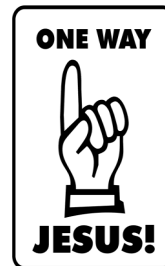




# News from the Pews

The Newsletter of the Lafayette United Methodist Church  
January 2nd 2011 Edition



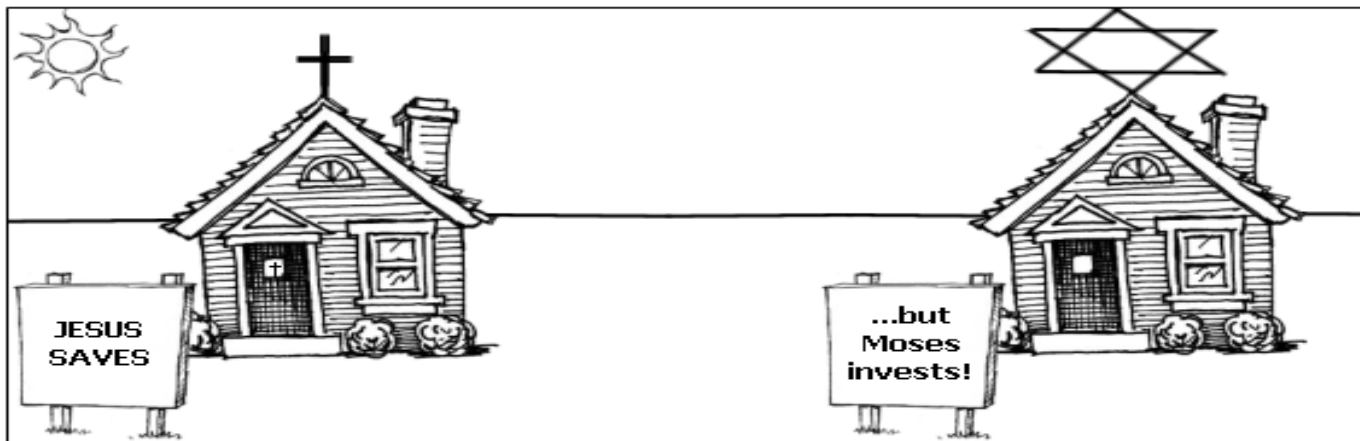
## NEWS FROM YOUR FINANCE COMMITTEE.....

Lafayette United Methodist Church has a **NEW TREASURER!** We would like to say "Thank you" to **Judie Kaufman** for taking on this position. Our Mortgage Loan is now \$3,250.00 down from \$4,007.00 previously. The original five year term on our loan was up, and the lowered interest rates in the economy, allowed our loan payment to be lowered.

You may remember the Auction of Time and Talent that was held in October....well, it was a **GREAT SUCCESS!!** We raised over \$1,100.00. These funds were used to help pay down some outstanding expenses.

During the last couple of months of 2010, Lafayette United Methodist Church was blessed with **anonymous donations** that have allowed us to pay down or pay off some other outstanding expenses. These items include **mowing and snowplowing, Fowler Electric {they service or heating and cooling equipment}** and last but not least, **repairing the silver refrigerator.** Thank you everyone for your contributions!

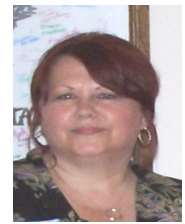
## A Church and a Synagogue by Eric Per1in



## For Ladies Only.....

A Bible study for Women will be starting Sunday mornings at 10:00. We will be studying a book by **Joyce Meyer.** (if you've never seen her preach on television you should try to catch one of her messages) The book we'll be studying is entitled, **THE BATTLE BELONGS TO THE LORD.** We will need to order books so please see **Linda Meliher** if you will be attending this **awesome** study that is strictly.....*For Ladies Only*

## What is Nurturing? By Bonnie Babcock



As I step into the position of Co-Director of Nurturing at Lafayette United Methodist Church along side Pam Oberholtzer, I wondered if anyone really KNEW what the goal of nurturing is within our church structure. Pam is over the Educational aspect of Nurturing, where as I will be trying to pull together all of the other aspects of Nurturing within our church walls as well as outside in our surrounding community. Nurturing is simply lifting up, encouraging one another Spiritually, physically and emotionally.....Helping one another on our journey as we grow more and more into the image of our Lord!!

