

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

the LUMC Febraury 2007

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

**“Whom shall I
send?”**

**How about...
you!**

**Sarah Sandsted and
her cousin Rachel
Baker on their
January mission trip
to Haiti. See page 6.**





Time for a Change

LENT BEGINS THIS MONTH with Ash Wednesday (February 21st). I'm glad it's coming up because I need a change and I suspect you do, too. Change or transformation is what true discipleship is about. I forget that sometimes. As someone who spends a lot of his time "in the church," I'm apt to mistake the hours I log doing churchy things as somehow equivalent to growth in the spiritual life. Sunday morning worship, committee meetings, and Bible study can certainly help sustain my relationship with God, but growing in God requires other activities and attitudes which stretch and deepen it.

This is why I'm glad for Lent. The ancient church "invented" Lent so that we'd have a seven-week period just prior to Easter (April 8) to challenge and strengthen our faith. Our wise sisters and brothers of the early church understood how a Christian's faith can get flabby and weak if she or he fails to put forward a serious effort to grow.

I've chosen adjectives like "flabby and weak" because many of us, especially after the "Christmas cookie season," are thinking about weight loss and physical fitness. Most of us know if we really want to slim down and tone up, we'll have to put forward some disciplined effort. The body changes we want for ourselves aren't just going to happen. It's no different when it comes to the soul.

Along that line, a half dozen LUMC 13-year-olds set out this month on a faith-building journey the church calls "Confirmation." These young people will spend the next three months seeking to explore, stretch and deepen their relationship with God. Regular worship attendance and Sunday school, Sunday afternoon Bible study and Discipleship Classes, an overnight retreat and one-on-one work with a mentor are just some of the disciplines they'll be asked to do. It's intentionally rigorous and demanding.

The promise I made to these kids I can make to you (it's actually a promise made by God which I simply pass on). Pour your life into God and God will pour life into you. Effort is rewarded. The growth we gain isn't always the growth we set out to have. Real transformation usually changes even our desires. We find ourselves wanting different things.

How will you and I spend this Lent? What stretching exercises will we practice as we seek fitter souls and stronger spirits? These are the kinds of questions I'm beginning to ask myself and pass on to you. Lent is coming and if we get intentional about these days before Easter, we might just emerge from the tomb of our old selves, ready to begin life in a new and renewed way.

Grace and peace,

Pastor B.M.

A Note of Thanks

There are no words to adequately describe the warmth, love, and support our family felt during the Bill's illness and passing. So often he said, "It is so nice of the kids and teachers to sign cards to me. I want to thank them." The cards, phone calls, food, and visits were so appreciated by Bill, especially the soups. He was able to hear and see the carolers outside the picture window.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

—*Jeanne Bishop, Scott, Karen, Connie, Clayt, Linda, Tom, Diane, Michael, and our eight grandchildren*

Gift of the Heart Kits for Church World Service

When you are out shopping in the next few weeks, remember to pick up an item or two for the Church World Service Baby Kits. Call Peggy MacKenzie with any questions, 533-4432.

- Four cloth diapers
- Two shirts
- Two washcloths (adult size)
- Two gowns or sleepers (onesies)
- Two diaper pins
- One sweater or sweatshirt
- Two receiving blankets (one may be knitted)

Health Kit

- One hand towel
- One washcloth
- One comb
- One metal nail file
- One bath size bar of soap
- One toothbrush
- One tube of toothpaste
- Six Band-aids

Prayer Concerns

Robert Beach, 57 Jersey Hill Rd., Ithaca
Bishop Violet L. Fisher, 1010 East Ave., Rochester
14607

Keith and Kristen Hansen (family of Rich and Kay Moore)

Amber Heimbuecher (Anne Czymmek's sister)
Claudia (Montague) Wheatley, Asbury Rd., Lansing

Hospitalized

Deforest Heffron, Elcor Health Center, Horseheads

At Home

Russell Nalley, 261 Myers Rd.
Marian Ostrander, 36 Locke Rd., Locke, 13902
Tom Payne, 30 East Meadow Dr., Ithaca
Lorraine Reardon, 109 South St., Groton,
13073

Frannie Sampson, 1138 Auburn Rd. Groton
Ed Trainer, 8 E. Meadow Dr., Ithaca
Barbara White, 96 Auburn Rd., Lansing

Please pray for those serving in Iraq,
Afghanistan, and elsewhere.

