



## Marathon Methodist News December 2004

Visit our website at [www.gbgm-umc.org/marathon-ny](http://www.gbgm-umc.org/marathon-ny)

### December Happenings

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| December 1  | Administrative Council at Marathon - 6:30pm                               |
| December 4  | UMW Christmas Bazaar and Soup&Sandwich luncheon                           |
| December 5  | Collection for Golden Key Prison Ministry                                 |
| December 12 | Collection for Community Barrel (non-perishable items)                    |
| December 14 | UMW meeting - 6:15pm  |
| December 15 | Supper Club at Marathon - 6:00pm. Bring a dish to pass and table service. |
| December 19 | Collection for Apportionments   |

### Greeters

|             |                         |
|-------------|-------------------------|
| December 5  | Pete & Doris Merihew    |
| December 12 | Howard & Kathy Dennison |
| December 19 | Lloyd & Thelma Hill     |
| December 26 | Kelly Tillotson         |

### Scripture Readers

|                     |
|---------------------|
| Marguerite Lincoln  |
| Kelly Tillotson     |
| Julie Watros-Barber |
| Duke Watros         |

### December Birthdays:

12/1 - Teddy Morrison; 12/4 - Randi Locke; 12/10 - LaCretia Locke; 12/14 - Karolina Holl; 12/20 Jacob Holl; 12/23 - Thelma Hill, Duke Watros; 12/26 - Lloyd Fox

To have your name added to the birthday list, please e-mail Kelly at [kellytillotson@netzero.com](mailto:kellytillotson@netzero.com)

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Sunday School</b>  | Youth 9:30 -10:45am; Adult 10am                              |
| <b>Sunday Service</b> | 11:00am  |
| <b>Choir Practice</b> | Wednesdays at 5:30pm - We are always looking for new voices! |

**Clothing Giveaway** at The Lisle Federated Church on Main Street in Lisle on the first and third Saturdays of each month.

**Newsletter available on-line** - Visit <http://www.gbgm-umc.org/marathon-ny/news.htm> to get the latest version of the newsletter on-line. If you would prefer to obtain your newsletter on-line rather than US Mail, please let us know. It will save us postage costs. Contact Kelly at 849-7973 or e-mail [kellytillotson@netzero.com](mailto:kellytillotson@netzero.com).

### Pastor's Corner

Christmas is coming and we whirl out the activities. There is decorating to do including planning, shopping, and stringing lights, putting up the tree, switching over to the holiday accents. Candles begin to burn and every where there comes the scents of pine and cinnamon. The long list for Christmas Cards is already taking shape. The grandchildren have dictated to Grandpa their lists of hopes. Do you know how many types of Game Boy there are? There will

be parties, dinners, gatherings, present exchanges, greetings on the street, and special programs in school and church.

A week after Christmas and we see the year change to 2005. In the midst of all the activity and decorations, it is important we do not bury the reason for the season. Two thousand years ago, God gave the greatest gift to this world. The baby born in Bethlehem is heralded by the angels, proclaimed by the shepherds, worshipped by the wise men and destined to change the world of his day.

When my desk starts to get cluttered, I need to take time to clear away the clutter, revisit the work piled here and there, and bring sense to the clutter so that neatness and clarity emerges. Order begins to once again show itself. Christmas comes so that we may clear away the clutter of our lives and allow the Christ Child to reign once again. When we do that, clarity and purpose reenters our lives. Then we can see the needs to focus on for the New Year.

May your Christmas this year be a Christ-filled Christmas. May you fill it with family, friends, faith, and love more than purchases, food and folly. Amen. Gene

### **Patches' Corner**

It is starting to look a little like Christmas. I did hear Mrs. Pastor say "I sure would like to get the tree up and also maybe we can get the boxes up from downstairs so that I can start in fixing the house up." I did hear her say that she needs to start with the cards. They have quite a few they send to California and she sends a note with them. They have gone shopping twice now. I heard her say that they are going again this week. I did notice they had gotten a couple of presents for Lauren. So far, I have not seen anything for me yet, or maybe, that will be the last gift they get. Think so? I did hear Mrs. Pastor say that she thought that she would bake some cookies. I know that Pastor liked that idea. I don't know what they are going to be doing for Christmas yet. I hear Mrs. Pastor in the kitchen getting ready to start dinner. So guess that I had better close for now and see if I can help her. A Blessed Christmas, Patches

### **Celebrating Our Roof Repairs**

On November 7, we dedicated the roof fund plaque during worship services. The plaque is posted on the west wall and names all those who donated toward repair of the roof. We also recognized Pete and Doris Merihew for all their hard work in leading our pledge drive and soliciting the donations. They received a gift certificate for a dinner out at Applebee's. Following worship services, we celebrated with a dish-to-pass dinner. Ham was provided by the church and we had many tasty side dishes to go with it. Thanks to Marguerite Lincoln for her help in preparing the ham and getting the dinner on. We had a large turnout and it was a blessing to see our church basement full of people in celebration of this event.

### **Tops Receipts**

Tops will discontinue its receipt program as of January 1, 2005. We turn them in lots of \$10,000, and that is several months of collection for us. It is not necessary to save your receipts any longer for the UMW. Thanks for your help in this effort.

### **Community Barrel Report**

Thank you for your community barrel donations for the month of November. We helped a local family who lost everything in a recent fire. The two young men who came to pick up the food were impressed with the volume of items we had for them. Their cupboards were bare. God has a reason for everything. There is a reason why we kept stockpiling the food and did not have a family for several months. We were also able to provide a gift certificate to Gregg's Marketplace for a second needy family. If you know of a family in need, please contact a member of the Administrative Council.

**Prayer List - Please keep the following people in your prayers.**

Kathy Ardis, Andy Barrows, Rich Barrows, Shirley Beam, Conti Beaman, Jim Benedict, Ralph Bishop, Howard Bronson, Irma Brown, Ruth Fritts Brown, Ronald Caleb, Mony Carpenter, Sue Coleman, Ida Mae Cook, Elliot (Ponch) Culver, Karen Davis, Peg Davis, Elizabeth Doran, Tim Eaton, Dorothy Emmons, Lloyd Fredenburg, Matthew Fox, Judy Harvey, Irene Hill, Don Holester, Frank Hubbard, Mary Johnston, Jonathan Lavins, Marion Lodge, Barbara Marks, Mildred McDuffee, Ken McGrath, Betty Nichols, Harold Nichols, Ruth Olcott, Jessica O'Neil, Geracia Peak, Gladys Parker, Nancy Parker, Erika Pratt, Gordon Rogers, Kimberly Rowe, Bryan Smith, Tim Stoddard, Aiden Tillotson, Arnold Underwood, Jean VanSteenburg, Steve Verfuss, Hugh Wallace, Mary Watros, Paul Wheaton, Gloria Wood, Julian & Schylar, Fred Youngs.

Remembering particularly our shut-ins, college students, and our service people, particularly Brian Brown, Stephen Jennison, Leigh Mahoney, Stephen Rawlinson, Shane Satterly, and Major Dean Swartwood. Remember our Killawog and Marathon church's needs. Remember to thank God for answered prayer.