

Newsletter for April 2010

Pastor Keath to Leave Deming *posted March 28*

Pastor D. Keath Baskett will be leaving Deming to become the pastor of the First United Methodist Church in Clovis, NM effective July, 2010. The announcement was made at the two services on March 28. Pastor Baskett will remain active at FUMC Deming while the Baskett family prepares for this transition.

During his successful four-year stay in Deming, Pastor Baskett guided the local church through several reunification steps, including countering the anger following the church vandalism in 2008.

Rev. Ernie Vineyard will replace Pastor Baskett. Rev. Vineyard and wife Corrie will move from the dual-charge of Ft. Davis/Balmorhea, TX to Deming late in June; we will meet them at our church beginning July 4th. If so inclined, you may send welcoming messages to Ernie and Corrie at P.O. Box 1439, Ft. Davis, TX 79734 or via eMail to evineyard@sbcglobal.net.

UM Women First Time Special Award *posted March 25*

The Deming unit of United Methodist Women (UMW) was honored at the El Paso District meeting on Saturday, March 13, 2010 with a **5-STAR UNIT AWARD**.

To earn this designation, the unit gave to the UMW Conference in five extra-mile, monetary, and mission giving areas.

1. The Deming unit increased their pledge to UMW Conference.
2. They gave a monetary gift and sent a sympathy card in memory of Ruth Greenwood's sister, Shirley Breeden.
3. They purchased a special mission recognition pin for service that was given to Rosalee Gillett at the August Potluck picnic last year.
4. They gave a gift to missions with the purchase of a get well card that was sent to Mardena Randall. Other greeting cards can be purchased for \$5, for various occasions, with proceeds used for UMW mission projects.
5. The unit presented a World Thank Offering service. World Thank Offering is a program which reflects issues of just, mercy and humility, and presents ways to work for change. The program presented this year focused on the Minimum Wage or Living Wage. Letters from local members will be sent to Congressional Senators and Representatives to ask for and encourage their support for a Living Wage. There was also a special offering taken that was sent to the Conference UMW via the El Paso District UMW Treasurer.

There are 22 active United Methodist Women units in the El Paso District (which covers southern New Mexico and west Texas). Of those, four (including our unit) received the 5-Star Award.

Our congratulations to the UMW for achieving this status! The award is posted on the United Methodist Women's bulletin board that in the hallway by the Fellowship Hall. Stop by to see it and information on other UMW activities.

The UMW is open to ALL women. They meet on the 3rd Saturday of each month, at 2:00 p.m. in the Chapel for a business meeting, program and refreshments. The United Methodist Women undertake several fund raising events each year in order to raise money to support missions.

One of the missions they supported last year was Shepherd's Run in which goodie baskets were assembled and distributed to those who worked on Christmas Eve (law enforcement, emergency/hospital workers, etc.). This was a joint project with the United Methodist Men. The UMW help to support some of the following New Mexico Conference missions: McMurry University, Four Corners Native American Ministries, Houchen Community Center, Landsun Homes, Inc., Lydia Patterson Institute, McCurdy School, Methodist Mission Home, Sacramento Methodist Assembly, Alpine Community Center, and The Methodist Children's Home. They also contribute yearly to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund and the Fellowship Coffee Hour on Sundays.

Additionally, this year, the UMW purchased padded folding chairs to be used in the Fellowship Hall and eight-foot

plastic-top tables. If you have ever helped set up or take down the wood-topped tables, you will know what a pleasure it is to use the plastic ones instead. Thank you ladies for the gift of comfy seats and the new tables!

UM Women May Luncheon *posted March 25*

Yes, it is that time of year again! Time for the United Methodist Women's Annual May Luncheon to be held on Saturday, May 1st, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the gym.

What better way to celebrate May Day than a trip down memory lane with "Remember When!" The UMW will be showing off vintage wedding gowns worn by their mothers or grandmothers. Some will be modeled. Others will be displayed.

Lunch will be served buffet style for \$10 per person.

There will also be a silent auction with a number of very nice gifts on which to bid. Have you always wanted a facial? You can bid on one. How about some very nice jewelry? We can't tell you all of the silent auction items. You'll have to come and see for yourself. Attendance at the luncheon guarantees you a ticket for one of our great door prizes.

