



THE LAUNCHPAD

January 2012

News	2-7
Birthdays & Anniv.	8
News & Finance	9

PASTOR'S CORNER

Be Still and Know

[Sharon Jaynes](#)

In him we live and move and have our being, ([Acts 17:28](#) NIV).

I pressed the send button on my latest manuscript, *What God Really Thinks about Women*. For twelve months I had spent night and day with Jesus and the women he encountered while he walked the earth. I was going to miss them. Miss walking in their sandals. Miss breathing their air. Miss crying their tears. Miss carrying their water jugs. And while I wasn't going to be in their lives and in their business every day, their imagined faces were etched in my mind and they had become part of me for eternity. But it was time to move on.

I grabbed a cup of coffee, snuggled up in my favorite overstuffed den chair, and opened my Bible in my lap. "OK, God," I began, "that project is finished and tied securely with a bow. So what do you want me to do now?"

I wondered if I should get into a Bible study group, take a class at the local seminary, or finally write those magazine articles I had been putting off. Should I start a small group, volunteer at a charity, or start a new book project? I asked the question and waited.

God surprised me. [Acts 17:28](#) came to my mind. I believed He put it there. *In him we live and move and have our being. Learn what that means, He seemed to say. Let's just spend time together. No agenda. No goal. No deadlines. I want to rekindle the romance. Will you let me?*

His answer startled me. I hadn't even realized the fire *had* died down. Wasn't I working for Him? Wasn't I doing God's

will? Wasn't I busy about my Father's business? And then I began to see what He meant. He began turning the lens of my mind's camera and the fuzzy image grew clear. I wondered how I had missed it before. In the middle of all my busyness for God, I had neglected my relationship with God.

I was made for goals, or so I thought. Sitting still wasn't in my nature, and perhaps that was what God was trying to tell me. My "nature" or natural bent of work was standing in the way of worship. My natural bent of activity for God was getting in the way of my communion with God. My daily routine of sanctioned quiet times was getting in the way of divine romance in which He wanted me to engage.

Like the men caught on the stormy Sea of Galilee, I felt I had been reeling in the waves for years - never in danger of truly sinking - just reeling from one rolling wave of work and deadlines to the next. But on this particular morning, I began to see the cast of characters in this Galilean scene in a different light. I was definitely in the scene, but I wasn't in the boat at all. I was the storm.

I love how Eugene Peterson describes Jesus' words to the wind and the waves as his friend stirred him from his sleep to calm the squall: "Quiet! Settle down!" The wind ran out of breath; the sea became smooth as glass."([Mark 4:39](#) The Message).

What does God really want from me? I've pondered that question since the day I first came to Christ. It was one of the two questions Saul

asked when he met Jesus on the road to Damascus: "Who are you? What shall I do?" ([Acts 22:8, 10](#)).

I think I've made my relationship with Jesus far too difficult. I have spent so much time striving to get closer to the heart of God. And all the while God has been whispering to me, "Cease striving and know that I am God" ([Psalm 46:10](#) NASB). "It's not that hard. Settle down. Be quiet."

And that is what Jesus was telling me that frosty January morning. But I realized I didn't really know how to *be quiet* and *settle down*. I had never mastered the idea of "be still and know." I knew that God was God. It was the "be still" part that stumped me every time. Now don't get me wrong. I can be still for a few minutes, maybe even an hour if need be. But much longer than that and I'm undone. Restless spirit syndrome begins to shake my soul, and the urge to get up and get moving wrestles me from worship.

So on this January morning, as I share this with you, I'm asking...will you be still and know that He is God with me? For a moment?

God had a lot to show me in the year that followed that frosty morning. I'll be sharing what I learned from time to time as we go through 2012 together.

So Happy New Year! I look forward to linking arms and hearts in 2012.

Continued on page 2

YOUTH GROUPS

Jr. High Youth Group NEW NIGHT

Fridays, Jan. 6nd & 20th 7-8 pm

In Fellowship Hall use side church entrance.

Grades 6-8th.

