



## Newsletter for January 2012

### **R**eturn to the Community

The church has concluded the very *out of the boat* activity of setting aside all undesignated giving during the first four weeks of Advent for a **Return to the Community** to benefit Deming and Luna County ministries. The amount of the set-aside, which will be administered by the Mission Committee, is

**\$31,396.**

Thank you! You are indeed a very generous church!

### **R**egular Schedules Resume

Starting in January, the music and children's groups will resume regular weekly practice times, as follows:

- Praise Team - Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 6 pm
- Chancel Choir - Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, at 5 pm
- SOUL Kids - Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 pm
- First Call - Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 pm
- Youth Bells/Chimes - Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 pm
- Handbell Choir - Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm
- Handchimes for Kids - Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 pm

Please mark your calendars accordingly.

These committees and groups will also resume:

- Hopekeepers (Women's Depression Support group) – Wednesday, January 4<sup>th</sup> at noon, in the Sunday School wing. **NOTE:** This group will now meet on the first and third Wednesday of each month. Please contact Beth in the office for more information.
- Missions - Thursday, January 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm, in the Fellowship Hall
- Trustees – Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, at 11:30 am, in the Fellowship Hall (following 2<sup>nd</sup> service)
- Junior UMYF – Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm in the gym. This is open to ALL youth grades 6-8. For more information, please call April at 545-3402.
- Senior UMYF – Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm at Rick and Sue's house. This is open to ALL youth grades 9-12. For more information, please call Sue at 546-3225.
- Finance - Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 pm, in the Memorial Classroom
- Church Council - Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm, in the Classroom
- United Methodist Men's Breakfast meeting – Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 am in the Memorial Classroom. This is open to ALL men in the church.
- United Methodist Women's monthly meeting – Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup> at 2 pm in the Chapel. Refreshments follow the meeting. This is open to ALL women in the church.

Other committees have not yet been scheduled.

### **T**here We Went A-Caroling . . .

A great bunch of carolers spread Christmas love and cheer to our shut-ins on Sunday, December 18. It was a multi-generational group that was full of Christmas spirit; the youth in the youth group even took time out from their Christmas party to add their voices to the joyful singing. The group sang traditional favorites like

“Silent Night,” upbeat songs like “Go, Tell It on the Mountain,” and their own unique version of “Feliz Navidad.” The carolers visited eleven homes in two hours, and then returned to the church for a delicious, warm meal of chili, soup, and grilled sandwiches. The meal was provided by dedicated volunteers Mary Adams and Elsie and Nick Necochea. The event was a wonderful time of blessing for the givers and receivers of Christmas music and love. Join us next year if you want to experience a Christmas blessing like no other.

## **U**MW NEWS

The January UMW meeting will be on January 21<sup>st</sup> in the Chapel at 2:00 p.m.. Kellye Stimpson will present the program and refreshments will be served after the meeting. All ladies are welcome. CLEAN OUT your closets, cupboards, garages, etc. for our next Rummage Sale on Saturday, February 4. Set up and sorting will be on Friday 8:30 a.m. until ?? Help from the congregation is always welcome! Items may be brought to the MAC building on January 23<sup>rd</sup> and placed against the North wall. NOT BEFORE JANUARY 23<sup>rd</sup> PLEASE!

## **G**eorge Asa Jones

My father, Asa Jones recently moved to Texas to be closer to my brother and me. I am sure that his leaving left an empty spot where he sat each Sunday. For the time being, he is living with me in San Angelo and has adjusted well under the circumstances. The Deming church has been important to our family for a little over 40 years. Even though neither my brother nor I ever lived in Deming, we were comforted by the fact that Mom and Dad had such a dynamic church. Thank you for the calls and concern during the time we were moving Dad. Even though he was quite ill, he has responded well to treatment and attention from all concerned. Other than not driving and wobbly knees he is well. He does have long term health issues; however for now, he's comfortable, cheerful and very sharp. We are richly blessed.

*New Address:* 313 Edinburgh Rd., San Angelo, TX 76901, 325-947-2886.

Best time to catch Daddy is probably 11:30 am New Mexico time. We haven't mastered the phone yet. I am home for lunch and can answer for him.

