



Newsletter for September 2009

Music

Music Ministry by Sarah Williams, August 27

Greetings in the Name of our Lord, Jesus Christ! The start of a new school year has brought change with it to our church. I am excited about new opportunities that God is bringing forth in the music department! Rehearsals for Handbells, Chancel Choir and Praise Band are set to begin the week of September 14, as well as S.O.U.L. Kids and Crafty Kids. The schedule is:

Monday	Handbell Ensemble: 5 to 6 pm
	Chancel choir: 6 to 7 pm
Tuesday	S.O.U.L. Kids: 3:30 to 5 pm
	Praise Team: 5:30 to 6:30 pm
Thursday	Crafty Kids/Chime choir: 3:30 to 5 pm

S.O.U.L. Kids is open to all elementary school children who have interest in the Performing Arts. We will be working on learning worship songs from around the world, as well as a Christmas production of *Madge and Guy*, an 'Adventures in Odyssey' spoof on O. Henry's classic, *The Gift of the Magi*. Crafty Kids is another Expressive Arts program for kids K-5th Grade designed to offer opportunities to learn music through chimes and self-expression through art.

Parents of children attending either S.O.U.L. Kids or Crafty Kids will be asked to rotate in providing snacks for the children. We have suggestions available if needed. If you would like to volunteer to help with these ministries (even if only one week per month), please contact me at the church office.

Praise Band, Chancel Choir, and Handbells are open to anyone with a love of music and a desire to minister to others through song. Prior musical training is not required. We will kick off rehearsals learning new music and starting preparation for our Christmas concert, tentatively set for December 13, 2009. Dee Huffman will also be lending her expertise in Handbells in both instructing and coaching.

Thank you to this church family for your support and encouragement during these first few weeks. You have been such a blessing to me and my family. I am excited by all the Lord is doing with us and through us this fall.

Mission

Interested in Mission Work/Ministry? by Mary White, August 27

Mary White is the conference coordinator of our NM UMC Volunteers in Mission program. She plans to start a VIM E-Newsletter of what's going on and when and where in the Conference. If you (or your church) would like to receive ongoing information in this online format about missions and VIM work, please send Mary (mwhite1@elp.rr.com) your name, your church affiliation, and your email address, or your church's contact person and their email address. Thanks!

Music

NEW Music Camp at Sacramento posted August 27

We are excited to announce a new camp at Sacramento Methodist Assembly next summer. **Music Camp**, led by Rev. David Madara (Trinity UMC) and Dacia Lust (St. Stephen's UMC) from Albuquerque, will be open to campers who have completed grades 6-12.

The camp will take place June 13-18, 2010, ending with a concert for family and friends early Friday afternoon. Campers and staff will sing together in a chorus as we grow together musically and praise God with our voices. Campers will also choose from optional ensembles like concert band/orchestra, praise team, handbells, and other unique musical opportunities led by our staff. There will be time for some traditional camp activities like hiking and mountain scooters, too!

We are currently assembling our volunteer staff. We invite anyone – laity, clergy, or church staff – with a love of music, camping, and working with kids to contact David at david.madara@trinityabq.org. You do not need to be an expert musician!

Let's fill Sacramento with voices, instruments, and praise to Jesus Christ at Music Camp 2010!

Civic

Community Prayer by Carol Lokomski August 27

Please note that Love INC will be open for community prayer at noon on Labor Day, September 7th. We need to unite in prayer for our city, our county, our state, and our country. Please try to attend. Prayer time will be from noon to 1:00.

Worship

Beth Moore Bible Study posted August 27

When Godly People Do Ungodly Things, a Beth Moore Bible Study, will be held from October 1 through November 19, 2009 at the First United Methodist Church. The group will meet on Thursdays from 9:30 to 11:00. Workbooks are \$15 and the registration deadline is September 17th. To sign up contact Phyllis Mudd or Suanne Delk.

Worship

Re-Treat Yourself posted August 27

The time is fast approaching for “Re-TREAT Yourself.” This is a five day retreat for the young-at-heart (Seasoned Citizens) at Sacramento Methodist Assembly, October 12-16. The Save-the-Dates cards have been out since June and churches have been promoting this, so now is the time to sign up! Give Sacramento a call if you have any questions. The mountains of Southern New Mexico are so beautiful in October. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to Re-treat yourself and Let God refresh Your Soul. Register soon as this is proving to be more and more popular event each year.

Worship

ELCA Adopts Full Communion Agreement with The United Methodist Church

posted August 27

Minneapolis: In what church leaders are calling a “historic moment” and an *ecumenical breakthrough*, the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has voted to adopt a full communion agreement with The United Methodist Church. In essence, full communion means that each church acknowledges the other as a partner in the Christian faith, recognizes the authenticity of each other's baptism and Eucharist, observes the validity of their respective ministries and is committed to working together toward greater unity. While it does not mean there are no differences or distinctions between the churches, the differences are not church dividing. A full communion agreement is not a merger of the two denominations, but a recognition of each other's ministry and mission. In simple terms, the pact means that United Methodists and Lutherans will formally partner in matters of worship, mission and clergy. United Methodist pastors may preach from Lutheran pulpits and vice versa. In addition, congregations in local communities might combine resources for a range of ministries, such as mental health services, missionary outreach or domestic violence prevention. Members of both denominations may also participate in each other's Holy Communion observances.