Sr. High Youth Group

Every Sunday, 6-7:30 pm

In Gathering Area, Grades 9-12th.

**Leaders: Dave Bernacki, Duane Waldron,
Matt Finch & Mike Burley**

United Methodist Loans and Scholarships 2012

High school seniors and current college students, take note that United Methodist scholarship applications for the annual conference, and the general church will become available in January. Find information about the Bulson Loan at <http://www.unyumc.org/pages/detail/1559> , Upper NY Annual Conference Scholarships at <http://www.unyumc.org/pages/detail/1518> , and General Conference Loans and Scholarships at <http://www.unyumc.org/pages/detail/1434>.

Continued from p. 1

Let's Pray

Dear Lord, Help me to learn what it means to live and move and have my being in You. Thank You for a New Year. I am excited to see what You have in store.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Now It's Your Turn

How good are you at "be still and know that I am God?"

Have you ever felt God say those words to you?

Easy? Hard? What do you think stands in the way?

info@girlfriendsingod.com
www.girlfriendsingod.com

THRIFT SHOPPE CORNER NEWS

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. What a great month of December we had. What a great year for our community and mission as a church. Thank you all for the help at this time of the year. We were so so busy at the Thrift Shoppe. I wish some of you that have never worked at the

Thrift Shoppe could have worked this month. It was soo much fun. Our total amount for December, 2011 was \$2,501.50 and we donated \$500 to the United Methodist Pastor fund.

The Thrift Shoppe donated men and women's clothing to the Open Door Mission, Women Care Center in Rochester, Kids' Santa Shoppe part of Livonia High School Breakfast w/Santa, Samuel Magumba Jinja Christian Leaders Fellowship Uganda, and Livonia fire house.

We had a wonderful luncheon at Shelby's with 28 wonderful workers attending.

Thank you so much Beryl for doing our schedule for this year we will miss you.

We have had many community service students in many different areas of community service help. They have been wonderful. Thank you all.

The winter months are approaching and a lot of sorting will be done with our many bags we have been honored with by our community. Any free time would be appreciated by you. Most of our helpers that sort and hang clothes out will be going South. Let us not leave Margaret over worked. She will need help.

Our Thrift Shoppe hours are Thursday and Friday 9:00 – 4:00 and Saturday 9:00 – 2:00. On Monday's from 9-12:00 we sort and add new items to our Thrift Shop. Margaret would love your help. If there is anyone who would like to donate his or her time during those days, even if it is only one hour, please call Bev Rawlings at 346-6104. Thank you Bev for taking the big task of scheduling workers for the Shoppe.

**Come join us for some laughs,
fellowship, and fun.**

Spaghetti Dinner

Wed., January 11th; 5-7 pm

At the United Methodist Church of Livonia. This will be the second Wednesday of every month. Meat sauce, salad, garlic bread & finger food desserts.

Adults \$6, child 10 yrs. and under \$3.



IGNITE SERVICE – Friday's 7:00 pm

Is Serving food and would like donations of soup, casseroles, cookies, please find sign-up sheet on the Welcome Center counter.

United Methodist Women and Livonia United Methodist Women's Circle

The UMW/UMWC will meet in the gathering area on Saturday January 14, at 9:30 AM. The meetings usually last about an hour. *All women of the church are welcome and encouraged to attend.* We will be electing officers and planning for 2012.

We raise money for missions, locally and throughout the world. If you would like to help with any of the projects, would be willing to coordinate a mission project, and/or have some great ideas, but are unable to make the meeting, please let Bonnie Crichton know -243-2819 or email

swampdwellers@att.net See you then!

Sunday Morning Pray-ers Group

You are invited to join the Sunday Morning Pray-ers behind the organ at 7:35 AM each Sunday morning to pray for members of the church and any other joys and concerns that arise. We encourage anyone who would like to join us some Sunday to do so. Many voices and hearts joined in prayer can be a mighty force. We welcome all, no matter your age. If you have questions or would like us to include someone, yourself, or your family in prayer, please let Bonnie Crichton know (585-243-2819 or email swampdwellers@att.net).