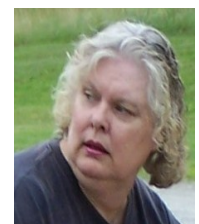
One of the goals we have is to make sure we are keeping the Spirit of Love alive within our congregation. This is where we all need to come together and communicate with one another. If there is a need within or outside of our church please make sure you make that need known. On the information table there will be a box entitled **GIVE A LITTLE LOVE**. If you see someone who is in need please drop a note there so we can respond. If you have an idea how we can help inside or outside the church drop that idea in there also. **WE NEED YOUR HELP** and **INPUT !!!**

We will be working on making the **RAPT IN COMFORT** blankets very, very soon. This requires **NO SEWING** and we will need **MANY HANDS** to help. These blankets will be given to the EMS squad and Fire Department to pass out to victims in need. I will be notifying you of the times we will be doing this by putting it in the bulletin. **PLEASE LOOK FOR IT !!**

It has been my honor to serve you as your Lay Leader for the past 2 years. It is my honor to serve you as Co-Director of Nurturing as well. Please contact me, if you want to personally share your ideas about nurturing. You can contact me by phone at 330-416-6906 or e-mail [bbabcock3@neo.rr.com](mailto:bbabcock3@neo.rr.com)

In **HIS LOVE** Always.....Bonnie Babcock

### **Mission Moments** From Ann Kenski



As the year draws to a close and a new one begins, a recap of the end of 2010 shows that with your help Outreach and/or Missions has been able to help many people in a variety of ways. We reached our goal of twenty shoeboxes for **Operation Christmas Child**; we were blessed with donations of money to offset the shopping costs (\$7.00 per box) and we were also able to purchase additional items to complete the boxes. Thanks to the wonderful contributions and excess in our supplies from our August School Supply Giveaway, we were able to add school supplies like crayons, markers and paper to the shoeboxes.

Our **Community Thanksgiving Dinner** in November served about 150 dinners (which was down somewhat from 2009) BUT, we were thankful that we had additional families from the surrounding community who came in to help with serving and cleanup that night. Lynette Broggni donated blankets, sheets and comforters and most of the items found "new homes" with some of the people and families attending the dinner. This "giveaway" may be done in 2011, we will keep you posted as time gets closer.

**Mission Moments ....cont'd** From the **Thanksgiving Dinner** we moved right into the **Christmas Season** and preparations of food baskets and/or gifts for families in need. We were able to give food baskets to nine families, seven of those families also received gifts for children. Of this group there were **THIRTY-NINE** children that were able to receive Christmas gifts **THEN** we received a call from the Oaks Family Care Center in Lodi; there were **TWELVE** additional children they had been unable to obtain gifts for. **YOUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS** either monetary or gifts allowed these children to have gifts for Christmas.

Words at times seem very inadequate, but on behalf of the Outreach Team, thank you Lafayette United Methodist Church family, community members and others that just volunteered to help with these projects. Without your love, help, support and **PRAYERS** we would not have been able to make the projects successful. **A BIG THANK YOU EVERYONE!**

As we enter 2011, Outreach already has some projects planned. The first will be a **CHILI COOK OFF**. It's back again so get those recipes dusted off and maybe try a new one out on the family. Also, everyone else needs to get their taste buds ready! The Chili Cook Off will be Sunday March 20th more details to come as we get closer to the date.

