



## It's About Change

The Christmas season was about change as brought about by the seemingly innocent birth of a baby two millennia ago. Yet what a profound, worldwide change that continues to produce.

New Years Day was about change as we transition from the old to the new year. Gone are the mid-2008 high gasoline prices. Not yet gone are the financial changes that have produced employment, housing, and other uncertainties.

Change is inevitable. Do you remember when pagers were worn by Doctors and the pretentious? Do you remember when the cellphone was an expensive status item, and unnecessary at that. Do you remember when the transition to digital cellphone technology gave rise to texting, mobile internet, caller ID, and more. Now the acquisition of a cellphone may herald the onset of teenage years, and a stroll through WalMart may reveal a baby using the cellphone antenna as a pacifier!

You may see some changes within our church. This newsletter format was inaugurated in January 2008 and may be revised to respond to changing needs of the church. The Sunday bulletin may undergo revisions to adapt to changing needs. These changes will also lower printing and distribution costs.

Your comments on these changes are welcome.

### *Changes to People*

Claire and Phil were married on December 19<sup>th</sup>. Your congrat's to the new couple are still appropriate.

Jack Galbraith is under contract with United Methodist Communications as a National Website Trainer.

#### ***In this issue:***

It's About Change.....	1	Prayer List .....	4
UM Women .....	2	Bishop Max .....	5
Music Ministry.....	3	Pastoral Ponderings .....	6

## ***United Methodist Women***

The New Year will start with a program in the Chapel at 2 p.m. on *Call to Prayer and Self Denial* led by Rosemary Jontra. Remember we take a separate offering (other than pledges) for this program. Refreshments will follow in the Parlor.

Our Christmas Bazaar was a big success! The funds raised allowed us to pay our 4<sup>th</sup> quarter pledge to Missions and our other budgeted financial obligations for the year 2008.

Start saving for our February Rummage Sale - REMEMBER: items cannot be brought to the Gym until Monday January 26<sup>th</sup>. NOT BEFORE. Sorting will be on Friday February 6<sup>th</sup> at 8 a.m. until ??? The Sale is on Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup> from 9 am. 'til noon.

NEEDED: We are asking the congregation to help us with replacing hostess sets and dishes that were destroyed. If you have any hostess sets in the garage or up on a shelf you would be willing to donate to the church or would be willing to loan to us when needed, please call Rosalee Gillett 544-8201. Likewise if you have new unused or gently used sets of dishes to donate to the church, call Rosalee or contact Claire at the church.

## ***A Sunday Encounter***

*A Sunday Encounter*, the monthly praise music, scripture study, and reflection series, is fast-paced and presented in many formats. If you like to sing the newest Christian music, this is a study for you. The next meeting is Sunday, January 11, at 5 pm and monthly thereafter. Everyone is invited.

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### **TAKE NOTE**

Well, another year has gone. We make a commitment to the New Year that we will be better, stronger, or perhaps thinner. Many times the promises we make quickly vanish and we find ourselves wondering what happened.

We serve a God who is great at keeping His promises. He never breaks one vow to His people. May you hold on to that hope as our own weaknesses give way to empty promises. Be assured that our God will never let you down.

***Schedule for January:*** Activities begin the week of the 12<sup>th</sup>.

Mondays: Handbell Choir 5:00-6:00

(Note: begins January 5<sup>th</sup>)

Chancel Choir 6:00-7:00

Tuesdays: Soul Kids 3:30-5:00

For Him 5:30-6:30

Thursdays: Crafty Kids 3:30-5:00

and Chime Ringers

***Wednesday Night Live*** will resume on January 28<sup>th</sup>.  
Blessings and Joy, Joe

### ***Little Lambs Preschool***

November was a fun month that went very fast. We finished our color study in the three's and celebrated all the wonderful colors that God has created for us. We also practiced with scissors (pretty scary if you're just learning ... never cut your own hair ... nobody likes the hair style). We spent Thanksgiving week thinking of all the wonderful things we have to be thankful for. It is surprising the great things they can think of.

The four's classes spent the month studying silly songs, fall, creation, and being thankful. The week of fall we collected leaves from students ... we really didn't have that many until one parent provided some leaves from courthouse park ... we had a mountain of leaves to jump in ... and it was super fun! For creation week, they each created the world ... the sky, the land, and the ocean ... and filled them with their own creations.



***Prayer List  
Jan-Mar 2009***

Lynda Adams  
Velma Blandford  
Shirley Bobo  
Marcus Boulden  
Geri Buss  
Neal Cameron  
George & Mary Chase  
Elaine Coffman  
Travis Dodson  
Terry Fontenet  
Christopher Fredrick  
J.B., Joel Hunt  
Jeff, Fred Johnson  
Jewel Landrum  
Bob Mudd  
Lynde Murphy  
Pettigrew Family  
Ann Pettit  
Brian Pettit  
John Plant  
Pat Rogers  
Gary Slayman  
Michael Stephenson

Kathleen Swift  
Sarah/Gregory Swift  
Margaret Truax  
Earl Veeder  
Melissa White  
Marlene Zachek  
Men's & Women's Chrysalis  
Journeys (1/16-19/09)

Families dealing with grief:  
Treadwell/Offutt, Floyd, Baker,  
Baskett, Green

Service men & women and their  
units: Travis Dodson's unit,  
Avilla Augustus, Alan Ballinas,  
Alan/Brian Carter, Jake Corn,  
Amber Dunnihoo, Steve Gilland,  
Maj. Howard Gobble, Jason  
Hammers, Conrad Hughes, Eric  
Jasso, Shaun M. Jones, Jennifer/  
John Lively, Robbie Luna,  
Jennifer/Jarrod McGee, Michael  
Nunley, Brian Park, Josh  
Robertson, Andres Serna, L.  
Charles Stanley, Aaron Steelman,  
Greg Stube, Danny Symonds,  
Van Welch

Hospice patients and their families; our nation; our leaders; our armed forces; our Sunday School: for increased attendance, people with a heart and passion for teaching to assist or substitute in our classes, for faithfulness.

