



Newsletter for March 2010



Love INC and Help Those in Need *posted February 25*

Occasionally people needing assistance come to church during Sunday worship or other events outside of normal office hours. Sometimes it is hard to know how to help them – especially when the office is closed.

- If they are local people, many of their needs can be met the next business day by calling Love INC (our local assistance clearing house) at 544-2400, in the morning.
- If they are in need of a meal, there are sack lunches in the Fellowship Hall kitchen – in the cupboards over the single sink.
- There are also turkey or chicken pot pies in the Fellowship Hall freezer that can be used to give someone an immediate meal.
- If they need a bus ticket or a room for the night – that might be a little more difficult because most of the agencies handling those requests are closed. However, they can come to the church office, or call Love INC, on the next business day if they still need help.
- If they need gas, the Sheriff's Department handles all gas vouchers.
- In some cases, people simply want money. Giving money is usually not the best answer.

People may tell you that local agencies here in town won't help them. That may or may not be true, depending upon past histories. However, it is generally in the best interest of the person needing help if they are referred to Love INC. Love INC works very hard to help people become more self-sufficient. They do a wonderful job considering their limited resources – particularly volunteers to man the phones and take information from prospective clients.

Love INC is in need of volunteers to answer calls and take information from potential clients in their clearinghouse. Especially need someone who is bi-lingual to help with the Spanish speaking needy in our community. Volunteers may offer their time, ranging from one hour a week to twelve hours. We are open for calls M-W-F, 9 am to noon, and Tuesdays from 2 to 5 pm. We highly value all of our volunteers and do train them. Please contact Carol at 494-4458 to arrange for an interview.

Civic

Daylight Savings Time to Begin *posted February 23*

REMEMBER – Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 14th at 2:00 a.m. Set your clocks AHEAD one hour before going to bed Saturday night.

This is also a good time to change the batteries in your smoke detectors. Even though you think the battery is good, a fresh one is an inexpensive added measure of protection.

Mission

UMCOR Report on Haiti Relief *posted February 22*

Thanks so much for the outpouring of support for UMCOR's Haiti relief efforts - the generosity is amazing! As we work with the people in Haiti to address the long term recovery and development needs, we are thankful to move forward with the confidence that the people of the United Methodist Church will continue to partner with UMCOR in the years to come. [Read the full report...](#)



Some of My Thoughts *by Bishop Max Whitfield, February 22*

Dr. Ed Crump, a retired United Methodist clergy person, gave a lecture in Jerusalem on Jesus' ministry in Jerusalem. Dr. Crump related that for many years he concluded his letters by writing, "Grace and Peace". He indicated he now realized that something vital was missing from the statement. Peace cannot exist without grace. Without the unconditional love of God expressed in our relationships with others,

peace remains elusive. Unconditional love (grace), alone, can produce peace.

Guides, brochures, and lecturers constantly referred to Jerusalem as the "City of Peace". However, what we saw and experienced failed to reflect peace. Jerusalem is not at war, but there is no peace in Jerusalem. Christians quarrel with one another over space and heritage. Palestinians, Israeli, Jews, Christians, Moslems, and non-religious all live in the same city. However, there is no peace. They quarrel, speak evil of each other, and seldom show real concern for those who are from a different religious background. We only observed the absence of war, and the lack of peace.

Some days I weep when reports reach me. The reports communicate the ways a few people treat one another. Individuals say hateful, mean, demeaning, discouraging things to one another. They often request that I affirm their behavior, or at least carry out their desires and wishes. Seldom do their messages include words of real concern and genuine love for those with whom they disagree. These individuals feel justified in their sinful, un-Christian behavior.

The Biblical image of Jesus weeping over Jerusalem took on significant new meaning as our group of 48 people from the New Mexico Conference traveled through the city. Jesus saw the diversity, the separation, and the hatred that existed in Jerusalem nearly 2000 years ago. He heard their claims that their rancor grew from their religious differences. The real reason for their contempt and hatred resided in the hearts of the religious leaders who failed to follow Jesus' command to love one another. Unconditional love for others is not optional. God expects, no, *demands*, we love because Jesus has loved us—unconditionally. When we love this way, we know real peace, the peace that passes all understanding. Without unconditional love, there can be no peace.

The schedule in Israel pushed and shoved me. Many more tourists filled the religious sites in Jerusalem than were present four years ago. People rushed from site to site straining to get the best view and frantically hurried to see as many places as they could in a limited amount of time. I wanted to push back. I became self-righteous about how much better I was than these unloving, uncaring individuals who failed to understand what it meant to practice the Golden Rule. Pride and self-righteousness reigned in my soul.

Suddenly, like the Apostle Paul, the scales fell from my eyes. I stood guilty for failing to love my neighbor as myself. Jesus' unconditional love for me was void in my love for others. I needed a heart transplant. I was the Pharisee, the religious one, who knew how to behave. I engaged in condemning those who were not as "righteous" as I was. Unconditional love for others was missing from my life and actions. I had failed to live by grace.

