



# The Methodist Herald

February, 2009

**Southern Delaware Charge  
Colchester Community United Methodist Church  
East Branch/Harvard United Methodist Church**

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## **Pastor's Column:**

At the end of last year, we acquired a new dog in our household, a Border Collie named Tre. Tre is now about 10 months old and like most Border Collies, is full of energy and wanting to play all the time. Tre and our family are adapting to one another pretty well now. Tre has settled into the routine around our house. He is housebroken, thank goodness, and we only had one or two minor accidents when he first came to our house.

Like most puppies, Tre wants to chew on everything. We are still trying to teach him that only certain toys and bones are acceptable for chewing on. The sofas, chairs, tables, shoes, etc. are not acceptable for chewing on. Fortunately we have only had one casualty in the chewing department. The other thing we are trying to teach Tre is to get along peacefully with our cat, Riggs. We are still trying to convince Tre that the cat is not a chew toy, nor is the cat's sole purpose in life to give Tre something to chase around the house at full speed. The cat has learned to seek higher ground when he hears Tre coming.

Tre is a smart dog with a happy disposition, but he is also sensitive to scolding. This morning, I let Tre out of our room and came down to the kitchen to let him out to go to the bathroom. As I brought Tre back in the house, I saw a big puddle of yellow on the kitchen floor. Assuming that Tre was not able to wait until I

got to the kitchen to let him out, I convicted him as guilty and proceeded to scold him. Bad dog! Tre sat and hung his head in shame. Laura took Tre back upstairs and put him in his crate, while I set about cleaning up the mess. As I started cleaning, I discovered that the source of the mess was not Tre at all, but rather snow melting and leaking through our kitchen ceiling! Well after I finished cleaning, I went upstairs and asked Tre to forgive me for jumping to conclusions and convicting him as guilty. His wagging tail showed me that all was forgiven.

This incident reminded me of the importance of giving and receiving forgiveness. We are often quick to judge, to condemn others as guilty, but we are usually slower at recognizing our own guilt, our own need for forgiveness. The words from Colossians 3:12-13 remind us "As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive." Sometimes it is difficult for us to forgive others, especially if we feel they have wronged us or hurt us in some way. But healing and reconciliation cannot come without forgiveness. I only hope I can learn to forgive as well as my dog Tre does.

God's peace and blessings to you all,

*Dale*

Pastor Dale

## **AC Connection**

There are three upcoming dates that I would like you to hold for some very special events. On March 7th we have a District Workshop scheduled in Margaretville. It begins at 1:30pm with a worship service at 2:00pm. Then off to the workshop of your choice at 2:30pm. The event will end at 5:00pm. There is a flier posted on the bulletin board and more details as they are available.

On May 16th, we are invited to attend a good ole fashioned Camp Meeting to be held at Camp Epworth. It promises to be a day of fun and fellowship for all, both children and adults alike. Bishop Park will be there and DS Jim Moore promises the "shortest District Conference in History" and it might be worth the effort to see if he can carry it off. There are caves to explore, a rope course, softball, kick ball, canoeing and many other activities for young and old. If we have enough interest we may be able to rent a bus (depending on cost) or plan to carpool. We would love to have a sizeable turnout to represent our church at this District event. We'll have more information as we get closer to May.

And last but not least, PASTOR'S ORDINATION, on June 13th at Hofstra University. Please plan on coming out and supporting Pastor Dale on this most wonderful day. We will be looking into renting a bus to make the trip easy for all to attend. Please mark the date on your calendars and look for more information as we approach June. We will be looking for a coordinator for the day since I will be at Hofstra for the Annual Conference beginning on Wednesday, June 10th. If you are interested in helping out please see me at church or call me at 363-7363.

## **Faith in Action**

As many of you know, the Church Council leadership at the Colchester Community United Methodist Church voted last year to sponsor and support two children through the Helping Honduras Kids (HHK) organization. Our church leadership felt it was important to lead by example and to put their faith in action. The

members of the Church Council all contributed to the sponsorship of our two children. As we begin a new year, the Church Council has voted to continue our sponsorship of our two children this year.

The following is an update on what is happening at HHK as they begin the new year. Pictures that go with this report will be posted on the church bulletin board.

Good morning to all HHK supporters on this bright sunny day in La Ceiba, Honduras. We are sad to report that 2 key people have left the HHK organization. Eve Horowitz, who was the volunteer and work group coordinator, and a board member, and Karen Barto, who filled the position of sponsor representative, are now pursuing other activities. These 2 jobs are being capably filled by Cristy Garrido, who lives in La Ceiba. Please contact Cristy for any questions in relation to sponsorships, work groups or volunteering.