Brown Bag Lunch / Cards and Conversation

While the usual Wednesday soup lunches are on hiatus, each Wednesday at noon, you are invited to bring a bag lunch and join us for lunch in the Fellowship Hall. Afterward, stay for conversation, cards, or kibitzing. Come when you can and bring a friend. If you have questions please contact Bonnie Crichton at 243-2819 or email swampdwellers@att.net

Church Library News

The Library is still available for you to use. Even though things have moved and been rearranged, you are still welcome to sign out and read books and use the tapes and cd's. We are looking forward to some improvements this spring!

--Bonnie

Crichton, Librarian

COUNTRY-n-BLUE GRASS JAM AND SPAGHETTI DINNER

When: Wednesday, January 11th

Where: The United Church of Livonia
21 Summers Street,
North of Main Street on the east side of

LIVONIA

Join us to play, listen, or sing along

Everyone Welcome
December – April only
Music: 4pm-7pm

Spaghetti Dinner served \$6.00
Year round
Time: 5pm-7pm

For info call: (585) 346-3511



BIRTHDAYS

January

- 1 Bill Stekl
- 2 Matthew Auble
- 3 Keith Alexander
Stacey Hoff
- 5 Zachary Bishopp
- 6 Sandi Jischke
John Williams
Maggie Malinowski
Ken Losey
- 7 Larry Kramer
- 8 Daniel Downey
- 9 John Dutra
Noelle Woodruff
- 12 Jennifer Lasch
Metasovsky
Amy Stahl
Priscilla Hall
- 14 John Sciera
- 16 Amara Evans
- 17 Karen Coty
Peggy Keppen
- 18 Doreen Barcomb
- 24 Rebecca Lasch Kovach
- 26 Brett Leader
- 27 Shirley Wingate
Jack VanDerMeid
- 28 Katie Cross
- 29 Luke Dutton

Kirstin Moore

Chase Losey

Prayer Concerns

Sylvia Woolston— at Mount Morris Nursing home
Dick Woodruff— at Murry Hill Nursing Home, Dottie Woodruff's husband
Joyce Kurtbas—our missionary to Turkey
John & Wynne Woodruff
Shane Howard
Heidi Rowley—Margaret Downey's great niece.
Kristie Rush—cancer—friend of Sue Nietzsche
Anne Mawson's father, Parkinson disease
Terry Proctor, knee replacement surgery, in rehab at Mt. Morris
Niece going through a rough time—Gary Parisella
Cliff Keppen, Jr.—Cancer—Dawn McMurtry's dad
Doreen Barcomb—looking for a job
Al & Kay Clancy— medical issues
Joyce Lasch's 7 yr old friend Aiden—tumor is smaller
BettyLou Barber—Dean Meyer, Jayne Richardson
Anne Mawson—The Zipp family
George Gauer, blood disorder, needs a lung transplant
Pete, liver cancer, Bill Hendrix's father-in-law
Carrie Burley—mursa infection—Mike & Flint Burley's Mother
Donna Blasko—throat cancer—Kim & John Gebo's aunt
Neal Nehrbass—Parisella's bother-in-law
Kirstie Mosher...her platelets went back down —Sharon Mosher
Sandy Reandean— Lupus—Betty Lou Barber's niece
Gilbert Rowley—health concerns—Dick's dad
Debra Price, spot on lung, John Hall's niece
Warren (Bing) May—cancer
Cheryl Long—Extreme Asthma
Kathe Wiener—hip replacement—colleague of Melinda Sciera
The Anderson & West family, loss of John Anderson
Barbara Deller, loss of son—Natalie Northrop
Brad Bowden, heart issues, 30 yrs old, given 6-12 months
Jackie Winchell, breast cancer— Catherine VanDerMied

Congratulations to Clay & Lee Anne Cooper on the birth of their first baby, **Nolen Lee**, born December 21st, 7lbs, 14oz

Confirmation Class 2012

This class is offered every even numbered year from January to Pentecost (this year – May 27) for anyone who wishes to be baptized or to publicly confirm their infant baptism. The class is led by Pastor Dan with a great deal of help from the parents of the young people. This class is for high school age or above. High schoolers are expected to be accompanied by a parent or guardian. We will visit several other Christian churches and a synagogue, mosque and messianic church as part of the class. We will study and discuss the basic beliefs, history and practices of Christianity. The tentative times for our weekly meetings will be Sunday nights from 4:25 until 5:30. First class will be January 8, 2012 at 4:25. Questions – dandelion7@juno.com.