## **D**uck Days in Deming

A video titled "Duck Days in Deming" was prepared from footage taken in 2011. The video promotes the activities that occur in Deming on the Duck Race weekend, including the Duck Race BBQ meal at FUMC. The video was submitted to the New Mexico Conference video website for inclusion thereon. And it was accepted (yea)! For your convenience, a link to that video is available on the Main page of the church website (<http://www.fumcdeming.com>). Happy viewing.

## **F**rom Mike Hofacket

It has been my honor to be the Lay Leader of our church for the past several years. This church refreshes me through its worship, music, messages, children's time, love, generosity, and people. Every Sunday, I am blessed by one or more of these and they always replenish me from the week's toils. The love and generosity of this church has never been in doubt. I have watched it with amazement for years. Whether the times are good or bad, you (the Church) have always reached out with your overwhelming compassion and giving heart. We are to strive to be like Jesus. This lofty goal beyond my reach. So, I strive to be like you, the people of FUMC-Deming, the sons and daughters of God. I pray that Jesus walks with me as I learn from each of you for it is you who are the Word of God, taken from paper and placed in action. Thank you and may God continue to bless each of you.

I would be remiss if I did not thank our staff. Wow, what a wonderful group they are. Our nursery workers never miss a beat and are wonderful caring people.

Beth has the heart of compassion. All she meets know that Christ's love for her flows through her to those she meets. She led a great service but is more content to serve God quietly and one-on-one. Bless her ministry.

Mary is never afraid of any task for God is with her. She led an event that should have been my responsibility but I needed to be out of town. She not only did it without complaint but with much more skill and success than I. (God always has a plan.) She is a joy.

Sarah is filled with a joyful noise as the praise of Christ explodes from her. Fortunately, her joyful noise is beautiful in all manners and matters. How blessed we are to have her, her heart, and her spirit lead us in worship. Claire does so much. Her title and her work are mismatched. She is first line greeter and voice of Christ to all who enter our building during the week. She has filled when committees drop the ball and when they need something more. Want to look at the hands of Christ, look at Claire's.

Pastor Ernie is a unique blessing to our church. His blue jeans attitude and honest message touches us where we live and how we live. He is active in all parts of this church and he cares about the people of all ages. I would say he has a special relationship with the children (and he does), but he also has a special relationship with the elderly, the in-betweens, and even guys like me. Christ, the carpenter, with active hands and loving heart. I see this in Ernie. Thank you Ernie for joining us and thank you for bringing your wonderful wife with you.

Well, as usual, I am too wordy. I thank everyone for the support and pray all will support the changes in our church committees and leadership. Change is always good and helps the church to grow. You have all blessed me. May God bless the working of this church.

## **T**hanks for Camp Funds!

As 2012 begins, the children and youth of FUMC offer their thanks to everyone who contributed to the Camp Scholarship Fund last year. Whether you gave to the Bread Basket offering for camp, donated aluminum cans to be recycled in exchange for cash, or gave in some other way behind the scenes, we thank you for your contribution! Last summer we sent eight children and three adults from our church to camps at Sacramento Assembly. The church was able to pay for all the adult volunteers' fees and all but a small portion of the children's fees, plus gasoline for transportation to and from camp. All the campers and counselors enjoyed themselves immensely with games, hiking, small groups, Bible study, music, worship, and other adventures being part of each day's activities.\*

Thank you so much to all who helped provide these experiences for our children! We want to take more children and youth and go to more camps at Sacramento in 2012, so stay tuned for ways you can help in the months to come.

*\*If you would like get an idea of what the kids did at camp, go to <http://sacramentoassembly.org/#/library/videos/> and click on "Launch Media Player." Then choose "Elementary Camp" (Summer 2011) or "Younger Children's Camp" (Summer 2011). You might even catch a glimpse of some of our kids on the videos!*

## **I**t's Almost Time for ROC!

If you know someone in the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, or 8<sup>th</sup> grade, you should let them know about the awesome opportunity they have to go to this special Mid High retreat at Sacramento Assembly. The Rhythm Of Christ retreat is put on every spring by the students from the Wesley Foundation (United Methodist student ministry) at NMSU. This year's ROC will be March 2-4 and registration forms will be available soon. Those interested in going should contact Beth Simpson in the church office (546-2791). The deadline to sign up is February 12. So talk to the Mid High youth in your life and encourage him/her to go with us to this mountain retreat in March. They will have a blast!

