

January 8, 2007

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www.umche.org

Homeschool Helper

the Newsletter of the Upper Michigan Christian Home Educators

A Note from Jim & Lonny

“Of Calendars, Seasons, and Generations...”

It's difficult to believe that yet another year has slipped past; the dog-eared pages of the 2006 calendar have been replaced by the clean, crisp pages of a new “calendar” for the yet unknown year of 2007. The closing of one year and the beginning of another is a time of looking back in thankfulness for God's blessings and presence in the events of 2006 as well as a time of looking forward with anticipation to the freshness of the new year of 2007.

What a good reminder of the practical truths of Scripture as spoken by the Apostle Paul in Philippians 3:13 & 14, “*Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the*

prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”

With the insights gleaned from the year past, we face the future; from the lessons learned, and the accompanied joys & sorrows experienced, we grow in the Lord and again seek His wisdom as we turn to a new page on the calendar of life. In 2007 may we daily fellowship with Him, saturate our lives with His Word, walk with our Lord under the leading & power of the Holy Spirit, serve Him faithfully, and may we teach our children to do the same. So doing is the opportunity as well as the responsibility we face as yet another new year begins.

The seasons of life may change; but our eternal God remains the same. May our confidence and strength rest fully on—and in—Him in 2007 and in the years to come. As parents we are called to inspire, train, & disciple our future generation; it is our prayer that our children clearly see in us as parents not only a diligence to educate them faithfully and consistently, but may they also see and emulate our fervent love for the Lord, and may they model our commitment and efforts to serve Him.

In the timeless words of Psalm 145:4, “*One generation shall praise thy works to another, and*

shall declare thy mighty acts.” Our homeschooling efforts under the Lord's guidance is a vital component in our younger generation knowing, loving, and serving the Lord throughout their lives. May we be faithful in our calling to teach our children “as unto the Lord” in 2007. May God's richest blessings rest on you and yours in this upcoming year.

In Christ,

Jim & Lonny

P.S. Jim and Lonny Janofski are the proud **grandparents** of Chloe Ann, born to their daughter **Joanna** and her husband Adam on December 8. You can see pictures at Adam & Joanna's website: www.lightdriven.com.

Jim & Ruth Hill's son **Tim Hill** got **engaged** on December 19. You can read about it on their daughter Beth Hill's blog. The link is <http://bethoven88.blogspot.com/2006/12/tim-hills-engaged.html>. If you search you can also read Beth's Christmas letter there.

Congratulations!



**NEW &
IMPROVED**

**Check out our
website at
www.umche.org**

Dome Days

Dome Days at the Superior Dome in Marquette will continue in January. This is one of our best-attended and favorite activities!

There is a **NEW gathering place and coat drop-off**. Our regular meeting place at the bleachers is no longer available as college classes will be meeting there. **Homeschoolers will now meet at the bleachers ACROSS the Dome in Section 20** (NOT Section 3). This is a PERMANENT change.

Here are the new rules again. Please obey them:

1. Parents, keep children from running and actively playing in the bleachers. The bleachers are for quiet sitting only.
2. **No playing in the sand pit** (only for NMU students).
3. Tennis shoes (with NO black soles that mark up the floor) are required. No bare or stocking feet. **No rollerblades or skateboards.**
4. No scooters of any kind are allowed. Big wheels for the little ones (with plastic wheels) are acceptable.
5. Balls and jump ropes are welcome—some equipment is provided.
6. Parents must accompany their children—no drop-offs allowed.

The cost is **75 cents per child**. The time is 9:30 a.m. -noon. Here are the dates!

Wed., Jan. 10

Wed., Feb. 7

Wed., March 14



Mid-Year Boost Meeting FRIDAY

We hope to see you on Friday, January 19 for our homeschool mid-year "boost" meeting. This will be held at the Bible Baptist Church in Ishpeming at 7:00 p.m. Come with your questions, concerns, words of encouragement... Enjoy the fellowship of other homeschoolers. Please bring a snack to share. As at any regular meeting, you can bring curriculum to sell as well. Any questions? Call Lonny at (906) 486-4536.