**December STEWARDSHIP RECORD
Unified OFFERINGS**

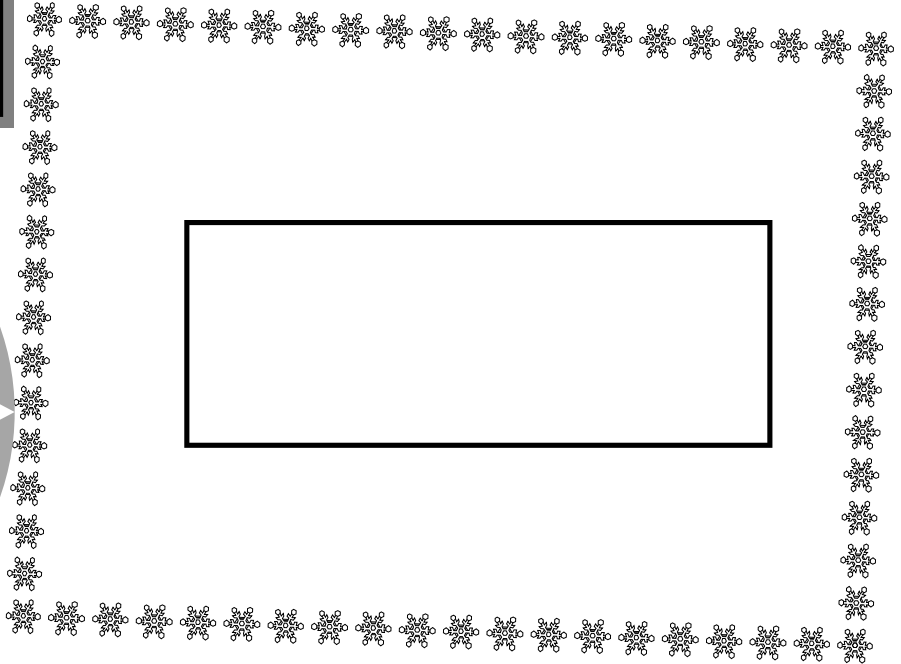
Pledges & Envelopes.....	\$16,733.52
Loose Offering.....	\$294.96
Pledges for Mortgage.....	\$8,620.00
— Fund Raising	\$2447.88
Building use.....	\$736.00
Sunday School.....	\$28.23
Thurston Fund.....	\$200.00
Ignite	\$256.00
Pastor’s Fund.....	\$4,306.20
Starting balance (2011)	\$5,093.51
Total Income for the year to date ..	\$394,136.51
Total Expenses for the year to date ...	\$395,235.03
Ending balance as of Dec	\$3,994.99



**The United Methodist Church
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Address Service Requested



"BUILDING OUR WORLD
AROUND CHRIST"



JANUARY

Services @ UMCL

Friday Services	IGNITE @ 7 pm
Sunday Services	8:00, 9:15, 10:30 am
Sunday School	9:15 am
Jr. Church	10:45 am
Sr. High Youth Group	Sundays 6-7:30 pm
Jr. High (6-8 gr.)	Fridays, Jan. 6 & 20, 7-8 pm

Spaghetti Dinner, Wed., Jan. 11th; 5-7 pm
With Jam session in Sanctuary 4-7 pm

Meetings

Jan. 16th Trustees @ 7:00 pm
Jan. 24th—Small Group Leaders meet @ Pastor Dan's 7:00 pm