

May 2009

Happy



Mother's Day

Church Staff

Pastor: Evan Lash

Director of Music Ministries: Rose Marie Dure

Coordinator of Children & Family Ministries: Robin Podell

Secretary: Sharon Daniels—Receptionist: Becky Read

Housekeepers: Phyllis Jones & Pam Braddy

Maintenance: Michael Warner

Discovery Days Preschool Staff

Dorothy Cahill, Shawn Cothran, Kyleen Fuller,

Jaunda Kneller, Melissa Newland, Shae Taylor

calendar



I have always thought of May as the month of hope. The trees, the flowers, the birds, the sky, even the wind - all speak of hope. Give hope a chance in your life. Share hope with others.

**"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer . . ."** Romans 12:12

**"Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."** 1 Corinthians 13:7

**"For two years, Berenice and family faithfully cared for her mother, also named Berenice, after she was diagnosed with cancer and a form of dementia similar to Alzheimer's disease. At first, it was difficult, but there were bright moments. Our church organized a "Bridge" club so she could enjoy her favorite pastime. Her moments of forgetfulness and mood swings were endured as a phase of her disease.**

**Over the last 12 months, her mother's condition slowly worsened. Even the "Bridge" outings had to be canceled. As the cancer spread, the dementia took its toll on everyone as Berenice's mother became increasingly frustrated, suspicious and moody. Often in this situation, mother becomes child: rebellious and argumentative. Yet, throughout the whole ordeal, Berenice continued to lovingly care for her. It wasn't easy. Occasionally, Berenice would retreat to the church to pray, to think and to cry.**

*(Continued on page 4)*

Then, Berenice's mother had a stroke and was admitted to the hospital. By this time, she no longer recognized anyone, and her occasional conversations could more accurately be described as incoherent ramblings. But she was also waving her arms more and at times even looked like she was holding an imaginary pen and attempting to write something. Honestly, no one thought anything of it.

An alert nurse noticed the gestures and suggested that Berenice put a pen in her hand and place a sheet of paper underneath. "I thought it was silly," Berenice told me later, but reluctantly followed the nurse's instructions. Berenice's mother paused for a moment, and then she began to slowly and deliberately write three extraordinary words: "I love you." Four days later, she passed away.

In one special moment, Berenice's two-year-long struggle was made worthwhile by a miracle of love. Berenice and her family will always treasure that single piece of paper.



From-Larry Davies, "A miracle of hope in the midst of strife," Sowing Seeds of Faith, August 7, 2002, [sowseeds@nesbeonline.com](mailto:sowseeds@nesbeonline.com).

The UMW is in the process of rejuvenating the library. Seed money has been set aside to purchase books on the 2009 book list in the areas of Education for Mission, Spiritual Growth, Social Action, and Nurturing for Community to get our library going. If you would like to help by purchasing a **book in someone's name, most books on the list** cost around \$15. You may make checks payable to **UMW, with "Library" and the person's name on the** memo line. These can be placed in the Sunday collection or brought to the church office anytime. If **you would like to recommend a book you've read** that has been particularly meaningful to you or have any questions about the UMW Reading Program, please ask Sharon Rudnick or Barb Jackson. The Reading Program also includes books for children and youth. We welcome all church members to investigate the library and borrow these books as our collection grows.





## You're Invited!

The Wesley Ann Circle invites you to come hear more about the Lucille Raines Residence in Indianapolis. This is a 3/4 house for persons recovering from substance abuse that is a ministry of the United Methodist Women in Indiana. Barbara Jackson will show one of the DVD presentations she has created for them and answer your questions. Please **bring an item for the LRR "bathtub" ministry.** They are always in need of personal items (shampoo, deodorant, disposable razors, shaving cream, bath soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, body lotion and/or powder, etc.), inexpensive shower liners, paper products, (toilet paper, tissues, napkins), laundry supplies, and groceries (peanut butter, jelly, instant coffee, hot chocolate, teabags). Lucinda pins will be available for sale (also at the worship services on May 17) for \$16 each. If you think you might be coming, please RSVP to the church office by May 8 to help us plan for refreshments. Hope to see you there!



