New Mexico Conference News
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The United Methodist Reporter

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***Around the conference Page 8A**

THE PURPOSE of the New Mexico Conference NEWS is to tell the story of United Methodism within the New Mexico Conference. PRIORITY is given to: (1) stories promoting official programs and emphases of the conference; (2) articles reflecting the mission and work of the church as carried out by districts, individuals and local churches within the conference; (3) groundbreakings and the consecration and dedication of new churches; (4) brief reports of deaths, awards and special accomplishments of pastors and their families and laity who are known throughout the conference due to their conference-level responsibilities. PERSONAL Opinion articles normally are not used. ARTICLES for possible use may be sent to the editor at the Conference office. The United Methodist Reporter's "Letters to the Editor" section may be read online at the UMR Portal (UMReporter Interactive) at www.umportal .org by clicking on the "Letters to the Editor" link.

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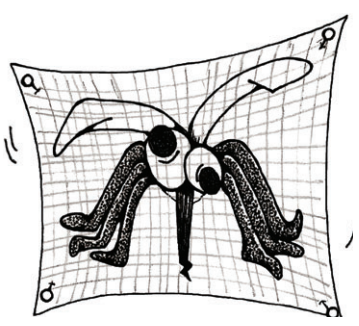
It's Annual Conference time. Delegates are gathered at Glorieta for the 135th session of the New Mexico Annual Conference. Unable to attend? Find out what's happening through updates and view pictures on the Conference website, www.nmconfum.com. Twitterers follow hashtag #NMUMC.

NEW MEXICO ANNUAL CONFERENCE NETS for Mulungwishi

New church raises money for nets

On a cool Spring day in Las Cruces, the launch team of the New Heights faith community were thinking of hot days in Africa and of mosquitoes buzzing around sleeping children.



The newly formed group was touched by the Bishop's challenge regarding the prevalence of deadly malaria in the southern part of the Congo. They decided to join others in the New Mexico Conference focusing on providing bed nets to the people of Mulungwishi. A garage sale was being planned as a fund-raiser for the church treasury but, on learning this preventable disease claims a life every 30 seconds, they decided to make this their first mission project committing at least half the proceeds to Nothing but Nets.

The sale was a success netting $650. Nothing but Nets will receive half the income from the sale plus an individual donation totaling $425. Pastor Joe Whitley thanked the team members for living the Wesleyan teaching of works and faith.

New Heights is being birthed by St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Las Cruces and many people dedicated to sharing Christ's love and life with others.

Local churches throughout the Conference were asked to contribute to a goal of $157,550 for New Mexico Nets for Mulungwishi. The amount raised will be announced at Annual Conference.

RETHINKCHURCH

St. Luke UMC, El Paso

By SONYA STOKES
St. Luke UMC Youth Director

Every other Friday, an average of 75 students from Eastwood High School in El Paso leave their campus during their lunch hour, and go in the direction of St Luke United Methodist's Fellowship Hall located across the street.

Despite a variety of other nearby lunch venues, St. Luke UMC draws students through their doors with the one thing other vendors don't offer: a free lunch. Students receive free pizza and beverages and are welcomed to spend their lunch hour at tables set up within the large hall, while Christian music videos loop in the background.

St Luke's Friday pizza lunches are just one of a series of activities designed to build relationships with the high school students. During the football season, St Luke UMC attracted hundreds of students to its parking lot for its "5th Quarter" following football games with a live band and free refreshments.

Community members driving by often pulled over and sat on the lawn joining the football fans, enhancing the outreach potential of the event.

The goal of the Eastwood High School outreach events like the pizza lunch and 5th Quarter is to build relationships with students who might never have entered the doors of the church. Leaders, both students and adults, keep the atmosphere light and focus on relational ministry.

These events are made possible by the generous donations of the congregation, who feel the ministries provide potential to reach teenagers in a unique and meaningful way.

Nearly 30 volunteers from the congregation are regularly involved in the Eastwood outreach in one aspect or another, further providing evidence of the church's dedication to missions and outreach in their own neighborhood.