Sean Banks
Matthew Cornell
David Ferris
Robert Gudbranson
Trevor Judd
Daniel LaBar
Shaun McCray
Travis Potter
Nick Prabhavat
Josh Randles
Matthew Ravas
Eric Tee
Michael Wolfe

Worship in February

February is a transition month. We'll be moving through the last part of winter (I hope!) and completing the liturgical season of Epiphany. The first few Sundays in February I'll be preaching on the theme of "Community," the fourth of the seven episodes of the biblical story. Then we'll begin Lent with Ash Wednesday (February 21). All during Lent my preaching will focus on who we Christians understand Jesus to be (i.e., episode five of the biblical story, "Christ."). As I said in my column this month, Lent is a time to intentionally join God in bringing needed transformation to our lives and our world. For Christians, Jesus both empowers and models that transformation. We aim "in Christ" to become "like Christ." By the end of the month I'm hopeful the first faint signs of spring may be seen (or at least by the first week of March). Perhaps we'll begin to see new life in Christ stirring within us, too.

February 4—5th Sunday after the Epiphany.

This morning we begin episode four of the biblical story: Community. God intended Israel to be a model human community where justice, mercy, and joy were daily experiences. At the center of this community was the Temple—a place where "heaven and earth" were thought to meet. We'll take a look at the Temple as an historical reality and wonder about such "thin places" in our lives today. Read: Isaiah 6:1-13; Psalm 138; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; and Luke 5:1-11.

February 11—6th Sunday after the Epiphany.

We continue our exploration of Community this morning by looking at the place of "the Land" in Israel's imagination and history. The Land as both a physical reality and as a metaphor of promise has played (and continues to play) a central role in Israel's understanding of what it means to be God's people. Read: Deuteronomy 8:7-18.

February 18—Transfiguration Sunday. We conclude our study of "Community" today by looking at leadership in the community, specifically in Israel's case the role

of King. We do this in the light of the "King of Kings," who is transfigured on the mountain top and revealed as our rightful sovereign. Read: 1 Samuel 8:4-20; Psalm 99; and Luke 9:28-36.

February 21—Ash Wednesday, 7:00 PM. In tonight's reading from Isaiah, God asks "Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice...to let the oppressed go free...to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house..." Is this what Lent is all about, striving for social justice in our community? If so, how will you and I put this into practice? Read: Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; and Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21.

February 25—First Sunday in Lent. This morning we begin our look at Jesus by examining one of the many ways we describe him: Son of God. What on earth does that title tell us about Jesus? What does it say about the community who uses it to talk about Jesus? Read: Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Romans 10:8b-13; and Luke 4:1-13.

God Given Names

The Lord says, "I have called you by name, you are mine." (Isaiah 43:1)

THE NAME GIVEN TO US at our birth becomes who we are. It becomes our identity. Throughout biblical times, names were significant. Names revealed a person's character, a position, responsibility, or the person's relationship with God. For example the name, David means "beloved one," and David, the shepherd and king, was known as a man after God's heart (Acts 13:22). God said to Abram (before changing his name to Abraham), "I will make of you a great nation, I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing" (Genesis 12:2).

Throughout the New Testament Jesus is revealed to us in many names: Messiah (Matthew 16:16), Bread of Life (John 6:35), Light of the World (John 8:12), The Christ (John 4:25), The Living Water (John 4:10), The Way, Truth, and Light (John 14:6), The Resurrection (John 11:25), The Good Shepherd (John 10:11), Prophet (Matthew 21:11), I Am (John 8:58), The Vine (John 15:1), and Emmanuel (Matthew 1:23).

Who do you say Jesus is? What is the name that reflects Jesus in your life?

You are invited to join us on Sunday mornings during Lent to discuss *The Meaning of Jesus: Two Visions*, a fascinating book about who Jesus was in his own time and what he is for us today. The authors, Marcus J. Borg and N. T. Wright, are both personal friends, practicing Christians, and New Testament scholars with very different answers to questions about Jesus' life, His birth, the purpose of His death, the resurrection, and His divin-

ity. Join us during Sunday School hour beginning **Sunday, February 25**, for this challenging book study that should stimulate good conversation. Copies of the book will be distributed at the first class.

