

## Newsletter for February 2010

Church

### **Valentine Day Fundraiser** *posted January 31*

On February 6<sup>th</sup> the Music Ministry will host a Valentine's fundraiser. Guys (and gals) are invited to come and go afternoon tea, from 3 to 5 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall. You will have an opportunity to shop Premier Designs Jewelry for that special Valentine's Day gift for your sweetie (or sweeties). A portion of the proceeds will benefit the music ministry of FUMC. Orders will be delivered in time for Valentine's Day. Men, we will be serving "guy snacks" as part of the refreshments. Everyone is invited, even if not a member of the church, so be sure to pass the word!

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### **Shared Giving** *by Bishop Max Whitfield, January 31*

2009 was a difficult year for many congregations, financially. The national economy has begun to recover, but many individuals and businesses continue to struggle. The Annual Conference Ministries made significant adjustments and cutbacks in order to remain viable. They are cutting back and belt tightening to discover approaches to carry out their task with fewer financial resources. We continue to search for effective ways to fulfill the mission entrusted to us.

I rejoice and give thanks for your contributions to your Shared Ministries. You improved in your percentage of contribution in 2009 over 2008. You enabled the proclamation of the Gospel and the transformation of people's lives. Students received scholarship, missionaries marched into service around the world, more children and youth attended our conference camps, and youth experienced transformation at conference retreat and camping events. I cannot even begin to note the difference your gifts have made in the lives of people and congregations of this Annual Conference.

I want to personally thank you for what you have done for the financial health of this Annual Conference. You increased your percentage of giving to our Shared Ministries Fund. Financial resources are essential in carrying out ministry. However, the most important challenge is resourcing and equipping congregations to enable persons to encounter Jesus Christ, grow toward perfection in love, and reach a new generation for Christ. We must keep Christ's commission first in all that you do.

Please pray for each congregation, each pastor, and a special prayer for me as we strive to make disciples of Jesus Christ and serve as Christ's agents as God transforms the world.

Grace & Peace, Max

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Mission

### **FUMC Shared Giving** *posted January 31*

In 2008, FUMC Deming paid approximately 29% of our Shared Ministries. In 2009, thanks to your generosity in donating to the budget, we paid over 89% of our Shared Ministries. For 2010, the Finance Committee and Administrative Council have set the goal to pay 100% of our Shared Ministries. Together, we can continue to touch lives in ways we cannot begin to imagine.

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Church

### **UMM and UMW** *posted January 31*

The United Methodist Women will meet on February 20<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. in the Chapel. The UMW is open to ALL women. Join us as we work on mission projects.

The United Methodist Men will have their breakfast meeting on February 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 a.m. in the Memorial Classroom. The UMM is open to ALL men. Join us for good food and great fellowship as we plan our next project.

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Civic

### **Shepherd's Run** *posted January 31*

Last year a program called *Shepherd's Run* was presented to the Ad Council. The program involved creating and delivering small goodie baskets to those public servants who had to work over Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. This program was adopted by the UMW and the UMM. The United Methodist Women (UMW) agreed to assemble the baskets while the United Methodist Men (UMM) agreed to deliver them.

The baskets contained home baked goods (cake, brownies, cookies, cupcakes), teas, cocoa mixes, candy and chocolate, fruit, plus tea, hot cocoa and/or cider drink packs.

The UMW purchased 130 baskets. A group of women gathered at the church on December 23<sup>rd</sup> to fill and wrap the baskets for delivery. The UMM undertook the task of identifying those public servants who would receive the baskets. Organizations included the Deming and Columbus Police Departments, Luna County Sheriff's Department, NM State Police, US Customs, US Border Patrol, Detention Center, Healing House, Mimbres Memorial Hospital and Nursing Home, the Deming Fire Department, and EMT's.

Thanks to a group effort, the baskets were filled, wrapped and tied with a poinsettia flower and ribbon, along with a Christmas greeting message from the UMM and UMW, as well as a church brochure. The men then got into gear to deliver all of these baskets on Christmas Eve.

Everyone who received them was grateful to be thought about during the holidays. We received an abundance of "thank you for thinking of us" as well as signed thank you letters.

This successful program is on our calendars again for this holiday season. Our special thanks to Eleanor Fuller who was the driving force behind the purchase of goodies and the assembly process – kudos to you Eleanor and to the ladies who helped assemble and to the delivery drivers!

