



Online Newsletter

Mission

Your Gifts In Action by Vicki Hofacket, March 25

The church is planning to have a day of celebration on May 3rd. I am sure you are asking yourself, "What we are celebrating?" We are going to celebrate **Your Gifts in Action**, the many missions, projects, and just plain helpful things our church and its members are supporting and are involved within our community and regionally. We will have displays on the local and regional projects we support through our bread baskets and shared giving, but also the projects that are supported individually by our members. For the time being, we are not going to celebrate the many things we support through our shared giving that are national and international.

We are going to use the time between first and second service for fellowship where we can share, encourage, eat (of course there will be refreshments), and see where our dollars and time are going and what we (our church and members) support.

We will have displays on Sacramento Methodist Assembly, NMSU Wesley Center, McCurdy Schools and the other local and regional projects supported by shared giving. The missions we support through bread basket Sundays: Landsun Homes, Houchen Community Center, the Healing House and all the others. We also hope to have displays on the projects that our individual members support such as Habitat for Humanity and Celebration of Life.

We would like the entire church to be involved in this time of celebration and discovery.

- We are asking each Sunday School class to research two projects and then put together a display (similar to a Science Fair).
- We are not just asking the adult Sunday School classes--we are also asking the youth and children's classes to participate.
- Plus the Methodist Women and Methodist Men, etc.

Help us put this wonderful day of celebration together and then come on Sunday, May 3rd and share in the joy as we see just how much our church and members are doing for our community and those who live close to us.

Youth

Youth Mission Trip to Louisiana by Sue Holdridge, March 29

There will be a meeting of the parents whose youth wish to participate in the Louisiana Mission Trip at the Holdridge home on April 5th at 4:30 pm (prior to the regularly scheduled youth meeting.)

At the meeting we will be discussing the trip and collecting the \$25.00 non-refundable deposit for the trip. We will answer questions and give out forms that must be completed to go on the trip.

Mission

Sacramento Shareholders Needed! by Bill McCuaig at SMA, March 27

URGENT PROJECTS: SMALL DINING ROOM RENOVATIONS AND ROOM RENOVATIONS AT AYERS, ASPEN AND LAITY LODGES.

What is a "Sacramento Shareholder"? This is a program started in 2006 that encourages friends of Sacramento to support an important project that is taking place at SMA. We ask our "Shareholders" to contribute no more than twice a year when we make the "Call" to contribute your "Share" toward a project. Each "Share" is \$25, and of course you can support with as many "Shares" as you would like to pledge. This is just one of many important ways you, your church, Sunday school class, youth group, UMW, etc. can have important "ownership" at Sacramento.

We understand that you have many ministry options to support. We also realize that these ministries have very valuable missions that impact many people. We desire to continue to be one of your options.

We need your inspiration and support now for our "SPRING 2009 CALL". SMA has several volunteer work

groups lined up to work this spring and early summer to help renovate the Small Dining hall, and install new flooring in Aspen lodge meeting room, Laity meeting rooms and to continue with long overdue room renovations in all of the dorms. Donations this spring towards these projects are critical so the volunteer work teams have materials to work with. Help us offset the cost of these special project expenses. We, here at Sacramento Methodist Assembly, offer our heartfelt thanks for assisting us in this wonderful ministry. This camp and retreat ministry at Sacramento offers numerous life changing opportunities for you to support. Many of the lives that have been impacted here have gone forth and helped make disciples for Christ. We need your continued inspiration toward helping to fulfill that mission. Your “blessing” to us will continue to help us fulfill our mission: “Come to the Mountain. Let God Refresh Your Soul”!

