



## Newsletter for December 2009

Civic

### December Bread Basket *posted December 4*

In a joint effort, the City of Deming, Deming Wireless, and Deming High School is bringing an informational and awareness campaign to community leaders, parents, teachers, youth and other community members.

The **Cyber Safety** Town Hall meeting will be held on Thursday, December 10th from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Deming High School in the All Purpose Room. The Town Hall will address a number of internet safety issues that are of vital importance to parents, youth and others.

*In case you are wondering if you should attend, did you know.....*

- 48% of mothers admit they don't know what their kids do online.
- 94% of students admitting to being cyber-bullied did not tell an adult.
- 80% of students are aware of cases of cyber-bullying.
- 20% of teens overall say they have sent/posted nude or semi-nude pictures or videos of themselves.

For more information, you may contact Connie Grove at 545-7114.

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Mission

### December Bread Basket *posted December 4*

Our December Bread Basket offering will be the Two-in-One Special Advent Offering to benefit both the Methodist Mission Home and the Methodist Children's Home. The Methodist Children's Home offers a Boys Ranch in Waco Texas, as well as serving children through community programs in Albuquerque and El Paso. The Methodist Mission Home focuses on adoption and supportive services for women facing unplanned pregnancy and also provides transitional education for young adults with disabilities. Both of these agencies operate through the generosity of United Methodists in our region. Therefore this Bread Basket offering is important to their continued mission to serve families in Texas and New Mexico. Your donation will help the Methodist Mission Home and the Children's Home to change lives, one person at a time. Thank you for being part of this ongoing ministry.

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Church

### Prayer List *posted December 4*

In January, we will once again be updating our prayer list. To help keep our list as current as possible, please advise in writing, the names of anyone who should remain on our list. **Even if you have requested someone to stay on long-term, please re-confirm this information.** We would also like to update our list of service personnel. **Please advise in writing, the names of those who are still in the service.** It has been quite some time since we have updated this list so your input is appreciated. Thank you for keeping our prayer list current.

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Church

### Little Lambs *posted December 4*

Hello from Little Lambs...all goes well. We enjoyed November with the beautiful Fall weather. We played in a large pile of leaves...this is fun because you get to throw stuff at the teachers. We celebrated the world of colors and shapes. We also learned to take time each day to say thank you to God and all around us for each piece to the puzzle of our lives. We asked what each would say thank you for the most and one little girl said, "I'm thankful for breathing". They have the power to take us down to the basics...forget all the "stuff"... just be thankful to breathe. God has blessed us all. Let us all give thanks unto the Lord.

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### **Some of My Thoughts** *posted December 4*

She was adamant, "Either this is what the Church teaches, or it is not. It is either true or false. If the members do not agree then they need to get out or change their minds." Part of me wanted to agree with her. It would be so much easier if decisions were either black or white.

I remember when I studied some math problems and the teacher explained there were several possible right answers. It did not fit in my worldview. Every problem had one right answer. Everything else was wrong. How could we possibly have several right answers to the same problem? I wanted everything to be logical, with a definite cause and effect. Surely, something was wrong when several answers could be right for the same problem.

This past weekend I enjoyed several hours with my children and grandchildren. Kevin asked to be excused because one of his team members had confronted a problem he did not know how to solve. The struggle went up the ladder until it finally rested on the director's table. Several minutes passed before Kevin returned. "Did you get the problem solved?" I asked. "I do not know. I made some changes and we will see if those get us through this session. Our computer software is old and we have made so many changes, what I did may or may not work. What I did may have only created some different problems."

As I listened to him, I knew we were functioning in two different worlds. I expected that he would know whether either the work he performed fixed the problem or it had not. I function out of the "either or" world. My son lives with several different possible right answers to the same dilemma.

Each year I participate in an event called the Bishops Learning Group. It is an event where fifteen to twenty active bishops, committed to ongoing learning, gather for four days of dialogue and study. We read books in preparation for the event and then a group facilitator, with expertise in a particular area of study, guides our conversation. This year our focus is young adults, how they communicate, and how we can communicate effectively the Christian faith to them. I jokingly claim that I am ancient and have no idea how to communicate with young adults. After reading the assignments for the event, I will no longer joke about this issue. Today's young adults are significantly different from my children. The way they learn, view reality, God, Church, Bible, and faith deviates from my perspective to such a degree that I must make a gigantic shift in order to communicate effectively the gospel story.

