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Thank You Very Much!

Once again we've had another successful Duck Days BBQ. A multitude of "Thank You's!" go out to each and every one who participated by helping, selling tickets, buying meals and working behind the scenes. Approximately 1,050 plates were served. We could not have done this without you. Again, THANK YOU for your help and your support!

Shared Giving Paid In Full

We are a generous church. Your Giving, through the Sunday collections and otherwise, has been abundant. So abundant that the Church Council, at their regularly scheduled August meeting, authorized payment **In Full** of the Shared Giving (apportionment) for 2011. This will provide the New Mexico Conference with funds in advance of what would normally be expected and permit the Conference to do good works for others. Thank you.

Promotion Sunday

Promotion Sunday will be September 11th. During the worship services, Bibles will be given to students who have entered the 3rd and the 7th grades. We don't want to miss anyone so if your child has started one of the grades this year, please contact Claire or Beth in the office **As Soon As Possible** so that we can assure everyone receives their Bible.

Labor Day Campout

The annual Labor Day Campout will be September 2-5 at the Sapillo Campground at Gila National Forest. You are welcome to come the weekend, a day or even just a few hours! Camp Worship Services will be Saturday at 9:30 a.m. and again at 4:00 p.m. The potluck dinner will follow the 4 p.m. service. Sunday services will be at 9:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to enjoy the campfire at dark on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings.

There is no fee but you are requested to register if you plan on attending, even if for just a day. Registration forms are available in the office. Or you can email your reservation (Name, Contact Number, Number Attending, Anticipated Arrival) to Mary Frosch at mbfrosch@hotmail.com.

Stepping Out (Seasoned Citizens Retreat) - October 10-14

This is a week-long retreat in October for the young-at-heart! Join for engaging classes, walks through the forest, great food, fellowship, and wonderful Bible study and messages all leading you to "step out" in your faith. There'll even be some adventure activities available for you to do (or try)! Darla McGregor (Camp Dean), and Roland McGregor (Camp Preacher), invite you to join them for this week in the nice cool mountains. The registration brochure is available on the Sacramento Methodist Assembly website, or please feel free to call them for details. Seasoned Citizens Retreat is sponsored jointly by Landsun Home and Sacramento.

Aspen Tour 2011- September 30-October 2

Enjoy the fall color in the nice cool mountains and join us for this exciting event! Bring your own ATV / UTV or register early for one of the limited rentals. We'll ride some of the best ATV trails in New Mexico as well as take part in lots of other fun activities and fellowship. The tour is open to beginners and expert riders. Aspen Tour 2010 was a great success with over 30 ATV riders, and we hope to have even more participants this year. The registration brochure is available on the Sacramento Methodist Assembly website, or you can call us for more information. Don't miss it!

UMW News

We will begin our regular UMW meetings on Saturday, September 17 in the Chapel at 2 p.m. The program is entitled "A Mighty Wind" and will be given by Mary Adams and Ellie Wolf who are also the hostesses for the meeting. All ladies are welcome!

We continue to collect Campbell Soup labels and small education labels for McCurdy School in Espanola.

The 39th New Mexico Conference UMW Annual Meeting will be held at Trinity UMC, El Paso, TX., October 21-23rd. Registration forms available.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for Saturday, November 19, for our UMW annual Bazaar!! We have lots of good stuff! Speaking of the Bazaar, we are also still collecting jewelry that is not needed anymore or broken, etc. Will pick up if needed.

Prayer and Praise Worship Service

A Prayer and Praise Worship service will begin on Wednesday, September 7, and continue every Wednesday thereafter. Meet in the Chapel at 6 pm for about one hour.

FUMC Knitters

There is a dedicated group of ladies in our church who knit scarves and hats. They then match them with gloves and deliver them to various ministries around the state. The ladies are in need of more yarn for this

project. If you have yarn you'd like to donate, or would like to buy a skein or two, please drop them off at the office. Mark them for the FUMC Knitters. Thank you!

