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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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A look at New Path Ministries

New Path Ministries of Peralta Memorial United Methodist Church serves women at New Mexico Women's Recovery Academy.

The women are from all over NM and have been assigned to the academy as part of their prison term or, in some cases, instead of prison. All have addiction issues and, during their six months residency, they participate in extensive programming geared to freeing them from their addictions.

The academy population averages 53 women and 12 young children.

Friday afternoons from 1-2:30 New Path Ministry volunteers serve this ministry by:

- * Bringing the Love of Jesus to the women at the New Mexico Women's Recovery Academy.
- * Inspiring and nurturing knowledge of Jesus.
- * Building devotion and prayer habits.
- * Building confidence and self esteem with polymer clay projects, embroidery and other crafts; positive and affordable activities that can be continued after graduation.
- * Reestablishing trust and demonstrating to the women that they are loved by Jesus and that there are many who care about them.

History

New Path Ministry has been in place for two years. It began in January 2008. At that time the academy was located in Los Lunas. The work of the ministry was performed by two volunteers the first year.

The day began with devotions and singing an adapted version of "Jesus Loves Me." At that time, one craft - polymer clay arts - was offered. Women may make jewelry, small figures including Nativity figures and other items.

Current Program

In July 2009, the academy moved to Isleta Boulevard in South Albuquerque.

The population still fluctuates, but averages 53-59 women and 10-12 children.

There are four volunteers who regularly participate in the program.

In addition to devotions, women participate in interactive prayer. There is a prayer box where women can insert prayers each week. The prayers are typed and emailed or mailed to an expanding volunteer prayer team.

Additional craft choices have been added including crocheting, plastic canvas needlecraft and other crafts such as dreamcatchers and bead work. Materials are provided to make greeting cards using recycled Christmas cards at Christmas and valentine materials for Valentine's Day.

New Path Ministries was asked to participate in the New Mexico Women's Recovery Academy's 2009 open house.

Hopes for the Future

"We wish to continue this program," said Sylvia Regelbrugge of New Path Ministries. "We receive very positive feedback from the directors and staff at the academy. And, the women constantly mention their appreciation of the spiritual aspects as well as the enjoyment of the creative crafts. Frequently they tell us this is the time they most look forward to during the week."

New Path Ministries aspires to use the ministry as a model that could be replicated at other recovery facilities with volunteers from other United Methodist congregations.

What it would take:

- * Congregations willing to support a budget for this ministry in their area.
- * Cooperation with the directors and staff at the proposed facility.
- * Volunteers who are committed to a consistent weekly program, who are able to completely suspend judgment, and who are willing to plan and prepare for each week's program.
- * The crafts offered would depend on crafts that the volunteers would enjoy teaching.

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Don't forget: EDE - January 30

"Looking to the Heart of God - Passionate Worship" is the focus of Equipping Disciples for Excellence 2010. Join in this one-day event Jan. 30 at Trinity-First United Methodist Church in El Paso.

A variety of workshops will be offered including "the Heart of Worship - Starting & Developing a Christ Centered Praise Team," "What is Passionate Worship," Children and Worship - Come as a Child" and "Creating Great Worship Experiences."

Additional topics will include "Communicating Under Pressure," "Financial Administration as Service to God" and "Christian Faith 101."

Information about workshops may be found on the New Mexico Conference Web site, www.nmconfum.com, or by calling the El Paso District Office at (915) 584-9494.

Bishop D. Max Whitfield will be the keynote speaker.

Cost is \$30 for the full day with lunch, \$27 for half-a-day with lunch or \$22 for half-a-day without lunch.

To register, check with your local church office, call the El Paso District Office or go online to the Conference Web site.

The event will begin at 8:30 a.m. and conclude with worship from 3-4:30 p.m.

'Dire situation' in Haiti calls for generous giving

By BARBARA DUNLAP-BERG*
UM News Service

United Methodists jumped into action as soon as a massive earthquake reduced most of Haiti's capital of Port-au-Prince to rubble Jan. 12.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief immediately pledged to send teams, material resources and funding to Haiti as soon as possible. Special online-giving options went up, and church leaders throughout the world encouraged congregations to take up special offerings for earthquake victims.

"The situation is so dire," said the Rev. Franck Aguilh, coordinating pastor of the Haitian United Methodist Church in Irvington, N.J. "There is no way internally for them to deal with it. The infrastructure is totally broken. I cannot even reach my family there. They don't have the physical and financial means to deal with this disaster."

Albany Area Bishop Susan W. Hassinger urged her congregations to take special offerings on Sunday for the relief effort.

"With many of you, I grieve over the news of the earthquake devastation in Haiti, the tremendous loss of life as well as damage to homes, hospitals, schools. I call on all persons to pray for the people of Haiti as well as for those who are and will be responding to this crisis," she said. "I would hope that people would give generously, with contributions designated to be used wherever most needed in response to this tremendous need."

United Methodists respond

Donations are already coming in.

While rescuers continued to search for survivors, the American Red Cross estimated that the quake affected about 3 million people

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around the conference and beyond

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT RETREAT

There will be a UMW Spiritual Enrichment Retreat March 19-21 at Sacramento Methodist Assembly. Marty Singleterry will be the leader. Theme is prayer.

Attendees should have a Bible, notebook and pen.

Further details available from UMW members.

ADVOCACY DAY

New Mexico Conference United Methodist Women Advocacy Day, Feb. 4, will be in conjunction with Lutheran Women, who have an established program and a paid liaison, Ruth Hoffman, with the legislature. With many years of experience and knowledge of the personnel and process, she may be of help in learning about and impacting the legislative process.

Women will meet at 8:30 a.m. Feb. 4 at Christ Lutheran Church in Santa Fe for training in advocating for UMW and personal concerns and learning along with the Lutheran group.