\$ HELP NEEDED!

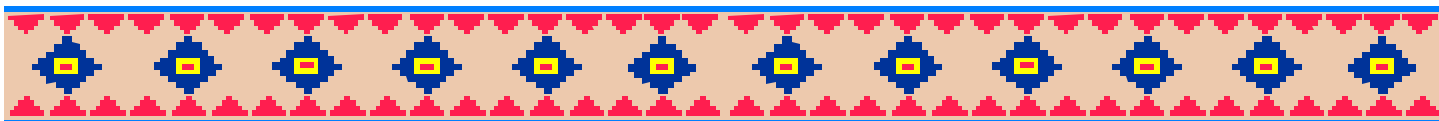
Building our website has depleted our funds. We do not charge membership fees, so if you can help us out financially at this time to cover costs of publishing the newsletter it would really be a blessing. Send donations to UMCHE c/o 2 Gold Drive, Ishpeming, MI 49849.

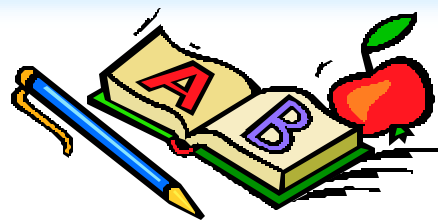
Michigan Home Education Convention

Mark your calendars for the 23rd Annual Michigan Home Education Convention in Lansing. The convention will be held May 4 & 5, 2007 at the Lansing

Center in Lansing, Michigan. For more information, check out the INCH website www.INCH.org.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!





Family Days at West Branch

Family Homeschool Days at the West Branch Community Center (301 Avenue A Old K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base) will continue in January. Homeschoolers are able to use the facility, including the pool, gym, and racket ball courts. You can also play basketball, kickball, and much more!

The time is from 9:30a.m. to 12:00 on the 3rd Friday of each month. Pack a lunch if you'd like.

Here are the dates:

Friday, January 19

Friday, February 16

Friday, March 16

The cost is only \$1 per child! If you have any questions call Lynda at 346-4935 or the gym at 346-3559.

Share Fair April 20

Our annual Used Curriculum/Share Fair is scheduled for Friday, April 20, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at the Bible Baptist Church in Ishpeming. You can sell used curriculum at any regular meeting, however this meeting is especially designed for selling curriculum.

The "Share Fair" aspect of this meeting is like a science and fine arts fair, an opportunity for your students to display their artwork or science projects or recite a poem, Scripture passage, or play an instrument or sing—these are just some examples.

If you have any questions about this event, call Lonny at 486-4536.

Church Library Open to Homeschoolers

Here's a reminder of the LSCC Homeschool Library Days. This resource is available to all homeschoolers in Marquette and surrounding areas.

On the **LAST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH**, beginning September 27, 2006 through May 30, 2007, the **Lake Superior Christian Church Library** will be open with a trained library team volunteer to assist you from **10am to 3pm**.

This quality, Bible-based, supplemental library houses 2,775 books, 600 videos/DVDs, 115 audio sets and more.

Most resources can be signed out for **4 consecutive weeks to help enhance and supplement your current homeschool curriculum**, for the sake of creativity and clarity for both the home teacher and the students.

Come "Check Us Out" at LSCC, 393 N. M553 Marquette, 1/3 mile north of the Crossroads (480 & 553).

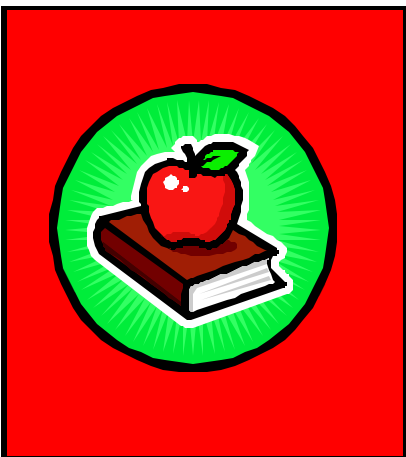
And each month when you come, enter the Monthly Library Drawing!