Trinity UMC, Roswell

Submitted by GENE DEVITT
Mission Outreach Committee Chairperson

When the donut shop closest to Trinity United Methodist Church in Roswell raised its prices, charged full price for refills and discouraged its retiree customers from lingering to visit, the group started to look for another place to meet.

Dorothy Peterson, a Trinity member, suggested that they meet at Trinity and offered to make the coffee. As a result the Neighborhood Coffee Club was formed.

It meets regularly from 8-10 a.m. Coffee costs 50 cents with free refills and cookies and donuts, donated by church and club members, are available.

The friends are not rushed out of the building.

Small mementos are given to club members by the church on some holidays and they were given a special invitation to the Mission Committee's annual Valentine party for seniors. Several came and enjoyed the games, a sing along of nostalgic love songs, dozens of door prizes and abundance of cakes, candies, cookies, coffee and punch.

Share how your church is Rethinking Church in your community. Send stories to karla@nwtxconf.org.

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around the conference and beyond

SCHOLARSHIPS

The New Mexico Methodist Foundation and New Mexico Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries have scholarships available for college and seminary students.

Applications for the Merit Scholarship, Dee Ivy Scholarship and Jack and Arley Reece Jesus Scholarship are available on the Conference website at www.nmconfum.com.

For information, contact Dara Bell, Conference Director of Youth Ministries, at youthdir@nmconfum.com.

St. Paul's United Methodist Church Foundation in El Paso has scholarship funds available for seminary students who plan to return to the New Mexico Conference.

The Foundation will award up to three $1,500 scholarships for the 2010-2011 school year.

Individuals interested in applying should contact the church office in writing at 7000 Edgemere Blvd, El Paso, TX 79925, or by email: beth.caster@stpaulschurchelpaso.org.

Completed applications are due by June 1.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

First United Methodist Church of Roswell is seeking a motivated person to serve as Director of Children's Ministry.

The position is expected to begin before June 15.

FUMC is looking for a person with a desire to expand and grow the children's ministry of the church. A degree in education or related field is prefered.

Responsibilities include recruitment and training of rotation model Sunday school leaders, teachers and shepherds; working with the Children's Education Team developing programs for children other than on Sunday morning and coordinating leadership for an annual Vacation Bible School program.

A complete job description may be obtained through the church office by sending an email to firstroswell@dfn.com or calling (575) 622-1881.

The successful candidate must be a person of an abiding Christian faith and character who can share with love the foundation of the faith with children from nursery through fifth grades.

The position is full time with health and retirement benefits. Salary will be based on qualifications and experience.

Submit application and/or resume and a written statement of faith to Gorton Smith, 200 N. Pennsylvania Ave., Roswell, NM 88201 or e-mail to srpastor@dfn.com.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION

The Senior Spiritual Formation Conference will be Nov 4. The event will begin at 8:30 a.m. and conclude at 3 p.m. at Christ United Methodist Church in Albuquerque.

Tex sample will be the keynote speaker.

Theme will be "telling our stories."

Watch for more information or contact the Rev. Janie Noble at jsnoble2@googlemail.com.

FAITH CONFERENCE FOCUSES ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS

A Faith Conference on June 11-12 at St. John's United Methodist Church, Santa Fe, will focus on the nature of nuclear weapons and questions surrounding their history, production, and intended use.

At the conference, scientists, a historian, an anthropologist, a theologian, and a peace activist will discuss nuclear weapons from several perspectives.

The conference begins the evening of June 11 with a showing of the film, Atomic City, shot in and around Los Alamos, New Mexico, in the early 1950s.

Participants may register for the event on the church's web page at sfstjohnsumc.org or by calling the church at (505) 424-0456.

YOUTHEOLOGY

youTheology Southwest (Lydia Patterson, El Paso) invites applications from rising high school sophomores, juniors and seniors for 2010-2011 experiencing the theme "Loving God, Loving Neighbor."

YouTheologians gather throughout the school year to worship God, serve one another and community, learn about Wesleyan heritage and Christian faith and explore the application of their faith to their lives and contemporary issues.

Attendees will be eligible to participate in a nine-day Pan-Methodist Pilgrimage to the East Coast; connect with peers and mentors in person and online; learn to reflect theologically on your beliefs, today's culture and Methodist heritage; and develope leadership skills to live out your faith.

