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LANSING UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
32 BRICKYARD ROAD
LANSING NY 14882



The Sunbeam

October 2008

Lansing United
Methodist Church

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Worship
8:30 and 11:00

Prayer Service
Wednesday, 9:00 AM

Rummage Sale, October 10-11

Lansing United Methodist Church

32 Brickyard Road, Lansing, NY 14882
one mile north of the stoplight on Route 34B in
South Lansing.
Church office: 607-533-4070
E-mail: lumcoffice@twcny.rr.com
Office manager: Kay Thomas

To reach the pastor in confidence:
pastor32@twcny.rr.com

www.lansingunited.org

The Sunbeam is published each month
by Lansing United Methodist Church.

Please send your news to Glenn Withiam, editor,
at grw4@cornell.edu, or use the Sunbeam folder
near the church office.

Deadline for the next issue is October 15, 2008.

Please join us for worship at 8:30 and 11:00. Sunday school at 9:45.

the LUMC October 2008

Sunbeam
lansingunited.org



Lansing United Methodist Church
Route 34B and Brickyard Road, South Lansing

Pastor: Bill Gottschalk-Fielding • Program Associate: Marilyn Paradise • Youth Coordinator: Kevin Dunn

World
Communion
Sunday

October 5

Maintaining Internal Control of Church Finances

Attention Please: Please do not put checks or cash in the Treasurer's folder outside the church office. The Treasurer, Vicky Swanson, doesn't handle deposits. All checks and cash should always be brought into the church office so that any funds can be put into the safe for the finance committee counters. Also, anyone mailing checks or pledges to the office should simply address the envelope to the church, and not to the treasurer.

Here is why we need to maintain this policy. First, it is unwise to leave cash or other valuables out anywhere in the church, so that we lead people not into temptation.

More important, we need to maintain the financial procedure known as internal control. This helps protect the church and everyone who handles church funds. The basic principle here is that several people are oversee the process of receiving and disbursing our church funds, and not just one person.

Thus, the funds in the collection plate are received and tallied by the finance committee counters. That money is then recorded and deposited by the financial secretary, who keeps track of individual giving. That tally is checked when individual giving statements are issued. The money is spent with the authorization of a committee or program area person. The treasurer then writes the check, based on a voucher or bill. At each step our funds are accounted for, limiting the opportunities for funds to go missing.

Disciple Bible Study

Disciple Bible Study is a 34-week covenant group which studies the Bible in detail. Pastor Bill will lead this important Bible study, which will meet Sunday afternoons, beginning October 12.

Outreach and Mission Seminar Set for October 18

Are you inspired by the idea of doing outreach and mission for your congregation, but lack adequate knowledge or resources? Or are you a seasoned practitioner who feels called to reassess your congregation's social witness and set a new direction? "Equipping the Congregation for Outreach and Mission" will be held Saturday, October 18, 9:00 AM—3:00 PM at Jordan United Methodist Church in Jordan, New York. Sponsored by the Center for Lifelong Learning at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, the course will be taught by the Rev. Dr. Dana Horrell, Executive Director of the Center for the Congregation in Public Life at CRCDS.

When thinking about outreach for mission, it helps to look inward (at congregational renewal) and outward (at social renewal) at the same time. Building a "mission infrastructure" depends on good program ideas, recruitment and team building skills, neighborhood analysis, tools for measuring effectiveness, and ideas for integrating charity and justice. Through an assessment tool, discussion and multi-media presentations, participants are provided examples of "best practices" in social ministry.

Seminar cost is \$65 (\$75 after October 10) and includes lunch and course handouts. Groups of two or more from the same church are encouraged, with additional registrations (after the first) at \$35. For more information or to register, call 315-689-3499, send an email to dhorrell@crcds.edu or visit www.congregation-inpubliclife.org and look for "What's New."

Kid's Korner

We will celebrate **Children's Sabbath and Bible Sunday** on Sunday, October 19, at both Services of Worship. Please let us know if you would like your child to participate in the liturgy. Children's Sabbath bulletins will be distributed the week before so that children can practice their readings. Also parents of third graders are asked to let us know if you would like your child to receive a Children's Bible during the worship services. Please let Marilyn Paradise know if you have a third grader who would like a Bible.

