

Founded
1850



Central Journal

Informing Members and Friends – Encouraging Fellowship and Spiritual Growth

A monthly publication of Central United Methodist Church, Lansing, Michigan

January 2011

Make a Difference in 2011

Last month I wrote an article about the need to step out in Mission in fresh ways and I want to follow up with that. At last month's Ad. Council meeting we looked over the results of an age demographic we created of our congregation. I suppose what we found was not a shocker: we are doing pretty well reaching folks 60+ but not very well reaching the 40 and under crowd. What followed was a wonderful conversation about where do we go from here? On January 18 our leaders will meet with the leaders of Grace, Mt. Hope, Faith and Christ UMCs to discuss ways to create a unified outreach to the under 40 folks. Please be in prayer for that meeting.

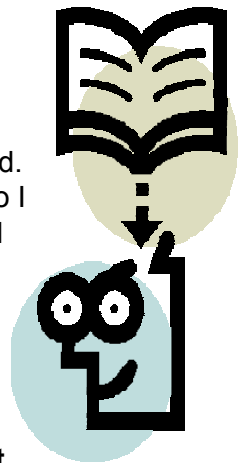
And prayer is key. But, at some point, we need to get off our knees and get about the work of building the kingdom of God. Can I hear an "amen" from the congregation! About a month ago I shared from the pulpit that I was going to meet with the principal of Willow Elementary School (1012 W. Willow St.).

I discovered that 92% of the children in the school are on free or a reduced cost lunch. Dozens receive a backpack filled with food on a Friday so they can have a meal each day of the weekend. As I listened to Connie Nickson (principal) describe the needs, my heart broke. We are called to be **the Heart of Christ in the Heart of Lansing** and here God was clearly laying down the gauntlet and saying, "Ron, will these just be words on a piece of paper or will the people of Central UMC step up to the plate and do something to make a difference in my children's lives?" I don't normally hear God speak so clearly to my heart and soul but this was unmistakable.

I asked Connie where we could start and she said we could make the biggest impact by developing relationships with the children through the tutoring program. Her words rang true because we all know that one of the keys to rising out of poverty is knowledge, and knowledge begins with the ability to read. So, I've included information about the **Read To SUCCEED Program** in this *Central Journal*.

Training dates are listed and you must sign up for both sessions 1 and 2. You can register for those sessions by e-mailing the Literacy Coalition. Include your phone number for contact information purposes. You can fill out the necessary paperwork and background information at the training or do this at their main office, The Capital Area Literacy Coalition, 1028 E. Saginaw St. Their phone number is 485-4949 and the MSU Read To SUCCEED phone number is 420-1849. Email: literacy@msu.edu Website: www.thereadingpeople.org

If your heart burns to make a difference in these kids lives then join me in signing up for these training sessions and become a tutor at the Willow Elementary School in 2011. Blessings, **Pastor Ron**



Inside

Trustees 2

Music&Worship 3

Among Friends 4

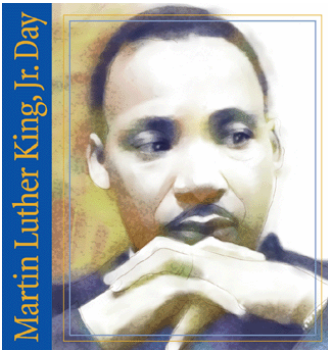
Outreach 4

ENERGIZE! 5

Happy New Year! 6

Calendar 7

Read to Succeed 8



JANUARY 17

Trustees

Larry Beckon, Chair, Board of Trustees

December 14, 2010

Looking Back - Looking Forward

Termite Damage Restoration Project - Ottawa Entry Coat Room and Anteroom: The floor was stabilized and rebuilt, walls were restored, new flooring and carpet was installed, new lights were hung and painting was completed. All this happened in the place where termites did the most serious and widespread damage. This area of the sanctuary building is now "opened up" again.

Fire Alarm System Passes Inspection: The fire alarm system installed in 2008-9 had its first inspection in early 2010. The system is in good condition and will be inspected every year. We have 226 smoke detectors and 36 heat detectors. Funding was provided from the Estes Restoration Fund.