Deadline to apply is June 4.

For more information and to apply go online at www.youtheology.com or contact: Claire Smith, Director of YouTheology, (816) 245-4865 or claire.smith@spst.edu, or Rev George Miller, Chaplain, (915) 533-8286, x31 or viscaya4@hotmail.com.

SYMPHONY

New Life Symphony Orchestra Southwest, conducted by its Music Director, Michael Bowen, is offering a free concert of Mozart and Haydn at 3 p.m. June 6 at Central United Methodist Church, 201 University Boulevard NE.

Katrina Clements, a highly talented high school student will be the soloist in Mozart's Clarinet Concerto in A Major. First United Methodist Church Festival Chorus, prepared by John Clark, and four soloists - Cammy Cook, Melissa Montoya, Erik Clack, Javier Ortiz – will perform Haydn's Lord Nelson Mass. Donations are welcomed and graciously received.

LANDSUN HOMES

Landsun Homes is celebrating 45 years of ministry in the New Mexico Annual Conference.

"We invite all churches in the conference to visit our campus any time during 2010. Bring a group…and experience Life at Landsun. If you cannot come to our campus, we will bring our celebration to you."

Landsun staff will bring the party to your church. We will provide "goodies", and a speaker for Sunday School classes, special groups, a church service or evening gatherings.

For more information, contact landsun@landsunhomes.com or call Marsha at (575) 234-5869 or (800) 274-9966.

YOUTH BACKPACKING ADVENTURE

New Mexico Conference Youth Backpacking Adventure will be June 27-July 2.

Youth ages 13-18 are invited to attend a week of fun and adventure in one of New Mexico's beautiful wilderness areas. Prior backpacking experience not required. Space is limited – 18 campers on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Questions? Contact the Rev. Melissa Madara at (505) 299-0643 or mmadara@asburyabq.org. Registration brochures online at www.nmconfum.com.

LEADERSHIP EVENTS

The Albuquerque District is sponsoring two more leadership events, open to the entire New Mexico Conference:

August 27-28

Dynamic Children's Ministry

Workshop leader: Debra Gray, Director of Children's Ministries at Highland Park United Methodist Church in Dallas and one of the most effective children's ministries in the denomination.

This workshop is for all paid directors and dedicated volunteers in all aspects of children's ministry.

November 6

Leadership in the Small Membership Church

Workshop leader: Dr. Tex Sample, formerly professor at St. Paul School of Theology and author of many dynamic books. This will be a return visit for Tex to New Mexico having led a well-received workshop a few years ago.

This workshop will be for teams of clergy and laity.

Reserve these dates on calendars now. More details will be forthcoming as the dates approach.

THANK YOU

The family of the Rev. Earl Ball would like to thank the covenant community that is The New Mexico Annual Conference for your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness, as we have celebrated Earl's life and grieved his death.

We cannot adequately express our appreciation for the visits, the food provided, flowers delivered, cards sent and memorial gifts made.

At a future date, Earl's cremains will be placed in the new columbarium at Sacramento Methodist Assembly.

We also want to thank the many pastors and ministry professionals who honored Earl and us by your presence at his memorial service.

It is of great comfort to belong to a community that understands that we all grieve, but not as those without hope.

CROG SR HIGH CAMP

Registration fee is $255. (Registrations after June 7 – no guarantee of T-shirt!)

For registration and scholarship requests, talk to your youth director or pastor.

Information and registration available online at www.nmconfum.com or www.sacramentoassembly.org.

Camp 2010!

Sacramento Methodist Assembly

Accept the Challenge!

Session	Dates	Early Bird (by June 1)	Fee (after June 1)	Adult Volunteer
The Great Adventure	June 10-13	$175	$190	$150
Young Children's Camp	June 11-13	$120	$135	$90
Music Camp	June 13-18	$350	$365	$240
Mid High Camp	June 21-25	$240	$255	$190
Sr. High Camp	June 21-25	$240	$255	$190
Backpacking Camp	June 27-July 2	$180	$180	$100
Elementary Camp	July 12-16	$240	$255	$190
Sunshine Camp	August 2-6	$240	NA	$200

For session & registration info: www.sacramentoassembly .org