With any questions, feel free to **call Sue Parsons at 346-6108 or email her at slop4@charter.net**.

***ALSO**, Fox of Marquette and Fox of Negaunee (formerly Crown Motors) continues to make Christian books and videos available for homeschoolers to sign out at 2 locations—

700 US 41, East Negaunee and 3815 US 41, West Marquette.

Visit them M, T, Th, F 8-6, W 8-8, Sat 9-1.



Keep Our Mailing List Up-to-Date

Ruth Hill regularly redirects HSLDA weekly updates and other pertinent local homeschooling information to UM-CHE home schoolers who want to participate. If you are not already on this email and list and you would like to be added, please send your email address to ruthehill@charter.net. We will delete your address if the email is returned, so if you haven't been hearing from us lately, we may have lost your address.

Please let us know of any email changes as well. If you would **not** like to continue to be on either the email list or the regular mailing list, please let the Janofskis know at 906-486-4536 or Janofski@up.net. **You can also help us save postage money if you just wish to read the newsletter online or print it off yourself** from the web page (www.umche.org). Email the Janofskis your mailing address if you would like to choose this option.

Tidbits of Info

School Portraits: Independent photographer Cory's Images offers home schooling portrait packages. For more information, call 249-1675, email Corys-Images@sbcglobal.net, or check out www.creativephotos.photosite.com.

Fun Funds at GFS: You can make your shopping dollars stretch a little further at Gordon Food Service in Marquette. GFS will contribute a percentage of purchases from U.P. homeschoolers and their supporters when they **sign up for the Fun Funds Program** at GFS, mentioning Upper Michigan homeschools. This program has helped to keep us going financially.

MUSIC LESSONS: Dennis Cowan of Marquette is taking piano students. He is recommended by Lynne Ivey and her boys as well as Beth Hill. The Weiring family has taken lessons from him if you would like a referral. His number is 228-2802.

Ruth Hill in Ishpeming teaches piano lessons on Tuesdays and Thursdays for \$8/half hour. She prefers beginners to intermediate-level. She is willing to work with your schedule and books, but prefers the Alfred method. For more information, call (906) 486-4942.

Kelley Stratton teaches violin and piano and her mom Cathy teaches **guitar** for \$11/half hour. They teach at the Bible Baptist Church in Ishpeming. For more information, call (906) 376-2125.

Joanna Szymanski teaches piano and harp lessons. For more information, call (906) 249-3757.

Diplomas: Order quality Christian diplomas from www.homeschooldiploma.com (phone 1-877-466-2563). Personalize your own with numerous choices of paper color, Bible verses, raised labels, padded covers, embossing, signature lines, calligraphy, and more. **Beautifully done!** Check them out so you can be prepared to order when the time comes. You'll be glad you did.

Creative Homeschooling: You are welcome to call for assistance and personal, comprehensive homeschool help from Sue Parsons, a former homeschooling mom and current homeschool consultant.

Call anytime to set up a day and time for a one-on-one parent homeschool meeting, before or during the school year. My goal is to pray with you for your homeschool, offer encouragement and insight into homeschooling, as well as assist you with enhancing your child's school curriculum so that you and your child can enjoy a CREATIVE HOMESCHOOL by coordinating textbooks with supplemental and creative helps. Consultation fee of \$25 (a reference list is available). It would be my pleasure! Don't hesitate to call. Sue Parsons 906-346-6108

CURRICULUM FOR SALE:

BJU Geography for Christian Schools, Second Edition, hb student text, teacher's edition,

student activities workbook, and test answers. High school level. \$60.00

BJU World History for Christian Schools, Second Edition, hb student text, teacher's edition, student activities workbook, teacher's edition for workbook, tests and answer key. High school level. \$60.00