The **Fall Harvest Festival** will be celebrated on Sunday, October 26, from 4:30 to 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Join us for games, crafts, cider pressing, a hay ride, and pizza. Mark your calendars for an afternoon of fun and fellowship.

Dish to Pass Dinner

Dish to Pass Dinner, Saturday, November 1, 6:00 PM. LUMC Fellowship Hall

Bring your favorite dish to share. Table service and drink will be provided.

Peanut Brittle Bees

The date has been set to make our famous peanut brittle. We'll be cooking peanut brittle Wednesday and Thursday, October 22 and 23, from 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM, and on Friday, October 24, from 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM.

Many hands are needed for this project. If you haven't worked before and would be interested in learning, come join us...but no children, please!

Thanks to everyone who brought coffee cans to help us package the candy. They are ready for peanut brittle!

If you'd like more information, please call Meredith Davis, 533-4980, Fannie Welch, 533-4664, or Dot Buckley, 533-4289—Dot Buckley

Prayer Requests

Betty Anderson
Kristen Anderson
Brian Cleveland 7358 Cedar St., Akron, NY 14001
Bill Earl 2000 East Shore Dr.
Carol, friend of Karen Bishop
Pauline Gottschalk 4152 SR417, Woodhull, NY 14898
James Hall, Greene Correctional Facility, POB 975, Coxsackie, NY 12051-0975
Barb Hebert
Joyce Henniger
Jim Howell
Bonnie Huff
Sheryl Mattoon
Theresa Palmer
Harry Reinhart, 615 Ridge Rd.
Phyllis Ryan
Frannie Sampson, 1138 Auburn Rd. (Groton)
Mary Searles, 425 Conlon Rd.
John Smith
Donna Howe Taylor
Kylie Walley
Charlotte Wilson 6 Conlon Rd.
Marian Wilson Groton Nursing Facility, 120 Sykes St., Groton 13073

Please pray for those in our armed services:

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Ken Allen | Daniel Jacobsen |
| Mike Beaudoin | Trevor Judd |
| Richard Butler | Shaun McCray |
| Shawn Butler | Matt McDonald |
| Matthew Cornell | Travis Potter |
| Scott Cowles | Nick Prabhavat |
| Steven Cowles | Josh Randles |
| Thomas Deis | Matthew Ravas |
| David Ferris | Joan Sullivan |
| Jason Halton | Adam Ward |
| Andrew Jacobsen | Michael Zhe |



Synergy

From the Pastor

Often when two special events are scheduled for the same day, it's not always a good thing. Energy and attention can get divided, threatening the success of both events. But sometimes "double booking" can actually serve to enhance each event, providing renewed interest and new insight.

I think this is the case this month when both the "Children's Sabbath" and "Laity Sunday" fall on the same day (October 19th). Both observances are important in their own right. Children's Sabbath is an interfaith celebration of children and a rededication among people of faith to seek the very best for every child. Laity Sunday, on the other hand, is a particularly United Methodist observance where the role and gifts of the laity are recognized and promoted. Though there are 45,000 clergy in our denomination, there are 8 million laity. Numbers alone tell the story of how and by whom the work of ministry gets done.

When I saw that both of these observances fall on the same Sunday this year, I was a bit dismayed. "How are we going to do justice to both celebrations?" I wondered. Then I realized we weren't dealing with mutually exclusive emphases here. Children are laity, gifted and called into ministry as much as any adult. Frankly, if there's any characteristic I'd name as essential to our church's ethos, it would be the emphasis

we place on children. Kids have a central place in our church both as those served and as those who serve. Children and youth greet worshippers Sunday morning, light the candles on the communion table, serve as liturgists, sing in the children's choir, and take up our collection. They raise money for CROP Walk (also on October 19th), send notes to the sick, and welcome newcomers into Sunday school classes. Every day in a multitude of ways, the children and youth of our church demonstrate what it means to "enter the kingdom of God like a child."

So it's very fitting on Children's Sabbath and Laity Sunday this year our children will lead the service. I'll be present to participate, but I won't have much to do (Leopold the Camel, on the other hand, is working up a sermon with the kids, which he tells me will be "wonderful"!). I know you'll want to be there with the kids and for the kids, watching in wonder and gratitude how Jesus continues to bless our church through some of his youngest friends.