*United Methodist Women's  
Ministry*

# THANK YOU!

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Dear Church Family,  
John and I would like to express to all of you, our sincere appreciation for all your prayers, cards, visits, and phone calls expressing your concern.

A special thanks to Pastor Lash for being there before John went to surgery for a prayer.

John is at home, and is recuperating nicely. We have been truly blessed. We are looking forward to when we can return to church, and thank you all personally.

Sincerely,  
John & Betty Kolar

First United Methodist Church,  
The members of the La Porte Service League thank you for allowing us to rehearse our 2009 play in your church. The school children always enjoy our annual play. The use of Friendship Hall was greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,  
Claudia Winter, President

Thank you for the tulips. It is a beautiful plant, and a real day brightener!

Joe Brush

To the Methodist Women that provided the luncheon **for Norman Lenick's funeral,**

During a time like this we realize how much our friends and relatives really **mean to us... your expression** of sympathy will always be remembered by the Norman Lenick Family, Evelyn, Lorie & Dorothy

The Family of Charles Nye would like to express their appreciation for all the love and kindness shown them during our sadness.

Also, a big thank you to Pastor Evan, Pastor Laue & Roger Singleton for being there for me.

Charles and I loved our church and all the members. Charles was the greatest. Thanks again.

Vivian & Family

## All in our Church Family Life

We celebrate the  
birth of  
Carly Grace,  
daughter of Gary &  
Robin Jones and baby  
sister of Carter  
on March 25

We celebrate the  
baptism of  
Meg Ellen Kaiser  
daughter of Kevin &  
Stephanie Kaiser  
and  
Melissa Anne Britton,  
daughter of Ken & June  
Britton, on April 5

We celebrate the  
lives triumphant of  
Betty Dmitras  
who died on April 10  
and  
Charles Nye  
who died on April 18

We gratefully  
acknowledge the  
following gifts

In Memory of  
Norman Lenick  
Larry Smith, Allen &  
Marilyn Hill, Daniel & Stacy  
Wert, Harold & Judi  
Rosenow, Donn & Beverly  
Kelver, Richard & Gerald-  
ine Henning, Roy & Jane  
Langford, Evelyn Lenick &  
Family

In Memory of  
Betty Dmitras  
Tim & Sharon Daniels,  
Connie Shaw, Becky  
Read, Tim & Sharon  
Welty, Jean Caddy, Bob  
Kolodziejewski, Marian  
Lehker, Karen Stone,  
Richard & Pamela  
Kievert, Wilbur & Mary  
Eggert

In Memory of  
Charles Nye  
Joyce Cooper, Jack &

*(Continued on page 19)*



We can hardly believe another school year is about to end. **Mrs. Taylor's and Mrs. Cothran's** Pre-K and afternoon class learned about families and moms during the month of April. **Mrs. Cahill's and Mrs. Fuller's** 2 year old and 3 year old classes learned about frogs, oceans and moms. In April we went on our spring field trip to Dance Tech and had a great time learning different kinds of movement. At the end of the month we celebrated our moms by having a special snack, story and songs.

In May we will learn about plants, gardens and the great outdoors. We will finish our school year by having an outdoor day with activities and ice cream! We hope the weather will cooperate.

We are still taking enrollment for our 2 day a week 2 year old program and our 3 day a week 3 year old program. Our afternoon mixed Pre-K and 3 year old class also has openings. Please tell your friends and neighbors about your preschool!

We would like to thank all those who have been so supportive of our school this year!

Jaunda Kneller & the Discovery Days Staff

La Porte County has 11%+ unemployment. People have lost jobs and/ or houses. We are not just talking about adults but also children. These people that live in the midst of us do not have that most basic of all needs, food. More than ever, we need to support the work of the La Porte Food Pantry.

Many of you bring in groceries from time to time to help feed the hungry. But there are always needs beyond the canned goods and other staple food items which are gathered. Money is needed to purchase milk and fresh meat items to supplement the staple food items which are gathered and given to needy families.



**Mission  
Giving**

During the summer months we often forget that the needs continue even when we are not reminded of them as much as we are at Thanksgiving and Christmas. We urge your support of our Bread Pan Offering on May 19 so that our ministry to the La Porte community may continue during the summer months.