BJU Earth Science for Christian Schools, Second Edition, hb student text, teacher's edition, workbook, teacher's edition of workbook, Test Bank. \$50.00

Apologia Exploring Creation with Chemistry, Second Edition, hb text, solutions and tests, and multimedia companion CD. High school level. \$45.00

Saxon Advanced Mathematics, Homeschool packet includes test forms and answers. Second Edition. Solutions Manual. \$40.00

DIVE CD for Saxon Advanced Mathematics. http://www.diveintomath.com/dive_math.aspx \$25.00

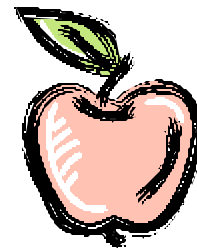
Saxon Math 76, 1986. Includes answer key from CLASS. \$5

God and Government, Volumes 1-3 (A Biblical and Historical Study, Issues in biblical Perspective, and The Restoration of the Republic), by Gary DeMar, \$15.00

A Beka Chemistry--Precision & Design. Second edition. Student text is soft bound and worn. Teacher's guide. High school level. \$15.00

A Beka United States History in Christian Perspective--Heritage of Freedom, Second Edition, sb, answer key from CLASS. High school level. \$12

For any of these materials, contact Sandy Saberniak at 906-439-5387 or alsandy@tds.net. Prices are negotiable.



Math Tutoring

Bill Dewitt, a certified teacher, is interested in tutoring children in middle school and up in math at any level.

He will charge \$15/hour for an individual and will also teach at a lower negotiable price in a group setting.

Contact him for more info at 361-1955. (He works shift work, so hours may not be consistent.)



Building Family Foundations March 9-10

Give your homeschooling a shot in the arm by giving your marriage a boost! Plan now to attend the Building Family Foundations Conference at Immanuel Baptist Church in Kingsford, MI on March 9-10, 2007. (4:00 PM-4:00 PM) The special speakers will be Mark & Laurie Dutton from Lafayette, IN. For more information, contact Immanuel Baptist at 906-774-2160 or visit their website www.immanuelbc.org.



Future Historians

As part of its education program, the Michigan Iron Industry Museum sponsors the Future Historians, a youth group open to students in **grades 4-12** who are interested in their heritage. Members attend monthly meetings during the school year and learn about history through presentations, special programs, and hands-on activities.

In addition to the monthly meetings, the museum offers youth a unique learning experience during the summer months. **Group members are trained as costumed interpreters** and participate in the Michigan Historical Center's role

playing program at Fort Wilkins Historic Complex in Copper Harbor. Each student is assigned a character (based on actual people) who lived at Fort Wilkins or Copper Harbor during the summer of 1870. Throughout the day they talk with visitors, play games of the period, and portray the past as the present.

Training is an important part of the program. Students interested in the role playing must attend three monthly meetings. They are also required to attend three training sessions in the spring to learn role playing basics and techniques. However, excused absences are

accepted due to family plans and conflicts.

Museum staff work closely with students to provide costumes, but a limited number are available. Families are encouraged to make their own (the museum will provide patterns and materials) or shop for acceptable apparel.

Participation is free. For more information and to receive this year's schedule, contact Barry James, Curator of Education, 73 Forge Road, Negaunee, MI 49866 or call (906) 475-7857. Or for more specific dates, check out the UM-CHE website at www.umche.org.

More Mom Support

Here is some info. on two local clubs for moms:

MOPS

MOPS is held from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month from October-April at Calvary Baptist Church in Negaunee (105 Iroquois Dr.).

MOPS stands for Mothers of Preschoolers. MOPS groups seek to meet the needs of every mother with children

from birth to Kindergarten. Women of all backgrounds and ages find support in MOPS groups as they try to be the very best moms they can be. MOPS groups provide a caring atmosphere for today's mothers to grow and share their experiences with other mothers. MOPS programs often include speakers, discussion groups, and creative activities, while children are cared for in a parallel program called MOPPETS. Contact Laura Elliott at 475-0050 for more information.