The children in Sunday School begin a new unit entitled "Who Is Jesus?" They will hear the story of Jesus asking His disciples who the people thought He was. Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God." The children will discuss names and phrases that the bible uses to refer to Jesus and they will have the opportunity to share who Jesus is to them.

Please join us during this Lenten Season as we come to know the precious name of Jesus and how His name is reflected in our faith today.—*Marilyn Paradise*

Children's Musical Begins Rehearsal

Adam's Apple, for kids in grades 3 through 8 (and 2 by permission).

Rehearsals begin Sunday, February 4, 12:00 to 2:00, and will continue each Sunday. Two or three extra rehearsals will be added to the schedule as needed and as people are available.

Presentation during both worship services on Sunday, March 11.

Children interested in being in the play should sign up by February 4. Children of all ages can help to design and build sets and costumes, and other production activities. **More information from Lisa Ryan or Diane Withiam.**

January Haiti Mission Trip

by Ashley Dean

EARLY IN JANUARY I had the wonderful opportunity to travel with the LUMC group to Haiti. Being a good friend of Sarah Sandsted and spending many days at the Sandsted home, I had heard many stories and seen



many pictures of Haiti, but I never really thought that I myself would one

day be going. I love to travel and have always been interested in the Haiti project so I was extremely excited when I found out that this January trip was one that could fit my schedule.

Before I went to Haiti I didn't really know what to expect; I knew it was going to be hot, I knew it was going to be an eye-opening experience, but I did not know the extent to which this trip would effect my life. I never for once thought that I would become attached to such a foreign country or to a people so different than myself, but that is precisely what happened. The people I met in the village of Banique and the experiences I had there still continue to amaze me. Even as I sit comfortably in my college dorm room, I find my mind traveling hundreds of miles south, to a little village called Banique, Haiti.

I can still remember the excited and jubilant faces of the children as our van drove through the beaten dirt road that runs through the village of Banique. As we came barreling up the rocky path, the children immediately recognized familiar faces in the van and began to run along side us, reaching their hands in through the open windows. Although I was a new face, as soon as I got out of the car the children rushed toward me,

giving me hugs and asking to carry my bags up the steep hill to the house. The energy and excitement displayed by the children was manifest and nearly overwhelming, but it was not until the last night I spent in Banique that I really understood why the children were so thrilled to see the arrival of the Americans.



Why would you become a missionary to Haiti? Here, Sarah Sandsted shows you three reasons.

The last night in Banique was rather emotional as every-

one was aware that the next morning was the time of departure. At one point in the night I walked over to the cement slab in front of Harry and Anita's house, where three of my older friends were sitting together in silence with their heads down rested on their knees. Because I speak French, I was able to figure out what was wrong with these three Haitians, who are usually quite happy and outgoing. I asked the three of them what was wrong, and they all replied, "We are sad." When I asked them why they were sad, they each explained that they were upset that the team had to leave the next morning. As we continued talking I could see tears form in my friend Ruth's eyes and I knew that these people were genuinely distraught that their American friends were leaving them the next day. It was at this point during the trip that I learned the importance of the LUMC mission in the village of Banique. My Haitian friends told

continued on the next page

Haiti Connection (continued)

me that “we may not always show it, but us Haitians are overwhelmingly grateful of your work and what you do for us in Banique.” They expressed the importance of education in their lives and told me that they believe it is the work and dedication of the LUMC Haiti mission that has made education available to many of the villagers. That night under the stars during my last hours in Haiti, it became clear to me how much the people of Banique love and care for the American people and how much they truly appreciate the LUMC Haiti mission. After having this discussion with my Haitian friends, I left the village of Banique feeling both confident and satisfied that our mission in Haiti is both admirable and successful.

I do not know when I will be able to return to Haiti, or when I will be able to talk to my Haitian friends again, but I do know that my love for the village and the people of Banique will bring me back one day. Although I was only in Haiti for eleven days, the experience will be one that will last me a lifetime in memories. I am so thankful to have had this opportunity to go to Haiti and am proud to have been a representative of the LUMC Haiti mission.—*Ashley Dean*

Haiti Vitamins

In Haiti, the canteen of our mission school provides each student with a hot lunch. For some, this is the only meal of their day, and going to bed hungry is not uncommon. A daily vitamin is a great help in combating the lack of proper nutrition. So, please help us, so we may continue to provide this important addition to their scant diet. Thank you!