Some of My Thoughts

Someone recently asked, "What would you like to see in every congregation?" It is difficult to answer because of the numerous aspects one could include. To narrow the parameters I asked, "What is essential for a group of people who come together to justify calling themselves a Church, the body of Christ?" That question focused my perspective and enabled some prioritization of the aspects defining a healthy, vital congregation.

Healthy, vital congregations reflect people who are deeply in love with Jesus. They not only know about Jesus, they not only know Jesus, these people are deeply in love with Jesus.

Through the years I have struggled with the symbol of the Church as the bride of Christ.

Perhaps it is my sexism that prevents me from identifying myself as a bride of Jesus. Slowly,

I recognized I had misused the symbol. Looking into the eyes of a bride or groom as they wait anxiously to see their true love reveals the love we must have for Jesus. Their eyes dance for joy. They are in love and everyone can see it and hear it in their voices. They are in love. *I expect to see people who are deeply in love with Jesus.*

At the 2000 Jurisdictional Conference in Albuquerque, where I was elected a bishop of the church, Valerie and I were walking and saw Bishop and Mrs. Millhouse. They were in their nineties and were walking hand in hand.

We both smiled and said, "I hope we can still be that in love after 70 years of marriage." There was no doubting their love for each other. You could see it in their eyes and their warmth and care for each other. That is what I want to see in the eyes and care when the people come together. They love Jesus, they love each other, but perhaps just as important is that they love those in their community with the same passion and concern. Their concern is not to survive or receive the praise of others. Their motivation is clear—*they love because they are loved.*

Healthy, vital congregations intentionally and consciously seek to help persons come into a saving relationship with Jesus. These congregations can hardly contain their excitement about helping others to experience the transformation God has brought in their lives. They diligently spread the Good News of God's love. They not only seek those who share their values, but also those who profess an extremely different value system. Persons in love with Jesus want *everyone* to experience the depth of Jesus' love and forgiveness. They are dissatisfied as long as one person remains outside of God's love and salvation. To end the year reporting that no one has made a profession of faith in Jesus is contradictory to their self-understanding.

A community that deserves the name of Church is growing in their faith. They have a very intentional discipleship process. They know that getting people to come to a worship service or even joining the church is not the destination of discipleship. *Discipleship is a process where individuals come to know Jesus, follow Jesus, serve Jesus, live like Jesus, and helping others to come to know Jesus while living in this world like it was the Kingdom of God that Jesus announced.* They do not assume this process automatically happens, but rather they diligently create ways and encourage individuals to traverse this transformational, joy filled course of action.

The last aspect I will mention is this; community of faith is the dedication to live the beatitudes Jesus proclaimed in the Sermon on the Mount. They hunger and thirst for righteousness. They are peacemakers. They know they are poor in spirit and seek to know God more fully. Communities truly in love with Jesus not only read and take seriously the portions of scripture they like or find easy to follow, they seek to live like Jesus. When they discover portions of scripture that contradict their personal philosophy or national mores, they choose to allow the power of the Holy Spirit to transform them, rather than conforming themselves to society.

Jesus not only desires for us to be healthy and vital, Jesus expects the Body of Christ to exhibit these characteristics. These are gifts from God that form and transform us.

Grace & Peace, Max



How to Talk About Faith at School or Marketplace

Who, in your local church, do you believe is most responsible for faith sharing in the community? Some may be surprised that it is not the pastor. Think about the tasks we expect clergy to perform: sermon preparation, worship planning, administration, counseling, visitation, and so on. The average pastor spends 50+ hours a week interacting with members and assisting with activities that primarily benefit the church family. By

contrast, laypeople spend most of the week interacting with people at school and the marketplace. Consequently, laypeople are in the best position to share faith with folks outside the church.

Everything Begins with Relationship Faith sharing need not be considered intimidating or frightening. According to church growth researchers, Wyn and Charles Arn, over 75 percent of people indicate that they came to church or became followers of Christ because of a friend or relative. People are more receptive to the gospel message when the messenger is a trusted friend. In short, the key to faith sharing is establishing a trusting relationship with another person.