We wish to thank Eve and Karen very much for their dedication to our children during the past year or more and wish them every success in the future. They will be sorely missed.

The children in our programs have been attending vacation care classes in the Jungle School, Hogar school and the Solares Nuevos campesino village. Regular classes resume in early February. The children from the Hogar de Amor have been attending church services on Saturday night in nearby Jutiapa at the Amor Viviente (Living Love) open-air church.

Recently, we took 25 pizzas, Snow Cones, soft drinks, Carnival beads, candies, small toys and our 19 Hogar orphanage children to the SOS Childrens Village. It was truly great to see all of these 165 children (146 from SOS and 19 of ours), play games, sing, eat pizza and other treats, make new friends and generally have a great time. The SOS kids are wonderful, loving and growing up fast. Olman Flores, SOS director, is still in a wheelchair following his cancer surgery, but he is totally in charge and is fabulous with the children. Our children joined in the Scout patrols that he is training, and that have names like Mariposas (butterflies), Geckos, etc. We will take our children 9 yrs and over to

SOS again tomorrow to participate in the Scouting activities.

Due to violence, robberies and kidnappings in Jutiapa and towns near to our orphanage, our children participated in a March for Peace, attended by more than 500 banner waving children and adults, and the local Catholic priest.

A Methodist Church group from Georgia has been in La Ceiba all week, giving VBS classes and carrying out fun activities with the children in our Jungle School and at the Hogar de Amor orphanage. This group also brought along some well drillers from Living Waters who drilled a beautiful new well at the orphanage to supply fresh, clean water to the children. They drilled another well for the small village in back of the Hogar de Amor.

We encourage you to continue to help us find new sponsors for our children, as this is the primary means we have to meet our daily operating expenses. Without this support, it will be very difficult to feed, clothe, educate and care for our 180 children.

We thank each of you who have supported Helping Honduras Kids during 2008, and we look forward to your continued loyal support during the new year. Our children are depending on you.

Thanks for caring,  
David Ashby  
President  
Helping Honduras Kids  
La Ceiba, Honduras  
[www.helpinghonduraskids.org](http://www.helpinghonduraskids.org)

### **Sunday February 8<sup>th</sup> – Boy Scout Sunday**

Sunday February 8<sup>th</sup> is Boy Scout Sunday. We invite all Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts, past and present, and their leaders and parents to join us in our worship services (9:15 Downsville, 11:15 East Branch) on this Sunday as we honor the many ways Scouts serve in our communities and in our world. Scouts and leaders are welcome to wear their Scout uniforms. If any Scouts are interested in helping with the worship service such as ushering, greeting, or

reading Scripture, please contact Pastor Dale at 363-2362.

### **Colchester Community UMC Ash Wednesday and Lenten Devotional Services**

Ash Wednesday occurs this year on February 25<sup>th</sup>. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the church season of Lent. Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday, right before Easter Sunday. Historically, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts and then became a time for penance by all Christians. This year we will be holding a short devotional service on Ash Wednesday at Colchester Community UMC at 7:00 pm. The service will include the imposition of ashes for those who desire it.

During the season of Lent, Colchester Community UMC will be offering midweek Lenten Devotional services. These services will be focused on the theme of “The Means of Grace: Getting to Know God Better.” The midweek Lenten Devotional services will be held at Colchester Community UMC on Tuesdays at 7 pm, starting March 3<sup>rd</sup> and running until March 31<sup>st</sup>. Please join us as we journey through Lent together as disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ. Stay tuned for information in next month’s newsletter about our special Holy Week services.

### **Colchester Community UMC hosts a Mardi Gras Party**

The Colchester Community United Methodist Church will be putting on our annual Mardi Gras celebration. Winter has been cold and snowy this year and by now some of us are getting cabin fever. Our Mardi Gras celebration will be the perfect opportunity for an evening of family fun. We will observe Shrove Tuesday or Mardi Gras on Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup> from 6 – 8 pm at the Downsville Fire Hall. This date will avoid conflicts with DCS basketball games and also with school vacation week. Get dressed up in your finest Mardi Gras costume. Don’t have

a Mardi Gras costume? Not to worry, we will have a great assortment of beads, masks, and hats that you can use. There will be food, games for all ages and music as well. So save Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm for a fun evening of fellowship at the Downsville Fire Hall. This will be a community family event so invite your friends and neighbors to join us. Children are especially welcome.

### **Colchester Community UMC Looking for a Coordinator for Our Fund Raisers**

The Colchester Community UMC is looking for someone from our church family to volunteer to serve as a coordinator for our fund raisers for this year. This work was ably done by Sally Knorr for many years. Sadly, Sally passed away this past December and she will be sorely missed. This leaves us needing to find someone to take over this important work.