Entertainment will be provided by the FUMC Barber Shop Ensemble featuring Dee Huffman, Carol Krum, Cheryl Lenhardt, JR Spurlin, Charles Stanley, Dureta Stanley, and Waldon Wolf.

Everyone is welcome to attend. So invite family, friends and neighbors to join you for a good meal and even better fun. All in all this will be a enjoyable afternoon that also serves as a fund raiser for the United Methodist Women. The proceeds will be used to help support a variety of missions. Those missions are listed in this newsletter, under the UMW Special First Time Award. You can also find out more about the UMW in that article.

Mark your calendars now for May 1st and be ready to start buying your tickets on April 1st. Then come out for a trip down memory lane that does more than give you pleasure. It can also give hope to someone you don't even know because of your support for the United Methodist Women and their mission projects.

UM Men Report *posted March 24*

The UM Men will be smoking sirloin beef roast on April 23rd and 24th. They will be selling whole and half roasts for \$6.00 per pound. The half roasts will average about 5 pounds and the whole roasts will average about 11 pounds. After roasting, the meat will be available for pick-up between 9:00 am and noon on April 24th in the MAC building, and between 9:00 and 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, April 25th. Sign the sheet in the Fellowship Hall to reserve your roast. Proceeds from the meat sale will be used by the UM Men for a number of ministry and mission projects (which have included food boxes to needy families during holidays, college scholarships, and assisting the youth in building ramps for shut-ins). Thank you for your support.

UM Women Report *posted March 23*

Three of us attended the El Paso District meeting at St. Paul's in Las Cruces. The speaker for the afternoon session was Rev. Heike Miller from Lydia Patterson Institute. She brought three of the girls from the newly formed UMW Lydia Patterson Institute Teen unit who helped present the program. It was very interesting and they are raising money to go to Berlin to a Youth Program in June, 2010.

OFFICERS: Please note there will be a meeting at Jo Kruger's home on Monday, April 26 at 9:30 a.m. to finalize the luncheon plans.

All officers REMEMBER there will be a meeting in the Memorial Classroom right after the May luncheon for discussion and ideas of how things went. We need everyone's input!

Our April 17 regular meeting in the Chapel at 2:00 p.m. will feature a speaker, Marsha Drapla, from Landsun Homes.

Anyone in the Congregation interested in learning information about Lansun Homes is welcome to attend. Refreshments follow the meeting. Come and join us!

Bishop's Statement on Recent Health Care Legislation *posted March 23*

From Bishop D. Max Whitfield

General Conference alone can speak for The United Methodist Church. United Methodists, our agencies, and our congregations are all entitled to express their opinions about social, political, moral or ethical issues. But it is important to remember that these individuals and groups speak only for themselves.

As the United Methodist Communications news coverage reveals (see link below), the House of Representatives has a number of members who also are members of The United Methodist Church, and even they took differing positions on the recently passed Health Care Reform Act.

It is important to note that The United Methodist Church did not take a position on this specific piece of legislation; rather, the General Board of Church and Society has worked diligently to promote key principles of health care reform.

Principles like access to health care, for all people, have been promoted by the UMC for many years, and it was behind these principles, not any specific legislation, that the GBCS put their endorsement. It is regrettable that House Speaker Nancy Pelosi implied that this particular piece of legislation was endorsed by The United Methodist Church. That is simply not the case.

General Conference believed reform was essential, and in 2008, they did pass a Resolution urging reform of the health care system. However, that resolution did not advocate for any particular piece of legislation.

I urge all concerned to read the [news article from UMCOM](#) (go to

<http://www.umc.org/site/apps/nlnet/content3.aspx?c=lwL4KnN1LtH&b=5259669&ct=8104411>). It provides a comprehensive review of the official position of The United Methodist Church, its constituent groups and of individual United Methodists with differing viewpoints on the issue. The press release from UMCOM can also be accessed on Bishop's Page on our Conference website.

UMCOR Remains Active in Katrina Relief *posted March 16*

As the recovery work from Hurricane Katrina drags on into its fifth year, most relief money and volunteer help has shifted from places like New Orleans to more media-saturated, current disaster regions like quake-affected Haiti. [Read the full report](http://www.umportal.org/article.asp?id=6482) at <http://www.umportal.org/article.asp?id=6482>.