One of Many Witnesses Remember, evangelism is a process, not an event. Viewing evangelism as an event can paralyze us with guilt or fear because we may fail to lead a pre-Christian into making "a decision." The measure of faith sharing is not determined by whether a person decides to become a Christian. On average, a person typically requires nearly thirty separate witnessing experiences before being convinced to become a Christian. Our task is to be available and faithful in our witness, whether we are the first or the thirty-first person to share faith with someone.

What Should I Do? The short answer to the "How should I share my faith?" question is this: Be a caring Christian friend. The term *Christian friend* implies that you are intentionally modeling what it means to participate in God's reign on earth. Here is a short list of actions to include:

1. Make a list of people in your web of relationships with whom you may share faith. Begin praying for them and for your willingness to share as opportunities arise. Often, a personal crisis (yours or another person's) becomes an open door for bearing witness to Christ. If you are in crisis, people will observe how your faith helps you through it. If others are in crisis, your empathetic ear and prayerful support can serve as a powerful witness.
2. Practice sharing your spiritual autobiography with your church family in preparation for sharing it with others. Review how you came to Christ: Which people were helpful in the process? How has your faith helped you? What is the benefit of belonging to church? What difference has it made? Consider writing a spiritual will.
3. Learn to share the good news in your own words. Here is a simple memory device called "The 3 Rs" to frame your thoughts:
 - **Relationship** (with Jesus Christ and others);
 - **Reign** (What does it mean to live under God's reign?);
 - **Reconciliation** (The ministry of believers is helping reconcile others to Christ. See 2 Corinthians 5:18-19).Be able to talk about each "R."
4. Learn several Bible passages by telling them in your own words. Consider learning some parables, psalms and proverbs, and stories of biblical people and events. People will expect you to know something about the faith you profess.

1 Click = \$1

Mark your calendar and spread the word! From October 10th through the 19th, there will be a 10-day online event that will mobilize passionate people to stand up and be counted for causes they believe in, called 10-Fold. Each day will feature a different United Methodist ministry supported by Global Ministries and UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief). Through live webcasts, streaming video, online chats and other media, you will learn about these amazing ministries that are changing people's lives.

Just by clicking on the site each day (www.10-fold.org), you register your interest in a ministry, triggering a \$1 donation given by one of the sponsors. Each project can receive up to \$10,000. How easy is that? Just 10 clicks, one each day and you can make ten \$1 contributions. That's it—no obligation, no nasty salesmen to bug you later, no weird emails—just 10 clicks for \$10. Your participation comes with the guarantee that 100% of all money raised goes directly to the project or ministry you donate to or support.

10-Fold began as a campaign on 10/10/10 and lasted for 10 days. This year, beginning 10/10/11, 10 new projects will be introduced.

Here is a daily schedule of projects that will be featured at 10-Fold.org this October:

- October 10: **Imagine No Malaria**—A world of people unified in the fight against a needless killer.
- October 11: **Missionaries in the US**—Dedicated men and women living their faith through remarkable service.

- October 12: **Missionaries Around the World**—Growing a global force for faith and hope in over 60 countries.
- October 13: **Church Planting Worldwide**—From Asia to Latin America, introducing the United Methodists and sharing the gospel through word and deed.
- October 14: **YAYA (Youth and Young Adults)**—Providing young adults with life changing opportunities for service.
- October 15: **Developing Community Leaders**—Scholarships that respond to the needs of individuals and communities at the grassroots level.
- October 16: **With Kamina**—Working with the community of Kamina in the DRC to bring about sustainable and exciting changes.
- October 17: **With the Philippines**—Working with the people of the Philippines to address education, sustainable agriculture, community-based health, and livelihood projects.
- October 18: **US Disaster Response**—Responding when a disaster in the United States overwhelms a community's ability to recover on its own.
- October 19: **International Disaster Response**— Responding in concrete ways to ease human suffering and restore normal life.

Become a Facebook Fan of the Board of Global Ministries and get 10-Fold updates.