The work involved in serving as our fund raiser coordinator is as follows. In this position you would oversee making sure we have dates set for all of our fundraisers for the year and that a coordinator or leader is found for each fundraiser. You would also make sure that we reserve any long lead time facilities or resources such as the Fire Hall or someone to do chicken bar-b-que well in advance. You would keep the master file of sign-up sheets for each fundraiser (sign-ups for help, food to bring, etc.) and make copies of the sheets to give to the leader of each fundraiser. Finally, you would make sure that each fundraiser is appropriately publicized (newsletter, bulletins, church sign, radio, newspaper, etc.)

If you would be interested in helping to serve our church in this important way or have questions about this, please contact our Finance Chair, Don Charles, or Pastor Dale.

### **Colchester Community UMC Angel Food Ministry**

February's menus are available at all the usual spots as well as in the hallway of the church. Please pick one up and share it with a friend. Order dates are Monday, **February 9th**

from **1-3pm**, Wednesday, **February 11th** from **4-6pm** and Saturday, **February 14th** from **10 am till NOON** (\***There is a change to Saturday's time because there will be a wedding in our church that afternoon**) at the Church library. Payment is due when ordering. We prefer cash but checks made out to CCUMC Angel Food will be accepted. Pick up is scheduled for Saturday, February 21st from 9-11am at the Downsville Fire Hall.

In this time of economic hardship Angel Food offers a hand-up rather than a hand-out and everyone is eligible to participate. There are no financial requirements. For those of you who are moved to participate with a generous heart we do have a way of giving food baskets to people in need. You can order a box to be given to a family who is having a difficult time. Whatever your circumstance we hope you will look into our ministry and give us a try. Our goal is 100 orders...last month we had a total of 76 Senior and regular boxes so we are very close.

Special thanks as always to our dedicated volunteers who braved the cold to pick up and deliver the food to the fire hall last month. Thank you Russell Foote, Joy Fisk and Don & Dona Tompkins and the wonderful ladies and students that helped with the distribution. May God bless your "helping hands". If you have any questions or would like to volunteer please call Toni at 363-7363.

### **Colchester Community UMC Update on Our NCD Process – Passionate Spirituality**

During the month of January, we have had a bulletin board up in the hall of the church with the question "How have you experienced God this week?" Index cards were available for you to jot down your experiences of God and thumbtack to the bulletin board. We would like to share some of the responses with our whole church family:

"I see God in the loving faces of this congregation."

"I saw God in the volunteers who left their warm houses and families to help others in need because of fire or accidents. Their selfless

dedication reminds me of God's love and Jesus' sacrifice for me."

"I saw God in the handiwork of someone who designed the bulletin board. Great job!"

"I saw God through the kindness of strangers who stopped and stayed with a young girl, traveling alone on top of Bear Spring Mountain on Sunday night, as she was too scared to drive down the very slippery road. When we arrived with a 4-wheel drive truck to bring her to our home, the couple went on their way."

"I saw God last week as I sat around a table at a Church Council meeting looking at the faces of the people who are and have been so dedicated to our church. We have been so blessed to have such loving people work so hard for our church."

"I saw God all around me. He is in me. (from one of our little ones)"

"I see God in my Pastor who never fails to help where he is needed and who goes the extra mile for his flock. We are truly blessed."

This exercise hopefully helps us to be more aware of God's constant presence all around us in our everyday lives. We hope it helps you to think about how you experience God each day and to give thanks.

For the month of February, we are switching our bulletin board question. This month, the question is "What resources do you find most helpful in your daily walk of faith?" We are hoping that by sharing around this question, we can all be opened to new resources to help deepen our faith walk.

### **Colchester Community UMC Youth Group News**

On Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup> the Youth Group will meet at the Colchester Community UMC at 1:30 pm. We will be going to Inter-Skate 88 in Oneonta to roller skate. After we are done skating, we will stop for dinner at a fast-food restaurant before coming home. We should be back home around 7 pm. If any parents are interested in helping to drive for this event, please let Pastor Dale know at 363-2362.

Our second meeting will be on Sunday, March 1 at 6 pm at the parsonage. We will be doing some planning for our 30 Hour Famine, including watching a DVD about the 30 Hour Famine. We will also have some time for snacks and a few games. The Youth Group will be doing the 30 Hour Famine later in March (tentatively March 13-14) to avoid conflict with the DCS ski club trips. This is an event sponsored by World Vision to combat hunger throughout the world. The participating youth learn about hunger and poverty in the world as they spend 30 hours going without food. We also raise money during this event to provide hunger relief, emergency food supplies, and agricultural projects where they are most needed. The youth will be looking for sponsors to support them during their 30 Hour Famine.

