

*First United Methodist Church, Rantoul, Illinois*  
*H-I-M Ministry*



*2008 – A Retrospective. 2009 – A Look Forward*

The dream of a motorcycle ministry began in 2007 for Lisa and me. At the time, we did not know how far this dream would take us. When Lisa and I were shopping for motorcycles, I spied a H-I-M t-shirt on a gentleman at Gutteridge Harley-Davidson in Danville, Illinois. Although I did not get to speak to him at that time, it piqued my interest and I had some homework to do! After some research, I found H-I-M on the web, and was put in contact with Shepherd Barry in Covington, Indiana. Through this meeting, I took the CHANGE class, and was patched in. Lisa had already started the CHANGE class, and we brought this before our Pastor. Pastor Joe was excited and immediately said yes and whatever he could do to make this happen, he would do it! The journey had begun.....

In 2008, we have patched in 3 people, with 3 more on tap very soon. As representatives of the ministry, we have supported functions for Stone Cold M/C, the American Cancer Association, Katies Heart, the Rantoul Ministerial Association, BeComeUnity, and several of the local churches in our area. We also supported Biker Weekend in Waterford, MI, and Biker Sunday in Covington, IN. Lisa began ministering in the Champaign County Jail in conjunction with Jesus Is The Way Prison Ministries, and is looking forward to going into the State and

Federal prisons as well very soon. We also conducted 2 bike blessings, with one in conjunction with Riding for H-I-M in May. We felt that this was not enough, and are currently promoting the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Barely Bearable Ride for Cunningham Children's Home in Urbana, Illinois on December 6<sup>th</sup>. This ride will start at our church, travel to the children's home, and back to our church for fun, fellowship, and, as with all good Methodist get-togethers, FOOD! We are truly thrilled to be another spoke in the wheel!

For 2009, plans have begun for us to have a Biker Day in conjunction with Riding for H-I-M in May. We are planning a meal, bike show, bike blessings and, of course, our annual Riding for H-I-M 100 mile ride. We are also planning a ride to help the Rantoul Community Center and Food Bank. We will also continue our support of all area H-I-M events and Biker Weekend in Michigan. We will also continue with ministry to the local clubs and, hopefully, touch many hearts along the way. As always, we do what we do for Him, as well as H-I-M.

Many Glorious Blessings to you and yours,

Shepherd Bill (aka Sparky)