Parking: Steps were taken to reserve parking spaces for our members, staff and guests in both the north and south parking lots. We also began renting space in both lots.

Reporting about Endowment Funds: Explanations of several of Central's endowment funds were featured in monthly reports.

New Chairs and Tables for Fellowship Hall: Contributions were made this year for new chairs for Fellowship Hall. Funds were also provided for new tables. It is expected that the tables and chairs (donations have been received to purchase 160 chairs so far) will begin to be used early in 2011.

Restoration of Fellowship Hall Windows: Work began in 2010 on the restoration of the windows on the south side of Fellowship Hall, facing the parking lot off Ottawa St. The windows were in very poor condition and required a great deal of scraping; stabilizing the wood; applying caulk; and applying two coats each of primer and latex finish. No plans have been made, but there has been talk about continuing the work in 2011.

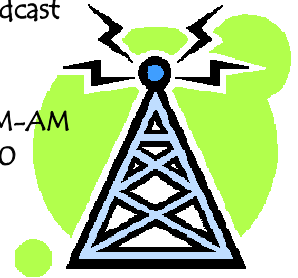
Endowment/Investment Committee: A new committee has been formed to focus on Central's endowments. It has met with the two firms that invest those funds, reviewed the funds involving our buildings and led the effort to establish a new Building Fund. The congregation voted unanimously to terminate the



Trustees continued page 6 >>

Consider sponsoring a radio broadcast in 2011

WJIM-AM
1240



Church Directory

- Rev. Ron Brooks, Senior Minister
- Rev. Bill Amundsen, Ret., Minister of Spiritual Formation
- Joi Tennant, Christian Education
- Jamie Young, Director, Youth Ministry
- Cris Bobier, Executive Director, Open Door Ministry
- Caryn Welter, Director, Music Ministries and Worship Arts; Organist
- Derrick Fox, Director, Chancel Choir
- Leigh Goyings, Director, Youth Fine Arts, Wesley Choristers, and Pre-school Music Program
- Leigh Goyings, Melissa Eisensmith, Mike Woodward, Brandon Manson, Chancel Choir Section Leaders
- Patricia Mort, Administrative Secretary
- Kathleen Johnson, Financial Secretary
- Stephanie Rave, Bookkeeper
- Bruce Newton, Facility Manager
- Scott Mize, Building Attendant
- Chris Pruett, Building Attendant

Office Phone: (517) 485-9477
Office Fax: (517) 485-9772
Website: lansingcentralumc.org
E-mail: centralumc@voyager.net

Sunday Worship – 9:30 AM
Fellowship Hour – 10:30 AM
Sunday School - All Ages—11:10 AM
(September - May)

The worship service is broadcast live at 9:30 AM on WJIM-AM (1240) radio and telecast Tuesday at 9 PM on Comcast channel 16.

The *Central Journal* is published monthly by Central United Methodist Church, 215 North Capitol Avenue, Lansing, MI. 48933

Send copy to: cjpublisher@voyager.net

David DeVinney, Editor; 372-6761
Jan Keen, Assistant Editor
321-4967

Copy deadline: 5 p.m. Friday
February issue - January 14
March issue - February 11



Worship and Music Notes

Caryn Welter, *Director of Music Ministries and Worship Arts*

► **Are you someone who likes to make a New Year's resolution?** If the answer is "yes," consider combining your resolution with a new way to model commitment to your church.

There are two more sessions of **Central Bell Ringers** coming up in the second semester of the program year. The group will play Easter Sunday, April 10 (the last Sunday in Lent), and at the Celebration of Music in Worship on May 22. Ringing is a most rewarding activity. Why don't you give it a try?



Hopefully, in the New Year someone will have come forward who's willing to set up the keyboard and amplifier as needed, so we can move back to having the **Spirit Singers** lead more praise hymns at the beginning of worship. Why don't some of you who have sung Christmas carols so zealously at Sip'n'Sing come forward and join this group or the Chancel Choir? Typically, the Spirit Singers sing twice a month; always, they welcome new folks. They convene on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.

