

Elmer United Methodist Church



CHURCH OFFICE AND PETER'S PANTRY - 358-0135

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DAVID REPENNING, PASTOR

Date: FEBRUARY 2013

**Pastor's
Corner**

Dear Friends,



For the past 3 and a half weeks I have been on Renewal Leave: a time apart from our congregation and the daily worries of things in Elmer. My time included a 19 day trip to Haiti. I stayed with Richard and Beverly Felmey of Feed My Sheep Ministries. They have been ministering in Mountrouis (pronounced Mow Wee) for the past 10 years and visit us every year in July to update us on the ministry. I went with open expectations of what I would experience and how I would be serving. My first couple of days were spent with my wife Barb, son Andy, Leah Bucolo, Katie Dilks, Valarie Lazowski, and a medical team from churches in Florida. We ran medical clinics with Dr. Voltay from Haiti. We saw a lot of people and the dentist with us pulled about 200 teeth in three days. My job became boiling water to sterilize his tools. It also gave me an opportunity to meet and pray for people. Everyone on the team returned home on Monday - then began my 2 weeks of living in Mountrouis with the Felmey's.

During this time I saw a lot of what Beverly and Richard do and how life works on a day to day basis for the people of Mountrouis. I spent time with the churches and schools we support through our missions and communion offerings. I had the opportunity to share messages 7 times, worship in 4 different churches, and pray for 6 pastors and one young man preparing for the pastorate. Where possible, I also prayed for the wives and families of these men.

As Richard took me around to different places I found that many parts of normal life in Haiti are quite primitive. Indoor plumbing and electricity is rare. Outhouses are the norm and all clothes are washed by hand in large bowls. Most of the clothes are washed on the edge of a ditch with water from the ditch. Life is fragile and many of the people I met were poorly nourished and sick without health care. One older lady, Zean, was hit by a motorcycle while coming home from taking her grandson to school. Richard needed to send money to the hospital before they would treat her. She was unconscious for 3 days, and stayed another two days.

Despite the poverty and difficulties in Haiti, my extended visit helped me to understand how things used to be and what great things have been accomplished over the past 10 years. The two schools we support through sponsorships and other gifts serve over 1200 students.

Pastor Mario's Church has grown from 20 to about 150 people in the last 5 years. He is the pastor we support with our monthly communion offering. Leah Bucolo's heart was touched to start raising funds for desks/benches so Pastor Dor's church can start a school in a community that has no schools. Already enough money has been raised and metal supports for 10 benches have been ordered and paid for. Ten benches can make a school for up to 100 kids. Some of the other changes in Haiti include: people are more modest in their dress, more clean water is available, livestock is regularly dewormed, literacy has increased, and most new constructions are done with cinderblocks instead of sticks and mud. In addition to all of this I met many people whose lives are being changed by their walk with the Lord and their growing faith. I specifically met one person who used to be a witch doctor and now has turned from that life and accepted Jesus as her Lord and Savior. While I was there, she helped us arrange housing for a homeless mother and two children. Isaiah describes what this area is like, as he writes about the renewal of Jerusalem: (42:9) "See, the former things have taken place, and new things I declare. (43:19) I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up: do you not see it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland."

Many different groups and people are contributing to the new things happening in Haiti. Likewise at home I see new things happening in our lives. They are not as obvious as the clean water and education, or the conversion from witchcraft to Christianity, but we too are being renewed. We need to look and share the good things that are happening every day. And to give God praise for the ways He is working.

In the next weeks our congregation will be experiencing a time for prayer, study and renewal. We begin with a special service on Ash Wednesday, February 13 at the Elmer Presbyterian Church. On Sunday February 17, Rev. Steve Seamands will be leading us in a series of services entitled "Encounters with Jesus" I pray and I ask you to pray that this will be a time of renewal for all of us and that we will see the growth that comes when the Holy Spirit can engage and empower us. The schedule of these events is enclosed and will be posted around town. They are designed to bring our entire community closer to Christ. Steve will be here from Sunday February 17 to Tuesday February 19. On Wednesday February 20 we will have a follow up dinner and begin a 6 week series of small group meetings. Small groups are a place to ask questions, receive support and deepen your walk even more. I hope all of us will be able to fit into some phase of this spiritual renewal time.