Worship

Young Adult Work and Spiritual Retreat posted August 27

When: September 18-20, 2009

Who: Any young adults...career or college

Theme: *A WE Faith in a ME World* - sessions led by Rev. Jeb Archey

Where: Sacramento Methodist Assembly

Why: To serve at Sacramento to help them get ready for the winter; to provide an opportunity for UM young adults to gather in fellowship and to grow spiritually

Cost: Minimum donation of \$30 to SMA

Schedule: Friday worship begins at 10 pm. Retreat ends after Sunday morning worship (about 10:30 am)

Registration Deadline: Contact Jan Archey at 575-522-6940 or wesley@nmsu.edu by noon, September 14.

Church

UMW Report by Rosalee Gillett, August 23

United Methodist Women begin their regular programs the second Saturday of the month in the Chapel at 2:00 p.m.

- September 19th "Who Am I at the Table?" program will be given by Jo Kruger and Ellie Wolf who are also hostesses.
- October 23 and 24 is the 2009 UMW Annual Meeting at Central UMC in Albuquerque. The theme is "Fill My Plate Lord" - Scripture Matthew 4:4. Several women plan to attend.

Thanks to all who donated, helped or purchased at our very successful rummage sale!! You are appreciated. We are still accepting broken or no longer used jewelry. Contact Loraine Lutonsky 546-766. Put Campbell soup labels in basket on table just outside the Sanctuary.

September will be our LAST MONTH for our Church-wide mission project "PENNIES FOR ALPINE" in the big Coke Bottle in the Fellowship Hall. Blessings to all of you who have donated to this worthy project.



A MacDonald Thank You by Cazandra, August 20

Words cannot express the gratitude we have for each of you. We will never forget your gifts of time, talent and most especially, love given to our family. We will miss you terribly, but know that we are answering God's call in our lives to minister and have already seen His work through our move. If you are ever passing through, stop by, you'll know where to find us!

With love,

Joe, Cazandra, Julian and Caeleb MacDonald

517 Ivy

Truth or Consequences, NM 87901

575-894-4332

Worship

Maxwell UMC Re-Dedication by Rev. Mathew Gary, August 18

Maxwell United Methodist Church is pleased to announce the Re-Dedication of their new worship home. After sustaining a fire that destroyed the entire building on Good Friday of 2008, Maxwell has now received possession of their newly built sanctuary and building. The building was replaced and is free of any financial encumbrances, but it may take a while to replace all of the contents. We were able to restore the stain glass windows from the original structure and have set them in our entry way. We also saved the church bell which will ring us into our new sanctuary at the dedication Sunday, August 30, 2009 at 2 PM.

Bishop Max Whitfield, assisted by District Superintendent Barry Dickens and Pastor Matthew Gary, will officiate.

We want to thank the numerous donors that contributed to our rebuilding and the replacement of many of our contents. Without your help, we might still be waiting on our building.

We also want to thank our architect, Mr. Dave Little of Raton – a member of Raton UMC – who very generously contributed his design services to our congregation.

Church

Aluminum Beverage Cans by Dick Huffman, August 18

The Sunday School is collecting aluminum cans (not steel beer cans; preferably smashed) to raise funds to send kids to camp. The collection receptacle is alongside the coke machine. Last year we got over \$150.00 for the beverage cans we collected.

Civic

Navajo Code Talkers Day by Rev. Rodney Aist, Ph.D., August 14

The Navajo Code Talkers of World War II went unrecognized until after the declassification of their operation in 1968. On August 14, 1982, the Navajo Code Talkers were given a Certificate of Recognition by President Ronald Reagan who also declared August 14 -- the day which ended the Pacific theatre -- as *National Navajo Code Talkers Day*.

On December 21, 2000, the U.S. Congress awarded the Congressional Gold Medal to twenty-nine Navajo

Code Talkers who served in World War II.



Houchen Center *posted August 12*

The third Sunday of each month is designated Bread Basket Sunday at First UMC Deming. Bread Basket Sunday is extra-mile giving that benefits a wide ranging variety of local ministries. Our church has always been very generous in supporting these ministries.

Our September Bread Basket offering (on September 20th) will be taken for Houchen Community Center in El Paso, Texas.

Houchen Community Center, a non-profit multi-services organization, has been a beacon of hope for residents of South El Paso for 115 years. Located just a few miles from the US-Mexico border, Houchen Community Center first opened its doors in 1893. Houchen Community Center is located in the heart of the Second Ward or El Segundo Barrio. El Segundo Barrio is the lowest income area in the City of El Paso and the fourth lowest in the United States. Houchen helps give the families from El Segundo Barrio a sense of belonging, the safety and security of a close-knit community, a good environment to work, and an opportunity to participate in creating a caring community.