Pastor B.M.

"Fan Club" Update

As promised the Ludlow village people will return to celebrate the new ceiling fans in the sanctuary on October 12. They will perform their famous (or infamous) L.U.M.C. song. Their worldwide tour ended at the Savona snail sprint where they performed between the zucchini toss and the goat races. Thanks again for all your support.—*Rick Hayes*

A Note from Lansing Food Pantry

Thank you, Food Pantry Volunteers!

Without your dedication, this program would not exist!

—*Mary Searles*

Rummage Sale Opportunities

Lansing UMC's **rummage sale** is set for October 10 and 11. You have opportunities to help out on those dates or all week before that. Setup starts Saturday, October 4, with the outside tents and beginning to haul setup items from the church attic.

Then, on Sunday, **major setup** occurs inside after the 11:00 service concludes.

Donations are received starting Sunday afternoon and concluding Tuesday at 6:00 P.M. Items left after that time do not help the sale.

Sorting and pricing goes all week, through Thursday.

Sale hours are: Friday 8:00 am to 8:00 pm, Saturday, 8:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Cleanup begins at the close of the sale. The more the merrier (and faster).

Questions? Ed LaVigne, 533-7603, 257-4984.

CROP Walk

Lansing's CROP Walk is scheduled for October 19. You are invited to be a walker or support a walker. This is an excellent way to support our community food supplies.

Guatemala Work Trip Scheduled

If you are interested in traveling out of the country for a nine days to work in beautiful Guatemala then this trip may be for you, Ed Pasto, Mary and Kate Adie, Bronwyn Losey, my son Martin, and I are committed so far to this trip. We have reservations at the mission in San Lucas for as many as twelve people. We plan to travel to JFK or Newark by car and take a direct flight to Guatemala city. Ticket costs will be from \$400 to \$600 depending on how soon we buy them. We will leave February 13, and catch an early flight on Saturday. Once in Guatemala we will take a van to the Mission in San Lucas Toliman where we will stay. The town has mountains around it with a nice lake too. Transportation and project direction will be given by the mission. From what I know so far we will be building stoves. We should be able to build one or two stoves at a cost of \$130 each.—*John Aasen* 533-7343, 351-8064 (or Ed Pasto 257-3083, 280-2264)

Volunteers in Mission on the Gulf Coast

Conference organizers have been notified of three mission teams heading for the Gulf Coast to continue cleanup and reconstruction from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and now cleanup from Gustav. You can be part of these teams.

Louisiana Oct. 18–26, 2008

Contact: Dave Woodcock Phone: 315-363-5307 (home) 315-263-0153 (cell) woody@virtualmedicalsales.com

Mississippi Nov. 1–9, 2008

Contact: Butch Frey freymbutcher@aol.com Mississippi Nov. 15–23, 2008

Contact: Sylvia Reimer Phone: 315-788-5442 marsyl5141@aol.com open

If you have never been a missionary on a team like this, you will find that you are welcome and appreciated.

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



*Lansing United
Methodist Church*

Note: This calendar is current as of September 22. For updates to all LUMC events, visit lansingunited.org, and check the bulletin when you're in church on Sunday.

1 Prayer Service 9:00
Women's Bible Study 9:30

Bell Choir 6:00
Choir 7:00

2 Bible Study 2:30
Woodsedge

Senior High Youth 7:00

3

4 Mens' Breakfast every Saturday at Linda's in North Lansing 7:00

5 WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY
Worship 8:30
Sunday School 9:45
Outreach 9:45
Worship 11:00
Junior Choir 12:00

Rummage Setup

6 Rummage Donations Received and Sorted

7 Quilt Bee 9:30

Staff Parish 7:00

8 Prayer Service 9:00
Women's Bible Study 9:30

Choir 7:00

Rummage Sorting

9 Bible Study 2:30
Woodsedge

Senior High Youth 7:00
Trustees 7:30

10 Rummage Sale

11 Mens' Breakfast 7:00

Rummage Cleanup

12 Worship 8:30
Sunday School 9:45
Outreach 9:45
Worship 11:00
Junior Choir 12:00
Disciple Bible Study 2:30
Youth Mission 6:00 All Saints