Perhaps we will be able to look back on the winter of 2013 not for its snow storms, but for the spiritual awakening that will happen. May God bless you as you grow with me in the Lord.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Dave Repenning

<u>Attendance:</u>	<u>Early Service</u>	<u>Morning Worship</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>
Jan 6	34	122	32
Jan 13	20	138	40
Jan 20	20	110	29
Jan 27	26	103	29

<u>Stewardship:</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>S.School</u>
Jan 6	\$3,740.00	\$445.00	\$65.75
Jan 13	\$4,361.50	\$421.00	\$51.25
Jan 20	\$4,366.33	\$928.00	\$20.75
Jan 27	\$3,554.85	\$422.00	\$26.50



**February Birthdays
Happy Birthday to All!!**



2nd	Evan Nolan & Mike Kortonick
3rd	Elaine Masters
4th	Dodie Collins & Dawn Montero
5th	Julie Wriggins
8th	Katie Cooke, Ed Fuller, III & Jessica Mottola
9th	Jillian Wriggins
10th	Luke Stemberger & Cyndi Nolan
11th	Diane Riddle
12th	Ed Pitman & Terry Both, III
13th	Brooke Fuller
14th	Brandie Wriggins
15th	Madison Brown & Keely Milligan
17th	Cheyenne Riddle, Linda Jiménez & Tyler Irelan
18th	Dominic Hall
19th	Drew Dilks & Herb Stiles
22nd	David Bramell, Marc Adams & Delaney Chapman
23rd	Doug Cooper
24th	Bette Ann Kulig & Joe Hall
25th	Ethel Dodge, Kathy Laury, Evan Pike & Todd Batten, Jr.
26th	Samuel Atkinson
27th	Bryce Priggemeier, Jr.

Treatment for acute bronchitis can be prescribed antihistamines, bronchodilators, corticosteroids, decongestants, and expectorants. Patients are treated with bed rest, increased fluid intake, meds to lower the fever, meds for discomfort, and chest x-rays to check for pneumonia. Antibiotics are given when needed. Vaporizers may be used to decrease bronchial irritation.

Treatment for chronic bronchitis includes respiratory therapy, support from the family, need to increase fluids. Schedule small, frequent high-protein meals, good oral hygiene, and maintain muscle strength by continuing to exercise, but pace activities to avoid fatigue. Watch for signs of heart failure. i.e. distended neck veins. A smoker is 4-10 times more likely to have chronic bronchitis. Cigarette smoke interferes with the movement of cilia, and inhibits the activity of white blood cells. The changes in the respiratory epithelium may increase the risk of lung cancer. You will likely be in close touch with your physician who will explain as needed. It is possible you will need assistance to quit smoking.

"If God be for us, who can be against us?" Romans 8:31

This information is taken from the Mayo Clinic, also Taber's Cyclopedic Medical Dictionary.

Bonnie Kanady, RN

WEDNESDAY NITE OWWT

As we experience the harsh, cold winter, let's remember the abandoned pets and strays at our local animal shelters. The shelters are experiencing serious needs due to the increase in animals they are caring for. Wednesday Nite Owwt is adopting animal shelters in the area.

Can you help by donating old/used blankets, comforters, towels, rugs or heating pads? The following items are desperately needed:

Cleaning Supplies

Anti-bacterial hand soap (any type)
Spray bottles (16 oz-22 oz)
Bleach
Dishwasher detergent (powder only)
Laundry detergent

Food Items

NO rawhide bones!
Canned cat food with pull tops
Guinea, hamster, ferret & gerbil food
Iguana food
Dog & cat treats
Wild bird seed

Miscellaneous

Old Newspapers
Clothesline & pins (clip kind)
Paper towels

Grooming

Clippers for dog & cat hair
Nail clippers for cats & dogs
NO FLEA/ TICK PRODUCTS
Lint Brushes (disposable)

Animal Supplies

Safe dog and cat toys
Rubber dog toys
Catnip toys
Kitty litter



8 X 10 tarp
AA batteries

A COLLECTION BOX for items will be located in the Sunday School area in Fellowship Hall, at the back of the Sanctuary and at the Hangar.

Should you have any questions, please call Linda Thomas at 856-881-2631.



