



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

“Loving God -- Loving People”

Reverend Dale Batcheler

Reverend Alexis Williams

March 2010

Notes from Dale,

Here I am, at home recovering from the total knee replacement. Thank you for the many cards, visits at the hospital and your continued prayers. I know that our prayers are an important part of my recovery. I have new understanding and respect for all who have experienced knee replacement. The first two weeks after surgery are as painful as everyone hinted they might be and the physical therapy and exercises are as enjoyable and painful as you had said. It is a new challenge on doing things you do not want to do because if you don't the result will be a disaster. At least the weather cooperates so I am not tempted to go outside and do something stupid. Pat is a great home health care partner who is taking great care of me. I suspect she will steal the bell in another week and tell me to do some of those things myself.

I look forward to doing more and more from home in the next two weeks. I am always amazed that one takes a breath to relax after Christmas and suddenly Ash Wednesday is here and we are in the Lenten Season headed for Easter. This year I will be reading the book by Adam Hamilton dealing with the last week of Jesus' life. This is the book from which our Lenten services will be based on and we will have several small groups meeting for discussion. A significant portion of the gospels deal with the final week of Jesus' life.

My surgery has helped me to focus more on what Jesus endured in his final week so that our sins can be forgiven and we can experience eternal life in the presence of God, Jesus and the indwelling Holy Spirit. Jesus experienced betrayal and abandonment of friends in his time of greatest need, physical torture, unfair trials and death by crucifixion. Makes my knee hurt more just thinking about it. What love God and Jesus have for us. Nothing is held back. Think about that over the next seven weeks. Sometimes pain is beneficial and a way to focus on what is really important in life.

Thanks again for all your prayers and I will be back as soon as I can, but I can see it will be several weeks before I will really be returning to normal.

“For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Romans 8:38—39

This Month's Usher / Greeter Teams

8:30

Dick & Sue Cope
Janet Renoux
Tony & Kay Lents
Brice Lincoln

10:00

Duane Meyer
Brent & Echo Nuese
Leon Townsend
Tom, Gretchen,
Sara & Hannah Taylor
Mary Steward

11:16

Niki & Brooklyn Casey



Musical Notes from Janet Collison

A Challenge to all musicians of FUMC!

Recently, I proposed to the musicians a "Lenten Double It Challenge". I know most of them are doing it! This challenge is not difficult and does not cost money; but it takes a bit of time and some dedication. Quite simply, the "Lenten Double It Challenge" is a pledge to pray twice as much as usual for our church and our pastors between Ash Wednesday and Easter.

Why would we want to do this? We want to see the Holy Spirit move! We want to see our pastors blessed! We want to see what God has in store for us! We want our music empowered to touch minds and hearts. We want to see people healed and set free. And finally, we are commanded to pray for our church and our leaders.

You may join us! Let's join our hearts and minds in dedicated and fervent prayer. Let's see what God has in store for us!



So MUCH really beautiful music!

We are well into Lent at this time; the beautiful music is such a blessing! Please plan to come and worship with us during Lent and Holy Week. The time and effort each and every musician gives is amazing. The dedication is always there. Please come and enjoy!

One Great Hour of Sharing from the Central District's "Weekly Update" publication

When the first tremors of the earthquake in Haiti rocked that island nation, UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) staff were already in country, strategizing how United Methodists could help improve the lives of the people there. Their work is a direct result of the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, which supports the operating expenses of those who bring healing and help in our name. It makes it possible, when we respond to an emergency like Haiti, to know that 100% of our gift goes directly to where the suffering is happening. Every year, but this year more than ever, I hope you'll join with the faithful across the church to support the One Great Hour of Sharing on March 14.



Easter lily orders must be turned in to the office by Sunday, March 14. They are \$10 each.

Higher Power is Coming to FUMC
Sunday, April 25, 8:30 & 10:00 am

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 9 and continue through April 27. (Note change in dates.) 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. This study is open to the whole community.

Finance Report for January 2010



	Month	YTD
Income:		
Contributions	\$55,332	\$55,332
Building Endowment	0	0
Other	\$9,553	\$9,553
Total	\$64,885	\$64,885
Expenses:		
Operating	\$17,549	\$17,549
Payroll	\$27,273	\$27,273
Program/Missions	\$2,731	\$2,731
Total	\$47,553	\$47,553
Over/Under	\$17,331	\$17,331
Apportionments Paid	0	0
Debt Reduction Loan		
Balance 1-12-09	\$38,000	
Principle Paid	\$4,000	
Balance 2-9-10	\$34,000	
Haiti Offering	\$2,226	

Finance Committee Report

Wow it is hard to believe we are into Lent already. Time does fly when you are having so much fun shoveling all this snow. We are having a good start to our year with the big push at the end of 2009 and another \$4,000.00 in February. Our Debt Reduction is now down to \$34,000. It would be wonderful if we could pay this off as part of our Lenten sacrifice.