The “Haiti Vitamin” envelopes will be in the book rack of each pew, on the third Sunday of every month. Bring a few extra dollars to tuck into that envelope. Also, a “Haiti Vitamin” canister will be on the kitchen pass-through, and on the Narthex entry settee for spare cash. Your donations are multiplied greatly by our ability to purchase vitamins at a discount price. If you have any comments, suggestions, or questions, please feel free to contact Harriet Larin, 533-8605.

Here’s Your Chance !!!

Have you ever felt God nudging you to take part in mission ?

The Haiti Committee announces that **Barb Denhoff will retire on September 30, 2007** from her work as Administrator of the Verrettes mission of *Ecole La Providence*.



We believe that God will raise up missionaries to continue this work. Here are the jobs must be filled, by one or more people:

- Keeping track of contributions with Haiti Committee Treasurer and sponsors and donors.
 - Sending money to Haiti during the year for program needs.
 - Maintaining student records and reporting student progress to sponsors.
 - Corresponding with students and sending letters on to sponsors.
 - Traveling to Haiti—Continuing a relationship between our churches and the students and schools in Haiti.
- Barb has offered to lead an orientation trip to Haiti for 7-10 days in April 2007. Planning needs to start soon.
- For answers to your questions on this mission opportunity or the trip, please call: Barb Denhoff, 315-539- 3362, or (cell) 315-521-4615 Kate Payne, 257-2792, or Reenie Sandsted, 533-7568.

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY



Lansing united
methodist
church

*February
2007*

4

COMMUNION

Worship 8:30

Sunday school 9:45

Worship 11:00

Children's Musical Rehearsal 12:00

Confirmation Bible Study 4:00

Bible Study at Bakers 6:30

5

6

Quilt Bee 9:30
Caregivers 10:00

Staff-Parish 7:00
Youth Ministry 7:00

11

Worship 8:30

Sunday school 9:45

Worship 11:00

Children's Musical Rehearsal 12:00

Children's Ministries 12:00

Confirmation Bible Study 4:00

Youth Mission 6:00

12

Outreach 7:00

13

Quilt Bee 9:30

Church Council 7:00

18

TRANSFIGURATION

Worship 8:30

Sunday school 9:45

Worship 11:00

Children's Musical Rehearsal 12:00

Confirmation Bible Study 4:00

Bible Study at Bakers 6:30

19

Membership 7:00
Worship Committee 7:00

20

Quilt Bee 9:30

25

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Worship 8:30

Sunday school 9:45

Worship 11:00

Food Pantry Setup

Children's Musical Rehearsal 12:00

Confirmation Bible Study 4:00

26

Food Pantry 4:00

27

Quilt Bee 9:30

Staff-Parish 7:00

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

1 MOPS 10:00

Senior High Youth 7:00

2

3

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

7

Women's Bible Study 9:30

Bells Angels 6:00
Choir 7:00

8

Senior High Youth 7:00
Trustees 7:30

9

C C Y M R e t r e a t

10 Mens' Breakfast

♥ Sweetheart Dinner ♥
5:30

14



Women's Bible Study 9:30

Bells Angels 6:00
Choir 7:00

15 MOPS 10:00

Senior High Youth 7:00
SUNBEAM DEADLINE
12:00 Midnight

16

17

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

21

Women's Bible Study 9:30

Ash Wednesday Service 7:00

(Choir rehearsal follows)

22

Senior High Youth 7:00

23

24

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

28

Bells Angels 6:00
Choir 7:00

Note: This calendar is current as of January 29.
For updates to all LUMC events, visit lansingunited.org and see our virtual church calendar and check the Sunday Bulletin.

VIM Trip to Biloxi

by Glenn Withiam

After my Volunteer in Mission trip to New Orleans last year, I planned to return to the Gulf Coast to work on the recovery effort. Thanks to the Conference listserv, I found a trip being organized by St. Paul's UMC, going to Biloxi on January 13 through 20.

Our crew of 16 arrived in Biloxi late on Saturday, January 13, after an afternoon sightseeing in the French Quarter of New Orleans. Our host in Biloxi was an organization called Hands On Gulf Coast, about which I knew nothing. All we knew was that they would feed and house us, and to plan on dormitory-style accommodations. This turned out to be in a steel-truss gymnasium building, constructed by the Beauvoir UMC. On the floor of the former gym were tables and chairs, and all around the mezzanine, the former running track, were bunk beds, in double rows. You could sleep either on a bunk or on the floor up there. The other thing to know is that the showers are out of doors. The cold front came through Monday night, average high temperatures after that were in the 40s.