Mission

To Lunch or Not to Lunch? by Diane Degnan at UMcom, March 25

NASHVILLE: The people of The United Methodist Church are marking the lead up to April 25, World Malaria Day, with a renewed call to members and friends to support Nothing But Nets, a grassroots anti-malaria effort which allows anyone, for \$10, to send a lifesaving bed net to a family in Africa. Bed nets protect children and their families from the bites of malaria-infected mosquitoes. “Malaria is a crisis that is threatening many of God's children across the globe,” said Bishop Thomas Bickerton, referring to malaria's rank as Africa's leading killer of children under age five. “Insecticide-treated mosquito nets are the most scientifically proven way to stop its spread.” Bickerton, chairperson of The United Methodist Church's Global Health Initiative, joins with the people of The United Methodist Church in urging everyone to forego a lunch out, and to direct that \$10 savings toward the purchase of a bed net. “We're asking people to 'skip a lunch, send a net, save a life,’” said Bickerton. Dubbed “To Lunch or Not to Lunch?” the campaign highlights how \$10, the cost of lunch, is all that it takes to provide a potentially lifesaving bed net to an African family. A \$10 donation at www.umcnothingbutnets.org covers the cost of the bed net, its distribution, and education on its use. Inspired by a column by sportswriter Rick Reilly, Nothing But Nets' founding partners include the people of The United Methodist Church, the United Nations Foundation, the National Basketball Association's NBA Cares, and Sports Illustrated. To date, Nothing But Nets has raised \$25 million, enabling the distribution of 2.5 million bed nets. Seven-year old Hannah Skelton of Caldwell United Methodist Church in Caldwell, N.J. raised \$400 for Nothing but Nets after she learned of the plight of children in Africa from her pastor, the Rev. Jeff Markay. “He told us kids were dying . . . and I really wanted to help,” said Hannah. Hannah emptied her piggy banks and then scoured the house to find spare coins when her parents promised to match whatever she could raise. Then she began calling family members and friends to ask if they could help her raise money for nets. “Nets can help because mosquitoes can't get in the nets,” said Hannah. When Hannah took the money to the bank and shared her story with the bank teller, she got \$10 more. Hannah is continuing her quest to raise money and says she will continue to give through her allowance. “I am trying to get everyone in Africa to have a mosquito net,” she said. For more information on malaria or to make a contribution to Nothing But Nets, visit www.umcnothingbutnets.org, or call 888-252-6174.

Civic

Blood Drive by Claire Phillips-Orate, March 25

Once again, we are out for blood – YOURS! The church will be hosting a blood drive on Thursday, April 16th, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. You may sign up online, using the link below, or you may call the office and ask for an appointment. Walk ins are also welcome. So sign up today and invite a friend to join you in saving a life!

To sign up online, go to www.bloodheroes.com

- If you are already registered online with United Blood Services, simply log in, click on the “donate blood” link, enter the zip code, select the appropriate blood drive locations/date, and make your appointment.
- If you have already given blood before, but are not registered online, click the log in link. You will be asked for your blood donor i.d. number. You can click on the “forgot” link to get your blood donor id#, then type in

your birthdate (as shown in the example) to go to your profile. You can then create a new password if desired. Once you are logged in, you then view the information contained in the various links, as well as using the "donate blood" link to set up an appointment.

- If you have never donated blood through United Blood Services, but would like to start, go online and click on the "make an appointment now" link which will get you started.

Savings lives is important so sign up today. Thank you.

Youth

Easter Lily by Sue Holdridge, March 25

The Youth of the church are accepting orders for Easter Lilies. The order form is on the small table at the back of the sanctuary. Forms and money should be placed in the collection plate, or dropped off at the church office, no later than Tuesday, April 7th. Honorariums and Memorials will be listed in the Easter Sunday handout on April 12th. While we are not ordering lilies for individuals this year, we will order some for the Sanctuary. Funds received will be used by our youth group to help build ramps for local residents who have difficult entering or leaving their houses, and the help fund their summer mission trip to re-build houses in Louisiana. Thank you for supporting their work by honoring or remembering loved ones.

Church

A History of Deming by Jack Galbraith, March 25

Claire found in some church records a CD (compiler unknown) containing material pertinent to First United Methodist Church and to Deming. A few items extracted from that CD may appear in this newsletter from time to time.

In January 1880, Southern Pacific began to lay rails in Casas Grande, Arizona toward the border with New Mexico Territory.

"Red" Heatley, prospector, miner, Indian fighter and novelist, arrived in the Deming area Jan. 1, 1880.

The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe was building from the east. Sigmund Lindauer, a resident of Grant County since 1872, was returning from a trip to Europe in the spring of 1880 and was on the first train into Albuquerque April 15. From Albuquerque south he continued by the overland stage route, which led through Fort Cummings. That was a hazardous season for stage travel. Victorio and his Apaches were on the war path and paid particular attention to the overland traffic in southern New Mexico.

From Albuquerque the Atchison Topeka & Santa Fe built south along the Rio Grande. Track crews were clearing right of way around the east point of Cook's Peak and veered to the west. It appeared they were headed for **New Chicago** as the junction with Southern Pacific rather than Deming.

*Editor's Note: do any of our Old Timers have additional information to share about **New Chicago**, such as it's location and what remains today of that early community?*

James A. McKenna, author and historian, was prospecting in Lake Valley when he decided to try his luck in the Hatchet Mountains. He headed for the mining camp of Eureka. At Nutt he found that Santa Fe had cut the brush and debris along their right-of-way which made an easy trail for his horse and mule almost to Separ. New Chicago, unplanned by either railroad, had appeared along the Southern Pacific right of way at a point just east of the Mimbres river. Residents were sure their town was the best place for the junction. The town was already notorious and catered to the wild bunch who whooped it up after weeks in the wastelands of the west. Some of the worst characters in the territories congregated in the saloon town of tents and rough buildings. "Six-Shooter" Smith abrogated to himself the duties of an officer of the law and terrorized the place.

