



**“The Window”** a monthly newsletter from  
**First United Methodist Church**

*“Loving God -- Loving People”*

Reverend Dale Batcheler

Reverend Alexis Williams

February 2010

## Notes from Dale,

We all watch with disbelief the news reports from Haiti. I cannot begin to imagine how we would function with such major destruction. Our denomination was already in Haiti with mission teams and we will continue to serve there. You may contribute money to keep our presence in the midst of this massive destruction by sending donations marked “Haiti relief” and they will be forwarded to UMCOR.

Other news is that by the time you read this, I should be recovering from a total knee replacement. My days as Chester, the limping pastor, I hope are limited. January 28 is the day of surgery. During my absence, Rev. Alexis will be taking care of things at the church.

I also want to thank and congratulate all who through your financial support allowed us to end the year with a positive balance and to trim our indebtedness to \$32,000. This means that by the end of next year it will be paid in full or sooner if more contributions are received.

As we begin 2010, we ask what God has in store for us this year. I do not have a detailed answer, but I do know that God is at work in all areas of this church and each year we grow stronger and more focused on God’s presence. Be watching for new organizational emphasis in the area of ministries which will highlight more of what we are doing and how you can become involved.

### 2010 LENTEN JOURNEY AT FUMC

What is the source of your hope for today and the future? Christians center their hope in Jesus Christ. His life and teachings guide us in our daily living. The last twenty four hours of Jesus’ life are critical to our relationship with God, our hope for eternal life and experiencing forgiveness for our sins. This year during Lent, Sunday sermons, a Sunday school class and our Wednesday study group will focus on Adam Hamilton’s book, **“24 Hours That Changed the World”**. You will join Jesus on his final day. You will sit beside him at the Last Supper, pray with him in Gethsemane and follow him to the cross. You will experience deserting him, denying him and watching him die. Finally you will experience the resurrection. This is a Lenten journey you will not want to miss.

Be in worship each week, join in study and allow yourself to be transformed by Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

*“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you,” declares the LORD, “and will bring you back from captivity.”*

Jeremiah 29:11—14

## This Month's Usher / Greeter Teams

### 8:30

Al Brennecke  
Mark Church  
Keith Noack

### 10:00

Meredith Miller  
Chuck Wood  
Jay Oswood  
James York  
Jerry & Anita Ellingson  
Linda Tasler

### 11:16

Wendee Cooper  
Rhetta Wenk



## Musical Notes from Janet Collison

A special choral anthem entitled *When Peace, Like a River* has been commissioned for the music department at First United Methodist Church. It will be performed on Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at the 8:30 and 10:00 services. The anthem was commissioned by the family of Orville and Irene Grimes and will be sung in their honor.



Orville and Irene Grimes were long-standing faithful members of our church, committed to seeing it grow and nurture souls. After retirement, Orville served as parish visitor for 20 years and always had a cheerful demeanor and an upbeat attitude. He passed away in 1997. Irene served as organist and choir member. After her passing in February 2008, the family commissioned John Leavitt to write an anthem using one of their favorite hymns, *It is Well with My Soul*.

The anthem has been written with our church choir in mind. It's very peaceful and has a couple of unexpected chord changes that give the piece a beautiful texture and color. It has special parts written for string bass, bells, wind chimes, suspended cymbal and harp. It is a very fitting tribute to these two faithful saints of our church.

Brianna Weis, the new choral director at Miller and Lenihan, will be conducting on Sunday. Since I will be playing the harp, a guest conductor was invited.

All family and friends of Orville and Irene Grimes are especially invited to hear *When Peace, Like a River* during the 8:30 and 10:00 services, February 7<sup>th</sup>. It's beautiful... everyone is invited to enjoy it.

## New Sunday School Class led Duane Meyer

### UnChristian by David Kinnaman, Starts February 7, 11:00—11:45 am in the Lower Tower Room

This class will discuss the recent research regarding the opinions that many youth and young adults have regarding Churches and Christianity. We will review what it means to be a "Christian"! Finally, we will study what we must do to help our youth, young adults and others to be "Christians" as Jesus wanted us all to be.

- Recent research has shown that younger adults have little trust in the Christian faith.
- They reject Jesus because they feel rejected by Christians.
- Large numbers of young to more mature adults think that Christians no longer represent what Jesus had in mind, that Christianity in our society is not what it was meant to be.