After we got over the shock of our accommodations, we gradually worked ourselves into the HOGC system, which was basically controlled chaos. As a group, the straw bosses and case workers would determine what jobs were to be done the next day, and then we would sign up for the jobs we thought we wanted to handle.

Jobs included mold remediation (endless job, every day), framing, tutoring, helping out at the SPCA, and demo work. You could also help out with chores such as cooking or driving people and stuff around town as needed. At first our team members had trouble working into this system, but by the end of the week we had found our niches, or, in one case, invented our own projects.

My week went like this. On Monday, I signed up for the framing crew. (We had expected to work on construction, but we were mostly wrong.) Framing in this case meant painting. We were doing a "blitz paint" of the Mannings' house. We had something like 20



people working on this. In addition to those of us from Hands On Gulf Coast, we also had a crew from Americorps. This is one of three houses that will appear as part of the story line for *Guiding Light* on February 14. (More on this later.) The paint specs, given by the GL decorators, involved accent colors in every room, which means that we were trying to paint two colors next to each other, pumpkin and sage, sage and tan, and tan and pumpkin.

Monday was also Martin Luther King, Junior, Day. This is a huge day in Biloxi, with a parade, food vendors, and a battle of the (marching) bands. Among the bands, the "Sonic Boom of the South," the Jackson State Marching Band. The locals were proud of this impressive unit, and justifiably so.

Tuesday, we signed up to help prepare two small houses to be moved. This was demolition work, removing old flooring, paneling, drywall, ceiling panels, and bathroom and kitchen fixtures. Again with the help of Americorps volunteers we got one house to-

continued on the next page

Biloxi Work Trip, continued

tally ready and the second house (a charming craftsman-style bungalow, almost ready. All that remained here were two brick chimneys and four brick supports for the porch roof.

Wednesday, I joined a small crew (including Russ and Peter from our team) to remove the chimney bricks. This job involved tossing the bricks down from the roof, and so we didn't need large numbers of people wandering around. We started on the roof, then reached down from the roof, then worked in the attic crawl space until we couldn't reach down any further. At this point, I climbed into the chimney, to stand on the bricks as I removed the courses. I handed bricks up to Russ, in the crawl space, who handed them to Peter, on the roof, and he tossed them down. Finally I worked my way down the chimney to the firebox (a double row of bricks in each course) and I emerged into the living room from the fireplace. So, I am now a member of the United Brotherhood of Santa Clauses.

At this point, I could just pull the bricks out and toss them out a window. Meantime, Russ and Peter smashed down the other chimney, which was totally external. Then we waited while crew bosses Aaron and Heath braced the porch. At this point we knocked the bricks out from under the supports and—ta-daaa—the roof did not move. The houses will be donated to the North Gulfport Land Trust to be sold to low-income families.



Yours truly waltzes a toilet out of a house to be moved.

Thursday we began doing some actual framing. I was ready for a day off after hauling bricks all day, but Russ convinced me to go with him to Miss Ethel's house, and I'm glad

I did. Miss Ethel's is another Guiding Light house, one of three. Russ and I spent the day cutting and hanging ceiling joists, to tie the walls back together for when we remove the bracing. This went well enough that we knew we could "finish" tomorrow. In this case, finish meant having the house ready so that the Guiding Light actors could do a photo op of framing up a wall or two.



Mold remediation suits. Scrape and vacuum mold. Then paint with Kilz.

The arrangement was as follows. To observe the show's 70th anniversary, the Guiding Light producers wanted to do something special. They contacted HOGC and offered to pay the cost of fully reconstructing three houses (including furnishings), provided the houses were set up as follows for the cameras. One house, Miss Ethel's, would be just in frame. One house, which happened to be owned by a woman who survived a WWII death camp, would be in drywall. Finally, one house, the Manning house, would be finished. Our team had a hand in two of those.

On Friday, we returned to Miss Ethel's house, again with a small crew, to clean up and cut and assemble floor plates and headers for the actors to use. We flew back on Saturday.