Mom's Club

The Mom's Club of Marquette County is a support group for moms. They feature a monthly newsletter and many activities to choose from, including Mom's Night Out, club connection, Pre-K play group, walking club, story time, and recipe group. For more information, contact Cheri Bannan at 249-9866 or email cra908@charter.net.

Only One Call Away...

The following story is not my exact experience, but it is oh-so-reminiscent of many, many calls that I have received in the past years. I want to share this with you so that you, too, can have the confidence to love and guide those who seek you out for "homeschool counsel." God's confidence and courage can be ours with just one call—through the power (and privilege) of prayer.

From Sue Parsons, Because I Care about your homeschool (Rom. 8:26)

A friend called me the other day in tears. She just didn't know if she could continue teaching her child at home. It seemed that her daughter just didn't respond to the methods she was

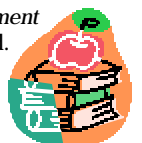
using. All the latest "how-tos" only brought her more confusion. She began to waver and doubt her abilities and her God. In talking with her, I just knew that I had to come up with a pearl of wisdom to bring about the change necessary in her situation. I struggled, looking for the right words. But nothing; absolutely nothing came out that seemed inspired. After we hung up, I went away to pray. As I began to pray for her family, praise and thanksgiving rose up within me. A flood of praises came out of my mouth and heart, concerning the growth of this family's faith. I had seen such a change of hearts of the mother, the daughter, and the father. God was knitting them so close together.

Then it hit me like a bolt of lightning. I don't have to possess all the answers; I belong to the Almighty God, Maker of heaven and earth. He

knows all the questions and all the answers. All I have to do is to be fully satisfied that God will do as He promises. When I called her back, the momentary crisis had passed, and peace had been restored to her home and heart once more.

Romans 4:20,21 "No unbelief or distrust made him waver or doubtingly question concerning the promise of God, but he grew in faith as he gave praise and glory to God, fully satisfied and assured that God was able and mighty to keep His Word and to do what He had promised."

Encouragement from *Encouragement along the Way* by Bobbie Howard.



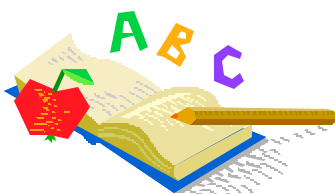
New High School Graduation Requirements

To prepare Michigan’s students with the knowledge and skills to succeed in the 21st Century, the State of Michigan has enacted a rigorous set of statewide graduation requirements that are among the best in the nation. These requirements, called the Michigan Merit Curriculum, are the result of a collaborative effort between Governor Jennifer M. Granholm, the State Board of Education, and the State Legislature.

The Michigan Merit Curriculum requires 16 credits for graduation, which can be met in a variety of ways including integrated classes, as well as career and technical programs. The academic content for the requirements of the Michigan Merit Curriculum is what is expected that students understand and master in high school, whether in a traditional academic course or through an integrated or career and technical curriculum. These graduation requirements will begin with the students in the Class of 2010 (this year’s ninth graders), with the exception of the “Languages Other Than English” graduation requirement, which will begin with the Class of 2016.

January 2007

Number of Credits	Curriculum Area	Required Content
4 credits	Mathematics	Algebra I; Geometry, Algebra II: including one credit in senior year
4 credits	English Language Arts	Units for ELA 9, 10, 11, and 12 developed by MDE
3 credits	Science	Biology; Physics or Chemistry; one additional science credit
3 credits	Social Studies (Completion 2007)	0.5 credit in Civics; 0.5 credit in Economics; US History and Geography; World History and Geography
1 credit	PE/Health	Credit guidelines developed by MDE
1 credit	Visual/Performing/Applied Arts	Credit guidelines developed by MDE
Online Learning Experience	Online Learning Experience	Credit guidelines developed by MDE
2 credits (9-12); OR equivalent learning experience in grades K-12	Language other than English (Completion 2007)	Credit guidelines developed by MDE