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Mission

### **Knitters Need Yarn** *posted January 31*

Gals from the UMW are knitting caps and scarves to send to various locations for those in need. We are running out of yarn and need some in order to continue. Previously we sent 35 sets to low income adults through Valley View United Methodist Church in Espanola, NM. Each set include a cap, a scarf, and a pair of purchased gloves.

If you have yarn, please bring it to the church office, marked for the UMW. Know that it will be gratefully received and turned into warm outer wear.

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Youth

### **ROC Mid-High Camp** *posted January 28*

ROC (Rhythm Of Christ) Mid-High Camp is scheduled for March 5-7, 2010 at Sacramento Methodist Assembly. This camp is completely designed and implemented by the young adults at the Wesley Foundation at NMSU/DACC.

Purpose of the camp is to bring participants closer to Christ and to build your youth groups. Sponsors will be at camp with their youth.

While the college students are with your youth, the youth workers will have an opportunity at the Youth Workers Symposium to learn more about being a better youth leader. Some churches are using the ROC mid-high camp as part of their confirmation experience! Camp Pastor will be Rev. Joe Whitley.

On-time registration cost is \$105/camper and adult. First electronic registration deadline is 11:59 pm on Sunday, February 21.

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Educate

### **Wednesday Night Live** *posted January 27*

**Wednesday Night Live** will begin on February 24<sup>th</sup>. We are offering a variety of classes over a six week period. We are also offering BYOB – "Bring Your Own Brown bag" for dinner at 5 pm in our Fellowship Hall. We will provide tea and lemonaid; you provide a brown bag meal you and your family to enjoy before classes begin at 6 pm. Registration forms are available in the rear of the Sanctuary.

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### **Ash Wednesday** *posted January 22*

First United Methodist Church will have two services in their sanctuary on Ash Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>. The first service will be a "come and go" service between 7:00 and 8:00 a.m.

Everyone is invited to come for imposition of ashes and spend time in reflection and prayer. The second service will be a worship service at 6:00 p.m. that includes Communion and the imposition of ashes. The public is invited to attend.

First United Methodist Church is located at 1020 S. Granite Street, at the corner of Granite and Buckeye streets, adjacent to the city swimming pool. You may contact the church office at 546-2791 for more information.

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### **Celebration of Life Cancer Walk** *by Don Cameron, January 22*

The Celebration of Life Walk and Lunch to benefit Cancer Support of Deming and Luna County will be held on Saturday, March 27, 2010. Please reserve the date and be ready to sign up for the First UMC Faith Walkers Team beginning the first of February. Mary Frosch, Barbara Walsh and Mary Lou Cameron will serve as co-captains of our team. Please contact one of them for more information. Registration forms are available in the rear of the Sanctuary.

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### **Celebration** *posted January 22*

AN INVITATION FOR ALL LADIES! Please join us Saturday, February 13 from 9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church for our first Celebration gathering of 2010. Enjoy breakfast in the fellowship hall followed by a program of praise and worship. Mary Lou Cameron will be delivering the message *One Woman's Journey*. We will be treated to accordion music by Veronika Barnes. Bring a friend to share this fun and uplifting morning. See you there!

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### **Music Ministry** *by Sarah Williams, January 21*

The Music Ministry is pleased to announce that **Jo Kruger** is now part of the S.O.U.L. Kids Ministry Team! She will be heading up the crafts portion of the ministry as we are combining Crafty Kids and S.O.U.L. Kids to be one group. S.O.U.L. Kids is a performing arts group for children K-5th grades. S.O.U.L. Kids is working on a theater presentation of three one-act plays this spring, as well as art projects for props and musical selections to present for the church during prelude and offertory. We meet Tuesday afternoons, from 3:15 – 4:30 p.m. All children are welcome! For more information, please contact Sarah at sarah@fumcdeming.com or (575) 546-2791. God bless you!

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### **Some of My Thoughts** *by Bishop Max Whitfield, January 15*

The mission of The United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Most people nod their heads in agreement and then continue to do what they have always done. Their congregations continue to decrease in average worship attendance, church membership, professions of faith, missional giving, and intentional faith development. When asked if they see a problem between their statements and actions, some shrug their shoulders and ask, "Is this not a national problem?" as if this eliminates the issue.