One more story of many to tell. Some of our team signed up to tutor children. Four children showed up for nine tutors, so our team looked for other work. The elementary

continued on the next page

Biloxi Work Trip, concluded

school library was full of boxes of donated books. The librarian had had no time to catalogue and shelve these books. So, some of our team took it on themselves to do this job. The children were grabbing the books to read even before they were shelved. Our team was about two hours from finishing all the books,



but they were able to process about 800.

As far as I know, you don't need to be a member of a VIM team to volunteer at Hands On Gulf Coast. Just contact them for permission to come, and they will put you to work, in exchange for food and accommodation (handsonnetwork.org).

Two observations. First, when any politician (at any level, in any party) implies that the government has "done something" for the Gulf Coast, they are being, umm, not forthright. Even if the money was adequate, huge numbers of people do not qualify for this money, on various technicalities. The Manning house is too large to qualify. Others cannot qualify because they are not destitute or perhaps cannot find their property deed. Hands On is unlike most other charities and all government programs in that it can choose to help these people. Finding arrangements like the Guiding Light money is an example.

Most of the people at Hands On Gulf Coast were 20-somethings. This prompts my last observation. I have no worries about our future, looking at these amazing young people. These people are smart, hard workers. Our future will be in competent hands.—
Glenn Withiam

Successful Fall CROP Walk Season Church World Service Applauds Lansing CROP Walk (among others)

From the Church World Service web site:
Many thanks go to the 100 upstate New York communities that held CROP Walks last fall! Their walkers raised \$473,000.

Some highlights: The village of Sauquoit held its very first CROP Walk. Alexandria Bay, Batavia, Gouverneur, Margaretville, Oswego, and Seneca Falls resumed CROP Walks after an absence of several years.

Congratulations to the following communities that had their *best year ever* in CROP fund raising: Elmira (\$11,682), Gloversville-Johnstown (\$8,030), **Lansing (\$14,000)**, Margaretville (\$3,962), Northern Tier (\$1,833), Rome (\$31,795), Sidney (\$5,779), Ticonderoga (\$4,520), and Warsaw (\$7,368).

Some CROP Walks shared photos of their events. See them at www.cwscrop.org/newyork/photos/

Bring a Donation for Food Pantry

The next Food Pantry is Monday, February 26. Make a note to bring cans and other donations on Sunday, January 25. The Food Pantry appreciates any canned goods to keep it stocked, but especially the following hard-to-get items: tuna (packed in water), peanut butter, macaroni and cheese dinners, and spaghetti, macaroni, or other pastas.

You can also help out by setting up on Sunday, February 25, or with the distribution on Monday.

Retreat and Mission Opportunities

Women's Spiritual Growth Retreat:

The Theology of Mission

March 23, 24 & 25, 2007 at Casowasco

This retreat will be special, as Irene Morrissey and Ilah Sisson Walser, from the Northeastern Jurisdiction Core Planning Group, will be leading us. This specially designed retreat will focus on the theology of mission. It was designed by the Women's Division to increase our understanding of and commitment to God's mission to women, children and youth. This experience will energize and renew our "Purpose" as individuals in the United Methodist traditions and the United Methodist Women.

What? Resurrection women: a spiritual growth retreat w/ music, bible study, personal reflective activities to include: creative expression activities, labyrinth walk, life mapping, and meditation...

When? March 23-25, 2007

Where? Casowasco camp and retreat center, galilee lodge (beautifully restored; you should see it!)

Who should come? Any people interested in expanding their relationship with god and understanding what mission means!

Cost? \$135.00 Per person with all (6) meals included!

Time. Retreat begins with dinner on Friday night at 6:00 PM continues until after lunch on Sunday (approximately 1:00 PM).

So plan to come to be renewed! For more information contact Karen Hill 315-938-7157 or smitty320009@yahoo.com

Costa Rica Mission Trip

Late notice.

[*Editor's note:* I've included this item for those who might want to go in mission to Costa Rica on a future date. I'm not sure that these two specific trips are still available, but others will come up, including a trip based from St. Paul's UMC next January or thereabouts.-gw]

Caribbean climate, wonderful scenery, the opportunity to serve in mission, a much deeper relationship with God, and the incredible joy of making lifelong friends who become part of your family. All these await you if you go on mission to Costa Rica. Because of cancellations, the Mohawk District has been asked to supply a team to continue our mission work at the San Carlos Methodist School in Ciudad Quesada, Costa Rica, during February school break—February 19 to 26 (or 27). Anyone 14 and up is welcome to apply. Cost is about \$900. We must have 5-6 people to make this trip work. Work includes painting, plumbing, etc. No special skills needed. There are also still a couple of openings for the March 12-20 mission trip to Costa Rica. For more information call Marilyn Baissa at Trinity UMC (Mohawk District) 315-736-7233 or 315-768-2751 as soon as possible.