The most distressing part of my discovery is how far removed most congregations are from this age group. Even our most creative congregations fail to speak the language and understand the momentous changes required to comprehend and communicate to this age group. I had assumed we had a changeless gospel communicated through an ever-changing medium. It shocked me to realize the media and medium effectively changed the message.

That age-old question stares me in the face. With such dramatic changes, will I simply curse the darkness or will I light a candle? Will I adapt to a culture so different from my own experience? Will I scream and demand others think and act in a way that seems reasonable to me? My response will determine my effectiveness as I continue to seek to make disciples for the transformation of the world.

Grace & Peace, Max



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### **Recommended Reading** *posted December 4*

A few people have inquired about what books I have been reading that led me to view young adults in a different way. Two books were assigned for the Learning Group. They are:

- *The Millennium Matrix: Reclaiming the Past, Reframing the Future of the Church*, by M. Rex Miller
- *The Hidden Power of Electronic Culture: How Media Shapes Faith, The Gospel, and Church*, by Shane A. Hipps

Two other books I have read in the past year that help me understand young adults as well are:

- *Generation Me: Why Today's Young Americans are More Confident, Assertive, Entitled—and More Miserable Than Ever Before*, by Jean M. Twenge
- *The Great Emergence: How Christianity is Changing and Why*, by Phyllis Tickle

I hope this is helpful. God bless you as you seek to communicate the Gospel to young adults and enable them to become faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

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### **Wesley Ministry Network ONLINE** *posted December 4*

Wesley Ministry Network's acclaimed adult education courses bring the best of Christian scholarship to people in local churches, both laity and clergy. Starting in January 2010, courses will be available online through a partnership with The Institute for Discipleship, affiliated with Bishop Richard Wilke, founder of DISCIPLE Bible Study.

Read more at <http://www.beadisciple.com/wesleyministrynetwork.html>.

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### **New Beginnings** *posted November 24*

New Beginnings, a transitional house for women and children, now has some residents and can always use soap, shampoos, detergent, toothpaste, and other personal items. If anyone would like to donate any of these, please contact Rose Commodore via her e-mail [newbeginningrose@hughes.net](mailto:newbeginningrose@hughes.net).

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### **Philippine Relief** *posted November 24*

The Council of Bishops and the Connectional Table, meeting in Lake Junaluska, N.C., in early November made an urgent appeal to the people of The United Methodist Church to ease the suffering of our sisters and brothers in the Philippines. Recent flooding and subsequent landslides have claimed lives and caused great suffering. The death toll exceeds 1,000 because of four successive typhoons and the related health issues that followed.

Read more at [www.UMCapeal.org/bulletin](http://www.UMCapeal.org/bulletin).

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### **UMW News** *by Rosalee Gillett, November 21*

In last month's newsletter, we neglected to thank all those who purchased Bithell Farms Frozen Fruit. We really appreciate your participation.

Our Bazaar was a lot of fun, well attended and it brought us enough to pay our 4<sup>th</sup> quarter pledge to the UMW Conference. Many, many thanks to all who helped, donated items or cash and those who purchased items. **HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL OF YOU!**

Our December 12<sup>th</sup> program is our Pledge Service and New Officer Installation at 2:00 p.m. in the Chapel. The installation program will be done by Lottie Venable, a UMW member from Las Cruces. **ALL OFFICERS, PLEASE TRY TO BE PRESENT FOR THE INSTALLATION!** All ladies are welcome. Refreshments are served after the meeting.

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### **A Big Thank You** *posted November 18*

In spite of the economy, generosity still reigns in the hearts of this congregation.

That generosity is evidenced by the 44 shoe boxes we filled for **Operation Christmas Child** to provide gifts and demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to needy children worldwide. The number of boxes filled this year far exceeded last year's number. I can just imagine the joy on the faces of all these children when they receive their boxes. Who knew blessing unknown children would be so much fun?!

You have once again shown your generosity in helping to fill 16 **food boxes** for needy families within our community. The piles of food were inspiring to view. Other organizations in the community provide Thanksgiving dinners for families. Our boxes usually contain enough food to feed the family for a week or more, a long-term blessing for these families.

