



Online Newsletter



Rethink Church by Diane Degnan (UM Communications), April 30

May 5 and 6 marks the kickoff of Rethink Church, the next evolution of The United Methodist Church's "Open hearts" welcoming campaign. Major events will take place in New York City and Washington, D.C., and local churches and annual conferences are encouraged to put on events to benefit their communities, too.

"If we are to Rethink Church, we must rethink what it means to be a servant community," said the Rev. Larry Hollon, chief executive of United Methodist Communications.

Many United Methodist bishops from around the world will mark the launch on May 5 when they visit day laborers at three sites in and around Washington, D.C., in conjunction with the Council of Bishops meeting. The bishops will serve breakfast to the laborers, and will offer conversation and prayer.

On May 6, more than 100 United Methodists will take to the streets of New York City to perform random acts of kindness. That includes hailing cabs, opening doors, and more. Those street teams will also give away iTunes cards – good for one song download – that promote www.10thousanddoors.org, a new Web site to which The United Methodist Church is directing persons unaffiliated with the denomination, via Rethink Church advertising.

Local churches and annual conferences can participate in launch events, as well. Already, the North Texas Annual Conference has aligned a housing renovation project with the Rethink Church launch. More events are being added daily.

Resources for conferences and churches are available at www.rethinkchurch.org, a Web site that offers tools and resources to United Methodists for the Rethink Church launch. Just added to the site's "Getting Started" area is new information on how congregations can get involved, including tips for launch-date activities. Also included is a conference- and church-level strategy for staging random acts of kindness events, similar to the event scheduled for New York City. Ideas range from cleaning up graffiti to bagging groceries.

Rethink Church launch events seek to make tangible the messaging found within The United Methodist Church's Rethink Church advertising, which begins on April 20, and officially kicks off on May 5. United Methodist Communications (UMCom), the communications agency of the denomination, oversees the Rethink Church advertising and welcoming program, and provides Rethink Church training, media, and public relations support services to United Methodist congregations and conferences worldwide.



Celebration by Cazandra MacDonald, April 27

Attention ladies! Celebration, a non denominational ministry for women, will be holding their Spring Gathering on Saturday, May 9th at FUMC-Deming. Breakfast begins at 9:30; a program of praise, worship and a message follows at 10 am. Come hear a testimony by Eternity Wauls and the message *Lord, Fill My Cup!* by Cindy McCuaig of Sacramento Methodist Assembly.



Pennies for Alpine by Rosalee Gillett, April 20

With the support of the Pastor and the Mission Committee, the United Methodist Women will have a **Pennies for Alpine** mission project for several months. Pennies may be put into the big coke bottle bank in the Fellowship Hall. The Alpine Center for children is in Alpine, TX. Take a folder and read what they are doing for children ages up to Sr. Citizens.



UMW Information - May 2009 by Rosalee Gillett, April 14

Thanks to all who contributed to our Fashion Show/Luncheon -- UMM, models, pies, silent auction,

photographer, Jr. Bell choir, etc.

In other news, with the approval of the Trustees, the UMW was able to purchase 100 hostess sets, for the church to replace some of those that were broken. We also sincerely appreciate those that were donated by the congregation. This makes a fairly good supply for any function anyone might have.

UMW is still collecting Campbell Soup labels for McCurdy School as well as the small one inch pink education labels found on many items. Basket is located on table in hall just outside the Sanctuary. Hint: cut the label with a pen knife or razor blade before putting in your cupboard!

We do not meet in June or July. Our next meeting will be Saturday, August 15 - potluck/picnic at Ellie Wolf's.

Mission

Your Gifts in Action by Finance Committee, April 14

We want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their faithfulness in supporting the church, and our various ministries during these difficult financial times. We have been faithfully paying 10% of Giving each week towards our shared ministries.

What are shared ministries? They are monies we send to the New Mexico Annual Conference to help support various ministries and missions locally and around the world. Our contributions are then combined with contributions from other United Methodist churches in the New Mexico Conference, as well as across the world. Some of the gifts are used for ministries within our conference. Others are sent on to general church agencies. We will be highlighting just a few of our shared ministries at the Missions Fair on May 3rd (in the gym, following first service). Stop by and see how our gifts are multiplied.