Southern Pacific solved that problem. It had surveyors plat a new town which could become a "homesteader's haven" three miles west and a fourth section south of New Chicago which would be just as convenient for the junction and moved Deming.

Deming, picked up stakes moved to its present site, in the center of Luna county, fifty-nine miles west of Las Cruces, fifty miles south of Silver City, and sixty miles east of Lordsburg. Tents and shanties crowded around the only well and the railroad right of way.

Reference: The Deming Story, by Father Stanley, The Southwesterner, published 1967. He says New Chicago was formed Oct. 15, 1881 but it must have been at least a year earlier.

Church

Prayer List by Claire Phillips, March 25

We are updating our prayer list. Please advise, in writing, the names of persons who should remain

on the list. Thank you for keeping this vital ministry up to date.

There are varying degrees of openness that people have in regards to sharing their personal issues/health problems. We would like to be sensitive to everyone's feelings about this. Therefore we request you please get permission from an individual before you place their name on the prayer list. Being able to pray for someone by name is a wonderful thing, but not at the expense of that person's comfort level should others begin inquiring as to why their name is on the list. It is natural to be concerned about someone when you see their name on the list; still, we must all remember that God knows the need and that is sufficient.

Church

April Bread Basket by *Claire Phillips, March 24*

The One Great Hour of Sharing Bread Basket on April 19 directly benefits UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief. 100% of this offering will be used by UMCOR to help people everywhere who are suffering from natural disasters or the effects of war. UMCOR is usually one of the first relief organizations on the scene and one of the last to leave an area. They assist in floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, tsunamis, people displaced from their homes due wars or famine, just to name a few. Your generosity will bless others worldwide.

Worship

Holy Week Activities by *Claire Phillips, March 24*

The activities for Holy Week (April 5-12) have been established.

April 5: Palm Sunday (communion)

April 9: 6 pm Maundy Thursday (communion)

April 10: 6 pm Good Friday drama service

April 12: Easter Sunday (communion)

April 12: 9:15 am Easter egg hunt and scavenger hunt

The church office will be closed on April 10 and again on April 13 in observation of Holy Week.

Worship

Cazandra MacDonald Selected as Featured Speaker by *Jack Galbraith, March 24*

The "A Woman Inspired" conference on April 6-9 will have Cazandra MacDonald as a featured speaker. This conference is all about giving you a spiritual dose of adrenaline because we all need it sometimes. Maybe you are concerned about your calling or perhaps you are afraid to begin walking toward what God has for you. Maybe your faith has taken a nose dive and you need to pointed back in the direction of our Lord, Jesus. Or, it could be that you just need someone to tell you that it is okay that you failed but you need to get back up! It happens to all of us.

This events speaker line-up is phenomenal. These are some great women of God, humble enough to serve and strong enough to stand up and proclaim His word to all who are in need of hearing it. This conference is for any woman in need of revival in her spirit.

The conference is on-line: no travel, no hotel expense, no clothing issue, and no childcare woes. All you need is a computer with internet access. The low \$24.95 registration fee provides the password to unlock the conference to you for all four days. Visit <http://www.awomaninspiredconference.org/> for more information.

Church

Easter Lilies by *Claire Phillips, March 23*

The Youth of the church are accepting orders for Easter Lilies that will be used for Honorarium, Memorial, or in-Sanctuary purposes. Contact the church office to place your order. All orders and money must be received by April 7; the names of honorarium and memorial lily recipients will be listed in the April 12 (Easter) bulletin.

Youth

Aldersgate'09 by *Cheryl Hicks, March 23*

Described as "more than a conference" for Youth, Aldersgate'09 has been announced by the NM Conference office. The "more than a conference" will be held in Greensboro, NC on July 1-5, 2009. Visit the [church website](#) and click on the *Aldersgate'09* link to obtain more information.

Mission**Ramp Builders Needed** by Carol Lokomski at Love INC, March 18

Ramps are becoming an urgent need. Right now we have seven cases where ramps are needed. I have two men who can assess the need, but they have been so busy, they cannot get around to all of them yet.

I have one case where the woman needs two men to take her out of her house and has fallen a couple of times. I have had it assessed as to what she needs, but do not have anyone to donate the material or do the work. She is not able to put anything towards the purchase of the material.