This year we are requesting an evaluation of every congregation and every pastor. The questions are formulated around the five practices of fruitful congregations—radical hospitality, passionate worship, intentional faith development, risk-taking mission, and extravagant generosity. These five practices are signs of fruitful congregations and fruitful leadership. When any of these practices are missing, or we fail to live up to the adjectives preceding the practices, I see us failing to be and do what Jesus Christ commissioned us to do—make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

This past Sunday I had the privilege of confirming several young people into membership in The United Methodist Church. As part of the invitation before their confirmation, I stated, "You are making the most important decision of your life. You are deciding whether you will follow Jesus Christ and live out this faith and commitment as part of the Body of Christ." I believe following Jesus is the most important decision any

person, at any age, can make. It is a commitment that will need to be renewed and expanded as we authentically follow Jesus. However, there is not another decision in life as important as this one.

Early followers of Jesus Christ became martyrs rather than recant their commitment to follow Jesus Christ. Individuals sacrificed family, prestige, wealth, and health in order to spread this Good News of Jesus Christ to people around the world. Something has happened to our souls. We have forgotten or neglected the importance and transformation that Jesus Christ produces in others and us. The Church is in the transformation business. Jesus transforms our lives, community, nation and world. We become agents of that transformation as we follow Jesus.

A person recently said to me that the members of her congregation were good, giving people. I wanted to retort, "Is your congregation a fruitful congregation filled with disciples of Jesus Christ who are agents of Jesus Christ in transforming the world?" I failed to see this congregation demonstrating they were accomplishing Jesus' commission. Does the congregation demonstrate radical hospitality, passionate worship, intentional faith development, risk taking mission, and extravagant generosity? These practices begin to reveal the congregation's effectiveness in fulfilling their mission. We must also examine those factors that we cannot measure, but if our hard data indicates a lack of personal and corporate transformation, we must do a careful examination.

January is a time for me to do self-evaluation and I hope it will be a time when every Christian and every congregation will also do some very serious self-evaluations of your own.

Grace & Peace, Max



### **Thank You** by Deming Fire Department/EMS, January 8

To those at the Methodist Church

We, at the Deming Fire Department, would like to send our sincere appreciation to those who took the time to prepare, package, and deliver Thanksgiving dinner to us. Thank you for remembering us during the holidays.

/s/18 signatures



### **225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** by General Board of Global Ministries, January 8

The General Board of Global Ministries has posted an article marking the 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Christmas Conference, which ended in early January, 1785, where the Methodist Episcopal Church was organized. The 64 preachers in Baltimore understood themselves as "missionaries."

The article can be found at [http://gbgm-umc.org/global\\_news/full\\_article.cfm?articleid=5618](http://gbgm-umc.org/global_news/full_article.cfm?articleid=5618).



### **New Faith Community** posted January 8

The Ridge, a ministry of Western Hills UMC, invites you to celebrate with us the official launch of our new faith community in El Paso this weekend Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>! We are excited to reach this milestone in the life of our new faith community and ask for your prayers. We hope you will share this request for celebrative and nurturing prayer with your local congregations across the Conference.

We would like to thank the Annual Conference, Bishop Max Whitfield, District Superintendents, Rev. Scott Sharp and New Church Development, and Western Hills UMC for their support through prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. Thank you all for helping this vision become reality.



### **Reading Suggestions** by Susan W. N. Ruach, GBOD / The United Methodist Church, January 7

If you are looking for ways to grow spiritually in this new year, you might want to explore one or more of the following three new books.

**Do Not Live Afraid: Faith in a Fearful World** by John Indermark--more information and/or to order:

[http://www.upperroom.org/bookstore/description.asp?item\\_id=645295](http://www.upperroom.org/bookstore/description.asp?item_id=645295)

**Being the Presence of Christ: A Vision for Transformation** by Daniel Vestal--more information and/or to order: [http://www.upperroom.org/bookstore/description.asp?item\\_id=560850](http://www.upperroom.org/bookstore/description.asp?item_id=560850)

**No Act of Love Is Ever Wasted: The Spirituality of Caring for Persons with Dementia** by Jane M Thibault

and Richard Morgan--more information and/or to order:  
[http://www.upperroom.org/bookstore/description.asp?item\\_id=638709](http://www.upperroom.org/bookstore/description.asp?item_id=638709)  
Hope 2010 is most blessed for you and those you love.

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