If your life is at a developmental stage which allows your attending weekly rehearsals and singing all but one Sunday per month in worship, please join the **Chancel Choir**. Under the direction of the very talented Derrick Fox, you'll find him musically challenging and good-humored. Remember, as always, you needn't have studied music academically or professionally! All that's required is a heart that's willing to "make a joyful noise unto the Lord". Come on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. and give it a try.



► **Are you curious about the outcome of the congregational survey?** Watch the February edition of the *Central Journal* for an update.

► **In the first four months of this program year, these people assisted in worship** by serving in the important role of Worship Leader or by presenting Children's Moments: Joi Tennant, Dave Mills, Pat Mort, Michele Weinfeld, Kathy MacLaren, Lorrie Wilken, Mike MacLaren, Julie Welch, Mary Jessup, Ron Brooks, Kristen and Marcy Carter, and Penny Zago. Worship would not be the same without the dedication of these loyal contributors. We extend heartfelt thanks to each and every one of them.

Central's generosity anticipated!

As this is written, the Mission Committee is excited about Central Church's generosity as we approach Christmas. Reports on the Mitten Tree, Soles4Souls, Open Door Giving Tree, and the collection for our Service Men and Women will be posted in our February *Central Journal*. Be sure to check it out.

Our Noisy Sunday Offering will be received on January 9. This offering serves the Open Door Ministry and special needs within the congregation. With the cold and snow coming upon us, this offering will be very important. Start saving your change now. Bring it on the 9th and join together as we make it a very noisy Sunday.



The Human Relations Day Offering will be received on January 16, 2011. Why do we celebrate this offering on the Sunday before the observance of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday? Because as United Methodists we believe in the development of better human relations and we seek to empower others to become the whole persons God intended. This special offering strengthens outreach to communities in the United States and Puerto Rico and encourages social justice and work with at-risk youth.



AND...coming in February: Blanket Valentines! Plan to buy

a valentine for your beloved and help someone in need keep warm.

—Cathy Amundsen, *Mission Commission*

Among Friends

Remember...

At press time...

Audrey Holly - Hospice at Bickford
Jean Fitch - Wynwood of Meridian
Norma Hanson - Ingham Regional Assisted Living
Bob Stebbins - Stoneleigh Hospice
Mary Roush - Hospice at home
Donald McLaughlin - Burcham



Transitions...

Richard "Dick" Murley - died November 24, 2010
Eleanor Moore - died December 1, 2010
Dorothy Trudgeon - died December 6, 2010
David Yoh (former pastor) - died December 8, 2010
Ruth Norton died December 17, 2010

Thank You...

Thank you for all the calls, cards, and prayers from the Central family during my illness and surgery. They were greatly appreciated. —**Sue Mills**

New chairs for Fellowship Hall will be a reality early next year. The Memorial Committee has received contributions for 160 chairs to date. When additional contributions are given for chairs, a second order will be placed. *Thank you* to all contributors for more comfortable seating from the church and community groups who use Fellowship Hall. *Thank you* to the Décor Committee for selecting the chair and fabric and to all who sat on the various chairs



Memorial Gifts under consideration to make the final selection. *Thank you* to the Trustees who approved this project.— **Mary Jessup**, *Memorials*

What's important-

On February 4, 1968, exactly two months before Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, he delivered his last sermon at Atlanta's Ebenezer Baptist Church. In it, he described his preferences for his own funeral. He didn't want people to mention his Nobel Peace Prize, his other awards or where he went to school; none of that was important, he said. Instead, he wanted his eulogist to say King "tried to give his life serving others" and "tried to love somebody." In that sermon, King also said "everybody can serve," regardless of background or educational level. The only requirements, he said, were "a heart full of grace" and "a soul generated by love."



Mary Boudreau,
Chair, Outreach

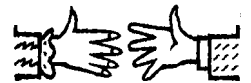
Happy New Year!