January and February have been good months and we have been putting money towards our apportionments. Even with the huge heating bill we had for January we have kept all of our bills paid and even have some money in the bank.

We have again shown that we care about others as well as ourselves. We collected \$2,225.65 to go to Haiti for disaster relief. This was above all the work we have done here.

2010 looks to be a great year if we continue on our current path. Thank you all for being so generous, you are indeed a very caring congregation.

Co-Chairs, Daryl Gilmore and Kevin Miller



**Sunday, March 7 is
Communion Sunday.**



**March Change for Change
will be for
Easter**

Youth & Children's Update by Elizabeth Flickinger



We have a busy March coming up! Mark your calendar for these great events!!

March 4th Worship Leader, Peder Eide, will be leading a family worship workshop at New Hope Christian Church. This is an event you do not want to miss! All families with children 4th-12th grade are invited to attend. It will be an uplifting night, but will also give you tips to take home and apply. Cost is \$20 per family. Peder Eide will also be having a free concert on Friday night, **March 5th** at 7:00 pm at New Hope. All ages are invited and event is free! Check out www.pedereide.com for more information.

Sunday, March 7th at 9:30 am, the students and parents involved in the summer mission trip to Racine, Wisconsin are asked to attend a meeting in the High School Huddle Room.

March 19th – 20th the high school students will be taking a trip to Chicago to the Dare to Share Conference. Be looking for more information very soon!

March 24th we are planning on holding the 2nd Annual Easter Egg Hunt from 10:00—11:30 am for pre-school through 4th grade. Please be watching the bulletin for more information!!

The Power Team is returning to Marshalltown **March 24th- 28th** at FBC at 7:00 pm. Our church has been invited to partner and help sponsor this event. **March 24th** is Youth Night. **March 14th** we will be hosting a Prayer & Praise Service here at FUMC with the six other churches involved with the Power Team at 6:30 pm. Be looking for more ways to be involved!

March 28th the Awaken Drama depicting the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ will be coming to Marshalltown! Do not miss this great event at 6:00 pm at the Coliseum! It is free and for all ages.

"And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness."

Spring Cleaning

Beloved,

We are in my favorite time of year. Its Lent, we're getting ready for Holy Week and Easter. Hopefully, spring will be coming sometime this month. This is the time of year when people are cleaning out their houses and feeling refreshed, everyone seems to be taking a deep breath.

What if we did that with our spiritual lives? What if we cleaned out all the extraneous stuff that has been gathering in the corners of our lives and we took a deep breath of God's redeeming grace? I want us to lay hold of the fear and anxiety that we cling to and give it over to God. I want us to lay hold of every thought we have and give it over to God. If our thoughts are good for us then God will give them back to us and will use them to take us on the next step of our journey. When we clean out the junk of our lives, we can grow in our walk with God.

I am obsessed with The Acts of Apostles. Don't get me wrong, I love the other books of the Bible, but this book is about people I can relate to. These average joe's taking their best guess at following Jesus, fasting and praying and relying on the Holy Spirit to get them through. The best part? The Holy Spirit comes through every time they pray. They are filled up repeatedly with the ability to do signs and wonders...and to declare the Word of God with boldness in the face of life threatening danger. Not only that, but they take care of each other. Every believer has enough of what they need and they are of one heart. I want that. I want a community of ordinary people that is so in love with God that they can't imagine doing anything but worshipping His name. People who are so in love with each other that they can't imagine allowing a fellow believer to go to bed hungry or to sleep outside or to be naked.

It all starts with Easter. It all starts with a Savior, bleeding and dying in a horrific way, defeating death once and for all, and pouring His Holy Spirit on those who ask for it. I know we can have it too. Acts is not about some galaxy far, far away. Its about people like us, in a place like ours, following the Savior we believe in.

