



Saints Alive!

Avon Lake
Presbyterian Church
Volume 6, Issue 2
February 2007

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www.avonlakepc.org

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Our Mission Statement

In awe, we **Receive** God's Grace and Gospel.

In gratitude, we **Respond** with Worship and Servanthood.

In love, we **Represent** Jesus Christ as we minister

To transform lives in family, community, and the world.

A Message from Pastor Tom

The shortest month of the year can seem mighty long for many of us in these parts. The cold days that seem to have no end can bring with them a temptation to just stay put. It's just an effort to get up in the morning, let alone to take on anything new.

Of course, there are those folks for whom this is the best time of the year, people who just cannot get enough of winter. But I dare say that, for most of us, we can't wait for the warm weather to get us going again.

The problem with that is that by the time the weather warms up so we can get excited about doing anything outside, we're almost into the summer. If we just blow off these cold, frigid days until the warmer stuff comes, we are neglecting a very important time for growth.

Around here, by the time February ends we will have celebrated Ash Wednesday and our annual service with our brothers and sisters at the Lake Shore United Methodist Church. But even before that there will be some significant days around here, times for us to plan and create and grow in the faith.

The month will start off with our saying happy retirement and thanks to Carol Nussle for her 27 years as our office administrator. We say 'happy retirement' and not 'good-bye' because Carol will retain her membership here.

But we will be starting a new chapter in our life with a new office administrator. Any time you have a significant change like this you need to stop and take a look at the position, at what needs to be changed and what needs to be kept. It gives us an opportunity to see how we can make changes, not for the sake of making changes, but so that the community grows in its relationships together and with our Lord.

It is always good to check out where we are in our faith journey. Some people have taken this time to start a journal of their spiritual reflections of the day. Some have taken part in our Alpha classes. Still others have participated in one of the Wednesday Family Night offerings.

There are all kinds of possibilities, and we are always examining what our folks need and how to serve each other. It is said that churches of our size should come up with new small group opportunities every 12-18 months. It has been a while since we had new small groups, so I would like to invite you to consider what kind of a small group would you like to be a part of here at ALPC. Would it be a group to study the Bible, or one to examine a particular issue? One to take a look at how our faith informs the ways we take care of our environment? A class that would look

Continued on p. 3

A Message from Pastor Tom, continued

at the postmodern culture? How about a group to explore new ways of worship?

The possibilities are endless. If you have any ideas, I would love to hear them, as would the chair of our Christian Education Committee, Michelle Cold.

February can be a time to hibernate and wait for life to go on - or it can be a time to grow deeper in faith and relationships. The choice is up to us.

Grace and peace,
Tom



Session Highlights

At their January meeting, the Session was led in devotions by Rev. Yoda

Heard:

- that 185 persons received communion in December
- the December financial report
- the deacons "Healthcare potluck" on January 14 had about 55 persons attending
- that we will host a service Ash Wednesday, February 21 at 7:30 p.m.

Voted:

- to allow Dee Koza to speak at Confirmation Class Retreat
- for a special Session meeting on May 7 for the purpose of examining the Confirmation class
- to approve the amended 2007 budget
- to elect Dina Doughtry and David Lockmeyer commissioners to the January Presbytery meeting

Virginia Lockmeyer, Clerk of Session

Good Sayings. . .

- Don't let your worries get the best of you; remember Moses started out as a basket case.
- Some people are kind, polite, and sweet-spirited until you try to sit in their pews.
- Many people want to serve God, but only as advisors.
- People are funny; they want the front of the bus, the middle of the road, and the back of the church.
- We were called to be witnesses, not lawyers or judges.
- Peace starts with a smile.

Financial Report



Our final financial report for 2006 shows that we ended the year with a deficit of (\$13,361.05). This is not quite the breakeven we were aiming for but it is a considerable improvement over our position in the fall. We have put over \$16,000 back in our unrestricted savings account while keeping over a \$12,000 balance in the checking account. Thank you for your support and let's continue in the joy of doing God's work through our church. If you haven't turned in your pledge card yet please do so as soon as possible, and remember to contribute your \$18.50 per family member for our 2007 per capita assessment.