The assessment is that she needs a 36-inch wide wood ramp built onto the landing. Ramp needs to be 4-feet wide and 5-feet long. Is there anyone in your church who can help with this?

Worship**Some of My Thoughts** by Bishop Max, March 18

The Cabinet meets almost weekly for the next couple of months to review the appointment of every pastor in the Area. Fortunately, that review will result in a vast majority of pastors continuing to serve in their same mission fields. They are providing acceptable to excellent leadership in these appointments. The review will indicate the present pastoral leadership will most effectively strengthen the fulfillment of the church's mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The review will also indicate where changes in pastoral appointments may significantly enhance the congregation's ability to reach and transform these mission fields. These reviews require the wisdom of, openness to, and the guidance of God's Holy Spirit.

Some pastors and congregations become extremely anxious when these reviews begin. They believe that the Cabinet and I overlook their gifts and ability, or we fail to comprehend the tremendous opportunity their mission field presents and why only the most capable pastors in the conference can address those needs and opportunities. A few congregations believe their failure to fulfill their mission rests in their pastor's skill and ability level. They never seriously engage in a congregational evaluation to discover the congregation's effectiveness in providing radical hospitality, risk-taking mission, intentional faith development, extravagant generosity, and passionate worship. It is easier and less painful to blame others than to take responsibility for their own behavior and actions. A few pastors return the favor assuming if the Cabinet utilized their leadership at a "good church" their talents would shine like a diamond on a bright sunny morning. They blame passionless, uncommitted, selfish congregations for their failure to provide appropriate leadership.

I believe the DNA of the annual conference must change. Ministry is a team effort. Certainly, if we could perform like Shaquille O'Neal playing basketball, we would do a better job. If the team members did not work hard and effectively, even Shaquille O'Neal's accomplishments would produce a pathetic effort. It is time we changed the DNA, stopped looking for a superstar to save us, and began working as Jesus' ministry team to accomplish more than we ever dreamed possible. Jesus Christ working in and through us can turn this world upside down and right side up. I see many signs of this transformation. We must look through the eyes of Jesus and see the opportunities God gives to us. Our communities overflow with people who do not know God's love and the great gift of salvation in Jesus Christ. Some church members are more concerned about getting others to feed them spiritually than seeking nourishment in order to serve Jesus and their neighbors. I certainly believe that every pastor needs to be sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ and the Holy Scriptures to nourish and strengthen Christ's disciples. I also believe that we must utilize that nourishment to serve Jesus in transforming the world and making additional disciples. Spiritual nourishment must produce vital, growing, disciple-making congregations and not spiritually obese observers.

The making of appointments is neither to satisfy clergy nor to make congregations happy. Fulfilling the Church's mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world propels the making of appointments. Otherwise, we are playing as if we are the Church, instead of being the Body of Christ, committed to love God with all of our heart, mind, soul, and strength; and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Please keep the Cabinet and me in your prayers. The task before us is too important not to bathe in prayer.

Grace & Peace, Max

Church

Library Corner by Sally Cooper, March 14

There are so many good books in the library, some of which have never been checked out. What valuable treasures are being missed.

SHILOH AUTUMN by Bodie and Brock Thoene is an excellent read. Set in the 30's when the cotton market drops to the bottom in Arkansas, this is a story of a family that overcomes much hardship due to hard work, perseverance and a strong faith in God.

TAKING ON LIFE WITH A GREAT ATTITUDE is a CD by Chuck Swindoll--his infectious laugh and teachable spirit shares his thoughts on aging based on Caleb's example in Joshua 14:6. A good to listen to at home or in the car.

IN BETWEEN by Jenny B. Jones, an adult author who stills relates to the trauma and drama of teen life. This is a story about Katie Parker, a foster child who finds that God has definite plans for her life. A fun read for teens and adults.

See you in the library!

Mission

Expectant Mom Needs Help by Carol Lokomski at Love INC, March 9

Love INC has a young client who is expecting a baby April 14th and has nothing for the baby (clothes, diapers, crib, etc.) Her family is out of state and either cannot or will not help her.

We are attempting to collect items for her, so if anyone has baby items they are willing to donate, please have them contact me at 544-2400. This is another way the Church can reach out with the love of Christ. This girl is also very unfamiliar with churches and (as she stated) "how they work." Let's do what we can to let her know how much God loves her and has a plan for her life.

Church

Caregivers Support Group by Jack Galbraith, March 1

If you are caring for a family member, and would like the Christian support of other caregivers, the new Caregivers Support Group may be for you. According to organizer Carol Ward, the group will meet on the last Wednesday of each month at 10 am. The group is open to men and women alike.

Contact Carol for more information.

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