***Women's Depression Support Group...***

meets from 12 noon until 1:00 pm at the church on Thursdays. Bring your lunch and join us as we share hope and encourage one another. All conversations are kept strictly confidential. Call Beth Simpson at the church if you have any questions.

Visit us at [www.funcdeming.com](http://www.funcdeming.com)

***Some of My Thoughts*** by Bishop Max

World AIDS Day was on December 1<sup>st</sup>. The day defied celebration. 2.1 million people died in 2007 from AIDS, and of those deaths 330,000 were children under the age of 15. Who can celebrate in the midst of so many tragic deaths?

The Book of Discipline states, “*All individuals living with HIV and AIDS should be treated with dignity and respect.... We urge the church to be actively involved in the prevention of the spread of AIDS by providing education opportunities to the congregation and community*” (162.5). General Conference last May affirmed the four areas of focus to enable congregations to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. One of those areas of focus is to address the Global Killer Diseases. AIDS is one of those killer diseases. Death from this disease is so common in Africa that the normal life expectancy in some countries declined in an era when a majority of the world anticipates living longer because of the advancements in medical science.

The problem seems so ominous that I want to hide, pretend it does not exist, and leave the solution to those far more intelligent and capable than I. After all, I rationalize, I am only one person and what difference can I make. *Hallelujah Moments* is an email newsletter highlighting United Methodist Mission around the world. The article this past week detailed the story of Caleb Smith from Schenectady, NY. Caleb and four of his friends celebrated his tenth birthday by raising sponsorships and participating in an AIDS walk to benefit the Damien Center (a place of support for people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS in Schenectady, NY). The organizers of the walk presented a smiling Caleb Smith, top fundraiser under the age of 18, with a birthday cake and a joyous round of “Happy Birthday.” Caleb raised \$742.05 for others rather than having a birthday party or going to Chuck E Cheese with his friends.

General Conference in 2004 challenged every local church and annual conference to raise \$1/member over four years to

*Continued on page 7*

## ***Pastoral Ponderings***

### **Change**

The mission of the Church has always been: *To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.* That's right, the whole world, Deming included. Every congregation with which I am familiar that seems to be making headway in this mission has had to make major changes in order to do it. Someone once said that insanity is doing the same things you've always done, the same way that you've always done them, and expecting different results than you've always had.

So how do we begin—just begin—the change within ourselves and our congregation? Here are some thoughts:

1. Pray. Yes, indeed, God can do anything with or without our prayers. Yet we are invited to be partners with God in changing the world, and God wants our prayers and our participation!

2. Look around. See what is happening, and what God is already doing. Ask God to guide you into an existing ministry, or to lead you in starting a new one.

3. Whatever your gifts, use them for God's glory and don't worry about who gets the credit.

4. The world is ever changing, and even we ourselves are changing. Ask what changes we personally, and as a congregation, can make that would allow us to reach others for Christ.

5. Find ways to keep your faith active. Read a devotional classic like *The Practice of the Presence of God*. Alternatively, read a newer book like *The Power of Positive Thinking* or *The Purpose Driven Life*. Join a Bible study (or help to start one), Sunday School class, United Methodist Men, United Methodist Women, or United Methodist Youth. Go on a Walk to Emmaus, Chrysalis, or Journey.

6. Get involved in the Missions Committee and their work in Deming and beyond.

7. Ask if there is anything that you can do to help the Sunday School classes or some of the after school programs for children.

8. Don't forget to pray!

9. Volunteer early to lead or participate in Vacation Bible School.

10. Invite at LEAST one new person to church EACH and EVERY month in 2009.

At one of the first *Connected In Christ* team meetings in our annual conference, the leader was talking about change. He reminded the group that they were working on how to make necessary changes in our congregations so that we could fulfill our mission of making disciples for Jesus Christ. Then he said, "This may be challenging, but it isn't rocket science."

After he said that, a hand went up in the group. When he was recognized, the man stood and said to the whole group, "I work at Sandia Laboratories. I happen to be a 'rocket scientist.' And let me tell you, the kind of change that we are trying to do is harder than 'rocket science!'"

The Bible tells us that Jesus Christ is the same today, tomorrow, and forever. Yet, as our world and its cultures changes, so must the Church that Jesus Christ called into being, and gave our mission.

The last year was a hard one on our church. However, 2009 is a new year, full of new opportunities. Let us all embrace Christ's call to us to follow him, and together let us be the instruments of grace that we can be.

See you in church!



**Bishop Max** *cont. from pg 5...*

address this killer disease. General Conference renewed this challenge in 2008. It amounts to only 25¢/year to reach this goal and yet we fell far short of the goal. My reaction to the news of the impact of AIDS must not be unusual. We fail to see what ten year old Caleb could see. By each of us doing something, we can make a difference. We can save the life of a child. We can prevent the spread of this killer disease. We can make disciples for the transformation of the world. It begins with you and me doing our small part.

Grace & Peace, Max

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"Change happens, sir. For instance, I just bought your company  
and now you have to be my butler."

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