If you would like to see exactly how we are doing financially, visit the bulletin board right outside of the sanctuary for the latest finance report. The report may also be accessed on our website, under Committees. You may request the password from the office. Again, thank you for your faithfulness.

Church

Indian Raid (1885) by Jack Galbraith, April 8

Claire found in some church records a CD (compiler unknown) containing material pertinent to First United Methodist Church and to Deming. This is the second article extracted from that CD; more may appear in this newsletter from time to time.

In the fall of 1885, cowboys found the bodies of Andrew J. Yeater of Missouri Cattle Company and his wife who had been murdered by Indians while returning to the ranch 22 miles from Deming at the base of the Florida Mountains. Cowman, hearing the shots, rode over and found the bodies. Yeater had been shot three times and his wife had been mutilated. The Indians had cut the mules from their wagon harnesses and driven them up the canyon toward the Shy place. *Editor: a footnote to the article indicates that Shy may a nickname for Shaw.*

When word reached Deming, a wire to Governor Ross was quickly answered with an order which called out the militia. Captain Laird was in charge of the group which included Cpl. Frank Priser and George Hutchison. Captain Blake and Captain Sproule, who had arrived in Deming the night before with a scout, went with them. A light wagon was taken to bring in the Yeaters.

Within seven or eight miles of the Shy place, in the gap between the big and little Floridas, they could see a light and knew the Indians had fired the house. Hardly had the words been spoken when Mrs. Shy came out of the brush. She said one of the Apaches who spoke English told them they wouldn't be hurt. Around nine o'clock the Apaches set fire to the house. It was very dark and Shy told her to leave first and he and the boy would follow later so the Indians wouldn't suspect something and capture them. She got out but the boy was shot as they escaped. She bound the wound in his side, hid him in the brush, and set out for Deming.

The militia went on to the house and seeing no Indians, shouted they were from Deming to the rescue. Shy came out and they soon found the boy.

The Indians were being driven out of Mexico mountains because they had been killing Terrasses cattle. Geronimo had taken one band across the Arizona border near Nogales and this group had come in south of the Tres Hermanas. Later they were traced deep into the Black Range where they spent the winter. After raids on ranches and killings in the Mogollons the tribe, again, went into Mexico and Terrassas, who owned that part of the Mexican mountains, nearly wiped them out. Those who survived returned to the U.S. and were sent to Florida.

An excerpt from a letter from P.L. Stanton to S. S. Birchfield years later draws vivid pictures of how things were:

". . . Another scene was at the place of the burned down houses of Mr. John Shy and Mr. Yeater. You and Mr. Yeater, a brother of the murdered man, rode in front of our party and I followed close after you. Suddenly a bareheaded man in a suit of ducking overalls sprang up and ran up a canyon. Instantly Yeater raised his gun. You knocked his gun down and threw up your hand and called out "Friends!". Your sharp eye had caught sight of the company of U. S. Soldiers, drawn up in battle array and with their guns leveled upon us. I had not seen them and had mistaken the bareheaded man for an Indian.

The officer, a West-Pointer (I mean no reflection upon a sensible pointer dog) who was in charge of the soldiers coolly told us that your quick action and call were all that saved us. According to that, you and I are still allowed to live in this mortal tenement of clay because of your prompt and wise action. That band of infantry, with their long guns, would have been poor shots, indeed, had they not been able to 'pick' us three off; but fellows so scared as to mistake our party, some riding in a road wagon, for Indians might miss a barn door at short range. That gallant (?) and wise (?) Indian fighter was a fair specimen of some others whom the Government had sent out there to capture Geronimo and his band."

The businessmen of Deming enjoyed the business the U.S. troops brought to town but did question their abilities to cope with all situations.