You have also shown God's love in a very tangible way through your support of the **Community Thanksgiving Dinner** that our church hosted for the first time. This meal was sponsored by Love, INC. and was for anyone needing a meal, fellowship, or both. Your donations of money, food and your time have made a difference in our community.

In advance, we also want to say thank for your participation in the **Angel Tree** project. As you may know, this ministry enables prisoners to give Christmas presents to their children, through generous people such as yourselves who purchase and wrap these gifts. The prisoners who participate in this program are selected by prison chaplains. Once the angel tree coordinator knows the gifts that the children want and need, angel tags are prepared. You get to select a tag, purchase and wrap the gift (with the tag attached) and return the gift by

the specified deadline. This is a double blessing because the child is able to receive a gift from mom or dad, even if they are in prison.

This is such a giving church. All of you are so good at stepping up to fill a need whether through prayer, through active participation, or through gifts. All of these actions are ways in which Christ's love is spread throughout our community and throughout the world. So on behalf of everyone who has been and will be blessed, thank you for so generously caring for the least, the lost, and the last. God bless you, one and all.

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Civic

### **2010 Census Cautions** *posted November 18*

**Be Cautious About Giving Info to Census Workers.** With the U.S. Census process beginning, the Better Business Bureau (BBB) advises people to be cooperative, but cautious, so as not to become a victim of fraud or identity theft. The first phase of the 2010 U.S. Census is under way as workers have begun verifying the addresses of households across the country. Eventually, more than 140,000 U.S. Census workers will count every person in the United States and will gather information about every person living at each address including name, age, gender, race, and other relevant data.

The big question is - how do you tell the difference between a U.S. Census worker and a con artist? BBB offers the following advice:

- If a U.S. Census worker knocks on your door, they will have a badge, a handheld device, a Census Bureau canvas bag, and a confidentiality notice. Ask to see their identification and their badge before answering their questions. However, you should never invite anyone you don't know into your home.
- Census workers are currently only knocking on doors to verify address information. Do not give your Social Security number, credit card or banking information to anyone, even if they claim they need it for the U.S. Census.
- **REMEMBER, NO MATTER WHAT THEY ASK, YOU REALLY ONLY NEED TO TELL THEM HOW MANY PEOPLE LIVE AT YOUR ADDRESS.**

While the Census Bureau might ask for basic financial information, such as a salary range, **YOU DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER ANYTHING AT ALL ABOUT YOUR FINANCIAL SITUATION.** The Census Bureau will not ask for Social Security, bank account, or credit card numbers, nor will employees solicit donations. Any one asking for that information is **NOT** with the Census Bureau.

**AND REMEMBER, THE CENSUS BUREAU HAS DECIDED NOT TO WORK WITH ACORN ON GATHERING THIS INFORMATION.** No Acorn worker should approach you saying he/she is with the Census Bureau.

Eventually, Census workers may contact you by telephone, mail, or in person at home. However, the Census Bureau will not contact you by Email, so be on the lookout for Email scams impersonating the Census. Never click on a link or open any attachments in an Email that are supposedly from the U.S. Census Bureau.

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Civic

### **Tax Volunteers Needed** *posted November 17*

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP WITH FREE TAX PREPARATION FOR SENIORS.** The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), in cooperation with the Internal Revenue Service and Deming Luna County Commission on Aging, are planning to prepare and file 2009 Federal and/or New Mexico State income taxes for seniors 60 and above, for free. To do this we need a few good volunteers. If you are interested in helping your fellow seniors, please call (575) 519-9463.

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Civic

### **Now You Know** *by Dee Huffman, November 17*

*This is an excerpt from the church records as provided by historian Dee Huffman*

Rivalry from the beginning—that is the story of Deming and Silver City. An 1884 entry in our church archives states:

"...Cleveland was elected President. In Deming, Mr. Lindauer, backing the winner, had wagered on the result with banker C.H. Dane, a Blaine partisan. Champagne flowed in a torrent in Deming as Dane paid off the bet. Lindauer said 'At the same time and on the same basis, the Deming democrats had stripped Silver City republicans absolutely clean as a picked bone of their money, marbles, and chalk'."