As we approach the new year, please consider some of these ways of welcoming new friends to church AND connecting with those we know well:



Sponsor a radio broadcast! These are especially important in the winter months when it's safer for many people to stay home than negotiate the roads. Who knows, someone's heart may be "strangely warmed" and they will join us some Sunday.

Help fill the "Visitor Gift Bags" with goodies and welcoming items. We are trying to identify visitors each week to share these with them. Be creative -warm messages are great too!



Whenever the roads *are* passable, please **consider visiting some of our shut-ins.** Pat Mort always has wonderful ideas for people who would love visitors. You never know when the right person will hear a message they need.

Please consider joining Community Outreach members for a brunch meeting after church on January 2 (before the New Years diets get into full swing). Please contact Mary at 372-4146 or boudrea1@msu.edu for location and time.



Give New Year Calendars Thanks for sharing calendars for Mary Boudreau to distribute to patients at the Health Department! Please continue to put them in the Outreach mailbox-they are so helpful.



Youth Basketball leagues will start play in January on Saturday mornings. There are always spaces for kids on teams, so please encourage young people in your life to participate.



ENERGIZE!

Youth Ministry

Jamie Young, Youth Director



NEW SOUL

The object of a new year is not that we should have a new year. It is that we should have a new soul." - G.K. Chesterton

Each year we make promises to ourselves. Promises that hold us accountable for things like: eating better, exercising, or saving more money. Promises that, if we held onto them, just might change our lives. Our lives, not our souls. How can we make changes in our lives that will change our souls? Might I suggest that your list of resolutions look more like this?

- > Be better about sending hand written cards
- > Open the Bible more than just Sunday mornings
- > Forgive someone
- > Pray beyond meal time
- > Find a way to get involved in your community
- > Save your fancy coffee money and sponsor a child
- > Join a small group



The truth is, G.K. Chesterton had it right. We don't get a new year just to get it. Its a chance at a fresh start. The new year is a lot like our faith. We are not given a new year because we deserve it, but because of grace. So, I am going to treat this year as a gift and not take it for granted. How are you going to change your soul in 2011? — Jamie



Soles4Souls is an organization that collects and distributes shoes to people all over the world. The ENERGIZE! Youth Ministry Program will be serving at the HQ in Nashville, TN during their spring break (April 2-9, 2011). Look for specially marked bins where you can put your new or gently used shoes. Regular collection will continue through January and then we will have a one day shoe drive in March. If you have any questions, please contact Jamie Young.

Once Upon His Time... Beginning in January we are going to look at some new curriculum. Students (and staff) will learn about stories from the Bible. We will hear the stories in new, unusual, and unforgettable ways. After all, its because of Him we'll live...Happily Ever After.

Mock New Years Eve Overnight 7 pm Thursday Dec. 30 - 10 am Friday Dec. 31, @ Central UMC. We'll have card tournaments (with prizes), group games, food, movies. Don't plan on getting much sleep! We will bring in the "New Year" at midnight with a sparkling juice toast! **FRIENDS WELCOME!** BRING: Permission form (if we don't have one for you), a snack to share, sleeping stuff, board games.



ENERGIZE! Calendar-January 2011

Sunday, January 2

NO YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Sunday, January 9 journey track
5-7 pm Grace UMC

Friday, January 14-15

High School 'Winter Blast'
5:30 pm(F)-8:00pm(S) Wesley
Woods Camp - Dowling, MI

Sunday, January 16 journey track
5-7 pm Grace UMC

Sunday, January 23 journey track
5-7 pm Grace UMC

Sunday, January 30 journey track
5-7 pm Grace UMC

Questions-Comments-Concerns

Contact Jamie Young, Director,
ENERGIZE! Youth Ministry Program
located at Grace UMC
1900 Boston Blvd
Lansing, MI 48910

jamieyoung1028@yahoo.com
W: 517-482-5750 C: 517-896-6606
H: 517-882-0179

Winter Blast

is a weekend
retreat at
Wesley Woods
Camp in
Dowling, MI. It
is an event
sponsored by
the camp, so



Winter Blast

registration is done through them.
Cost is \$79. For information and
online registration go to:

[www.wesleywoodscamp.com/
events/winterblast.html](http://www.wesleywoodscamp.com/events/winterblast.html)

High School dates:

Fri., Jan. 14 - Sat., Jan. 15
(registration deadline: January 8)

Middle School dates:

Fri., Feb. 11 - Sat., Jan. 12
(registration deadline: February 2)

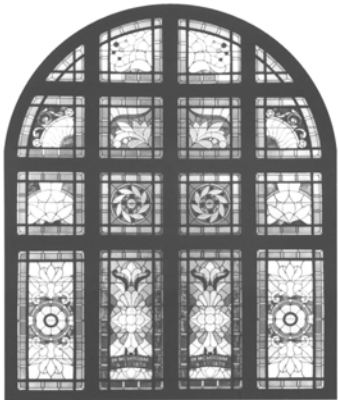
****ENERGIZE! Staff will attend the
High School Winter Blast!*****

>> *Trustees* continued from page 2

old Building Fund and its funds (about \$183,000) have been moved to the new Fund.

Restoration of Wood Floors: Restoration of the wood floors in the Temple House has been a restoration priority since 2005. The main floor in Fellowship Hall, the steps up to the rooms surrounding the main floor, the room in the southwest corner of Fellowship Hall, and the first floor lounge were restored. This is a continuation of the efforts to help make Central more welcoming.

Stained Glass Window System Requires Restoration: While work was being done on the windows of the south side of Fellowship Hall, damage was discovered on the large sanctuary stained glass window overlooking the Ottawa St. parking lot. By the end of 2010, Full Spectrum had been hired to restore the entire window system, and the windows had been moved to their workshop where restoration will continue until late winter when the entire strengthened system will be reinstalled. Until then we will operate with a temporary enclosure for the window opening.



New News

Living Trust of Marian Haussman: Upon the deaths of both Marian and Carl Haussman, their property was distributed to several persons and organizations, including Central, which has received approximately \$169,000.

Contributions for Restoration of Stained Glass Windows: In response to questions about how members of the congregation can contribute to the restoration of the windows, contributions can be made by check to Central United Methodist, writing the words "stained glass" in the lower left hand corner, and placing it in the collection plate or mailing it to the church. All contributions will go directly to this project.

A role of the trustees is to support and maintain all the property belonging to the congregation so that the ministries of the congregation can be effective. Our buildings are a means to help carry out those ministries.

Endowment Funds to support our Operating Budget Again: Before the drastic reductions in the value of investments that started in 2008, earnings from several of Central's endowment funds were used each year to provide funding for Central's Operating Budget. Now, the balances in some endowment funds have recovered enough so that funds will be able to provide some financial support to the 2011 Operating Budget. As always, payments from endowment funds to the Operating Budget will be consistent with the direction provided by those who established individual endowments.



A psychologist has determined that the Monday in the last full week of January is the most depressing day of the year. This year, "Blue Monday" falls on January 24.

Cliff Arnall calculated this date based on a combination of bad weather, Christmas debts, broken New Year's resolutions and the end of the holiday break.

But no matter how bleak things seem – regardless of the time of year – Christians always have reason for hope. Thankfully, we can look beyond our earthly circumstances to the promise of new life with God forever.

As Martin Luther King Jr. said, "We must accept finite disappointment, but we must never lose infinite hope."

I am the new year.
I am an unspoiled
page in
your book
of time.



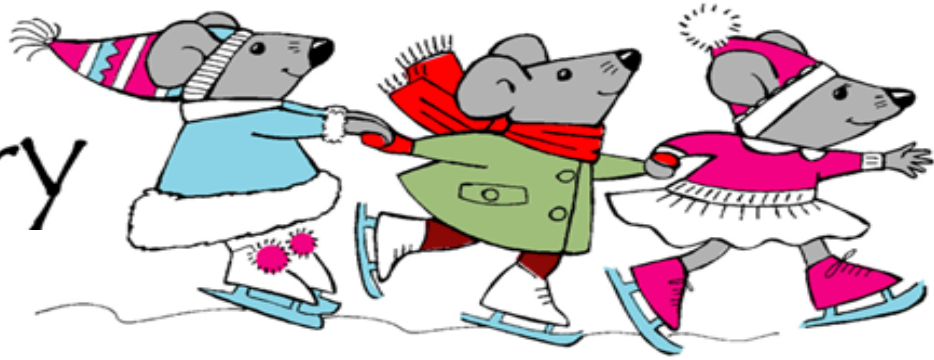
I am your next chance at the art of living. I am your opportunity to practice what you have learned about life during the last 12 months.