SCJ Global Young People's Convocation *posted March 16*

Lay Ministry students from Lydia Patterson Institute, El Paso, need your help!

Ten of our Lay Ministry students from the Lydia Patterson Institute have been chosen to represent the South Central Jurisdiction of the United States as delegates to the Global Young Peoples Convocation this July in Berlin, Germany. While the delegates have been very busy raising funds, the cost of the trip (approximately \$3000 per student) is beyond the reach of most of our students without additional outside financial support. At last count we are still short about \$1000 per student. Please consider the possibility to help our ministry students develop their skills through this mission and training opportunity. The students are available to work if you have projects around your church or home.

For payment of work or donations, please make any checks payable to Lydia Patterson Institute with a memo entry Lay Ministry Trip to ensure proper posting. Please contact the Rev George Miller at 915-533-8286, x31 or email viscaya4@hotmail.com for more information.

Prayer List to be Updated *posted March 13*

Our prayer list will be updated on April 1st. Please advise the office, *in writing*, the names of everyone who should remain on the list, even if a longer retention time was requested. Due to the various prayer needs, we are asking everyone to help us renew this list. We will begin updating the prayer list every two months. Thank you for helping us keep this important ministry as current as possible.

We would also like to update the list of those from our community (or related to our member) who are in the armed services. It would be appreciated if you would please advise the office, *in writing*, the names of those who still serve. Thank you.

Shareholder Campaign at Sacramento Methodist Assembly *posted March 10*

A letter is being sent to all current Shareholders but this campaign is geared to promote this grassroots fundraising campaign to all members of the New Mexico Annual Conference. Every Church, Youth Group, Sunday School Class, United Methodist Men and Women etc. need to have the opportunity to support this project. *A minimum of \$25 twice a year is all it takes!* The emphasis this spring is for Shareholders to assist us in recovering from the record snowfall and related damages caused by this particularly severe winter.

Past Shareholder projects have made such a wonderful impact on the Radical Hospitality we offer our guests! We need each of you to help get this information out to every member of this conference and to others who may be friends of Sacramento. The Sacramento Board of Directors has set a goal of having 1000 Shareholders this year. We are currently at 194. We need your inspiration and passion to help promote this grass roots effort.

Cans for Camp *posted March 10*

Did you know that we are collecting aluminum beverage cans? Did you know that the proceeds from recycling aluminum beverage cans goes to our camp scholarship fund? Did you know that many children have a real encounter with Christ while at a church camp? Did you know that many of our children and youth are able to attend camp because of the scholarship funding we provide? Well – we do and they do!

Camp is a wonderful opportunity for children, youth, and even adults, to interact with their peers in a relaxing mountain

setting. Our church camp is Sacramento Methodist Assembly, in the mountains near Cloudcroft. SMA's motto is *Come to the Mountain. Let God Refresh Your Soul!* Indeed, time spent there is a time of refreshment, as well as fun.

In today's economy, it can be hard for families to send children to camp. That is where your donations of aluminum beverage cans help send our kids to camp. We will accept uncrushed cans, but if you could crush them ahead of time, it makes it easier to transport. If we send 100 pounds or more of cans at a time, we get even more money for them. So remember, save your cans for camp!

So far, this year alone, we have raised over \$130 for camp scholarships.

Deming Performing Arts Theater *posted March 10*

Deming Performing Arts Theater and the First United Methodist Church are proud to present *An Evening of One Act Plays* Saturday, April 24th at 7:00 p.m. The performers are members of S.O.U.L. Kids, a performing arts group of children ages 5-11, and First Call, made up of children ages 12-14. First Call invites you to view *The Happy Club*, a humorous story of the difficulty of trying to make someone become what they are not. S.O.U.L. Kids invites you to journey to a mythical kingdom of a princess who always laughs, a world of one's imagination where the Wild Things reside, and the French restaurant of a pompous chef who, at the claws of his lobsters, gets his just desserts.

Easter Week Activities *posted March 10*

The SOUL Kids have prepared for Easter an adaptation of the Living Last Supper, a dramatization that focuses on Jesus' words "One of you will betray me" and each apostle's reaction to them. We will present this on Maundy Thursday, April 1 at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. This service is open to the community and it is our hope that it ministers to you as each apostle recounts their transformation by spending time with our Lord, with a certain measure of childlike faith. Communion will be served, so that we also may partake of the Lord's Table.

