



A New Birth

As I write this letter, I am thinking of you having taken down the Christmas trees, the festive outside lights and the candles in the windows. The nativity scene is carefully wrapped and put in a box until next Christmas. As we “put away” Christmas this year, we should remember that we face the birth of a new year – 2009. This Christmas feeling does not have to be over. It can live in each of us as we ponder new opportunities for ministry at our church. The Spirit of Christmas, which is Christ, will be kept in our hearts. Remember that we are chosen to serve those who are sick, to clothe the naked, to feed the hungry, and to set those in darkness free. Every one of us can help someone!

Traditionally, in the new year we make resolutions realizing that each day is a new beginning in which we can be connected to the spiritual family of God on earth. What is your focus for our church? Paul reminds us in Ephesians 2:19, “You are members of God’s very own family. You belong in God’s house with every other Christian.”

Thalia United Methodist Church offers the following benefits to it’s congregation:

- ⇒ **Worship services to help keep you focused on God;**
- ⇒ **Christian fellowship to assist you in facing life’s challenges;**
- ⇒ **Accountability needed to support you in your Christian growth (Ephesians 5:21).**

All around us are signs that people have a deep hunger for fellowship, community, and a sense of family. I pray you will start the New Year with renewed commitment to your church. Your church is an extended family and a place where you are wanted and needed. The task is before us. We are commissioned to be the church of Jesus Christ. Come along and be part of God’s plans at Thalia in 2009!

Happy New Year!
Pastor Art



**The Gift Of His Son Has Been
Given. Pass It On.**



MISSIONS



Stop Hunger Now - What a blessing it was to have 80 Thalia people of all ages working together in the large hall packing 10,000 meals for hungry people in Burundi. The meals we packed were shipped the week of December 8th. Our 2009 SHN packing event is tentatively scheduled for November 22nd.

HURRICANE



RECOVERY

Thalia Mission Trip - In September of 2008, the people of Southeast Texas were hit with Hurricane Ike. On June 20, 2009, a team from Thalia will be traveling to the "Golden Triangle" of Texas for a week to help with recovery efforts. According to United Methodist workers on the scene, there is "lots and lots of work to do". The work will include roofing, sheet rock-

ing, taping & floating, painting, flooring, installation of insulation and much more. Housing arrangements will most likely be in churches that have kitchens, showers and air conditioning. There will be no cost for housing other than a suggested love offering. Travel arrangements will be made when we confirm the number of people going. The estimated cost of airline tickets is \$450 each. Please contact Dan Cott (963-8422) if you are interested in helping out our Texas brothers and sisters.

Annual Thalia Mission Golf Tournament: On Monday, April 20, we will be hosting a Missions Golf Tournament at Heron Ridge Golf Club. Funds raised will be used for expenses and materials related to our Southeast Texas mission trip. We are looking for sponsors, prizes and golfers. If you have not received a sponsorship packet, please contact Kerry Boone-Savinsky @ (757)340-5243, or visit www.thaliaumc.org.



Camp Victor - April 20-24- Faith Works Coalition, Inc. is sponsoring a disaster relief trip to Ocean Springs, MS. The team will stay at Camp Victor. Room and board for the camp is \$125 per person. Some scholarships may be available. Travel expenses will be the individual team member's responsibility, but car/van pools will be available.

Group flight rates are being investigated. For more details on Camp Victor and the work to be accomplished, visit www.campvictor.org, or contact Richard Norman at 464-1029. Please indicate your willingness to participate to Richard Norman by January 15, 2009.

Ministry Team

Pastor Rev. Arthur Wolz, Jr.	Asst. Administrator Joyce Williams	Nursery Dir. Cathy Graham
Associate Pastor Rev. Elinor R. Dalton	Music & Arts Dir. Grace Holdren	Sexton Bob Holdren
Certified Lay Minister Joan Averette	Children & Youth Dir. Cathy Sorrell	Ministers All the People of Thalia
Lay Leader Inez Jones	Program Dir. Michelle McKinney	

What is a Certified Lay Minister?



Lay Minister

A Certified Lay Minister is a qualified United Methodist layperson called to congregational leadership as part of a ministry team under the supervision of a clergyperson. This person enters the certification process, which includes training, support, supervision and accountability while serving in a local church assigned by the district superintendent.

The Certified Lay Minister (CLM) is a unique, recognized lay servant, in The United Methodist Church and is a part of the historic continuation of lay leadership in our church. CLM's resemble earlier exhorters, class leaders, lay preachers and circuit riders.

Last spring, Joan Averette was reviewed by the Thalia UMC Staff Parish Relations Committee, the Thalia UMC Charge Conference and the Norfolk District Committee on Ordained Ministry. All three of those bodies unanimously approved her appointment as a Certified Lay Minister assigned to Thalia United Methodist Church. Her appointment is subject to review yearly. She is under the supervision of Pastor Art. She received her training at Wesley Theological Seminary in DC. Last May Joan completed certification in Evangelism through the Equipping Lay Ministry program.

At Thalia, Joan will be serving as Evangelism chairperson, Liturgist coordinator and Prayer Ministry co-chair with Rev. Elinor.