## New Beth Moore Study

The Tuesday Bible Study group is using Beth Moore's "When Godly People Do Ungodly Things" study during January and February and visitors are always welcome. There are sessions at 10:00 am 1:00 pm and 5:30 pm., in the Quilt room.

A new study will begin on March 2 and continue through April 20. It is Anne Graham Lotz's "I Saw The Lord, A Wake-up Call for Your Heart". We will study 7 Old Testament figures who each had a fresh encounter with God that led to a life-changing revival of their faith. Judy Westphal and Ruth Jackson will be leaders. We are asking a donation of \$13 for those needing a workbook, or \$3 without. You may register for this study and/or order a book by contacting Cindy Mack (752-8015) or [tcmack@mchsi.com](mailto:tcmack@mchsi.com). Books ordered by 9:00 am February 16 will be available at the first session. A second order will be placed on March 2 if needed. This study is open to the whole community.

## Finance Report for December 2009

	Month	YTD
<b>Income:</b>		
Contributions	\$94,129	\$596,844
Building Endowment	0	\$20,000
Other	0	\$29,864
Total	\$94,129	\$636,708
<b>Expenses:</b>		
Operating	\$26,267	\$193,383
Payroll	\$37,406	\$388,449
Program/Missions	\$6,122	\$26,950
Total	\$69,795	\$608,782
<b>Over/Under</b>	\$24,334	\$27,926
<b>Apportionments Paid</b>	\$5,200	\$25,600
<b>Debt Reduction Loan</b>		
Balance 12-08-09	\$64,000	
Principle Paid	\$26,000	
Balance 1-12-10	\$38,000	
<b>Haiti Offering</b>	\$1,818	



### Finance Committee Report

Congratulations!!! The Debt reduction is now down to \$32,000. We are close to getting this paid off thanks to your dedication and generosity. We are very close to one of our goals for the new year. Now we need to finish this so we can move on to other priorities.

December was a very good month for us. We have money in the bank, all the bills are paid, and we have been paying money toward our apportionments.

We are off to a fantastic start for the new year and hope that we continue on this path. Thanks to all of you and may God be with us as we prepare for a great year.

Co-Chairs, Daryl Gilmore and Kevin Miller



**Sunday, February 7 is  
Communion Sunday.**



**February Change for Change  
will be for  
Haiti Earthquake Victims**

## Youth & Children's Update by Elizabeth Flickinger



Is there a conspiracy going on in your house?

Are the "ankle biting battalion" and/or the "hormone group" ganging up with a game plan guaranteed to drive you up the wall?

**"Have a New Kid by Friday" by humorist Dr. Kevin Leman is the basis for a discussion on parenting led by Carrie Barr.**

**Meeting February 7 – March 14 at 10:00 am Sunday mornings in the Quilt Room.**

Please contact Elizabeth Flickinger or Carrie Barr with questions.

Also looking for volunteers to teach Sunday school February 7 – March 14 so our teachers who are parents can attend this great discussion! Please contact Elizabeth Flickinger with questions or to volunteer.

**Family Fun Night Bible Adventure - February 19 – 6:00 pm**

### YOUTH GROUP NOW SERVING DINNER

Thanks to the hard work of Jon Muller and others, we now have dinner served every week for 5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders at youth group. Thank you to all who have donated money to this effort so far. We are looking for people to bring meals or donate money so we can continue this ministry. We have been feeding an average of over 30 kids every week. It is very exciting to see this ministry grow and expand. Thanks for all your support and prayers as God continues to bless the youth ministry at FUMC.

### Summer Mission Trip June 20—26

We will be going to Racine, WI through Group Work Camps. We will be doing construction and home repair. Ages 14 and up are welcome to join us.

Cost is \$424 per student, but there will be fundraising opportunities. Watch for more information. Every student is responsible for \$100 of their trip. Let me know if you have questions.

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## Staying Connected

Beloved,

I have been thinking a lot about communication and community. There is an interesting phenomenon that started when I was younger and it is redefining community in ways that we are only just beginning to imagine. I speak, of course, of the social networking site. When I was in middle school, the chat room was the big thing. Meeting random strangers and talking about random things was a favorite pastime....and was eventually deemed to be rather dangerous and misleading. Now the latest is sites like MySpace and Facebook. These are pages where people can tell their entire life story to friends and strangers through the use of status updates and picture posts, among other things.