In continuation of celebration of Holy Week, First Call, a performing arts group of middle school children, will be providing the music for our Good Friday service. The youth group will also be involved in singing and participating in the readings to commemorate this holy day. This service will be a Tennenbrae service, utilizing light, music and the Word to illustrate the significance of what Jesus endured for our sake. This service begins at 6 pm is also open to anyone in the community.

Youth Report *posted March 10*

The youth attended *Acquire the Fire* in November 2010 and were challenged to passionately pursue their relationship with Jesus Christ. Comments regarding this retreat were posted on the website.

The youth were extremely impressed with Joel Johnson who had come from a very troubled home life before he came to know Christ. He shared with the group about the godly standards that he lived as he pursued a relationship with his wife. They requested that I purchase the book that was just published - *The Divine Matchmaker*. The books have just arrived fresh off the press and we will be studying that book in the next month.

In January we went to the movie "To Save A Life" at the Cineport Theater at the mall in Las Cruces. The movie was written and directed by a youth leader and has been well received nationwide. It was held over for number of weeks in Las Cruces. It dealt with almost every issue that our young people face. The movie challenged the youth to encourage others and get rid of the cliques. It also encouraged us to quit living double lives and to be transparent about our struggles. The movie has a seven week curriculum that the youth are looking forward to studying in the near future.

In the next month we will be preparing bags for the homeless working with Love INC.

We are exploring the possibility of another missions trip. Some of the youth have asked to return to Houma and the same organization is organizing a mission.

UMCOR Haiti *posted March 10*

Please continue to be in prayer with the people in Haiti. Particularly as the rainy season begins, your continued partnership is important to provide shelter and provisions for those who have lost so much in the January 12 earthquake.

As of March 4, 2010, \$13.8 million has been received for UMCOR Haiti Relief.

UMCOR has begun implementation of a five-year work plan that contemplates three phases of assistance to Haiti: emergency, recovery and rehabilitation.

- UMCOR Haiti has identified a need for layette kits and birthing kits to address the basic needs of babies born in displaced persons camps in Haiti.
- The Methodist Church of Puerto Rico donated \$40,000 to UMCOR for Haiti relief efforts.

- The Holston Conference raised more than \$600,000 for UMCORs relief efforts in Haiti. They also have sent more than 20,000 health kits to UMCOR Sager Brown.
- Encouraged by The Detroit Conference, First UMC in Birmingham, MI raised \$33,000 for UMCORs Haiti relief efforts. The church also assembled 2,430 health kits.
- Youth at California Heights UMC, Long Beach, CA. made health kits with items donated by the congregation. Sara Wong requested donations in lieu of birthday gifts at her 16th birthday and raised almost \$900 for UMCOR Haiti Relief. Happy birthday, Sara!

To support UMCOR's relief efforts in Haiti, please go to: www.umcorhaiti.org.

Landsun Homes Celebrates 45 Years *posted March 9*

Landsun Homes is the ministry highlighted for our April 18th Bread Basket Offering. Marsha Drapala from Landsun Homes will be presenting a program at the UM Women's meeting on Saturday, April 17, and will stay to bring Landsun Home's 45th birthday celebration to our congregation on April 18th!

Landsun Homes provides a variety of retirement/assisted living options at their home in Carlsbad, NM. The Caring Hands fund offering enables retirees who have outlived their financial resources to stay in their home at Landsun. Your generosity to this fund will bless many Landsun residents.

Education Report *posted March 3*

The children's Sunday School class (K-3) will be visiting Egypt during the summer. Evening Vacation Bible School is scheduled July 19-23. Children will enjoy a High Seas adventure that week. They are also learning about the 12 apostles and will know one thing about each one of them by Easter.

Thanks to a special donation, the church was able to purchase four mini laptop computers for the children to use during Sunday School. The children are enjoying the *Calvary Kids* website and even visiting that website at home during the week! We have them learning about God AT HOME during the week, ON THEIR OWN! Perhaps your children or grandchildren would like to visit that website as well – www.calvarywilliamsport.com/kids.

The 4th and 5th grade class is currently learning the 100 most important people of the Bible. Who would you put on that list? How would it compare with their list? Ask one of them and find out!