Blessings and Love,
Rev. Alexis

UMW News

UMW Board Meeting - March 4, Noon in Lower Tower Room

UMW Unit Meeting - March 4, 2:00 pm in Fellowship Hall,
Kathy Wilcox, program and refreshments by Esther Circle

Events for March -

- Church Women United, St Henry's, March 5, 9:15 am, World Day of Prayer
- Spiritual Retreat at West Des Moines UMC March 20. If interested, contact Bev Sloppy or Edie Hodges
- Welcome the Stranger at Staves UMC, Des Moines March 27. If interested, contact Bev Sloppy or Edie Hodges

Circles - Have your pledge services at a meeting early this year and turn your pledges into treasurer, Pat Batcheler.

Alter Flowers - Call Pam Vinson to reserve a Sunday to donate flowers. There are a few Sundays left in 2010. The cost is \$25.00. Your flowers are then taken to a hospitalized or home bound member.

Cherry Pie Project - Thank you everyone who purchased a pie! We made 53 large pies and 27 small. So far, the project has brought in \$668 for the Stained Glass Window Project. Thanks to all who helped with this project!

Salad Luncheon and Cookie/Candy Cookbook - The deadline for getting your recipes in was February 28. We will still accept your recipes if you get them in by early March. **We need salad, cookie, or candy recipes!** Leave them in the office with Pam Vinson with your **name and phone number or e-mail them to Bev Sloppy** bneat@heartofiowa.net or Edie Hodges edithanddon@mchsi.com.

House of Compassion 2009 at a Glance

Statistics:

- The shelter averaged 29 guests per month with each guest staying an average of 7 nights.
- The soup kitchen averaged 1293 meals per month with an average of 43 people eating per night.
- The supply closet saw an average of 556 families per month receiving supplies.
- In the fall, the Back to School program assisted 930 students. This was an increase of 65 students from 2008.
- The Adopt-a-Family Christmas program adopted out 631 individuals equaling 172 families. There were less people acting as adopters this year.

The major focus this year was to have the community better understand that HOC belongs to all of us. It is many people working together to help those in need.

As a part of this increase in public awareness, more agreements have been made with other agencies in Marshalltown to better serve our clients. A few of these would include:

Primary Health: a procedure has been established for any shelter guest needing to see a physician, and an appointment is made for them to be seen in a timely manner. Flu shots and TB tests are also administered at no cost.

Primary Health Dental and HOC have developed a procedure so that any eligible client can receive care with HOC guaranteeing payment.

Niehouse Cleaners will fix any clothing requiring zippers. Our shelter guests have many coats that are in need of repair.

YMCA offers daily passes, at the discretion of the HOC director, for shelter guests to use their facility.

The City gives HOC bus tickets so our shelter clients can ride the bus at no cost to them. This is a valuable service to our clients to assist them in getting around town, especially in getting out to Workforce Development and the Social Security office.

JC Penny Salon has periodically given free haircuts to clients.

Many businesses collect items, give monetarily, share extra food they have from events, serve in the kitchen, do special projects to assist HOC, and participate in other events taking place at HOC.

This was a bountiful year for volunteers:

A finance team was formed and has done an excellent job of developing and organizing contributions.

Many new volunteers assisted in the shelter and in the soup kitchen.

A buildings and grounds team has also been formed.

Beth Streeter started in April as the new assistant to the director. She has been a tremendous asset to the House of Compassion and those we serve. Her compassion simply overflows and her work has been most appreciated.



Monthly Meetings:

Trustees: Thursday, Mar 4 at 5:15 pm

SPRC: Thursday, Mar 11 at 5:30 pm

Finance: Tuesday, Mar 9 at 5:00 pm

Ad Council: Tuesday, May 18 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.

THANK YOU!
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!

Dear Friends,

I am so grateful for all that you did for Harry and me following my rotator cuff surgery, which resulted in a blood clot and a seven day hospital stay. Your numerous prayers, calls, cards and visits meant so much to us, and we certainly enjoyed and appreciated all of the wonderful meals. I feel so blessed to be a part of such a caring church family.

Betty Gray

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



Saturday, March 27

10:00—11:30 am

Pre-school—4th grade

Power Team at FBC March 24—28 7:00 pm

Praise & Prayer time March 14 at 6:30 pm at FUMC.
Please come and pray for the Power Team and for our community to be changed through this event.

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



Potluck Friends
March 28 5:30 pm

Hosts:
Lyle & Janice Springer
Ivadeen Proffitt
Everyone welcome!

Please turn in your Acts 6 Ministry booklets.

We ask everyone to fill out a booklet and include the tasks you are already involved in.