HEALTHCARE MINISTRIES: BRONCHITIS

Bronchitis is an inflammation of the lining of your bronchial tubes, which carry air to and from your lungs. Bronchitis may be either acute or chronic. Acute Bronchitis often develops from a cold or the flu: Type A or B, or other respiratory infection, and is very common. Have you had your flu shot? Acute bronchitis usually improves within a few days, although you may cough for weeks. Symptoms may also include fatigue, fever and chills, and chest discomfort.

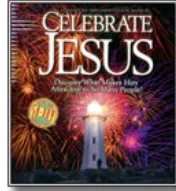
Chronic bronchitis is more serious and is from a constant irritation or inflammation of the lining of the bronchial tubes, often due to smoking or air pollution. Dust or toxic gases in the environment can contribute to the condition. Chronic bronchitis requires medical attention. See your doctor if your cough lasts more than three weeks, prevents you from sleeping, is accompanied by fever over 100.4F, produces discolored mucus, produces blood, or is associated with wheezing or shortness of breath.

The Audit Committee is requesting that all

bank books be turned into the church office **as soon as possible**. The checkbooks are all that is needed. It is necessary that **ALL** books be reviewed to maintain our non-profit status.

The audit is for 1/1/12 to 12/31/12. Thank you

Renewal Services
with Rev. Steve Seamands



Sunday Feb. 17

8:30 & 10am Morning Worship
11:15am Sunday School
12:30pm Welcome Soup & Sandwich Luncheon
5pm Meet with youth and have supper with Mike Chapman from Aldine UMC speaking
7pm Evening Service with Rev. Seamands and the Aldine Praise & Worship Team

Monday Feb. 18

12pm Tea hosted by Mary Lou Timberman with devotions by Rev. Seamands in the Fellowship Hall
7pm Evening Service Family Night with Rev. Seamands and the Aldine Praise & Worship Team

Tuesday Feb 19

6:30am Women's Prayer Breakfast at Kountry Kitchen – Devotions with Rev. Seamands
7pm Closing Service with Rev. Seamands and the Aldine Praise & Worship Team

Wednesday, February 20th

6am Men's Prayer Breakfast at Kountry Kitchen
5:30pm Follow up Dinner and Prayer meeting

**SMALL GROUP MEETINGS
BEGIN ON VARIOUS DAYS DURING THE WEEK.
SCHEDULE TO FOLLOW.**

Lenten Fellowship Dinners & Bible Studies

Beginning Wednesday, February 20th through March 27th (the Lenten season) we will be having a fellowship supper each Wednesday evening at 5:30pm. **We are asking for volunteers to organize a dinner for each Wednesday.** If interested, please contact Pat Hall (358-3177).

Hosts and Study Leaders

We would also like to set up small group studies for all adult ages to meet each week for the 6 weeks of the Lenten season. The groups (8-10 people) will meet for about an hour and a half for a DVD segment and discussion with Bible study. The host has the option of serving light refreshments which may be coordinated with your individual group. **If you would be interested in hosting a group in your home or would be willing to lead the study in someone else's home, please contact Leah Bucolo. 856-247-8828.**

Youth Schedule

♡ **Middlers** ♡
Baking Valentines

6:30pm Wednesday, February 13th

Meet at the Church

They will be distributed with the Soup ministry on Thursday.

Junior/Senior High

Midwinter Advance - Kewsick

Friday-Sunday, Feb. 8-10th

Supper with Mike Chapman, Aldine UMC

speaking as part of the Renewal Services weekend with Rev. Steve Seamands

5pm Sunday, Feb. 17th

In the Fellowship Hall

Annual Youth Fundraising Day

Benefits all youth groups

Yard Sale Preview

6:30-8:30pm Friday, February 15th

Yard, Sub & Soup Sale

9am-12noon Saturday, February 16th

If you would be willing to make soup for the sale please contact Kathy Laury (358-6019 or kathylaury@comcast.net). Soup will be available for purchase when you pick up your subs or visit the yard sale on Saturday.

To order subs: contact Donna Stemberger 358-2509 or dkstembug@yahoo.com. **\$6 each**

Donations of yard sale items may be brought to the church and left in the Fellowship Hall any time after Sunday, Feb. 10th.

EASTER BAKE SALE

Benefits the Music Ministry

Banana Bread (plain) \$6.00

Banana Bread w/Walnuts \$7.00

Coconut Muffins (1/2 Doz) \$6.00

To order, please contact Todd Chapman

692-5816 or topcat1369@comcast.net

Pick-up Date: Sunday, March 24, 2013