Dr. Crump's words vibrated in my ears, if we truly desire peace, it begins in extending unconditional love to those around us. **I encourage you to do some real soul searching during Lent and see how effectively you are seeking peace in your home, church, community and the world. True peace comes from unconditional love. True peace comes from extending unconditional love.**

Grace & Peace, Max



Mission Committee Report by Barbara Walsh, February 22

The mission committee met on February 18, 2010. The meeting opened with a message from Barbara Walsh:

It is with a heavy heart that I will step down from heading the mission committee. I have served on this committee for nine years and have chaired it several times. My desire is to remain on the committee, however. It truly is the heart of the church and we all pray that someone will step forward to head this committee. Sincerely, Barbara Walsh

- The committee voted to have the Mission Faire every two years.
- Barbara Walsh will still serve to orchestrate the Angel Tree.
- Keath shared with the group that churches throughout our community are looking into the homeless situation.
- The mission committee was informed about a faith community nurse outreach. It states that parish nursing could be a vital part of any congregation, and we are blessed with so many nurses and medical people in our church family. This sounds like a wonderful outreach. Anyone interested in more information contact: Susan Dickens, 1921 Janeway, Clovis, NM 88101, (505-695-9163) OR sdickens2@gmail.com

The following letter arrived from UMCOR: "Thank you for your generous gift to the *UM Committee on Relief*. One hundred percent of your contribution will go to programs that provide food, help farmers grow nutritious food, and support people left destitute because of natural disasters and war. Your mission gift of \$200.00 will go a long way in healing and restoring."

Mission

Interim Executive Director of New Mexico Conference of Churches posted February 22

James K. Baird, Jr. brings his enthusiasm, vision for the future, and years of leadership experience to the New Mexico Conference of Churches (NMCC) during the transition between permanent Directors. The Board appointed Jim as its Interim Executive Director beginning January 2010. He will take charge of the ecumenical nonprofit organization for a period of up to 12 months while the Board undertakes the search and selection process for a permanent Executive Director.

Church

Little Lambs Report posted February 22

We were pretty busy in January and we got two new students. The 4's reviewed their basic skills, tried some delicious cooking, learned to keep our bodies healthy with good physical fitness, and made the coolest things with wheels. Our weeks are varied but we do have lots of fun learning.

The 3's reviewed their basic skills, practiced cutting (this can be very scary if you turn your back on them...we try to only cut paper), and studied creation and all the wonderful things that God has created and still creates for us.

We enjoyed rain and snow...some wind...and the warmth of friendship in our classrooms. 2010 started pretty good...wonder what God has in store for the rest of the year?

Civic

Desert Stitchers Quilt Show posted February 22

The Desert Stitchers are presenting a quilt show on March 13th. They are inviting you to show your quilt(s). Please leave written information pertaining to the quilt in the church office by Thursday, February 25th. You may also bring any of your antique quilts and have them appraised. Desert Stitchers is open to anyone. Meetings are held in the Fellowship Hall of the United Methodist Church at 9:30 am on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month.

Church

UM Women News by Rosalee Gillett, February 22

Once again, the UMW wants to thank all who donated, helped in any way and purchased items from our February rummage sale. Thanks to those from the congregation and friends who pitched in and helped to make it a success.

March is a busy UMW month. Saturday March 13 is our El Paso District meeting in Las Cruces. The deadline for registration is March 5. Rosalee Gillett has registration forms (544-8201). The fee of \$20 covers registration and lunch. The meeting is at St. Paul's UMC. It is an informative and interesting program. The key speaker is Rev. Heike Miller who will be leading the Lydia Patterson Institute teen unit on their trip to Berlin, Germany this summer.

March 20 is our regular program at 2 p.m. in the Chapel. Eleanor Fuller will present a program on *Building and Experiencing Community*. She is also the hostess for this month.

Sunday, March 21 is UMW Sunday with our members presenting the service. The message will be given by Phyllis Mudd on *Christian Relationships*.

Mission

Tax Deduction for Haiti Relief posted February 20

President Obama has signed Public Law 111-126 which will allow taxpayers to make cash contributions to Haiti relief programs until March 1, 2010, and claim those contributions on their 2009 income tax return. The new law also specifies that contributions made via text message may be deducted and filers can show a telephone bill to prove the donation.

Donations to support UMCOR's Haiti Relief efforts may be made to Haiti Emergency, UMCOR Advance

#418325. Donations may be made online by going to www.gbgm-umc.org and designating your gift for Haiti relief. Checks may be placed in local church offerings or mailed to UMCOR, P. O. Box 9068, New York, NY 10087. The entire amount of each gift will be used to help the people of Haiti, and that is a unique feature about donations made through UMCOR: no portion is siphoned off for overhead costs or administrative costs.

Worship

Mt. Sequoyah Conference Center by Marilyn Braswell, February 20

The third annual **Caring for Creation** conference at Mount Sequoyah Conference and Retreat Center will bring members of the faith community together to learn how they can become better caretakers of the Earth.