13

14 Quilt Bee 9:30

Lay Leaders 7:00

15 Prayer Service 9:00
Women's Bible Study 9:30

SUNBEAM DEADLINE
12:00 Midnight
Bell Choir 6:00
Choir 7:00

16 Bible Study 2:30
Woodsedge

Senior High Youth 7:00

17

18 Mens' Breakfast 7:00

19 CHILDREN'S SABBATH
LAITY SUNDAY
Worship 8:30
Sunday School 9:45
Worship 11:00
CROP WALK
Disciple Bible Study 2:30

20 Haiti 7:00

21 Quilt Bee 9:30

Peanut Brittle Setup 2:00

Membership 7:00
Worship Committee 7:30

22 Prayer Service 9:00
Women's Bible Study 9:30

Bell Choir 6:00
Choir 7:00

Peanut Brittle Bees 9:00-9:00

23 Bible Study 2:30
Woodsedge

Senior High Youth 7:00

24 Peanut Brittle Bee 9:00-1:30

25 Mens' Breakfast 7:00

Women's Retreat 9:00 Skaneateles

26 Worship 8:30
Sunday School 9:45
Worship 11:00
Junior Choir 12:00

FALL FESTIVAL 4:30
Disciple Bible Study 2:30

27 Caregivers 9:00

28 Quilt Bee 9:30

Finance 7:00
Youth Ministry 7:00

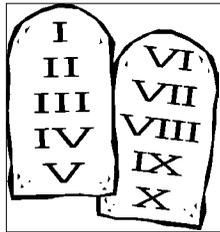
29 Prayer Service 9:00
Women's Bible Study 9:30

Bell Choir 6:00
Choir 7:00

30 Bible Study 2:30
Woodsedge

31 October 2008

1



God's Rules & Church Rules

Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart. (Psalm 119:34)

As the small group studies begin to wind down, it is our hope that you are leaving your group with a deeper understanding of not just “rules,” but how we as Christians are called to live. Yet the talk and study of rules and laws will continue this month here at church.

The **Children's Sunday School** class will begin a new unit entitled The Ten Commandments. When God met Moses on the Mount of Sinai, God gave him a set of laws—the Ten Commandments—for the newly freed Israelites. The Ten Commandments were a gift to strengthen the relationship among the people and their community. Though they were given to God's people 3,000 years ago, they remain important to our Christian lives today.

It's interesting to me how ancient spiritual rules have a way of resurfacing and reclaiming attention in our daily lives. They sometimes even cross denominational lines. A book I recently read is *Monk Habits For Everyday People: Benedictine Spirituality for Protestants*, by Dennis Okholm. Okholm is a professor of theology and copastor of St Andrew's Presbyterian Church in California. He writes about The “Rule” of St. Benedict. St Benedict was a fifth century monk, and his “Rule” essentially encompassed a life where prayer, work, mediation, and community were all balanced accordingly. Although this is quite an oversimplification of his philosophy, aren't we always looking for some sense of balance in the midst of our busyness?

The **Women's Retreat** on Saturday, October 25, will focus on these principles. The retreat is entitled “The Monastic Way For Moms: Finding Balance in our Everyday Life,” and will be held at Stella Maris Retreat Center in Skaneateles, from 9:00-3:00 PM. Come and explore a new path toward finding purpose in work, joy in your family life, and peace with your daily

choices. This workshop will be lead by Susan Major, Director of Religious Education at St. Mary's Church in Skaneateles. The day will include reflections, inspiring stories, practical tools, laughter, and, of course, lunch!

Disciple Bible Study class begins on Sunday, October 12, at 2:30 PM in the double classroom. The class will be led by Pastor Bill and will meet for 34 weeks, covering both the Old and New Testament. Please join us.

Rev. Dave Nicholls will once again lead the adult Sunday School class beginning Sunday, October 19. He will discuss the *Book of Discipline*—the book of doctrine, organizational plans, and practical church guidance for the United Methodist Church. Here's what Rev. Dave will address over the next few weeks.