I  Mom



**"Go Fly a Kite! Ascension Celebration!"**: Remember Christ's Ascension by flying a kite! Meet at Kesling Field; off 18<sup>th</sup>. Street, by La Porte Missionary Church: **Sunday, May 17, at Noon!** "Let's go fly a kite, up to the highest heights....." Bring a blanket and lunch!

**Pentecost Picnic!** Come and Celebrate the Church's Birthday with us on Sunday, May 31 at Noon in Friendship Hall! Remember to wear RED and please bring a side dish! Drinks and **meat will be provided. We'll join together in one voice; one church----with a "Hymn Sing!"**



**"Crocodile Dock!"**-  
**Vacation Bible School**  
Held at La Porte First Church of God, June 8-11! Activities will be held from 5:00-8:00. Dinner is provided! Our first V.B.S. meeting is February 17, at 6:30. **If you feel called to "Help Fearless Kids Shine God's Light!"**

please call Robin.

**God bless and enjoy Christ's seasons!**



## Wellness Committee

The mission statement for the YMCA is "To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build a healthy spirit, mind and body for all". That statement sounds a lot like what the church's mission is also.

In His time on earth, Jesus cast out demons, touched blind eyes, and gave encouragement. These acts healed minds, bodies and spirits. He did this to show **God's power and love, and to bring healing and wholeness into their lives.** It also showed that change required action and faith.

To have healthy, whole lives we too need an active faith to cooperate with God. In the area of physical health, an individual can do much to improve their own situation.

The Wellness Committee has offered various classes to inform and encourage you. In future issues of the Tower Talk we will encourage you to continue to take an active role in your own well being.

As the American Heritage dictionary explains wellness, **"The condition of good physical and mental health, especially when maintained by proper diet and exercise."** We look forward to sharing information to help increase your own personal wellness!



## Honoring Our Veterans

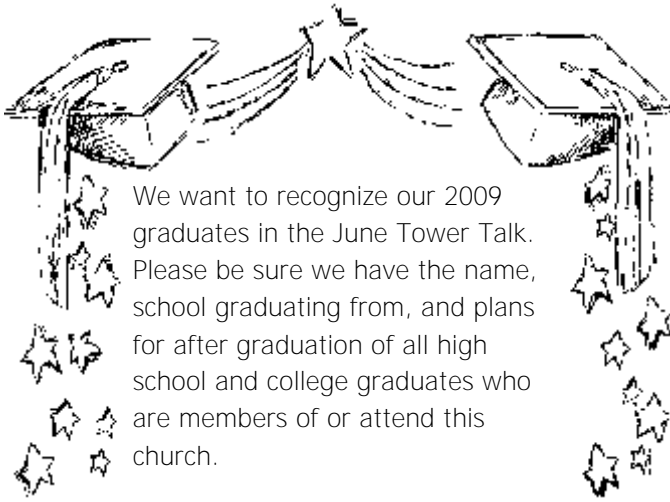
A bulletin board display will be created to honor all the men and women of our church family who have served or are currently serving in any branch of the armed services. We ask all these persons or a member of their family to submit a military photo that was

taken during their time of service. These photos will be returned. Please include on a separate paper the name, rank, branch of service, dates of service, etc.

We plan to have this display ready by Memorial Day. Please get the photos and information to us as soon as possible. If you know of one of our veterans who is homebound or who has recently died, **please get a photo and the information to us. Let's** give our veterans the thanks and recognition they deserve.

All photos and information may be turned in to the office.



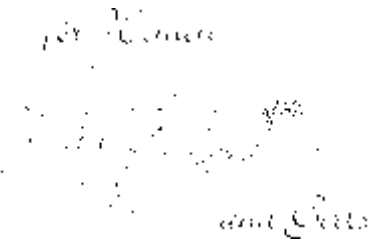


We want to recognize our 2009 graduates in the June Tower Talk. Please be sure we have the name, school graduating from, and plans for after graduation of all high school and college graduates who are members of or attend this church.

## *May Banquet*

*Friday, May 8th at 6:00 p.m. is our May Banquet. Please make your reservation by*

*May 5th in the church office. If you don't have a daughter, "adopt" a friend to bring to the banquet.*



In honor of **Mother's Day**, I want to share some



words with you regarding parenting. I share a lot of similar concerns with the author, Rebecca Hagelin. She has recently written a book entitled *Home Invasion: Protecting Your Family in a Culture That's Gone Stark Raving Mad*. The following words are from a speech she gave at Hillsdale College on March 6, 2006. They are good food for thought for all of us.