All you sought and didn't find is hidden in me, waiting for you to search it out but with more determination. All the good you tried for and didn't achieve is mine to grant when you have fewer conflicting desires.

All you dreamed but didn't dare to do, all you hoped but did not will, all the faith you claimed but did not use – these slumber lightly, waiting to be awakened by the touch of a strong purpose.

I am your opportunity to renew your allegiance to him who said, *See, I am making all things new.* (Revelation 21:5, NRSV). —Author unknown

January



2011

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

o/s=off site

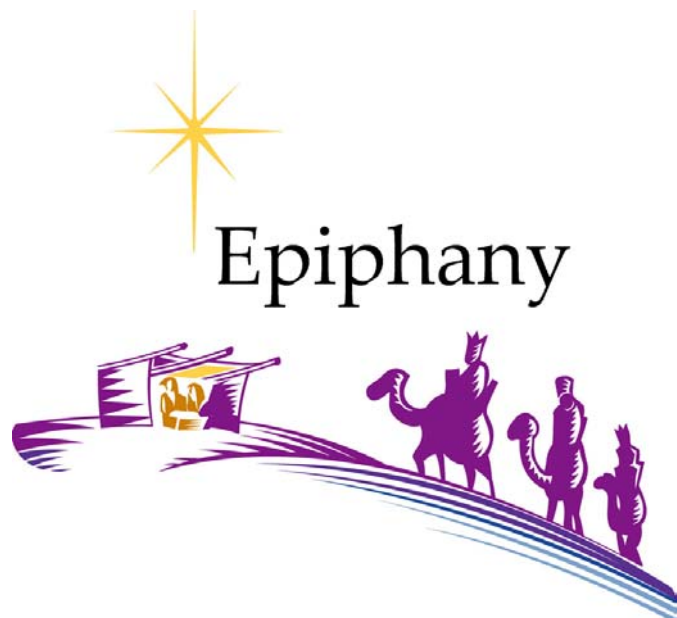
- 1 Saturday-New Year's Day**
- 2 Sunday**
8:30 am-Chancel Choir Rehearsal
9:30 am-**Worship Service**
10:30 am-Fellowship Coffee Hour
- 3 Monday**
- 4 Tuesday**
9:00 am-Food Bank
2:00 pm-Men's Bible Study
- 5 Wednesday**
- 6 Thursday**
9:30 am-Sewing Group
9:30 am-Celebrating Recovery
11:30 am-Fellowship Lunch
6:00 pm-Mission Commission
6:30 pm-Spirit Singers' Rehearsal
7:30 pm-Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 7 Friday**
- 8 Saturday**
- 9 Sunday**
8:30 am-Chancel Choir Rehearsal
9:30 am-**Worship Service**
10:30 am-Fellowship Coffee Hour
11:00 am-Sunday School-All Ages
5:30 pm-Vespers Class