The other change that has occurred is the text message. Crazy enough that I can remember a day where no one had a cell phone, but now you can send little notes to each other without ever having to hear each other's voice and that brings me to my observation. Entire communities are being built without people ever speaking to each other, let alone seeing each other. There are more ways of communicating than ever before and yet individuals are distanced from one another.

So what to do about all of this? I am not proposing an all out rejection of these new developments. I love Facebook for keeping in touch with friends across the country. I love texting to send quick messages, to multitask. But I also refuse to be anything less than genuine. These means of communication make it all too easy to hide, so we must fight to have integrity. We also must fight to make sure that these means are not the only ways we connect. My challenge to us, Brothers and Sisters, is to be a church that loves deeply. My challenge to us is to be the type of people that seek the face-to-face connection, that do not shy away from the hugs.

My hope is that as the means of connection continue to evolve, the deeper love of community will never change.

Blessings,

Rev. Alexis

## UMW News

- February 4** - 10:00 am UMW board meeting Lower Tower Room  
 Noon Brown Bag Lunch in Fellowship Hall  
 1:00 pm Cherry Pie Project in church kitchen
- Recipes for Salad Luncheons and Cookie Walks over the years** - We are asking church members to please turn in your salad and cookie recipes from over the years to Pam Vinson in the church office. If you already turned in your 2009 recipes, maybe you have some favorites from years past. We plan to have a recipe book of the salads and cookies from these events to sell by the Salad Luncheon in April. Right now we have not received many recipes and would appreciate your help. If you have any questions, please call Bev Sloppy (753-3088) or Edie Hodges (753-7175).
- UMW Circles** - Please have your pledge services as early in the year as possible. Members, please get your pledge cards and pledges to Pat Batcheler as early in the 2010 year as possible.
- Alter Flower Sign Up** - If you would like to sign up for Altar Flowers for the 2010 calendar year, please call Pam at the church office (752-3668). Cost of the flowers is \$25.00.
- Cherry Pie Project** - On Thursday, February 4, UMW will have a 10:00 am board meeting. At noon, the board will bring a brown bag lunch and set up for making pies. At 1:00 pm, other UMW members or church members may join us in making fresh cherry pies which will then be frozen. On Sunday, February 7, the pies will be sold between services for \$10.00 each. The profit from the sales will go to the Church Stained Glass Windows Project.

**UMW 2009 Mission Projects Report** - First United Methodist Church members, we would like to thank you for all your time and effort to help in the UMW Events in 2009. We could not do it without everyone's support. This report shows where the money was given. If you have any questions about the following report, please call Bev Sloppy (753-3088) or Edie Hodges (753-7175).

### UMW Charities/Mission Giving for 2009

\*Includes Possible Charities on District List

Name	Amount		
		<u>2009</u>	
Bidwell Riverside	\$ 60.00	Hawthorne Hill, Des Moines	\$ 60.00
Child Abuse Prevention	\$ 300.00	Helping Hands	\$ 10.00
CIRSI	\$ 500.00	House of Compassion	\$ 550.00
District Helping Hands	\$ 10.00	Iowa River Hospice	\$ 100.00
District Pledge to		McCurdy School (New Mexico)	\$ 10.00
	\$ 6,500.00	Mtown Food Box	\$ 600.00
Domestic Abuse Center	\$ 300.00	Prayer and Self-Denial	\$ 109.00
FUMC Camperships	\$ 250.00	Red Bird Mission	\$ 10.00
FUMC Ministers'		Salvation Army	\$ 600.00
Discretionary Fund	\$ 350.00	School of Christian Mission	\$ 500.00
FUMC Mortgage	\$ 500.00	Shesler Hall, Sioux City	\$ 60.00
FUMC TLC Committee	\$ 100.00	World Thank	\$ 263.00
Gift in Honor	\$ 220.00		
Gift to Mission	\$ 100.00	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$12,062.00</b>
		<b>Name</b>	<b>Amount</b>



### Monthly Meetings:

- Trustees:** Thursday, Feb 4 at 5:15 pm
- SPRC:** Thursday, Feb 11 at 5:30 pm
- Finance:** Tuesday, Feb 9 at 5:00 pm
- Ad Council:** Tuesday, Feb 16 at 6:45 pm



### Conference Phone Numbers

**The Iowa Conference:** www.iaumc.org  
515-974-8900

**District:** wendylubkemen@iaumc.org  
515-967-7639

### Church Cancellations

If the weather necessitates cancelling church services this winter, we will try to put the notice on local radio stations, WHO and KCCI TV.