If you have any questions or need any more information please contact me. The December financial report is summarized below:

	Actual thru December	Budget thru December
Receipts (Pledges & Loose Plate)	\$389,481.55	\$412,873.62
Total Receipts	\$442,839.69	\$422,513.62
Expenditures		
Worship & Spiritual Life	\$154,665.97	\$158,802.00
Stewardship & Mission	90,644.47*	56,509.99
Christian Education	15,112.54	16,250.00
Finance	143,049.43	141,438.62
Property	52,185.24	47,135.00
M & L Dev. Task Force	543.09	1,600.00
Total Expenditure	\$456,200.74	\$421,735.62
Excess Receipts (Expend.)	\$ -13,361.05	\$ 778.00

*This figure includes special offering receipts that were not included in the budget. This money simply comes in and is paid out.

Checkbook balance	\$ 12,288.44
Unrestricted saving balance	\$ 55,966.93

Bob Ralston
Finance Committee

Stewardship Corner

Time to start something new!!

January is typically a time when people like to “take stock” of those things that are working, and not working in our lives. We clean out our closets, organize the basement, garage, etc. (Just look at those Lowe’s and Home Depot adds!!), and throw out or give away the things we didn’t use in the last few years. We begin to collect all of our financial statements, receipts, etc., in anticipation (or, dread!) of preparing last year’s tax return. We promise ourselves that this is the year that we will tame the “Paper Tiger!” If only there was an easier way to manage some of our finances. Well, the Stewardship Committee has a suggestion for you. Try On-line Banking!!



The Stewardship Committee would like to encourage you to take the “On-line Giving Challenge!” Consider making your regular offering/pledge through your banks’ On-line Banking Service. Most of the banks’ make it pretty easy to pay just about anything (including church giving) through their on-line service. Typically you set up a “page” of payees that you would write checks to on a regular basis. You enter the necessary information for each payee, and then.....push the button!! It is really pretty easy!!

Why make your regular offerings/pledges on line? It saves you time, and allows you to budget better. No need to “catch up” on pledges! It helps Avon Lake Presbyterian Church by maintaining consistent cash flows throughout the year. As we all know, the church sees a substantial drop in attendance and giving during the summer months. This is a great way to ease the “crunch” that the church experiences each year.

By now, many of us have visited the ALPC website; and experienced for ourselves how we can stay better connected through electronic means. We use e-mail to communicate with one another, sign up for events, discuss articles and surveys, etc. It seems like a natural “next step” to consider our church giving in an electronic format.

Of course, our Gifts are determined by what we feel called to give. They are to be given thoughtful and prayerful consideration. Regardless of the method of giving, we thank you for all that you give to Avon Lake Presbyterian Church.

Terry Linick,
On Behalf of the Stewardship Committee

Grade XIII



Dear Church Family Members Away from Home:

After taking our twin boys around for college visits this month, I have a renewed appreciation for all of you walking to your classes this semester/quarter! B-R-R-R!! I loved being on the campuses and having the tour guides tell us why their campus is the best and how cool the rooms are now! Although I had forgotten about not having a parent around to ask someone to pick up after themselves - and these were the rooms scheduled on the visit. But we were very impressed with how independent and happy everyone seemed to be doing their own thing, and excited they were to think they were almost done with their college career and ready to move on with life.

As I'm watching them search for a college, I'm sure you all remember what a big decision it is to make what to do after high school. I think a big piece of advice that helped me was to hear a parent say yes, it is a big decision, but it doesn't have to be the last decision. I hope that many of you are feeling good about where you are at this time, but remember if it isn't working out, there are lots of other choices to think about. Please remember we're praying for you and thinking about you lots and want to be here for you, when and if you need us.

This weekend I talked with my son, **John Stuckey**, and thought I'd update you on him. After 2 years at Coastal Carolina in South Carolina, he decided to come back to Ohio to finish off his hospitality management major at the Ashtabula branch of Kent State University. As much as he enjoyed the weather and atmosphere down south, he is getting a lot out of the smaller classes and enjoying being closer to friends and family around here. Although at this time of year, he says the commute from his Ashtabula home is something else over there in the snow belt! John hopes to secure an internship this summer and will plan to graduate in another year. When not in school, he's been waiting tables at a local restaurant and visiting his sister who lives around the corner from him now.