**"The greatest gift we can give our children is to teach them that there is a God that loves them; that He knows their names, and knows how many hairs are on their heads. They must know that God created them as unique individuals, in His image, with unique contributions only they can make to their fellow men. We must teach them the two greatest commandments: to love God with all their hearts and to love others as they love themselves. And we must teach them to tell truth from lies, good from evil.**

We should remember that it is adults who create pornographic Web sites and spam our children's inboxes with pornographic e-mail; adults who design and build trashy billboards and run topless bars; adults who design thongs for ten-year-olds; adults who create MTV programming and own the record labels and publish trashy teen romance novels. In other words, our battle

is not with our children, but with adults who hold a corrupt view of the purpose of life.

Please hear my heart on this matter: Modern technology is not the enemy. I believe that modern technology has the potential to be a great liberator of families, allowing more parents to spend more time working from home. My goodness, the world is at our children's fingertips, enabling them to access information and do research in minutes that used to take hours to complete, but there are a lot of people who use this technology for harm, too. We must harness the good and tiller out the bad.

I wrote *Home Invasion* as a wake up call to parents and as a handbook for how to take back their homes. I didn't want just to talk about our societal problems; I wanted to provide resources to help people fight back. So it lists counseling organizations that can help if someone in the family is addicted to pornography; resources on educational choices; information about controlling Internet infiltration; and research on the tremendous impact that simple acts like having family meals together can have on children.

Probably the single greatest safety act you can perform today is to download an Internet filter. The one I use takes a few minutes and a few keystrokes to download, and costs about 50 bucks a year. As far as

**A**s a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you.  
— Isaiah 66:13



the television, don't throw it out; just monitor how it is used. If you subscribe to digital cable television, you can obtain parental controls at no charge by contacting your local cable provider. What about the movies your kids see or rent at the video store? Be smart. Check out movie reviews written by people who share your concern for decency. Internet sites such as [plugged-online.com](http://plugged-online.com) are excellent tools in this regard.

There are several practical resources available to help us make wise choices for our kids, but the best tool we can use is our expression of our love for them as people. And sometimes, that commitment is difficult. I know what it's like to have my 13-year-old daughter look at me with tears streaming down her face and **say, 'But Mom, all my friends are going to that movie.'** It rips my heart out. But in those moments, I sit Kristin down and I say, **'You know what, Kristin? God made me your mom, and I love you more than anybody else in the world could possibly love you. I have to do what I think is best for you. Please allow me to be your Mom, allow me to love you, allow me to protect you the best way I know how. I might make mistakes, but as long as there is breath in me, I will be here for you.'** And then, we always find something else to do that's fun for her. Those situations could easily turn into ugly scenes **where I scream, 'No, you're not going to that movie and I don't care what you say! Go to your room!'** Or they can turn into moments where I





**Thanks  
Mom!**

give in, too tired to fight another battle, sending my daughter off with the message that standards only apply when I'm not worn out. Instead, when I remember that I'm the one who is supposed to model love, forgiveness and integrity, those situations turn into wonderful bonding moments that we both cherish, and that children desperately crave.

We must remember that our kids want us to be involved in their lives. They don't really want or need another gadget or the hottest video game. What they really want is more time with Mom and Dad. They need us desperately, not to build walls around them that shut them off from the world, but to build within them a moral compass that will guide them when they go out into the world each day. Not only will they be spared much harm having this compass, but they will succeed better as adults. And maybe, just maybe, if enough of us commit now to taking back our homes, there will one day be enough adults to reclaim our culture."