What do United Methodists believe? Where do they stand on the big issues of the day? Why is our church organized the way it is? What is this conference thing we keep hearing about? If you have ever wondered about these or had other questions, you may find the answers in a couple of United Methodist books. Yes, Methodists have books other than the hymnals and the Bibles in the pew racks.

The *Book of Discipline*, first published in 1785, is 800 pages of organization and administration material covering everything from the local church to General Boards that compose the international structure. The first 125 pages cover the Constitution of the UMC, the Doctrinal Standards, and Social Principles including “Our Theological Task.”

Continued at right

Ike Response, concluded

sistance will be badly needed to tackle the work that lies ahead in helping survivors of Gustav and Ike.”

To aid Ike recovery work, send financial donations to UMCOR Advance No. 3019695, “Hurricanes 2008, Hurricane Ike.” Mail checks to UMCOR, P.O. Box 9068, New York, NY 10087, and write the Advance number and name on the memo line of the check. Donations for Gustav recovery work should be so designated.

Contributing to this report were Linda Bloom, Betty Backstrom, Eleanor Colvin, and Melissa Hinnen.

Church World Service kits urgently needed

Church World Service (CWS), has issued an urgent appeal for kits. The response to recent hurricanes has left the inventory level of all types of kits extremely low, with levels of some kits at zero.

“We have received an incredible number of urgent requests for kits and blankets. As such, our inventory is rapidly depleting and perilously low,” said Donna Derr, Director the CWS Emergency Response Program.

The CWS Upstate New York Regional Office has secured a truck to transport kits to the warehouse in New Windsor, Maryland, in mid-October. Please help fill the truck!

Go to www.ncnyumc.org/email/cwshy-gienekits.pdf for contents of kits and assembly instructions.

PS. The need for kits isn't going away any time soon, so if we miss the October truck, we can send kits later.

A Note from Ghana

Caitlin Hardie's grandparents (Dave and Joan) received 60th anniversary greeting from her in Ghana. She then included the following story from her missionary experience there:

I've been having a few adventures of my own in a warmer world. I was invited to a funeral (which is a 3 day long morning celebration) in a neighboring village this past weekend. I rode my bike 2 hrs with my dog trotting along behind me on my way there. Enjoyed the festivities, then jumped on my bike early the next morning to come back home. I'd only made it 15 minutes before I was caught in a downpour and got drenched. I stopped at a village clinic along the way to wait out the rain and chatted with the nurse for an hour. The skies seemed to clear a bit so me and my poor wet pup set off again.

Along the way I met a Ghanaian also going to my town who convinced me to take a short cut. Bad news—the bridge was washed out. So it was either forge a brown frothy river or turn around and back track and take the long way. I turned around and pushed through the thick mud and big puddles until just outside of town my tire popped! Things were looking pretty dismal at this point, I was covered with mud. Walking thru town, a man who goes to church with me waved me over and insisted I sit and rest while he fixed my tire for me. Suddenly my terrible morning had turned around. Its amazing what a simple act of kindness can do to brighten another person's day.

Hurricane Ike Response Begins in Texas, Louisiana

By United Methodist News Service

Cautioning that the work ahead will be expansive and costly, United Methodists in Texas and Louisiana have begun to assess damage from Hurricane Ike and respond to emergency needs along the storm's wide trail of destruction on the heels of Hurricane Gustav.

South Texas gets slammed

The Texas conference is establishing relief and recovery offices in Houston and Beaumont, and staff is working to find out the status of each of the conference's more than 700 churches, including five congregations in Galveston, the hardest-hit city.

Many United Methodist churches served as shelters. Among them is Christ UMC in College Station, which housed 180 residents, staff and families from Edgewater Retirement Home in Galveston.

Houston, where the conference office is located, was spared significant structural damage, but most of the city's electricity was knocked out. The conference office, however, kept its electricity and phone service intact, enabling staff members to coordinate disaster recovery and relief.

"We are blessed in that regard," said Goodrich. "But it's catastrophic in areas along the coast. It's going to be a very difficult situation for a long time. We need prayers."

Goodrich urged early response and recovery teams to stay away until the conference is ready to receive them.