Have a good week and stay warm!!

Jan Stuckey,
Grade XIII Member

Youth Net Ministries

We meet every Wednesday evening at the church
for fellowship, mission, study, and worship.
Know that all are welcome, all are invited, all are apart...



Middle School meets every Wednesday from 6:00 to 7:00

Dinner every for everyone from 7:00 to 7:30

High School meets every Wednesday from 7:30 to 8:30

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| - 7 February | Arabica Night: Bring \$5 for drinks |
| 14 February | Prepare for Souper Bowl and Ash Wednesday Service |
| 21 February | Ash Wednesday Service |
| 28 February | Fellowship Night |

Special Announcements:

- * **Souper Bowl Luncheon**, Sunday, 18 February
- * **Remember to bring our dollars for Peter** -

Dr. K. Nicholas Yoda

Mobile: 440.258.0691

ONE THE CAMPAIGN
TO MAKE
POVERTY HISTORY



Full to Overflowing

That's what the CRS and Lorain County Lutheran/Presbyterian Co-op foyer boxes were at the end of January because of your caring generosity.

So often we take for granted the bounty on our tables at meal-time; but there are many in our area who worry about how they are going to feed their families each month and just what choices they have to make in order to stretch their dollars to do that. We know how much your sharing means to our neighbors in need.

February's focus will be on bringing in **nonperishable's, canned and packaged meats and fish such as tuna, salmon, beef, ham, shellfish, chicken, turkey, etc.**

Thank you for living out your discipleship through your giving.

Shirley Hook, for the Mission Committee



Lenten Materials for the Whole Family

Ash Wednesday falls on February 21st this year so beginning on Sunday February 11th there will be copies of Jesus in Jerusalem, Symbols of the Season, and Lenten Flash Cards available on the table in the foyer. These are great resources to use for special family time during this special time of year. Please help yourself to as many copies as you can use and have a blessed Lenten Season!

Arlene Strauch, DCE



2¢ -A- Meal and A Prayer Ingathering



Sunday, February 18 will be the next date for the 2 Cents a Meal and a Prayer Ingathering. This offering provides an opportunity to individuals and families to participate in a corporate response to world hunger. By contributing 2 cents per person at each meal, we are reminded, each time we eat, of the needs of others and our call to respond as Christians to their hunger. Daily participation is a reminder that hunger is a daily reality for millions of our sisters and brothers in the world. By doing these small acts regularly we can achieve results of significant response to hunger, considering also the strength that there is in working together with other Christians.

Here in ALPC more than \$7500.00 was collected in the past five years. Each time this offering is made, we have the opportunity to give thanks for what we have received, to remember those who hunger, and to pray for them, as in the example prayers that follow:

All we have comes from your hand, Dear Lord. You have given us life and work that provides the means for living. We thank you for this food and your loving kindness. Bless this home and those who sit around this table. Grant us peace of mind and joy of heart. Help us to love one another and to remember those who hunger and thirst. Bless our offerings that they may bring sustenance and your love to your children in need.

For food in a world where many walk in hunger, for faith in a world where many walk in fear, for friendship where many walk alone, we thank you, God.

Father, we thank you for this food we are about to eat, for every happy day, for trees and flowers, for sunshine and play, for our home in America, for our family, but most of all for You.

If any of you are not familiar with this program and are interested in participating, please ask any member of the mission committee for more information.

Felice Maiorca, for the Mission Committee

Prayer Tapestry for the Season of Lent

For the Season of Lent the Christian Education Committee would like to try something new in an effort to encourage spiritual growth. They will be hanging a prayer tapestry in the sanctuary every Sunday through Easter Sunday. During the week the tapestry will be hung in Room 2 so people will have a more private place to pray. The idea is that members of the congregation will weave into the tapestry a piece of yarn for every prayer they lift up. Plastic embroidery needles and different colored pieces of yarn will be available with the tapestry. There will be 7 different colors of heavy yarn representing the seven different types of prayers listed below.



There will also be information on what those prayers represent. The yarn should be woven in and out of the holes in the tapestry in a straight line which is very easy to do so people of all ages can contribute to the tapestry any time they are in the building: before, after, and in between worship services on Sunday morning; before and after evening meetings; or any time during office hours (8:00 – 4:00.) The church will also be open Thursday mornings at 7:30 for those who would like to get an earlier start.