In addition to childcare services, Houchen Community Center provides social service programs for teenagers, tutoring for-at-risk students from 2nd to 7th grade, a senior citizens program providing information on life improvement issues, and a food pantry assisting 350 needy families once a month. The child development program offers high quality childcare for low to very low-income families who work, to go to school, or are enrolled in vocational training opportunities. Daily, they provide approximately 300 units of services.

Houchen Community Center is one of our "backyard" ministries. They depend upon the generosity of the United Methodist connectional system (through our shared ministries giving), as well as upon independent donations.

There is more that can be said about Houchen, but perhaps their website says it best. Please visit <http://www.houchen.org> to view pictures highlighting their programs, as well as their wish list of needs to continue these successful programs. Lives are changed because we each care and share. Thank you.



Enchilada Supper *posted August 12*

The Oddfellows will be having an Enchilada Supper on Thursday, September 3rd, from 4-6 pm at the Oddfellows Hall, 815 S. Gold. The meal features beef or cheese enchiladas (with or without eggs), beans, coleslaw, tea or coffee, and a yummy dessert. The cost is \$6 per plate, dine in or carry out. Proceeds benefit their scholarship fund and other charitable works. Everyone is welcome!



The Finances of the Church *posted August 12*

The GCFA (General Council on Finance and Administration) of the United Methodist Church has placed a document on their website that discusses Church finances in these time of difficulty and uncertainty. Please visit their website (<http://www.gcfa.org>) to read this message.



A Message from Bishop Max *posted August 12*

A recent posting on a United Methodist blog lamented all that is wrong with the United Methodist Church. The writers claimed they saw little or no hope for the future. All the efforts to bring about transformation were doomed to failure.

The next day I received my assigned reading for a growth group in which all the active bishops in this jurisdiction participate. The reading was a brief paper written by Dr. Roy Shilling, former President of Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas. Dr. Shilling described the situation at Southwestern when he accepted the position as president of the University. It was a litany of gloom and despair. The buildings were in need of renovation, the Board of Trustees adopted a budget without the financial resources to support the budget. The student enrollment was far below expectations. Many candidates for the position would have rejected the opportunity to serve as president of this institution. Others would have justified their lack of success because of the insurmountable difficulties the university faced. Dr. Shilling adopted a different

approach. He began to articulate a vision of what Southwestern could become. He began searching for the “right people” to move the university forward. He saw what could be instead of what was.

The story of Abraham and Sarah is a story of faith. God comes to Abraham and Sarah and promises them a child. This seems like an impossible dream. Abraham is old and so is Sarah. They are beyond the childbearing age. God must be kidding. They cannot have children and their descendants certainly could not become a great nation. The point I see in this story is that Abraham, and most of us, are blinded from the vision of God by seeing only what we can accomplish rather than what God can accomplish in and through us.

I believe the best years for the congregations of this conference are not behind us, but rather, our best years are in front of us. God wants to use the United Methodist Church to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We have the right theology, the right understanding of grace and righteousness, the right balance between social transformation and personal salvation, and the flexible structure to respond to a changing society. Every community needs a transformed United Methodist Church that is vital, alive, and fruitful. God stands ready to give that gift. We need new United Methodist Churches to reach new people, more people, more diverse people, and younger people. We need to receive the vision God has for the United Methodist Church.

Certainly, we can wring our hands, describe all that is wrong about our church, explain why we are failing to fulfill Jesus' Great Commission, and slowly die as we excuse ourselves of responsibility. We can take a different path, a path less traveled. We can begin to grasp the vision God places before us and move toward that vision. The way will not be easy. We will need to place the right people in the right places. We will need to make some tough decisions that many will not appreciate, but decisions that always move us closer to becoming what God intends and expects. We will need to look for the positive advancements instead of dwelling on our past failures. We can see this vision become a reality because this is not our work. This is the very work of God to reconcile the world unto himself.

Grace & Peace, Max



Country Fair! *posted August 12*

St. Mark's United Methodist Church will hold a “Country Fair!” on Saturday, September 19, 2009 at 5005 Love Rd. in El Paso, TX from 9 am until 4 pm. Vendors are invited to join the event for an opportunity to sell their arts and crafts (call 915-581-4444). Everyone is invited to come by and enjoy a day of great fellowship, fun, and shopping! Questions? Call Sharon Scott at 915-203-4566.



Thank You—You Made a Difference

This is a personal note by Newsletter Editor Jack Galbraith to all the members of FUMC Deming

It's been almost two months since Sharon died, a difficult month. But you were there: at her memorial service and on Sundays to offer caring words. Sharon and I selected FUMC Deming because we sensed a family atmosphere, one which would (and has) provide support when needed and one where we could make our small contributions. All this continues to mean so much. I'm not sure my healing has begun - I may still be in the coping phase - but the days are getting better. Thank you, church family, for being there.