"We appreciate everyone's heart to help us, but right now we need people to use their heads, too," he said. "We really need people to understand that we don't want anyone showing up uninvited. We can't deal with that right now. When we're ready to receive them, we will let everyone know. There's going to be a lot of work to do."

Louisiana Hit Again

Louisiana anticipates a need for case managers and for direct aid. As they were still assessing wind-related damage from Gustav, church leaders said Hurricane Ike flooded most of the state's 250-mile coast, sweeping over many of the same towns and coastal spots flooded by hurricanes Rita and Katrina in 2005.

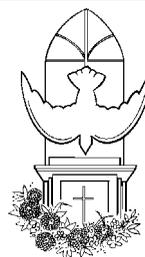
Although the city of New Orleans escaped the brunt of the latest storm, Plaquemines and St. Bernard parishes reported extensive flooding. And the Native American community of Dulac, La., was once again flooded, with water reported in the United Methodist-owned community center and in Clanton Chapel United Methodist Church.

Preliminary reports from coastal parishes indicated that many of the same families assisted by the conference disaster response ministry after the 2005 storms were flooded once again. "A lot of the work just completed in the low-lying areas has come unraveled," said the Rev. Darryl Tate, the church's director of disaster response in Louisiana.

Just north of New Orleans, Lake Ponchartrain rose and caused some flooding in the Slidell area, where the disaster response ministry recently had closed most of its cases and shut down its offices in Slidell and Abbeville.

Tate stressed that help will be needed from across The United Methodist Church as disaster response efforts ramp up again in the wake of Gustav and Ike. "UMCOR funding for response to Katrina and Rita cannot be used in this newest effort," Tate said. "Those funds must remain designated to the projects we are still working on to complete that work. Financial gifts and as-

Continued at right



Worship in October

In worship during October we'll continue our focus on "Three Simple Rules." We'll look at the third rule (Stay in Love with God) and finishing with our need for life-long spiritual growth (Continue to Change). On October 19 the children will lead us in celebrating the Children's Sabbath and Laity Sunday. October 26, the last Sunday of the month, falls just a week and a half away from Election Day. On that Sunday we'll look at the relationship between faith and politics. See you in church!

October 5—Stay in Love with God (also World Communion Sunday): John Wesley said the only way to deepen our friendship with God is to practice the spiritual disciplines of prayer, Bible Study, worship, and Holy Communion. This will be our focus this Sunday as we join with other Christians around the world to celebrate the Lord's Supper. Note: Pastor Bill will preach at the 9:30 service, and our District Superintendent Deborah O'Connor-Slater will share her reflections on "Staying in Love with God" at the 11:00 service. Read: Mark 1:21-39.

October 12—Continue to Change: Five weeks of Worship, Sunday School, private study, and small group interaction—now what?

Rules, concluded

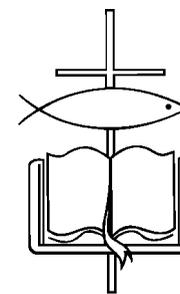
Join us starting Sunday, October 19, for four consecutive weeks as we will look at the Discipline, especially the Social Principles and the task it calls us to in our community, nation, and world. The Book of Resolutions, containing specific resolutions adopted by the UMC, becomes a companion to and an interpretation of the Social Principles.

I'll leave you with a few words from author Dennis Okholm: "for all Christians, good spiritual habits are good for our spiritual health, and scripture is the original rule and Christ is the point of it all, our true beginning and our end." God Bless.—*Marilyn Paradise*

As we conclude our exploration of Wesley's "Three Simple Rules" and thank God for the growth within us, we'll look forward to our next steps. Read: Mark 10:17-22.

October 19—Children's Sabbath and Laity Sunday: LUMC's children will lead this service. See Pastor Bill's column on page 2 for more details. Read: Exodus 33:12-23; Psalm 99; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; and Matthew 22:15-22.

October 26—"Loving God and Neighbor in the Public Square": we'll focus on faith and politics this morning as we worship the God of all Creation – even the voting booth! Read: Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8 and Matthew 22:34-46.



Bible Sunday
As part of Children's Sabbath, October 19, Bibles are given to children in third grade (or older children who have not received Bibles). Parents who would like their children to receive Bibles should notify the church office.