In addition to encouraging individuals to come and pray the Christian Education Committee is also hoping that the different groups (Session, Deacons, Committees, Presbyterian Women, Together on Tuesday, Youth Net, etc.) will take a few minutes before or after their meetings during the Lenten season and contribute to the tapestry. We also would encourage you to add to the tapestry the prayers you have prayed at home. The 7 different types of prayer are: Prayer of Adoration, Prayer of Confession, Prayer of Petition, Prayer of Lament, Prayer of Intercession, Prayer of Thanksgiving, Prayer of Openness.

Arlene Strauch, Director of Christian Education

Trip To Greece

Michele Dallas, a member of our church and a teacher in Westlake, is taking a teacher-chaperoned educational **trip to Greece, June 14-25, 2007**. If you would like to be a part of the group or would like more information, please call Michele at 937-3355. There are also a few brochures on the table in the foyer that provide some information.

POST-
SUPPER BOWL OF CARINGSM
SUNDAY

**FEBRUARY 18TH
HART HALL @ NOON**

Come and support our youth-led effort
as they try to wipe out World
Hunger - one soup bowl at a time.
Enjoy a great homemade sandwich &
delicious bowl of soup.

Eat it here or take it to go!

♡ ♡ ♡ ♡ ♡ ♡
ALL DONATIONS WILL GO TO FEED THE HUNGRY
RIGHT HERE IN OUR AREA



Membership Class

2007

Meaning of Membership Classes

The Winter 2007 “Meaning of Membership” (MOM) workshop series is scheduled to take place on three Sundays, February 24th, March 4th and March 11th. The workshops are held from 10:35 am – noon. The MOM workshops are a way for people who are new to our church community to get to know us and each other.

Participation in the workshops does not mean you have to join, but we are always open to new members bringing their own perspectives and gifts to our church family. If YOU are interested in church membership or just want to know more about it, you are invited to call the church office at 933-6240 to reserve a seat at the Winter MOM workshops. New members will be received into our church family on Sunday, March 25, 2007.

Sue Scott, for the Membership Leadership Team

Together on Tuesdays

This Tuesday evening group meets at the church in room 2 from 7:00 – 9:00.

They just started viewing the video series What’s so Amazing about Grace and would like to invite anyone who wants to know more about God’s amazing Grace to join them

Arlene Strauch, DCE

Wednesday Family Night

February 7, 14, 28,
March 7, 14, 21, 28

It’s not too late to join us for food, fellowship, and new discoveries on Wednesday evenings. Dinner is served between 5:30 – 6:30 with adult studies and children’s activities beginning at 6:30. Come and join the fun!!

Arlene Strauch, DCE



Presbyterian Women

You are invited to join any one of these Circles at their February meeting:

- Circle of Friends** Tuesday, **February 6** at 7:30 pm in the church library
- Circle of SMILES** Tuesday, **February 6** at 7:00 pm at Susan Reighard's
- Care & Share** Tuesday, **February 13** at 12:30 pm at Athena's Restaurant for lunch
- Sarah Circle**..... Wednesday, **February 14**, at 7:00 pm at Sue Hurbanek's
- Circle of Hope** Thursday, **February 15**, at 9:30 am in the church library
- Ruth Circle** Tuesday, **February 20**, at 7:00 pm in the church library
- Serendipity Circle** Tuesday, **February 20** at 7:30 pm in the church office
- Circle of Love** Thursday, **February 22** at 7:30 pm at Joan Metzger's

- Presbyterian Women Board** **Thursday, February 15: Email meeting**

Kathy Leopold, Moderator, PW



Rummage Sale

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Call Kathleen Root, 930-2016,
if are able to help!

Coffee Servers

- Feb. 4** No coffee
- Feb. 11** The Mackie Family
- Feb. 18** Tom and Joan Metzger
- Feb. 25** TBA



**Kathy Hamilton schedules
our coffee servers.
Please call her to volunteer
(933-2511).**

Editor's Note

This is my last issue as editor of the church newsletter, *Saints Alive!* The task of the editor is to accept articles submitted for the newsletter, edit them for spelling, grammar and content. All of the articles are then arranged to fit into the layout of the page. Clip art is added for interest and to draw attention to the article.