Local & Global Missions by Barb Matya

- Thank you Gloria Sietmann, Jane Peshel and Amanda Sites for helping me at the Soup Kitchen on February 5. Also, a huge thanks to our Choir for taking February 24. Our next open dates are Friday, April 2 and Saturday, May 29. Let me know if you can help.
- The Undies Tub will remain by the Welcome Center this winter for our local school children. We have already sent 3 bags of items to the schools.
- We are reorganizing into the Acts 6 Ministry Team.
- The prayer shawl yarn has been delivered to the Women at the Well. We were unable to go before now because of some problems at Mitchellville plus the amazing winter weather.

This article was given to the church by Larry McComber. It is from “The Christian Advocate” magazine on February 28, 1895.

The New Methodist Episcopal Church, Marshalltown, Ia.

The completion and dedication of the elegant new church at Marshalltown, Ia. Is an epochal event of Western Methodism. Marshalltown is a place of fourteen thousand inhabitants, the center of the district bearing the same name, and the commercial capital of a large territory having three great railroads which radiate advantageously into the richest agricultural region of the State. Our church numbers six hundred members, which is in excess of any other station in Upper Iowa Conference. The new church was dedicated Feb. 10 by Dr. B.I. Ives, assisted by Dr. J.T. Crippen, presiding elder, Dr. J.A. Ward, the pastor, Drs. S.N. Fellows and J.H. Rhea, former pastors, and many visiting brethren.

The structure is of delicately tinted buff limestone from foundation to coping, in regular range rock faced ashler masonry tuck jointed. The style of architecture is Romanesque, producing by its nice proportions and effect of richness and beauty seldom attained. The measurements of this noble edifice are seventy-six by one hundred and sixteen feet. The first floor is occupied with the auditorium and Sunday school room, which are thrown together at will be great rolling doors, making, together with the gallery, which sweeps around the entire interior and bends gracefully by easy steps, and a continuous balustrade to the pulpit platform, a seating capacity of eighteen hundred. The floor is bowl shaped, with pews of oak and all other woodwork finished to match. There are three great rose windows of opalescent slabs, which are the eyes and the glory of the edifice. Terra cotta and cream prevail in the fresco, which, with pleasing variety, are introduced into all else, even the carpets, producing perfect harmony and restful richness. The Sunday school room is divided into class rooms both in and under the gallery, all of which face the pulpit. Elegant semi-oxidized bronze candelabra depend from the centers of the main rooms, which together with corresponding side furnishings are supplied with both gas and electric light. The building is heated by three furnaces and ventilated by a mammoth fan, which forces the heat to any part of the building at pleasure, and supplies cold air in the summer, changing the air, if desired, every four minutes.

The social department is provided for in the basement, where there are large parlors, dining room, kitchen, toilet and cloak rooms. There are forty rooms in all. The entire cost of the building is \$40,000, which, together with the real value of the grounds and cost of duplicating the structure in ordinary times, gives to Methodism a property well worth \$50,000. Weary & Kramer, the architects who design as many churches as any firm in the United States, say it is the cheapest contract that has gone out of their office. Dr. Ives, who has dedicated two thousand churches, says: “It surpasses any church I have ever seen in elegance and adaptation for the money, and the noted evangelist, D.W. Potter, of Chicago, says: “It is a finer church than we have, and the prettiest one I have ever seen, though not nearly so expensive.” With such a building to show for the money, and the veteran dedicator, Dr. Ives, in command, it is not strange that when the sum of \$13,000 was called for to complete payment, \$15,600 was subscribed. Joy is unbounded and the community is amazed; the church is thankful to God; and the revival, which has been continuous for two years, is extending under the leadership of Potter and Miller, of Chicago.

UMW to Hold Annual Salad Luncheon & Cookbook Sale



The annual salad luncheon, sponsored by the UMW, will be held Thursday, April 29 in Fellowship Hall. Carrie Barr is this year's chairperson. The hours are 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. As usual, the menu will feature a host of many salads, including vegetable, meat and fruit varieties, deviled eggs, and rolls.

We need many donations for this event to be successful. If you are willing to make a salad or work that day, please call Carrie at 752-9778.

Remember that the salad luncheon is held during Administrative Assistants' Week, so feel free to bring guests to honor them during that week of celebration. The public is invited to attend. As always, the proceeds go to UMW projects, including missions on both a local, state, national and global level. Tickets will be available at the door or in advance in the office. The cost is \$7.00 per person.

Great news! There have been many requests for the fabulous recipes of the FUMC women. This year our cookbook of Salad Luncheon and Cookie Walk recipes will be revealed.