From Your Program Director



Training And Transition Meeting

The New Year is here and we are ready to get started with a host of new volunteers in the positions of Church Leadership. In order to start the year off on the best foot some training is in order. **I am calling everyone new or returning to a Training and Transition meeting on Tuesday, January 13th at 7pm in our large hall.** I would like for anyone who is retiring from a position to also attend, so there will be a smooth hand off of responsibilities to your successor. So, if your name appears on the list presented at Charge Conference, please make sure that this is a meeting you don't miss!



Leadership Training Class

Thalia will also be hosting the District UMC Leadership Training on Saturday January 17th from 9am-12pm. This training is designed for specific groups of Church Leadership. If you will be serving now or considering in the future the following positions, please attend this valuable training; Staff Parrish Relations, Trustees, Lay Leader, Finance, or Missions. For more information please contact Michelle McKinney.

Now is a great time to become involved in the life of your Church as we begin a new year of leadership. As always please check our website and calendar for the most up to date schedule. www.thaliaumc.org

Prayer Chain News



We are adding several people to the phone and email prayer chains. We thank you for volunteering to pray for the requested needs.

Joan Averette, our Certified Lay Minister, is the person to email or call for prayer needs. Many thanks to Vicki Wolz, who was the former contact person. Contact Joan at jbaverette@cox.net or 486-4784. Joan will send out the email prayer requests. Marian Acord will continue to make the first calls to the phone prayer chain.

You may also call the church office at 340-5015, to give your request. These will be passed on to both Joan and Marian. As the Body of Christ, we can make a difference in lives of our church and community through our prayers.



Beginning in January, the fourth Sunday of every month will be designated as "**Pound Sunday**". On "Pound Sunday" Thalia families will have the opportunity to help needy people in Virginia Beach by bringing in a pound of needed food pantry items for every person in their family.

So on Sunday, January 25th, if your family includes mom, dad, a brother and a sister, you might bring in 4 pounds of peanut butter or 4 pounds of canned meat or 4 pounds of pasta. Thanks for your continued support for Thalia's food pantry.

From Your Associate Pastor:

LET US PRAY

The 12th day of Christmas is January 6. By then, decorations are put away, order has been restored in our homes, and life in the new year has begun. With anticipation, we look toward the "hopes and fears" of what 2009 holds.



-A **Prayer Service** is scheduled for the **3rd Sunday of every month at 7:00 PM for 2009**. Please add these to your calendar and plan to attend. Also, we will offer other types of services, including healing prayer services, on different days and at different times. This will give everyone an opportunity to attend a service.

-**YOU CAN HELP!** If you are aware of a church member who has not been attending church events, please let me know. Our 'flock' is large, and 'primary sheep dogs' are few. If you want an explanation of this, come see me.

-Another way **YOU CAN HELP** is to let me know if you would like a visit from our pastoral staff. Call my office at 340-5015. If you know of someone who needs a visit, also let me know that. Perhaps we could make this visit together. **YOU** are a key element in keeping members connected.

A Prayer from Kenya: "*From the cowardice that dares not face new truth, from the laziness that is contented with half-truth, from the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth, Good Lord, deliver me. Amen*"

GODBLESSUSALL!!

Elinor Dalton



Attention, Ladies! Would you be willing to give 2 hours a week to your church? Join our special group of "Bob's Dust Bunnies" on Tuesday mornings at 9:00. No dues, no officers, no rules, no experience necessary. Call Joyce Gaus at 497-0982 for more information.



UMW Reading Program

Let's take time to read in the coming year for the Reading Program for United Methodist Women! Eight easy read books have been purchased and will be in the library. All you have to do is to read 1 book from each of the four categories. The books are as follows:

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|--------------------------|--|
| Spiritual Growth: | <u>Holy Stuff of Life</u> – Stories, poems and prayers about human things
<u>Joshua In a Troubled World</u> – Sequel to <i>Joshua</i> |
| Social Action: | <u>Energy: Use Less—Save More</u> – 100 Energy tips for your home
<u>Reduce, Reuse, Recycle</u> – An easy household guide |
| Educ. For Mission: | <u>Creating a Habitat for Humanity-No Hands but Yours</u> – Habitat for Humanity with the forward by Jimmy Carter |
| Nurturing for Community: | <u>End of the Spear</u> – True story about trusting God
<u>Barefoot Heart</u> – Stories of a Migrant Child
<u>Amish Grace: How Forgiveness Transcended Tragedy</u> |

In January, Circle leaders will let you know how the library is set up for checking out these and other books identified for the Reading Program. You have through August 2009, to read and if you read more than 4 books, that's great too. Be sure to write down what you read and which category the book is from.

Vicki Wolz, President UMW

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Remember to turn in
your **Farm Fresh**
receipts to the
church office.

Mark Your Calendar

- January 11: Service of marriage Renewal, 7:00 PM
- January 13: Training and Transition Meeting, 7:00 PM
- January 17: District UMC Leadership Training,
9:00 AM-12:00 Noon
- January 18: Prayer Service, 7:00 PM
- January 25: "Pound Sunday", for Food Pantry
- January 31: Relay For Life Silent Auction
- February 14: Valentine Dinner Dance

Check our website for information updates
www.thaliaumc.org

For further details, see articles in this publication.