<http://www.facebook.com/GlobalMinistries>

Follow 10-Fold on Twitter and stay up to the minute on the conversation . <http://twitter.com/ConnectnMission>

Want more information? A 10-Fold tool kit is available on the conference website or visit www.10-Fold.org.

2012 Primetimer's Events

Greetings and just an update to let you know Primetimers is still "alive and well" with both the last events for 2011 filled and with waiting lists. More good news is that we have **six** exciting programs scheduled for 2012. We will be going back to Jamaica in February and to England in May. United States sites include Paducah, Kentucky, Texas-Mexico border, Barrier Islands of South Carolina, and the new UMCOR Depot in Utah. Exact dates, costs and application information is being currently prepared and will be available by September 1st - be watching and hope to see you at one or more Primetimer Events in 2012. Blessings!

Clean and Green: Light Bulb Update

New rules say that light bulbs sold beginning in 2012 must use about 25 percent less energy than the current old-style incandescent light bulbs. Fortunately, there's no reason for concern because there are already three light bulbs technologies - including a new incandescent bulb - on the market that meet the efficiency requirements.

1. Perhaps you are already familiar with Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFLs). The average residential user could save up to \$70 per year if all old-style incandescent light bulbs are changed to CFLs. They are also available in a variety of light colors and shapes. CFLs are also available for use with dimmers.
2. Light-emitting Diode (LED) light bulbs. While the price is the highest of the three options, the technology is developing rapidly. LEDs also use the least electricity, they last longer, they are more durable, and they offer better light quality than nearly any other type of available lighting.
3. Energy-saving (halogen) light bulbs have the same shape and performance as the traditional incandescent bulb, but are about 25 percent more efficient. They last up to three times longer than old-style incandescent bulbs and can be used with dimmers. These bulbs cost about a dollar more than old-style bulbs, but the energy savings makes up the difference. In fact, it is estimated that you could save more than \$5 over the life of the bulb.

Light bulb type	Energy you will save compared to traditional incandescent light bulbs
Energy-saving (halogen) Incandescent light bulbs	25%
Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFLs)	75%
Light-emitting Diode (LED) light bulbs	About 75% - 80%

Some of My Thoughts

As we gathered to transact the normal business of the General Board of Discipleship, we received an unexpected challenge. The Interim Operational Team formed by the Council of Bishops and the Connectional Table prepared several major, if not radical, proposals. They requested we respond to those proposals before the ideas arrived a few days later on the agenda of the Connectional Table and the General Council on Finance and Administration. We reacted as children with a bowl of candy placed before us. We criticized numerous phrases and sentences in the report. Not only did we criticize, we acted as if these dedicated Christian leaders were committed to destroying the Church that we all love. That evening I did a lot of repenting of what I said and did. I failed to seek God's direction, will, or way. Instead, I participated in a practice to demonstrate why we ought to continue doing what we are doing and organizing like we have in the past.



The more I reflected on this experience, the reaction of most members in our communities of faith became clearer for me. Most of us do not like changes that are new, unexpected, untried, and originated without our input and advice. We know that change will disrupt our practices and behavior. We want to make sure the results are worth the time, effort, and risk. Without those assurances, we would prefer to continue on a pathway that is not working, rather than risk even greater peril by sacrificing and declining at an accelerated rate. Sacrifices are acceptable when the success is certain. Since that assurance can never be given, we continue down pathways that can never produce the results we want and desire.

Perhaps that is the reason it is so hard to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. Jesus calls us to die to our old ways of life in order to follow him into eternal life. We know that our present existence, where we remain in control, is slow death; but we are uncertain about the future. It is so hard to die to sin in order to live. Choosing to follow Jesus, choosing to change, is frightening. However, following Jesus is the only way to live. We *must* change.

In like fashion, bishops, pastors, congregations, annual conferences, and general agencies must change. It is frightening, but it is the only pathway to life, to transformation. Working harder will not produce the desired results. It requires us to follow Jesus, to be Jesus' disciples, and *to be what we have never been before*. Jesus said, "Come, follow me." It means we will change. The joy, life, excitement, and love make the journey worthwhile.

Grace & Peace, Max