Doable Evangelism Seminar by Cheryl Hicks, April 8

What if evangelism meant just being yourself? The Doable Evangelism Seminar: Saturday May 2, 2009 from 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM at Albuquerque Marriott, 2101 Louisiana Blvd. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110. Price: \$35.00 Registration (lunch not included). You should register online at <http://doableevangelismabq.eventbrite.com>

You won't want to miss this ... a one-day interactive learning experience for pastors, ministry leaders and ordinary Christians who are looking for practical approaches to evangelism and authentic ways to connect with the people Jesus misses most.

You will learn how to powerfully motivate Christians by...

- Giving them something to do that they're already doing
- Making a big deal out of small stuff
- Explaining the power of ordinary

You'll hear about evangelism...

- That is for everyone (including the 90% who are ordinary Christians)
- That is doable (no programs, pitches, personalities or presentations to memorize... whew!)
- That is fun and natural (not weird - whew, again!)

Topics covered:

- Counting Conversations Instead of Conversions - what really counts?
- Belong Before Believe - disciple people before they believe
- Ordinary Attempts - evangelism for the rest of us

Including An interview with Three Lost People - how to connect with the missing

Check out www.doableevangelism.com for more information!

Sponsored by Tres Rios Area of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Southwest: (915) 633-6511



National Day of Prayer by Shirley Dobson, April 8

Please mark Thursday, May 7th on your calendar and take time to pray for our country on that day.

The theme for this year's **National Day of Prayer** is *Prayer...America's Hope!* It's based on Psalm 33:22, which says, "May Your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we put our hope in You."

This is an extremely critical time in America's history. From economic pressures, to the ongoing threat of terrorism, to the unraveling of our culture's moral fabric, many people are dealing with a deep sense of uncertainty and apprehension.

Visit www.NationalDayofPrayer.org, to find local events and connect with other volunteers in your area.

Mission**Pre-Conference Mission Project** by *Jeanie Williams, April 8*

The churches in Odessa will begin work on Saturday, May 30 and continue through June 4. We will have opportunities for those coming in for Conference to come on any or all of the dates in June to work a few hours or any length of time. All tools and materials will be furnished (we will be working with the Christmas in Action Organization who will provide the work site(s) and materials). The project may include yard work, clean up, house and/or interior painting, limited carpentry, and possibly some roofing. The choice of the project will depend on how many people sign up to help and on which days.

The purpose of this project is to show the people in this community that United Methodists not only meet for business, but also serve.

We are setting it up as a VIM (Volunteers in Mission) project, which means that we can get insurance for participants if they complete the application and return the information by April 20. Those who are not interested in the insurance can register later. The cost is \$10.00 for one day, \$20.00 for 2 days, \$25.00 for more than two days (includes insurance, lunches, drinks, snacks). To register, go to the First UMC Odessa website at www.fumcodessa.org and click on the Annual Conference Mission Project image on the home page.

For more information, contact Jeanie Williams 432-337-1527 - jeaniewilliams@fumcodessa.org or Sue Wright 432-425-9998 - wrightss12@aol.com.

Church**UMW Information - April 2009** by *Rosalee Gillett, April 6*

Thanks to all who purchased Bithell Farms Fruit. Thanks, too, to the Staff, Eldin and Jack for their help with UMW Sunday.

Mark your calendar for May 2nd for our Denim and Lace luncheon. Western attire will be appropriate! The Methodist Men will prepare the menu. The Fashion Show will be done by Circle S Western Emporium. The girls from the High School will again serve as part of their community service program at the school. The time is 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the MAC Building at the church. Tickets are \$10.00 each and may be purchased from the church office or any UMW member. Deadline for ticket purchases is April 24. Tickets will be available between Sunday Services several weeks before the deadline.

In other news, with the approval of the Trustees, the UMW was able to purchase 100 hostess sets for the church to replace some of those that were broken. We also sincerely appreciate those that were donated by the congregation. This makes a fairly good supply for any function anyone might have.

UMW will furnish the meal for Wednesday Night Live on April 8th. April 18 is our EL PASO ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING at St. Pauls Church. The 18th is also our regular meeting of UMW in the Chapel. The business meeting is at 2:00 p.m. and the program begins at 3:00 p.m. led by Phyllis Mudd. All ladies are welcome!