- 10 Monday**
6:00 pm-Judy Grove Circle
- 11 Tuesday**
9:00 am-Food Bank
5:30 pm-Church & Society
6:00 pm-Education
- 12 Wednesday**
- 13 Thursday**
9:30 am-Sewing Group
9:30 am-Celebrating Recovery
11:30 am-Fellowship Lunch
6:30 pm-Spirit Singers' Rehearsal
7:30 pm-Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 14 Friday**
- 15 Saturday**
- 16 Sunday**
8:30 am-Chancel Choir Rehearsal
9:30 am-**Worship Service**
10:30 am-Fellowship Coffee Hour
11:00 am-Sunday School-All Ages
5:30 pm-Vespers Class
- 17 Monday**
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Office Closed
7:00 pm-Shalom GLANAWII
- 18 Tuesday**
9:00 am-Food Bank
9:30 am-Friendship Circle
2:00 pm-Men's Bible Study
6:00 pm-Shalom Guiding Committee
- 19 Wednesday**
- 20 Thursday**
9:30 am-Sewing Group
9:30 am-Celebrating Recovery
11:30 am-Fellowship Lunch
6:30 pm-Spirit Singers' Rehearsal
7:30 pm-Chancel Choir Rehearsal

- 21 Friday**
10:30 am-Keep Making Peace
- 22 Saturday**
- 23 Sunday**
8:30 am-Chancel Choir Rehearsal
9:30 am-**Worship Service**
10:30 am-Fellowship Coffee Hour
10:30 am-Music Committee
11:00 am-Sunday School-All Ages
5:30 pm-Vespers Class
- 24 Monday**
1:00 pm-Guy's Lunch Out o/s
- 25 Tuesday**
9:00 am-Food Bank
6:00 pm-Finance
- 26 Wednesday**
7:00 pm-Administrative Council
- 27 Thursday**
9:30 am-Sewing Group
9:30 am-Celebrating Recovery
11:30 am-Fellowship Lunch
6:30 pm-Spirit Singers' Rehearsal
7:30 pm-Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 28 Friday**
9:00 am-Food Bank
- 29 Saturday**
- 30 Sunday**
8:30 am-Chancel Choir Rehearsal
9:30 am-**Worship Service**
10:30 am-Fellowship Coffee Hour
11:00 am-Sunday School-All Ages
5:30 pm-Vespers Class
- 31 Monday**

Central United Methodist Church
215 North Capitol Avenue
Lansing, Michigan, 48933

Non-Profit
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 1027
Lansing, MI



Please deliver: Dec 21—Dec 29 -Thank you

Return Service Requested

Read to Succeed: Through this program you will tutor an at-risk child on a one-to-one basis; the main focus of this tutoring is to help the child improve his/her reading and writing skills. You may tutor either for credit if you are an MSU student (TE494), or as a volunteer. We are always in need of tutors. Tutoring takes place twice a week for an hour each meeting. All tutoring sites are off campus.

We provide training and constant support for our tutors and, prior to tutoring, you will attend our training sessions. All training sessions are held in **Erickson Hall** on the MSU campus. You will need to attend one of each session (I and II), both of which are offered at multiple times.

Training Sessions:

Session I:

Tuesday, Jan. 18, 2011: 4-6 pm, 116H
Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2011: 8-10 am, 116H
Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2011: 3-5 pm, 116H
Thursday, Jan. 20, 2011: 6-8 pm, 116H

Session II:

Monday, Jan. 24, 2011: 4-6 pm, 116H
Tuesday, Jan. 25, 2011: 3-5 pm, 116H
Tuesday, Jan. 25, 2011: 6-8 pm, 116H
Wednesday, Jan. 26, 2011: 8-10 pm, 116H

Site visits are Jan. 26, 27, and 28, 2011
Tutoring begins Monday Jan. 31, 2011

Our tutoring times with students at the sites are:

Monday/Wednesday: 3:50-4:50 pm; 6:30-7:30 pm
Tuesday/Thursday: 3:30-4:30 pm; 3:50-4:50 pm; 6:30-7:30 pm
Wednesday/Friday: 8:00-8:40 am

For more information please look at our website (under the MSU Student Literacy Corps link), or contact us through e-mail or by phone. Thank you!

Patricia Williams, *Read to Succeed* Co-Coordinator
Kathy Dewey, *Read to Succeed* Co-Coordinator
347 Erickson Hall
MSU Student Literacy Corps

www.thereadingpeople.org
literacy@msu.edu
Phone 420-1849

Capital Area Literacy Coalition
1028 E. Saginaw, Lansing, MI 48906
Phone 485-4949 Fax 485-1924