Cost is \$5 per person.

New Mexico UMW has allocated \$50 for the first 10 women who convey their intention to attend. To attend, send an email to Helen Jo Satterwhite at akhjalb@q.com. The day will include fellowship and an opportunity to learn more about the issues for which Lutheran Advocacy Ministry will be advocating through 2010. UMW will choose to follow up on the issues for which the group is concerned.

Those wishing to attend the Luncheon (\$25 per person) with Rocky Mountain Synod Bishop Allan Bjornberg as speaker may contact Lutheran Advocacy Ministry-NM (984-8005) or Lutheranadvocacy@yahoo.com to make reservations or for more details.

Deadline for registration for the luncheon is Feb. 1.

YOUTH MISSION OPPORTUNITY

First United Methodist Church in Las Vegas, NM would like to offer a Vacation Bible School this summer. This is a small congregation and they need assistance in presenting VBS.

If you have a youth group that is looking for a great service/mission opportunity for the summer, please contact the Rev. Ellen Swain at fumcatlv@cybermesa.com or call her at (505) 425-7283.

FROM THE TREASURER'S OFFICE

Year-end statistics again will be collected online. Usernames and passwords will be sent to pastors before the end of the month (although they will be the same as were used previously).

Statistics are to be completed by **Jan. 27**. NOTE: THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL CHANGES MADE TO THE YEAR-END STATISTICAL TABLES.

A copy of the tables is available on the conference Web site www.nmconfum.com.

VIM TRAINING

Volunteers in Mission training opportunity:

Saturday Jan. 23

9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Christ UMC

6200 Gibson SE

Albuquerque

Cost is \$20 per person.

To register or for more information, contact Mary White at mwhite1@elp.rr.com or (915) 494-3177.

MCMURRY UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

The Honors Program of McMurry University awards full-tuition and other substantial scholarships to incoming freshmen.

Deadline for completing the honors application is Feb. 1, 2010.

For more information, send an email to Jamie Arthur, Honors Admissions Coordinator at arthur.jamie@mcm.edu.

McMurry University is affiliated with the Northwest Texas and New Mexico Annual Conferences of the United Methodist Church.

VIM TRIPS 2010

The following Volunteers In Mission trips are planned for 2010.

Matagalpa, Nicaragua

March 6-13, 2010

Western Hills El Paso

Medical/Construction

Cost:\$1,800

Andi Wallace Team Leader

mseditor2@aol.com

Hurricane Relief

March 13-19

St. Marks El Paso

Construction/Repair

Mike Hackett Team Leader

ephacketts@juno.com

Pecs, Hungary

June 11-27

St. Marks El Paso

Construction/VBS

Cost: \$2700

Mary White Team Leader

mwhite1@elp.rr.com

If you are interested in serving on a team that is listed above please contact the team leader or Mary White. Please share your VIM trips with this newsletter. You may email information to mwhite1@elp.rr.com.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

St. John's United Methodist Church in Albuquerque is seeking a full-time Director of Children's and Family Ministries. The church is a dynamic 1,500+ member church seeking someone with passionate faith and commitment to developing the same in children (infant through fifth grade) and families.

Relevant bachelor's degree or experience required. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

Submit resume by email to jobs@connectatstjohns.org.

St. Paul's United Methodist Church - As of January 2010, a youth director position at St. Paul's UMC in El Paso, TX will be opening. For information, call (915) 772-2734.

SAFE SANCTUARIES EVENT

"Do No Harm ... Do All the Good You Can" is a training event for the prevention of and response to abuse, misconduct, and harassment of a sexual nature in The United Methodist Church.

This event addresses issues of misconduct of a sexual nature by persons in ministerial roles (both lay and clergy) within the UMC.

The event will be held Jan. 26-29, 2011, in Houston.

For more information go to <http://undesign.x9tech.com/sexualethics/StayingCurrent/UpcomingEvents.aspx>.

Share how your church is Rethinking Church in your community.

Send stories to karla@nwtxconf.org.

Together we can Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.



New Path

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What the rewards are:

* Filling a spiritual need for people who have little chance for spiritual interchange.

* Giving people practical demonstration that God Loves Them And So Do We.

* Building an "I CAN do it attitude," where in the past they have been told, or they have

believed they can't do much of anything worthwhile.

"I know this is a tall order. I believe that the United Methodist congregations are up to it. And I believe we will be given the help to overcome the obstacles necessary to actuate the expansion of this ministry," said Regelbrugge.

Haiti

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— one-third of Haiti's population.

The United Methodist relief agency is ready to help.

"UMCOR has always had a strong presence in Haiti," said Tom Hazelwood of UMCOR's disaster-response staff. "With this tragedy, we'll just be redoubling our efforts, and we'll be calling on people across the country to help us."

'Don't forget about Haiti'

Global Ministries missionary Rick Jost of the Dakotas Annual (regional) Conference has a long-standing relationship with Haiti.

"The people of Haiti have suffered so much," he said. "We need to respond."

The problem of the natural disaster is compounded by systemic issues such as poverty and inadequate housing, Jost said.

"When you get a disaster (of this magnitude), it's very frustrating because the underlying issues have not been dealt with. We wish people would not forget about Haiti once the dust settles," he said.

The Rev. Molege Desir of Vailsburg United Methodist Church in South Orange, N.J., said hunger is a major problem in Haiti.

2010 Camp Dates

Younger Children's Camp June 11-13

New: Sr High "Great Adventure" June 10-13
(Format for Classes of 2010-2014)

New: Music Camp June 14-18

Mid-High Camp June 21-25

Sr High Camp June 21-25

Elementary Camp July 12-16

Backpacking camps "Dates are pending"

For more information, go online to the Sacramento Methodist Assembly Web site at www.sacramentoassembly.org.