart
jlswigart@aol.com
657-7741

“Each Alive in Christ, All Connected in Mission”

“Do all the good you can, in all the places you can, to all the people you can.”

John Wesley

ALMENA UMC 2010 MISSION PROJECTS

LANE	FUND #	MONTH	PROJECT
1	11865Z	January	MISSIONARY SALARY SUPPORT – Paul Webster in northwest Zambia, Africa – Covenant Relationship
NA	*	February	Sylvia’s Place in Allegan – Social Justice
4	*	March	Haiti School Water Project
4	5822	March	HUNGER RELIEF/UMCOR – Special envelope offering - One Great Hour of Sharing
3	773726	April	REGIONAL PROJECT - Red Bird Mission - Kentucky
4	982380	April	HUNGER RELIEF /UMCOR – Global Project – Church World Service CROP Walk - Eastern Van Buren County
6	None*	May	CONFERENCE PROJCT – Community Development – Harbor Harvest Urban Ministries – Benton Harbor
5	None*	June	RACIAL ETHNIC LOCAL CHURCHES – Multi- Ethnic Churches - Church of all Nations - Kentwood
2	11510A*	July	WORLD PROJECTS – Eastern Europe – Russia - Russian Mission Initiative
2	15016A	August	WORLD PROJECT – Africa - Mujila Falls Agriculture Research and Training Center - (P. Webster) - northwest Zambia
6	None	September	LOCAL CONFERENCE MINISTRIES – Outreach to college students - WMU Wesley Foundation
NA	None	September	Donations for Decatur Clothing Center
NA	None	October	LOCAL MISSION – Almena UMC for Thanksgiving Basket Expenses
4	982532	November	HUNGER RELIEF/UMCOR - Heifer Project International
NA	None	November	LOCAL MISSION – Food donations for Thanksgiving baskets
NA	None	December	LOCAL MISSION – United Christian Services in Paw Paw
NA	None	December	LOCAL MISSION – Individual participation in “The Angel Tree” – Goal is 22-25 children this year
		Christmas Eve	Purposely left OPEN

ALMENA UMC MISSION GIVING IN 2009

LANE ONE – MISSIONARY SUPPORT

	Goal: \$445
Name <u>Paul Webster</u>	Actual: \$
	<u>574.47</u>

LANE TWO – WORLD PROJECTS

1. <u>Mujila Falls Agricultural Project</u>	<u>\$696.29</u>
Hope Secondary School for Muslim and Christian Children in Palestine	<u>\$741.76</u>

LANE THREE – NATIONAL PROJECTS

1. <u>Homelessness in the U.S.</u>	<u>\$617.33</u>
2. <u>PET Project</u>	<u>\$159.17</u>

LANE FOUR – HUNGER/UMCOR (Conference Goal \$17 Per Member)

1. <u>Special Offering: One Great Hour of Sharing Offering</u>	<u>\$384</u>
2. <u>CROP Walk</u>	<u>\$1374.75</u>
3. <u>Landmine Removal</u>	<u>\$764.60</u>
4. <u>Society of St. Andrew</u>	<u>\$223.85</u>

LANE FIVE – RACIAL ETHNIC CHURCHES AND MINISTRIES (Conference Goal \$8 Per Member)

Racial Ethnic Churches:	
1. <u>Kewadin Indian Mission</u>	<u>\$241.90</u>
Ethnic Minority Ministries:	
1. <u>Faith UMC in Lansing</u>	<u>\$241.90</u>

LANE SIX – CONFERENCE AND DISTRICT PROJECTS

Special Offering: Christian Education Sunday #5442	<u>\$306.25</u>
Special Offering: Golden Cross Sunday #5814	<u>\$306.25</u>
Special Offering: Rural Life Sunday #5808	<u>\$306.25</u>
1. <u>WMU Wesley Foundation</u>	<u>\$1213.45</u>
2. <u>'PET MI' in Holland, MI</u>	<u>\$715.84</u>

OTHER MISSION, HUNGER OR SHELTER GIVING (Can Be Local)

1. <u>Eleanor's Pantry – items donated</u>	<u>Unknown</u>
Thanksgiving baskets – food and money	<u>Actual</u>
2. <u>Christmas box donations</u>	<u>\$647.51</u>
3. <u>Angel Tree Gifts</u>	<u>\$37.00</u>
Bible League – Bibles for India appeal	<u>Approx. \$300</u>
5. <u>appeal</u>	<u>spent</u>
	<u>\$535.28</u>

MEN'S GROUP

Local Giving: Materials and labor for Eleanor's Pantry and Crystal Springs Camp	<u>\$1204.44</u>
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Trustee News

We had enough money left in the Soup Supper Fund 2009 to purchase new stoves for the kitchen, so we did. We shopped locally at Neil's Hardware in Mattawan who matched some ads we had from local Kalamazoo stores. I want to thank all the people involved in this project for their help. Thank you. I will not name individual names as there were many people involved and I do not want to forget anyone. I am amazed at the thoughtfulness of our congregation and the willingness to help me with the projects our Trustee committee takes on.

This year in 2010 we have a lot of work to do: There are three big projects that I will fill you in on and hope you will volunteer whatever help you can to help the Trustee committee.