When I was hired 27 years ago the newsletter was call “newsletter” and the church was the United Presbyterian Church. An old manual Royal typewriter and a ditto machine were the equipment of the day. Oh my, how the times have changed. When the age of the computer arrived at the church office in the form of a Macintosh computer, I thought I would never learn the process. But I had an enthusiastic high school youth, John Hendron, who was willing to teach me how to begin. It was a slow process but I finally was able to learn desktop publishing. The newsletter consisted of many different colored sheets of paper stapled together. In the late ‘80’s we ran a contest to “name the newsletter”. Shirley Taylor won the contest with her suggestion of *Saints Alive!*. When Rev. Jim Butler was our Interim, he encouraged me to try a new layout, using legal size paper to create the booklet form we use today.

Over the years I have always been very thankful for the folks who submitted their articles in a timely manner. You’ll be surprised to know that the pastors, past and present, have usually been late with their articles. Deadlines have always been on a Sunday; pastors begin to write on Monday!

The pages of the newsletter are collated by hand. Volunteers arrived on Friday morning of newsletter week to put the booklets together, label them, seal the edges with the round tabs, then count and bundle them for mailing. It requires 6 people, working about 2 hrs., to complete the task. I am forever thankful for our volunteers and their gift of service.

To those of you who read the newsletter religiously, merci! To those of you who find the errors, gracias! To those of you care about our church and its activities and want to read about the details listed in *Saints Alive!*, Thank You! You are the heart and soul of our church!

My plan is to retire as of February 2, 2007. I will still be a member of ALPC and plan

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Editor's Note, continued

to continue to take an active part in its life and service. However, I will be absent for the next four months so that I will not be in the way of the person who replaces me.

I hear there is a “retirement party” planned for Sunday, February 4, following worship. I look forward to seeing all of you there!

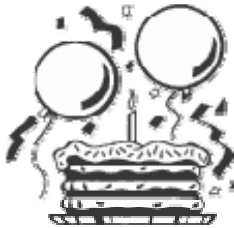
Thank you so much for the kindnesses and concern that you have shown to me over these many years. I now look forward to a time of retirement with joy and expectation and to the new direction that the Lord has in store for me.

Blessings and Peace,
Carol Nussle



February - Birthdays and *Anniversaries

1	Clair Ablorh-Odjidja Bob Ralston	15	Daniel Outcalt Brad Root
2 -	Gary Alshouse *Glen & Judith Heitkamp	17	David Brunner (South Point) Tracy Schwark
3 -	Tettehwayo Ablorh-Odjidja Dale Griffen Charlene Torgerson	18	Steve Dawe Mary Lou LaGrassa Tim Magyar Quinn Schwark
4			
5	Bev Brookshire Jeff Gorman	19	
6	Joe Dallas Adam Richardson	20	Kristen Haynal Michael Kotowski Melissa Stephenson
7	Eric Hansen Joyce Nicola Linda Schanz Allen Stiffler	21	Laura Francis Tony George, Jr. Evan Guerin Allison Ruffner Jeff Serbin
8			
9.		22	Nancy Albrecht
10	Janet Maurer Emilee Smith Josh St. Clair	23	Marcia Kalo Julia Vasu
11	John Dickey Jim Meador Anna Marie Schanz	24	
12	Dave Brunner (Carriage Lane)	25	Sharon Blair Christa Yoda
13	Beau Dansizen Joel Marcotte Madeline Weeden	26	Bob Coniam Catie and Cameron Corrigan Kaitlin Dansizen Curtis Fratianne Austin Spenser
14 -	Holly Dufala Whitney Selvage John Weeden	27	Gerald McBride Judy McCain
		28	*Mark & Pam Novak



Deacons Bench

**For All Members of Our Congregation,
Family, Friends and Neighbors**

Love Shrub: Sunday, February 11, 2007

For all those who have signed up, don't forget from February 1 through February 11, send your "secret valentine" notes or messages to let them know that they are being thought of while you receive messages from another person. On **Sunday, February 11, at 12:00 in Hart Hall**, we will provide all those who participated with a lunch and an opportunity to meet their "secret valentine."