**You're Invited!**

*(Continued from page 8)*

Betty Trickler, Bill & Sandy Burkhardt, Gene & Marilyn Burrows, Tim & Sharon Welty, Jim & Pamela Fleming, Bruce & Patricia Robel, George & Delores Games, Lorraine & Ted Stupar, Stanley & Katherine Small, Dick & Gladys Rupnow, John & Bettye Kolar, Edwin & Alice Mueller, Arlene & Jim Hacker, Frank & Rose Mary Wheeler, Eileen Dankert,

Terry & Jerry Adrian, John & Virginia Taylor, Charles & Eileen Schoenborn, Mayme & Perry Stump, Carol Lee, Ron & Phyllis Miller, Ronald & Phyllis Kimmel, Ray & Pat Harder

In Celebration of  
**Bill & Sandy Burkhardt's**  
50th Anniversary  
Ron & Phyllis Miller

## United Methodist Women at a glance...

On April 11, Betty Dmitras passed away, just 15 days before her 91st birthday. Betty was always active, still working for her church in any way she could. Lately she was helping with Tower Talk, mailings, weekly bulletins, and our prayer chain. We will miss you, Betty.

MEMBERSHIP AND OUTREACH

Co-Chairpersons

Millie Condon and Alberta Tolton

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

## Wellness Committee Report

The Wellness Committee met on April 1, 2009. The vascular screening provided at the church by The Heart Cart from La Porte Regional Health Center on March 21st was a success. These services will be offered again in the fall.



A big thank you goes to Claudia Weiler for donating a stethoscope and blood pressure cuff to the church. It is kept in the main office in a bright orange case. We do appreciate your kindness.

The annual church picnic will be again sponsored by The Wellness Committee, on Sept. 13th, at Cummins Lodge. The Wellness Committee agreed to sponsor and support Jennifer Casper if she establishes a support and nutritional information program for parents of ADD and ADHD children.



**Becky Zurawski will be providing health "tips" in Tower Talk. Becky also suggested a "light" exercise program, next fall, at the church.** The Wellness Committee is considering this suggestion and would welcome congregation comments.

The next meeting of the Wellness Committee will be on May 6th at 6:30 p.m.

# *HAPPY MAY BIRTHDAYS*

2. Greta Friedman, Bob Kooyenga, Clarence Rolliason
3. Tom Blanton, Mary Craft
4. Shaw Friedman, Betty Woods
6. Sandy Burkhart
7. Marian Lehker
8. Angie Baugher
9. Kira Childress
10. Brian Dragos, Kyle Gould, Jane Langford
11. Nancy Day, Hannah Harrison
12. **Ed O'Dell**
13. Ben Huff, Brendon Smurdon
14. Daniel Karagory
15. Larry Dunbar
16. Helen Disler
17. Jay Kelley
18. Brad Foldenauer, Alex Friedman
19. John Woods
21. Mary Christ
22. Diane Surma
24. Bettye Kolar
25. Olivia Hubble
28. Sue Kuchel, Ruth Soetje
30. Diane Graham, Dean Runkle
31. Justin DeCamp, Gordon Kuchel, Phyllis Miller



## USHERS THIS MONTH

8:00— Gordon Kuchel, Pete Luther, Jack Miller,  
Dick Ulam, Bob Caldwell

10:30—John Kolar, Leona Collins, David McCain,  
Perry Stump, Craig Keson

HOSTESS COMMITTEE: Linda Adaschik, Martha Brady, Carole Buettner, Teri Burkhart, Millie Condon, Joyce Cooper, Nancy Day, Lori Dowty, Maxine Eggert, Cathy Eldridge, Lois Eversman, Rosie Flitter, Margaret Howes, Pam Huff, Jan Ladewski, Dana Lee, Pat Legner, Toni Lux, Mary Reel, Connie Shaw, Joanne Thornburg

## FLOWER CALENDAR:

May 3	Bowers
10	Available
17	Available
24	Available
31	Kuchel & Terry

Year to date average attendance: 310

Year to date general budget income: \$146,701.87

Year to date general budget expense: \$120,910.58



calendar

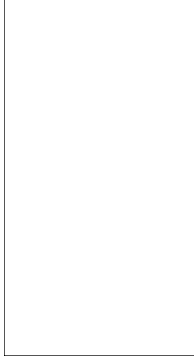
**First United Methodist Church**

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[www.laportefumc.org](http://www.laportefumc.org)  
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**SUNDAY SERVICES**

8:00 - Chapel Service  
9:00 – Contemporary Service  
10:30 - Sanctuary Service



**OFFICE HOURS**  
Monday - Friday  
8:00 to 4:00

Sharing Christ's Love