The first project is the Fellowship Hall Floor. This is for safety as well as to spruce up the look of our Community Room, which it is called by our visitors whom use it on a weekly and monthly basis. The boards under the carpeting have warped and are poking there ugly edges up to make are floor uneven and have caused tripping hazards. I am currently looking at estimates from local companies as well as advice to correct this problem for a long term and economical fix. I will keep you informed and updated. The second area for attention is to refurbish our playground equipment for safety reasons. We need this equipment to be usable and safe for our children and for the 4-H whom also use the equipment and for the community whom stop and use our facilities. When the equipment is fixed this is a feasible time to landscape around and under it with some kind of sand, mulch etc. for the children to land on that is safer than the hard dirt and grass we now have. The third project is removing old railroad ties, that have been a breeding ground for ants, bugs and termites and adding some stone or bricks to tidy up the front of our church. I will try to keep you informed and let you know work dates, so you can plan ahead. Thank you church family for all your help with physical and financial means and the support of our church suppers and dinners.

Sue Tinkler, Trustee Chairperson

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

Hosted by Max Field, and the Field Family

Saturday, February 13 from 4:30 to 7 p.m.

Almena UMC Fellowship Hall

\$5/dinner, includes spaghetti, salad, bread, dessert

Fundraiser is to offset costs of Max's trip to Washington D.C. February 2-7, 2010 with the National Youth Leadership Forum, (Leadership training, with an emphasis on National Security)



February 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Monday Morning Bible Study 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at Church 1	Groundhog Day 2	3	4	5	6
Pathfinders 9:45 a.m. Sunday Service 11 a.m. 7	Monday Morning Bible Study 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at Church 8	9	10	11	Lincoln's Birthday 12	Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser for Max Field 4:30 - 7 p.m. 13
Pathfinders 9:45 a.m. Sunday Service 11 a.m. Valentine's Day 14	Presidents' Day Monday Morning Bible Study 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at Hoffman's house 15	16	Ad. Board Meeting 7 p.m. Ash Wednesday Ash Wednesday service 6:30 p.m. 17	18	19	Soup & Salad Supper 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. 20
Pathfinders 9:45 a.m. Sunday Service 11 a.m. 21	Monday Morning Bible Study 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at Church Washington's Birthday 22	23	24	25	26	4-H Project Day 27
Pathfinders 9:45 a.m. Sunday Service 11 a.m. Men's Group 8 a.m. Sing-along at Lawton Nursing Homes 2:45 p.m. 28						

March 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Monday Morning Bible Study 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at Church 1	2	3	4	5	6
Pathfinders 9:45 a.m. Sunday Service 11 a.m. 7	Monday Morning Bible Study 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at Church 8	9	10	11	4-H Rummage Sale Drop-off 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. 12	4-H Rummage Sale Bishop's Day for Evangelism, 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Cornerstone Church, Caledonia 13
Pathfinders 9:45 a.m. Sunday Service 11 a.m. Daylight Savings Time Begins "One Great Hour of Sharing" Collection Day 14	Monday Morning Bible Study 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at Church 15	16	Ad. Board Meeting 7 p.m. St. Patrick's Day 17	18	19	Vernal Equinox Soup & Salad Supper 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. 20
Pathfinders 9:45 a.m. Sunday Service 11 a.m. 21	Monday Morning Bible Study 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at Church 22	23	24	25	26	4-H Project Day 27
Pathfinders 9:45 a.m. Sunday Service 11 a.m. Men's Group 8 a.m. Palm Sunday 28	29	30	31			

April 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				April Fools' Day Maundy Thursday Maundy Thursday service 7 p.m.	1 Good Friday Community Good Friday service, time t.b.d., at First Christian Church in Paw Paw (119 N. Niles)	2 Holy Saturday Passion Play at Andrews University, time t.b.d.
Pathfinders 9:45 a.m. Sunday Service 11 a.m. Easter						
Pathfinders 9:45 a.m. Sunday Service 11 a.m.	Monday Morning Bible Study 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at Church		SPRC Meeting 7 p.m.	Tax Returns Due		
Pathfinders 9:45 a.m. Sunday Service 11 a.m.	Monday Morning Bible Study 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at Church		Ad. Board Meeting 7 p.m.	Earth Day		
Pathfinders 9:45 a.m. Sunday Service 11 a.m. Men's Group 8 a.m. Crop Walk 2 p.m.	Monday Morning Bible Study 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at Church					

May 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
Pathfinders 9:45 a.m. Sunday Service 11 a.m. 2	Monday Morning Bible Study 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at Church 3	4	5	6	7	8
Pathfinders 9:45 a.m. Sunday Service 11 a.m. Mother's Day 9	Monday Morning Bible Study 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at Church 10	11	12	Ascension 13	14	15
Pathfinders 9:45 a.m. Sunday Service 11 a.m. 16	Monday Morning Bible Study 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at Church 17	18	Ad. Board Meeting 7 p.m. 19	20	21	22
Pathfinders 9:45 a.m. Sunday Service 11 a.m. Men's Group 8 a.m. Pentecost 23	Monday Morning Bible Study 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at Church 24	25	26	27	28	29
Pathfinders 9:45 a.m. Sunday Service 11 a.m. Trinity Sunday Sing along at Lawton Nursing Home 2:45 ... 30	Monday Morning Bible Study 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at Church Memorial Day 31					