A surprise valentine gift will be provided by the Deacons to all who participated. All age groups are encouraged to participate. Contact Cindi Dansizen (933-6240) or any Deacon for further information.



Pizza and Movie Night: Saturday, March 10, 2007

Mark your calendar for the Deacon's sponsored Pizza and Movie Night beginning at 6:00 pm. Check the Sunday bulletins in March for more information.

Easter Breakfast: Sunday, April 8, 2007

Plan to come to the Deacon's sponsored Easter Breakfast which will be held in Hart Hall at 10:00 am on Easter morning. Church services will be at 9:00 am and 11:00 am so all will be able to join in this important fellowship event.

Cindi Dansizen, for the Board of Deacons



Prayer Concerns



Ongoing/Long term concerns

Members:

Bev

Family/Friends:

Bill (Sue's father)

Helen

Living With Cancer

Members:

Juanita

Georgene

Carol

Bob

Serving in our

Armed Forces:

Members:

Matt and Jennifer Homer

Eric Hansen

Jeff Leopold

Jamie Waddell

Derek Fabry

Derek Weeden

Family/Friends:

Andrew Hansen (Jeff Hansen's brother)

Chris Conn (Marian Conn's son)

Ben Donberg (nephew of the Monjots),

Ian Houston, (a friend of the Simmons),

Kyle Reynolds (Lois Bayley's great nephew),

Bill Brown III (Sue Tompos' nephew),

Stephen Yoda, (Nicholas Yoda's brother),

Patrick Harris, (Betty Harris' grandson),

Robert Glover (Carol Egna's brother),

Brenda Reynolds (Sue Mabe's daughter)

Brandon Abrams (son of a co-worker of

Marian Conn)Brooke Janney (a friend of the

Kuraks) Ryan Tinsley and Kevin Tinsley

(Nancy McBride's grandsons)

More Prayer Concerns

Our Sympathy to . . .

Vickie Joyce, whose 93 yr. old uncle, Elden Zurcher, died January 24.



In the Mailbox . . .

Dear Friends,

I'd like to thank my wonderful church family for the cards, well wishes and visits during my open heart surgery ordeal. I'm feeling well and hope to see you all again soon.

Regards With Love
Melissa Stephenson

Sound Room Technicians

- Feb. 4** 9:30 Mike Richardson
11:00 Gary Uhl
- Feb. 11** 9:30 Lee Lohr
11:00 Tony George
- Feb. 18** 9:30 Paul Selvage
11:00 John Earley
- Feb. 25** 9:30 Gary Alshouse
11:00 Scott Seipel



Gary Alshouse (933-5337) schedules for the sound room. Call Gary if you are interested in being a part of the team.

Recent Concerns /Illnesses

Marilyn Damelio is recovering from hip replacement surgery on January 23rd.

Joy Harris fell and has a broken wrist.

Jim Meador is back at Bradley Bay following knee cap surgery several weeks ago.



Greeters



- Feb. 4** 9:30 The Stephens Family
11:00 Clair, Tettehwayo and Hana Odjidja

- Feb. 11** 9:30 Joe & Sally Bales
11:00 Mike & Cheryl Dean

- Feb. 18** 9:30 The Alshouse Family
11:00 The Bennett Family

- Feb. 25** 9:30 Don & Debbie Stueber
11:00 The Wittlinger Family

Sally Bennett schedules greeters.
Please call Sally to volunteer (933-9298)

Avon Lake Presbyterian Church
32340 Electric Blvd.
Avon Lake, OH 44012
Return Service Requested

Non Profit Organization
BULK RATE
U.S. Postage
Avon Lake, OH 44012
Permit No. 29

Sunday Worship Services
9:30 and 11:00 am
(440) 933-6240
www.avonlakepc.org

Pastor	Tom Robinson
Assoc. Pastor	Nicholas Yoda
Pastor Emeritus	Alfred A. Hart
Dir. of Music	Muriel Homer
Dir. of CE	Arlene Strauch
Treasurer	Marcy Uhl
Financial Secty	Sharon Pervo
Office Admin.	Cindi Dansizen
Housekeeping	Jill Ralston
Bldg. & Grounds	David Light