## **E**arly Notice

The United Methodist Women have a rummage sale scheduled for February 4<sup>th</sup>. Get a head start on your spring cleaning! Pick up some empty boxes and start adding items as you begin cleaning up from Christmas. Drop offs for the sale will begin January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## **B**ishop's Visit to Our Area

Bishop Max Whitfield, of our New Mexico Annual Conference, has scheduled a visit to the El Paso District on Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, from 2 to 4 pm, at St. Mark's UMC, 5005 Love Rd, El Paso. *Everyone is encouraged* to attend and share their thoughts with the Bishop.

## **C**ommunion Sunday

Communion Sunday will be held on January 8<sup>th</sup>. Each Communion Sunday, we support two ministries. The first is collecting non-perishable food items for our local food bank. These can be left in the white

barrel in the Sunday School hallway (just outside of the sanctuary). The second is collecting donations for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. This money is used to help local residents meet critical needs, such as rent, utility payments or pay for prescriptions. This offering is taken at the Communion Rail.

Even though the economy is slowing recovering, our area is lagging far behind. We still hold the number one spot for unemployment in the state. These two factors have created continuing hardships for local families, many who live from paycheck to paycheck. Your generosity helps assure a measure of security and dignity for local residents.

## **G**oing Green

This month we'll discuss how to green your garbage (besides spray painting it). Did you know that the average American produces about 1,600 pounds of garbage every year? Though you can't stop producing trash altogether, you can reduce by reusing, recycling, composting and shopping for products that minimize waste.

One of the best ways to reduce waste is to avoid throwing away things you can reuse. Some of the most easy to reuse include:

- Plastic grocery sacks
  - Reuse to line small trash containers
  - Recycle back to the grocery store
  - Bring your own grocery bags to avoid getting them altogether
- Cardboard boxes
  - Reuse shipping boxes for other shipments or storage
  - Cut them up for kindling
- Egg cartons
  - Store golf balls or other round objects (some of your small, breakable Christmas ornaments)
  - Fill them with soil to start seedlings
  - Purchase eggs in paper cartons which break down more easily than Styrofoam cartons
- Glass bottles and jars
  - Use as vases, candle holders
  - Use as containers for homemade foods, sauces
  - Use to hold loose change or other small items that get lost
  - Decorate them and use as gift containers for homemade goodies
- Junk mail
  - Store the envelopes and use them as scratch paper
  - Shred or cut up the junk mail and use as insulation when shipping items
- Newspaper
  - Use as kindling in the winter
  - Use as cushioning when wrapping fragile items for shipment or storage
  - Use as an absorbent liner for pet cages or cat litter boxes
- Plastic take-out containers
  - Clean them and use to store food or take your lunch to work.

Next month – some recycling information!

## **B**read Basket Sunday

Our church's history of generosity extends each month to a different ministry group, through our bread basket offering, taken on the third Sunday of each month. This month, the offering on January 15<sup>th</sup> will be taken for Human Relations Day. This is one of six special offerings designed by the United Methodist to further the well being of people around the world. Specifically, the Human Relations Day offering encourages social justice and work with at-risk youth.

It is one of the opportunities for United Methodist Churches to celebrate our connectional work. Your Human Relations Day offering supports vital community ministries that teach and advocate for justice, especially among people struggling to survive on the margins of society. The offering supports youth offender rehabilitation ministries through the General Board of Church & Society, and the General Board of Global Ministries' Community Developers and United Methodist Voluntary Services programs.

This day of social action and raising awareness aims to heal social ills at the national level. In The United Methodist Church calendar, Human Relations Day happens the Sunday immediately preceding the observance of the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s. The juxtaposition of these two very special days is not a coincidence. The United Methodist *Book of Discipline* describes the purpose of Human Relations Day as a call to "the Church to recognize the right of all God's children in realizing their potential as human beings in relationship with each other."

Your generosity furthers this important work. For more information, please visit [www.umcgiving.org](http://www.umcgiving.org) and search for Human Relations Day.

## **L**ittle Lambs

November was a month of fun and change. In the 4's, we did silly songs and made our own silly song books (so we could sing with our families all the time) ... sing for joy to God ... Psalm 81:1. We studied the beautiful season of Fall (yes before our weather cooperated with us and turned the leaves colors and let them fall from the trees). We studied creation and learned all the wonderful things God has created just for us. We learned the song ... He's got the whole world in His hands (they really like singing it...then we tried to figure out how big God's hands must be to hold the whole world .... they decided bigger than their dad's). The concept of time and space really don't mean much to the young but their thoughts and ideas on the concepts will make you think. Sometimes you might even change your mind after they tell you their ideas.