The conference, slated for April 16-18, will offer workshops ranging from *Sustainability Ethics: Discovering the Holiness of Place* to *Creating Your Green Team: A Model for Action*. Other workshops include The Biblical Basis for Creation, Food Insecurity?, Practice of Political Advocacy, and The Kid Connection to Environmental Stewardship.

For information about workshops, schedules, leadership and fees, contact Mount Sequoyah at 800-760-8126, 479-443-4531, programs@mountsequoyah.org or www.mountsequoyah.org.



Love In the Name of Christ by Carol Lokomski, February 10

Thank you for your most generous donation of \$2,092 to Love INC of Luna County in 2009.

Since we first opened our phones on May 30, 2007 to receive calls from the disadvantaged in our community, we have had over 1,066 clients, with only a few falling beyond our scope of resources.

The churches and agencies were united in their attempts to meet legitimate needs through our efforts to thwart the occasional misuse of our churches by those who know how to "work the system". We continue to pray for discernment in these areas as well as for the expansion of our resources.

Working with almost 50 agencies and over 18 local churches, our 20 clearinghouse volunteers and over 55 church volunteers have put in more than 1,100 hours to help fulfill our mission in 2009 to mobilize the Church (body of Christ) to transform lives and communities In the Name of Christ. We cannot convey how much we appreciate their willing hearts and hands.

We truly appreciate your faithfulness in supporting Love INC in 2009 and look forward to our continued relationship as we grow in God's work in 2010 to provide assistance to people in need and to service our affiliate churches.

Worship

FUMC Deming Recognized as a Welcoming Congregation posted February 5

The February 5th issue of the *New Mexico Conference News* (a New Mexico-specific supplement to the United Methodist Reporter) recognized FUMC Deming for achieving **Welcoming Congregation** status. The Welcoming Congregation status is granted by the national United Methodist Church to individual churches that document their conformance to stated requirements.

The *Conference News* is distributed statewide so our Welcoming Congregation status is now known through the state! Also, our local church website (www.fumcdeming.com), plus the FUMC Deming listing on the Find-A-Church website (www.find-a-church.org), contain the Welcoming Congregation logo.

Church

United Methodist Men by Dick Huffman, February 5

Last year, the UM Men, thanks to the members of our church, were able to purchase a large ice machine, two roaster ovens, and repair the refrigerator in the MAC kitchen. They also gave \$542.84 for the consecration dinner, \$500 to pay for the construction of handicap ramps, three scholarships of \$500 each, and \$500 to Coats for Kids. Remaining monies were donated for Thanksgiving baskets and to the church to use for the expenses associated with the community Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners.

In the plan for 2010 are awarding up to six scholarships of \$500 each, a spring smoked roast sale, repairing or replacing the irrigation system at the parsonage, and exploring the idea of sponsoring a community Easter dinner. Applications for the scholarship awards must be received by **March 31, 2010**; forms are available in the church office.

Worship

Wednesday Night Live! posted February 4

Wednesday Light Night will begin on February 24th. 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 of you and your family to enjoy before classes begin at 6 pm. Watch for registration information on the website home page, coming in the near future.

Mission

Imagine No Malaria posted February 4

Did you know that the United Methodist Church is fighting malaria through a ministry called *Imagine No Malaria*? The people of The United Methodist Church are answering Christ's call to heal the sick and help those in need through our gifts (2 Corinthians 9:6-7).

Together, we will raise \$75 million to help families in Africa, and eliminate death and suffering caused by malaria.

To make a donation and change a life, visit www.ImagineNoMalaria.org.

Worship

Events During Easter posted February 4

First United Methodist Church will present *Christ in the Passover* by Jews for Jesus on Sunday, March 28th. This shows the link between the ancient Festival of Redemption and Christ as the Lamb of God. This sermon demonstration is visual so you will actually see a table set up with tradition Passover items. Scripture and these visual items are used to walk through a Jewish Passover seder, weaving the story of the Exodus together with the life, death and resurrection of Christ. The public is invited to this informative presentation which begins at 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

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 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.

Church

Now You Know (1882) by Dee Huffman, February 4

"Among the first of the substantial buildings (in Deming) was the Methodist Church." Ed Pennington wrote, "Parson Stanton had come here almost with the first settlers, and started to build a house unto the Lord. Parson Stanton wasn't much of a preacher, but one of the best men that ever graced a pulpit. Even the tough element admired him and in a short time he had his handsome little church built and paid for, but the congregation was lacking, and the good man had many a Sabbath service and was himself the preacher and the congregation. This did not last long, however. The early settlers were bringing their families as the homes were built, and this plucky parson's heart was gladdened by appreciative audiences. Stanton was not one of the dyspeptic canting kind of church men; he was a jolly good fellow and a gentleman always, taking an active part in every measure for the general good of the town and people, winning the love and respect of everyone. He was a sure enough 'Sky Pilot' to the reckless ones of the wild and woolly west, and his influence for good was greater than he knew."

Civic

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 in 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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