A more complete list of 2011 Outreach activities will be in the March "**News from the Pews**" Again thank you all for helping us reach out to others in need. Our Outreach team consists of **Lynette Broggin, Ruth Steirer, Jenni Beswick, Liz Wilson** and **Ann Kenski**. We can always use additional helping hands. If you have any questions or ideas feel free to contact us. Blessings to all and **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

**From The Pastor** By Pastor John Meliher I hope you and your families had a great birthday celebration together. I enjoyed the time with you Friday evening at our Christmas Eve service and birthday celebration for Jesus. I enjoy the times we are together. I know our Lord Jesus is very happy that His people gather in His name to praise and worship Him along with the connection in His Spirit in fellowship that we experience.



I know that He will guide you into the New Year and never leave. No matter what difficulties you might be facing, He wants you to trust Him completely to guide you through while providing for your every need.

Let's make 2011 a year that includes growing into maturity in Christ, becoming over comers of sin, building relationships, and standing up for Jesus in our community. Have a blessed New Year in Christ.

Pastor John

Make a "**New Years Resolution**" to join a small group at Lafayette UMC. **Cornerstone Connection** will meet January 16th. **Come and see what small groups are all about!**

**Attention Casserole Cooks (and eaters of great food)** The Women's Group at Lafayette UMC are hosting their first **Casserole Cook-off**, Sunday January 16th after the 11am service. Be on the lookout for info on this delicious event. Come if you want to cook or if you love to eat!!

## FROM YOUR LAY LEADER...BY JIM WILSON



Last night I was given the papers from the suggestion box in the Narthex. As Lay Leader it's a great way for me to find out how people in the church are thinking...or so I thought. There were six suggestions or I guess more to the point, opinions. Two, were signed "unknown" as if the writer of them doesn't know their own name. Both of these "suggestions" were unclear as to what the writer wanted. One said "Have more time for 15 minute bible study." Unknown also wrote "study (and an unprintable expletive) " So, to "Unknown," please contact me and let me know what you mean. Because I don't understand your suggestions. There was one from Hannah Osborn that said simply, "I love it here." Me too Hannah, thanks for the note. The other three weren't signed by anyone. They were however, much easier for me to understand than the notes from the mysterious "Unknown." They were notes that were **derogatory** maybe even **slanderous**. If the writer of these "so-called" suggestions had signed them I might even have talked to you in this article about the suggestions. But they weren't "constructive criticism. They were **cruel, mean** and the most "**un-Christian**" things I've read in a long time. So, let me remind you of a song from my youth..."We are **ONE** in the Spirit, We are **ONE** in the **LORD**. And we **PRAY** that all **UNI-TY** may one day be restored. We will work with each other we will work side by side. And will **GUARD EACH ONES DIGNITY** and **SAVE EACH ONES PRIDE**. We will walk **WITH EACH OTHER** we will walk hand in hand. And **TOGETHER** we'll spread the news that God is in our land. **AND THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS BY OUR LOVE, YES THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS BY OUR LOVE**. Please, let's try to keep these thoughts in mind as we write suggestions for the suggestion box in the future. Also, **PLEASE sign your name**. From now on, if we get a suggestion that doesn't have a name on it...we're going to look at it like this, **if you don't care enough about the suggestion to sign it. We aren't going to think you're serious about it**. For "Unknown" and the person who didn't sign the suggestions this time, let me offer this. Come and see me after church, at bluegrass, on Monday or Wednesday evening when I'm at the church, call me 330-242-3649 or 330-948-2566 or e-mail me jimwilson0428@gmail.com I'd like to find out where you're coming from and how we can help. In the future **let us show we are Christians by our love**.

In the name of our Savior Jesus Christ,

Jim Wilson

Lay Leader

### **Moses and the Red Sea Battle..**

Nine-year-old Joey was asked by his mother what he had learned in Sunday School . 'Well, Mom, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt .. When he got to the Red Sea , he had his army build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then he radioed headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved.' 'Now, Joey, is that really what your teacher taught you?' his Mother asked. 'Well, no, Mom. But, if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!'