The 3's finished their study of colors and shapes. We discovered that God created the most wonderful colors to make our world beautiful. We also discovered that you can paint with a paint brush, q-tips, or sponges ... but the best thing is your hands ... then you can make hand prints of all the colors and as one student said, "look I'm a rainbow for God with my hand prints in all the colors".

We all learned to give thanks and be thankful. We are very thankful to the FUMC for our school, for all your prayers for our students and teachers, and to God for allowing us to teach, guide, enjoy and love His most special creations. Oh give thanks to the Lord, call upon His name ... Psalm 105:1

## **B**ible Study

The next Community-Wide Bible Study will be "Experiencing God's Peace", a study of the book of Philippians by Elizabeth George. We will begin the study on February 2, with the first lesson done and the study will finish on March 8. Books are \$10.00 each. To sign up for the study please call Suanne Delk or Dee Dee Baker. The deadline for ordering books is January 10, 2012.

## **L**ay Speakers: Save This Date

The El Paso District will be sponsoring a Lay Speakers' School on February 17-18, 2012, at St. Mark's UMC (El Paso, TX). We are planning to teach the Basic Lay Speakers' Course and the advanced course "Lay Pastoral Care Giving."

For more information, contact Rev. Janet Whitmore [whitty@gilanet.com](mailto:whitty@gilanet.com) or 575-542-3876.

## **L**as Cruces TREK

Senior Olympic Health Promotion Event, February 7, 2012  
New Mexico Senior Olympics invites you and your seniors to attend the upcoming Senior Trek to Healthy Fitness event in Las Cruces. This FREE event will be held Tuesday, February 7, 2012 from 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at the Meerscheidt Recreation (plenty of parking) located at 1600 E Hadley.

We kindly ask you to RSVP (1-888-623-NMSO) by January 31, 2012, in order to plan adequate seating. Check-in for the Las Cruces TREK will begin at 8:30 a.m. with coffee and muffins. The keynote address will begin at 9:00 a.m. The other health education and activity/sports workshops begin at 10:00 a.m. FREE Lunch will be provided courtesy of the Mountain View Regional Medical Center.

## **S**hepherd's Run

Once again, the United Methodist Women and other church members came together (in spite of the weather) for another successful Shepherd's Run. UMW members were busy making home baked goodies.

Other members picked up fruit, candy and hot chocolate/apple cider packs. Then a group gathered in the gym to assemble the baskets. They were delivered Christmas Eve to area law enforcement, fire department, hospital and EMT personnel who were working on Christmas Eve.

Many thank you's have been received from the recipients, including one family who is new to the area and very surprised by the gift!

To everyone who participated in this effort – thank you for being an instrument of God's blessings to those who are often underappreciated.

## **R**eminder! Reminder!

"Lord Teach Us to Pray" Seminar, Friday, January 13 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., and Saturday, January 14 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., at First United Methodist Church, 314 Lead Ave SW, Albuquerque, NM

Registration is \$40 per person; \$65 per couple sharing a conference booklet. Registration forms may be obtained from the First UMC website: [www.fumconline.org](http://www.fumconline.org).

Mail registration and make check to *First United Methodist Church*, P.O. Box 1638, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103

*Schedule includes free time to visit Old Town or other Albuquerque Sites of Interest!*

**Questions?** Please call Peggy Blackburn at 505-884-2412 or Rhoda Parker at 505-821-1992 or email [prayerseminar@fumconline.org](mailto:prayerseminar@fumconline.org)

## **E**DE – Equipping Disciples for Excellence

EDE has planned a workshop that will strive to provide training and enrichment opportunities to encourage and empower individuals and local churches to envision, equip and encourage disciples in *“Practicing Christ’s Compassion” Risk-taking Mission and Service.*

EDE will be held on Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, at Trinity-First UMC (801 N. Mesa) in El Paso, TX. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Thomas Kemper, General Secretary of the General Board of Global Ministries. Dr. Kemper, a native of Germany, assumed his responsibilities as the Chief Executive of the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries on March 5, 2010. He was a Missionary in Brazil. He's traveled extensively, doing field work in Africa, working with the Vietnamese boat people in England and also can communicate in five languages. He is the first general secretary of a United Methodist General Agency who is from outside the United States.