Statement of Purpose

To offer resources for Christian parents who are or will be teaching their children at home:

- a) Support group meetings give homeschool parents a chance to meet other homeschool parents.
- b) Once parents get to know each other, it is our desire that they will contact one another as needed for prayer or help with specific problems.
- c) Each family needs to determine its own reasons for choosing this method of educating their children, and hopefully, the information from UMCHE will help to clarify those reasons.

To offer resources on curriculum, teaching aids and other homeschool information through our lending library, annual curriculum fair, bi-annual newsletter, and web page (www.umche.org).

To offer information on legal issues, legislation, and other relevant information through e-mails.

To offer opportunities for our children to interact with other homeschooled children through planned education and recreational activities.

Group leader's comments: Our group is not an anti-public school group, but a **pro-homeschool** group. We strive to keep our discussion positive and yet remain informed concerning public education issues.

Due to the number of children represented by the group, we, in general, have not encouraged parents to bring their children to the two meetings (August and January), but to make other arrangements such as obtaining a babysitter.

Thank you so much for your interest and involvement.



Statement of Faith

- We believe the Bible to be the infallible Word of God, the supreme and final authority for all faith and life.
- We believe that there is one God, eternally existent, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, His virgin birth, His sinless life, His miracles, His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, His bodily resurrection, His ascension, and His imminent bodily return in power and glory.
- We believe that man was created in the image of God but fell into sin and is therefore lost, and only those who put their faith in Jesus Christ alone can be saved.
- We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose substitutionary death on the cross paid the penalty for man's sin.
- We believe that the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to convict men and to indwell, guide, instruct, and empower believers for Godly living and service.
- We believe in the spiritual unity of believers through our common faith in Jesus Christ, and that individual doctrinal differences which may exist should not hinder the unity of Christian home educators.

2007

Calendar



Wednesday, January 10.....9:30 AM.....Dome Day
Friday, January 19.....9:30 AM.....West Branch Gym Day
Friday, January 19.....7:00 PM.....“Mid-Year-Boost” meeting
Wednesday, January 31.....10:00 AM.....LSCC Homeschool Library Day
Wednesday, February 7.....9:30 AM.....Dome Day
Friday, February 16.....9:30 AM.....West Branch Gym Day
Wednesday, February 28.....10:00 AM.....LSCC Homeschool Library Day
Wednesday, March 14.....9:30 AM.....Dome Day
Friday, March 16.....9:30 AM.....West Branch Gym Day
Wednesday, March 28.....10:00 AM.....LSCC Homeschool Library Day
Friday, April 20.....7:00 PM.....Used Curriculum/Share Fair
Wednesday, April 25.....10:00 AM.....LSCC Homeschool Library Day
Friday-Saturday, May 4-5.....Annual INCH Convention (Lansing)
Wednesday, May 30.....10:00 AM.....LSCC Homeschool Library Day
Friday, June 1.....6:00 PM.....Annual Picnic at Al Quaal
Friday, August 17.....7:00 PM.....Regular “kick-off” meeting

- ◆ **PLEASE** transfer these dates to your family calendar and plan to attend as many meetings and activities as possible. We don't always send reminders! (Email reminders are available from our mailing list via Ruth Hill at ruthehill@charter.net.)
- ◆ All meetings are held at the Bible Baptist Church in Ishpeming.
- ◆ Nursing babies are welcome, but please get a sitter for other children at the January 19 and August 17 meetings.
- ◆ Please bring a snack to share at these two meetings and the Used Curriculum/Share Fair.
- ◆ Questions?? Call Jim or Lonny Janofski at 906-486-4536 or email Janofski@up.net.

**Calendar updates are available on our website as well:
check it out at www.umche.org.**