The pre-K class is learning about the Fruits of the Spirit. Each week they get to try a fruit (or fruit flavored dish) that matches the first letter of the fruit they are studying. This sounds like a yummy class!

The 6th, 7th, and 8th class is continuing studying the Faith in Motion series. The curriculum focuses on how to live your faith in today's world, with all of today's challenges.

The children's Sunday School will also have an Easter Egg hunt on Easter Sunday, during the Sunday School hour.

Donations of candy and other treats to put in plastic Easter eggs are appreciated, as are donations of hard boiled eggs, ready to be colored. We'll need the candy by March 30th and the eggs to be brought to the church either April 1st or April 2nd (before noon on the 2nd).

Love INC Report *by Carol Lokomski, March 3*

Just a quick note to let you know what has happened at Love INC since January 1st of this year.

We have had 74 new families call for help and have made 118 referrals to help meet the needs of these families.

Sixty-five calls were for help with their utility bills and they were referred to Helping Hand, Good Neighbor, or Salvation Army;

- 11 for food/commodities—referred to Helping Hand and two churches;
- 6 were for propane and were referred to Helping Hand;
- 8 for meds—referred to a church;
- 8 for gas cards or vouchers—referred to Sheriff Dept, one church, and some thru monetary donation to Love INC;
- 4 for rent or housing—referred to St Anne's Assoc., Title 1, New Beginnings;
- 2 for ramps—referred to a church men's group;
- 2 for local bus passes—given to Love INC from Ministerial Alliance;
- 2 for ride to medical appointments—referred to church volunteers;
- 1 for help in court—referred to Legal Aid;
- 1 for school supplies—referred to Title 1;

- 1 for a bus ticket—referred to a church;
- 1 for a wheelchair—referred to a church;
- 1 to get a case worker—referred to Border Mental Health;
- 1 for housekeeping—referred to church volunteer;
- 1 for a bath seat—referred to church;
- 1 for household items/furniture—referred to our Furniture Ministry Coordinator;
- 1 for monetary assistance with school pictures—referred to a church;
- 1 to fix a small generator—referred to a local business; and
- 2 wanting to donate something (food - referred to Helping Hand, and a vehicle - referred to Victory Outreach)

These are only the *new* cases. We continued to work with previous families to establish relationships and let them know God loves them and we care about them also.

Little Lambs Report *posted March 2*

February came in sweet and short. We studied love. The love of every creation God has given us. It warms your heart when you ask the classes what do you love...they love everything and always say God and his kid Jesus. We did some really good cooking and eating. We created treasures out of wood. We studied *Noah's Ark* and the *Loaves and the Fish*. These are great stories to show children the greatness of God. The Loaves and the Fish totally mesmerizes them that everyone ate...one student said "you know it's one of those magicals that God can only do".

Events During Easter *posted February 4*

First United Methodist Church will present the *Living Last Supper* on Maundy Thursday, April 1st at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The *Living Last Supper* is a dramatic re-enactment of the Leonard DaVinci's painting, the Last Supper. This painting captures the moment in Scripture when Jesus announces that someone at that table will betray him. Church members portray the apostles and their reaction to this announcement. This service includes Communion. The public is invited to attend this special presentation. Seating is limited so you are encouraged to arrive early.

First United Methodist Church will have a Tenebrae Service on Good Friday, April 2, at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The word tenebrae comes from the Latin meaning darkness. In this dramatic service on Good Friday, all of the lights and candles on the altar are gradually extinguished until the room is in complete darkness. At the moment of darkness, a loud noise occurs symbolizing the death of Jesus. This service will be the opposite of our Christmas Eve service, when the darkness was gradually dispelled with the lighting of various candles, symbolizing the birth of Jesus which brought light into our dark world. The public is invited to attend.

First United Methodist Church will perform the cantata *No Greater Sacrifice* during our morning worship services at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. on Easter Sunday, April 4th. Each of these services will include Communion. Refreshments in the Fellowship Hall will follow the 8:00 a.m. service. Sunday School for all ages is at 9:15 a.m. We will also have an Easter Egg hunt during Sunday School for the grade school aged children (bring your Easter basket). The public is invited to worship and fellowship with us on Easter Sunday.