What is a Certified Lay Minister?

Have you ever felt that God is calling you into some sort of ministry? You're certain that it isn't into ordained, pastoral ministry. Yet you feel a compulsion to serve the church, but you aren't sure in what capacity. You might want to explore the possibility of becoming a Certified Lay Minister (CLM).

The 2004 General Conference established this new category of ministry as a means of providing laity in the church an opportunity to engage in ministry within a congregational setting. The purpose of this newly created category has little to do with either. It is about laity being given the opportunity to be engaged in an officially recognized and certified ministry without having to be appointed as pastors, or having to attend Local Pastors' Licensing School.

While CLMs are able to serve the church in any number of capacities, in our own conference we will probably see the majority assigned to small congregations, serving the role of pastor. Currently we usually refer to such individuals as "local hires," employed by the local church, often at the request of the district superintendent.

We hope that, in time, all such individuals who are currently serving will become Certified Lay Ministers. Candidates for CLM training

Sweetheart Dinner *(Spaghetti by Candlelight)*

Saturday, February 10



5:00 to 7:30 p.m.

in the

Lansing United Methodist Church



Fellowship Hall

\$5.00 per ticket

Large group tables available

Reservations appreciated

Please call 533-4070

must be Certified Lay Speakers and have the support and recommendation of their pastor and local congregation before beginning training.

We hope that a number of our members will want to take advantage of this new opportunity. If you would like more information, please contact either Lynn Spence, 315-462-2274, or Dale Austin, 607-844-8760, and they will get you started.

Looking Ahead to Summer Camp

There's nothing like a touch of winter weather to make us dream of summer activities. There's no better activity than participating in camp at Aldersgate or Casowasco...either as a camper or a counselor.

What makes Aldersgate and Casowasco places where lives are changed? Is it the buildings? The food? The weather? Maybe the activities? Or the Blob ... Iceberg ... AquaJump? No, it's the people that make camp what it is.

It is the people that love Christ, love camp, and pour their hearts and lives into campers. We need people to help campers expand their horizons, make friends that last, take the next step in their faith, learn, grow, and discover a place where lives are changed. It's people on the frontlines and behind the scenes, people like you!

Casowasco and Aldersgate need dedicated summer staff and volunteers to help with all aspects of camp. There is a place for you. Join us for a day, a week, or for the summer and use your gifts and skills to make 2007 the best summer yet. Your involvement is essential to making summer camp a success. Not enough can be said for the experience of working with youth in a positive Christian community. Camp changes lives!

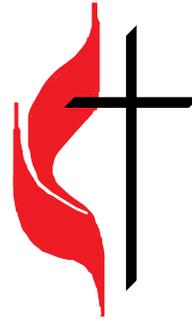
- Assist us at Sunday check-in and Friday check-out, welcoming our campers and families to the site. Come and help with greeting, sign-in/out, and any other needs.
- Come as a counselor, loving kids to Christ through front line ministry with campers, building relationships, sharing God's word, and modeling Christ's love in action.

- Chip in and help with operations and caring for the physical needs of our campers and staff, on maintenance, in the kitchen, or with our health care team.
- Be a part of the program team, creating adventure and maintaining safety, whether on the waterfront, challenge course, playing field, or worship team, all to foster the building of relationships with campers, and their growth.
- Lend a hand in administration, as a program dean, coordinator, or in the office, keeping it all together and running smoothly!

We invite you, pastors and laity, young and old, to join this adventure in powerful ministry. Dedicate a day, week, or a summer to ministry at Aldersgate or Casowasco. You can be a direct part of changing lives, helping to lead young people to Christ, and influencing campers in ways more profound than you can ever know.

The lives you influence won't be limited to those you serve; you may have a life changing experience, too! Join us!

For an application or more information about summer staff and volunteer opportunities, please contact Jenna or Betsy at info@aldersgateny.org, info@casowasco.org, or 315-364-8756. Thank you!



**The
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February
2007

**Lansing United
Methodist Church**

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