2010 EDE workshops will focus on leadership training for local church leadership and outreach ministries, along with opportunities for spiritual and personal growth. These are three of the many workshops being offered:

- “Singing Justice/Living Compassion,” and all day workshop exploring gentle and practical ways to help congregations sing and live its values of justice and compassion.
- “It’s Risky to be on the Finance Committee!” Just as Jesus called his disciples to take risks, so too can a Finance Committee live in faith and take risks.
- “The Joy of Bible Reading” - Becoming a good Bible reader is like becoming a good cook. In this workshop, you’ll look at a variety of techniques for reading the Bible. Come learn about the ingredients you need and how to put them together.

But EDE does not just focus on the adults. EKE – Equipping Kids for Excellence will be offered, free of charge, for elementary age children (K-5<sup>th</sup> grade). Planned activities are designed just for children: to offer them an opportunity to learn about God and how they can be of mission and service for Him. Parents are asked to provide a sack lunch. EKE will provide snacks and beverages.

EYE – The El Paso District Youth Coordinator, Jachin Ford, and Sonya Stokes, Youth Director at Trinity-First UMC, will be planning a day-long session of Practicing Risk-taking Mission and Service just for the youth (grades 6-12). There will be a lock-in for those who who'd like to start Friday night. Or youth can sign up for just the day. T-shirt will be available for registrations received by January 16. Because EYE will be a hands on mission project, youth are asked to wear work cloths, a hat, work gloves and closed toe shoes on Saturday. Lunch is included with the registration fee (\$12 for Saturday only or \$20 for the lock-in and Saturday service day).

SO – What does all of this mean for you? If you be changing committees in 2010, or are brand-new to a committee, you are encouraged to attend the workshop that pertains to your committee (Church Council, Finance, Worship, etc.). If you would like a time of spiritual and personal growth/renewal, make plans to attend one of those workshops. Encourage your kids and youth to attend EKE or EYE.

Here are the details:

- Registrations are due January 21<sup>st</sup>. Registrations received after January 21 will incur an additional \$2 to \$5 late fee. Registration fees cover your participation in workshop events, fellowship snacks and lunch (if chosen).
- Childcare (infant to pre-k) is available at no extra cost, with advance reservation.
- Full day, with lunch - \$30;
- ½ day, with lunch - \$27
- ½ day, without lunch - \$25

# January 2012

1 * Communion Sunday * Sr. UMYF	2 * Chancel Choir practice * Dance Exercise	3 * Praise team	4 * Youth Handchimes * Adult Handbells * Prayer & Praise Worship * Dance Exercise	5 * Quilt Group * SoulKeepers Support Group * Children's Handbells * Mission Committee	6 * Men's Bible Study	7
8 * Sr. UMYF * Jr. UMYF	9 * Chancel Choir practice * <b>Finance Committee</b> * Dance Exercise * Handbell Trio	10 * S.O.U.L. Kids * Praise team * <b>Church Council</b>	11 * Youth Handchimes * Adult Handbells * First Call * Prayer & Praise Worship * Dance Exercise	12 * Children's Handbells	13 * Men's Bible Study	14
15 * Bread basket Sunday * UMM Breakfast Mtg * Sr. UMYF * Jr. UMYF	16 * Chancel Choir practice * Dance Exercise * Handbell Trio	17 * S.O.U.L. Kids * Praise team	18 * Youth Handchimes * Adult Handbells * First Call * Prayer & Praise Worship * Dance Exercise	19 * Quilt Group * SoulKeepers Support Group * Children's Handbells	20 * Men's Bible Study	21
22 * Sr. UMYF * Jr. UMYF	23 * Chancel Choir practice * Dance Exercise * Handbell Trio	24 * S.O.U.L. Kids * Praise team	25 * Youth Handchimes * Adult Handbells * First Call * Prayer & Praise Worship * Dance Exercise	26 * Children's Handbells	27 * Men's Bible Study	28 * <b>EDE</b>
29 * Sr. UMYF * Jr. UMYF	30 * Chancel Choir practice * Dance Exercise * Handbell Trio	31 * S.O.U.L. Kids * Praise team				