To everyone who delivered poinsettias to our homebound members.

To all who helped with the Nebraska Wesleyan University Choir concert. Whether it was hosting the students overnight, preparing / serving the meal, providing bars, publicity, ushering, etc., your help was very appreciated. We would like to host them again sometime.

Thank you so much for your very generous donation of hats and gloves for our children at Hoglan. We appreciate it very much.  
Sally Robertson, Hoglan Nurse

### Cleaning for a Reason

Free house cleaning available to women undergoing chemotherapy. This organization serves the entire USA. Please pass this information along to anyone you know who could benefit from this service.  
[www.cleaningforareason.org](http://www.cleaningforareason.org)

### Joan Greufe to Sing

Wellspring Christian Book store in Des Moines  
10465 Hickman Road  
Saturday, February 13 Noon—1:00 pm  
There is a café for you to purchase lunch while you are there.



**February 17 7:00 pm**  
**Communion & Ashes**

**Wednesday Night Discussion on Sunday's Sermon**  
**6:00—7:00 pm**  
**Fellowship Hall**

**Lenten Study : 24 Hours that Changed the World** – by Adam Hamilton  
February 24—March 24 led by Duane Meyer  
Everyone is invited to join this group.



**Potluck Friends**  
February 28 5:30 pm  
Hosts:

**Mike & Betty Kunc & Dale & Pat Batcheler**  
Bring covered dish & vegetable or dessert.  
Everyone welcome!



**Women of Faith**  
**Over the Top Conference**  
March 12 & 13  
\$89 Includes box lunch both days.  
Call Ruth for tickets or details.

## Local & Global Missions by Barb Matya

- Thank you George Taylor, Mary Long and Darryl and Dee Peter for helping me at the Soup Kitchen on January 3. Our next dates are Friday, February 5 and Wednesday, February 24. Let me know if you can help.
- Money was sent to the Foglemann's, Carroll's and Jill Paullus from the Christmas offering.
- We are working at changing our committee over to an Acts 6 Ministry team.
- Donated \$100 to the Haiti earthquake victims
- Donated \$150 to Salvation Army, \$500 to HOC and \$550 to Ebenezer's.

## Mitten Tub Changes to 'Undies' Tub

All the mittens and hats you donated have been delivered to the local school children. We had 85 pairs of mittens, 70 hats, 10 scarves and 20 combo sets. Thank you for your generosity. We had planned to leave the mitten tub out all winter, but the school has asked us if we could change it to an underwear tub. Many of the school children need socks and underwear. Also, chap stick would be great so each child could have his own tube. You may leave items in the tub by the Welcome Center this winter.

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## Acts 6 Ministry

Acts 6 talks about delegating the work of serving others. The few disciples could not do all the preaching, teaching and praying and also take care of the poor so they selected some men "full of the Holy Spirit and with good sense" to help them.

That is our hope for the cluster groups we are forming from our program committees. Hopefully, you read Rev. Alexis' article last month about this change. Watch for the sign up booklet and please pray about your gifts and how you can use them to glorify God.

*Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.*

*Galatians 6:9—10*

## What is Lent?

Lent is time of penance for all Christians as we move, with Jesus, toward the Cross and Resurrection. Lent gives us a chance to push pause on our lives, examine how we are living, and re-align ourselves with Christ. We are calling for all of us to be intentional about using this season to go deeper in our life with Christ. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17, when we receive communion and ashes as signs of our mourning and repentance. Then there are forty days (excluding Sundays) that should be spent in prayer, meditation, and fasting. We are not calling you to give something up simply for the sake of giving something up. We are inviting you to enter into the process of self-examination and change, whether it be breaking a practice that keeps you from God or adding a discipline to your life.

## Lent is fast approaching!

We have an amazing theme for you this year and a lot of opportunities for you to worship the Name of the Most High God.

Ash Wednesday service will be February 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary

Sunday sermon series during Lent will be **24 Hours that Changed the World** – by Adam Hamilton

There will be a Sunday School Class at 11:00 led by Duane Meyer. Duane will also be facilitating the Wednesday night discussion at 6:00 pm following the same study.

Palm Sunday will be celebrated March 28<sup>th</sup> at the regular services.

Holy Thursday Service will be April 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 pm

Good Friday service is April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 pm

We will have Easter services on April 4 at 8:30, 10:00 and 11:16 am.

We hope you'll join us for all of these opportunities to worship Christ our Lord!