### **Colchester Community UMC Release Time**

Sadly we have not been able to meet because of the cold and blustery January weather. We hope that February will be milder so that we can meet again on Monday mornings. If anyone wants to volunteer to walk our little darlings from school to church and back please call Toni Vessey at 363-7363. We'd love to sign you up!!!!

### **Colchester Community UMC Open Arms Prayer Shawl Ministry**

Lorna Luscomb has been busy making 2 more shawls for our ministry. One of our shawls went to Dick Yarnes who is recuperating from heart surgery. We hope our prayers and good wishes help to boost his recovery. Please remember in your prayers all those who have received one of our shawls and those who have donated their time and talent to produce them.

### **East Branch/Harvard UMC Ash Wednesday and Midweek Lenten Devotional Services**

This year the East Branch/Harvard UMC will be holding a short devotional service on Ash Wednesday, which is February 25<sup>th</sup>, at the East Branch church at 5:30 pm. The service

will include the imposition of ashes for those who desire it. During the season of Lent, East Branch /Harvard UMC will be offering weekly Lenten Devotional services. These services will be focused on the theme of “The Means of Grace: Getting to Know God Better.” The weekly Lenten Devotional services will be held at the East Branch Church on Thursdays at 7:00 pm starting March 5<sup>th</sup> and running until April 2<sup>nd</sup>. There will be a soup and salad dinner offered each Thursday at 6:00 pm before the Lenten Devotional service at 7:00 pm. Please join us as we journey through Lent together as disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ. Stay tuned for information in next month’s newsletter about our special Holy Week services.

### **United Methodist News Briefs**

WASHINGTON (UMNS)—The United Methodist Board of Church and Society has issued a statement applauding President Barack Obama’s executive orders banning torture, and starting the process to close the detention center at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba. The Jan. 27 statement was issued by Jim Winkler, the agency’s top executive, and Bill Mefford, director of its work area on civil and human rights. The statement emphasizes that the United Methodist Social Principles unequivocally condemn use of torture for any purpose.

“President Obama has begun to restore the United States to moral leadership in the world,” the statement declares, “and to ensure that our government’s policies reflect the ideals for which this nation was founded.” The statement also notes that the executive orders bring the United States into compliance with the Geneva Conventions, which set forth international humanitarian standards that prohibit cruel treatment of detainees.

WASHINGTON (UMNS)—Millions felt drawn to the nation’s capital for the inauguration of the first U.S. African-American president on Jan. 20, and many arrived with no place to stay, no food, no money and no idea what to do. If they wandered near one of the 40 United Methodist churches in the Baltimore-Washington area, they found open doors and a

place to come in out of the cold. Through its “Be the Change You Want to See” initiative, the Baltimore-Washington Conference provided opportunities for people from the D.C. area and throughout the nation to connect at an intersection of faith and events unfolding on the national stage, according to Bishop John Schol.

ST. LOUIS (UMNS)—Lions are not common in all of Africa, and many children in the United States have dark skin. These two facts surprised children in St. Louis and Chicupe, Mozambique, after they exchanged drawings depicting their everyday lives. Tom Mitchell, chairperson of the Mozambique Initiative, came up with the idea as a way to extend the United Methodist Missouri Annual (regional) Conference’s work “beyond the hammer,” he said. “I’m making a conscious effort to expand our projects beyond construction.” The art exchange linked about 49 children from Missouri with 101 children, ages 3-14, in Mozambique.

### **Church Humor**

A minister dies and is waiting in line at the Pearly Gates. Ahead of him is a guy who's dressed in sunglasses, a loud shirt, leather jacket, and jeans. Saint Peter addresses this guy, 'Who are you, so that I may know whether or not to admit you to the Kingdom of Heaven?' The guy replies, 'I'm Joe Cohen, taxi driver, of Noo Yawk City.' St. Peter consults his list. He smiles and says to the taxi driver, 'Take this silken robe and golden staff and enter the Kingdom of Heaven.'

The taxi driver goes into Heaven with his robe and staff, and it's the minister's turn. He stands erect and booms out, 'I am Joseph Snow, pastor of Calvary Church for the last forty-three years.' St Peter consults his list. He says to the minister, 'Take this cotton robe and wooden staff and enter the Kingdom of Heaven.' 'Just a minute,' says the minister. 'That man was a taxi driver, and he gets a silken robe and golden staff. How can this be?' 'Up here, we work by results,' says Saint Peter. 'While you preached, people slept, while he drove, people prayed.'

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