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### **Benefits of Practicing Gratitude** by Mary Jacobs, November 17

An article, too long to reproduce here, entitled *Practicing gratitude has spiritual, emotional benefits* appeared in the U.M. Portal. This article cites research that shows a positive mental attitude and actively being grateful has many benefits. Read the article at <http://www.umportal.org/article.asp?id=6109>

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### **Prayer List Update** posted November 10

In January, we will once again be updating our prayer list. To help keep our list as current as possible, please advise in writing, the names of anyone who should remain on our list. *Even if you have requested someone to stay on long-term, please re-confirm this information.*

We would also like to update our list of service personnel. Please advise, in writing, the names of those who are still in the service. It has been quite some time since we have updated this list so your input is appreciated. Thank you for keeping our prayer list current.

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### **Love INC** by Carol Lokomski, November 10

Love INC has a couple of elderly ladies who are physically unable to do their yard work and cannot afford to pay to have it done. Are there any volunteers willing to help?

Also, Victory Outreach needs Bibles. If anyone has extra Bibles to donate, please let Love INC know and they will arrange for pick up. May be in English and/or Spanish. Contact Love INC at 544-2400.

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### **God's Renewed Creation: Call to Hope and Action** posted November 10

Lake Junaluska, NC: – In a statement that says, "We cannot help the world until we change our way of being in it," the bishops of The United Methodist Church announced a significant call to all United Methodists, ecumenical and inter-religious partners, and people of goodwill around the world. Read the entire message on-line at <http://bishops.umc.org>.

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### **Homeless Shelter** posted November 3

St. Vincent de Paul Homeless Shelter is in need of new or gently used blankets, towels and washcloths. You may drop off your donations at St. Vincent de Paul during their store hours, Tuesday-Saturday from noon to 4 pm. If you have any questions, please call 546-7763.

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### **Four Corners Native American Ministry** posted November 3

News of events within the Four Corners area is available on their website (<http://www.fcnam.org>). Read about it [here](#).

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### **Some of My Thoughts** posted November 3

Each year the meeting of the Council of Bishops and All Saints Day come very near to each other. This year the Council of Bishops meeting began on All Saints Day and my thoughts immediately turned to those wonderful saints who have died during the past year. One of those saints was a woman who served as my father's secretary for several years. She and her husband were like second parents to me. They played canasta about once a week with my parents, fished with our family regularly, and were involved in church with us as well. Marie died almost a year ago.

Marie had served as treasurer for the Memorial Fund at the church where I grew up. She maintained accurate records and helped the congregation remember those who had gone before us in the faith and now rested from their labors. When Marie died, her home adjoined the church property and she chose to give that property to the Church in any way the congregation felt would best strengthen the congregation and their ministry. She was certainly not one of the wealthiest members of the Church. Her income was modest and she had not inherited any significant money from her husband or other family members. Yet, in her death, she contributed

one of the larger gifts that the Church had ever received. She lived her faith and died continuing to live her faith.

This past week my junior high and high school coach died. The local radio station recalled the number of trophies and tournaments his teams had won during his coaching career. He had been a strong baseball player during his college career and lettered all four years. What I remember most about him was not his expertise in coaching, although that was strong, but the way he lived his life. He was a man of deep Christian conviction and maintained a strong place in the local church he attended each week.

Last week, I was honored to participate in the memorial service for B.C. Goodwin. Dr. Goodwin was one of the saints of the New Mexico Conference. He served the Annual Conference as a District Superintendent and Director of the Council on Ministries. When he was appointed to St. John's United Methodist Church in Santa Fe, the bishop had inquired about an appointment to a far larger church with a significantly larger salary. B.C. requested that he go to Santa Fe because he felt he had something important to contribute to the life and ministry of that congregation. That was only one of numerous reflections of a man who saw himself called by God to serve rather than be served. He lived his faith and he died in his faith.

I could go on naming different individuals who completed their journey of faith during the past year and joined the Church Triumphant. I hope every congregation took the time to recall the many saints and the special place they had in all of our lives, what they taught us, and how they continue to challenge us to live as faithful followers of Jesus Christ. May it be said of us when death knocks at our door and friends gather to celebrate and remember the life lived, "They lived their faith and they died in the faith."

Grace & Peace, Max



### **Steering Committee Makes Recommendations** *posted November 3*

Lake Junaluska, NC: Reporting to the Council of Bishops today, the *Call to Action Steering Committee* laid out a vision of The United Methodist Church of the future and urged a system-wide operational assessment, from the general boards and agencies to the annual conferences to the Council itself.

[Read full article...](#)

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