



FRUITA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

November 2011

www.fruitaumc.org



from the

Pastor's pen

November 2011

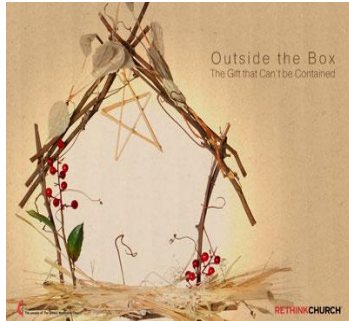
The church season of Pentecost, a.k.a. Kingdombtide, is coming to a close this month. The teachings of Jesus have come steadily and been a wealth of ways that we grow on our journey to take on his nature – sometimes stretching beyond our *human* nature. The season culminates with Christ the King Sunday, November 20th and the following week begins Advent.

We will also culminate, on November 20, the Stewardship Committee's challenge to "Harvest our Best Fruits" with our celebration turkey/potluck dinner after we've consecrated our "Best Fruits" during worship. It is imperative to me that we acknowledge ALL our gifts, not just monetary giving - though you know this is vital to our church – for the life of our congregation and to God's church as a whole. We are called to support the Church with "*our prayers, our presence, our gifts, and our service...after the example of Christ.*" (umh pg. 48) You will be receiving a letter the first week of November from the Stewardship Committee that will allow you to indicate your financial pledges to support the 2012 budget and long-term goals that the Financial Committee has prepared and will be approved at the regular Administrative Council meeting (November) as well as at the Annual Charge Conference next month. Those goals are realistic and recognize the difficulties of today's economic environment. It is the goal of the leadership of your church that cheerful giving **increase** – and we all know that could be a challenge.



No less important to me and the vitality of our congregation is the giving of the gifts of your talents and service to Fruita UMC. Our stewardship campaign sheet will also ask you to reflect on your individual gifts and interests that make up the whole Body of the Church. Your participation in the work of the church is so important and is what makes

us vibrant. As Christians we are God's hands, mouth and feet and God wants to use all of us with our unique gifts and talents to do the work of the kingdom: teaching God's word; helping the poor, needy, and sick; reaching out to those who are lost. To be complete, the body of Christ needs the skills and talents that each of us can offer. Your involvement in committee work, worship participation, nurturing efforts, working with our children and youth, and bringing warm hearts and hands to church are all valuable gifts that will be needed in the year ahead. I pray that you'll be forthright about your interests, your ministry vision – about all YOUR "best fruits!"



The last Sunday of November is the First Sunday of Advent. The theme for the season, when we prepare for the arrival of the Messiah, is "*Outside the Box, The Gift That Can't be Contained.*" We will "unwrap" the story of Jesus' birth and experience, in fresh ways, Love personified. We'll contemplate ancient Scriptures, dig into Christmas traditions and learn to relate to experiences of transformation brought through Christ's birth.

It is a busy month – God's work is NOT finished and so we will stay busy. Remember to change your clocks after you've filled up on Navajo Tacos and supported the church at the Cookie Walk and Bazaar on November 5. Those clocks "fall back" – you want to be at His house on time. Until then continue to be...

...Abiding in Him,

Pastor Dea

pastordea@skybeam.com

c) 970-274-6732



Navajo Taco Lunch and Dinner

11:30 - 2pm & 4 - 6:30pm (Winnie & Laurie Gregor are the chefs!)

Holiday Bazaar and Cookie Walk

10:00am - 6:30pm

November 5, 2011 at the Fruita United Methodist Church

405 E. Aspen 858-3490

\$9.00 Adults/ \$4.00 Kids under 10

Plan to attend and Please pass on to your friends and neighbors!

Mark your calendars!

*November 20th will be a very busy day in the life of our congregation! Not only is it Christ the King Sunday it will also be the day we consecrate the “Harvest of Our Best Fruits” stewardship effort and celebrate together with turkey and potluck dinner after worship. (turkey provided, bring a side or dessert– sign up)

*The YOUTH will be helping with **HANGING THE GREENS** that afternoon. The Worship Committee is leading this time of decorating the Sanctuary and Church. THE REST OF THE CONGREGATION IS ENCOURAGED to be a part of this fellowship and preparation for Advent. Since this is my first Christmas with you I really am looking forward to seeing how we look when the décor is completed.

*Choir Practice for the Cantada has begun Thursday evenings 7. Call the Church office for more information. Regular choir is still practicing Sunday mornings before service. (about 8:30)

Fruita United Methodist Women

UMW met October 3rd. Debbie Kuhn and her mom Doris Haile were hostesses for the evening. No program was presented as the group practiced for the UMW Sunday service which took place on October 16th.

Dates to Save

Nov. 7th UMW meeting, 6:00. The program will be the World Thank Offering.

December 5th Annual UMW Christmas party at 6:30.

All women of the church are welcome to join us!



Saturday, December 17

7:00 p.m.

Presided by Rev. Steve Goodier

District Superintendent

News from the Pews

Not your typical rental

1115 Buttercup Lane

Secure renters wanted for 3 bedroom/2 bath in Fruita's only 55+ Community Village at Country Creek!

2 car garage, NO YARD WORK! Phase One show model with upgrades. No smokers, No pets \$1150 furnished, sewer/water paid

Call Lorie Gregor at 201-4441 for an appointment

Prayer request for Pierce Burford (Doug's Dad) after complications from surgery. Nathan Burford returned to southern California early 29-September. Sadly, 11 of his 1/5 Marines brethren returned to their families in flagged draped coffins. Let God lift these families of the United States Marine Corp.

littlestproutps@bresnan.net is the new email for Little Sprouts preschool.

Sermon Calendar
Pastor Deanne Sharp
Fruita United Methodist Church
November/December 2011

November 6 ~ 21st Sunday After Pentecost
Service with Holy Communion for All Saints Day
“Be-Attitudes”
Matthew 5:1-12

November 13 ~ 22nd Sunday After Pentecost
Remembrance Day
“How’s That Working For You”
Matthew 25:14-30

November 20 ~ Christ the King Sunday
Thanksgiving Sunday
“The Sheep & The Goats”
Matthew 25:31-46

November 27 ~ 1st Sunday of Advent
Series: Outside the Box: The Gift That Can’t Be Contained
“Open Up: Expectation”
Mark 13:32-37

December 4 ~ 2nd Sunday of Advent
Service with Holy Communion for World Communion Sunday
Series: Outside the Box: The Gift That Can’t Be Contained
“Open Up: Acceptance”
Isaiah 40:1-6a

A CALL TO ACTION – THE VITAL CONGREGATIONS PROJECT

Excerpts from Bishop Elaine Stanovsky's, August- Mile High Outlook

Since I carried a heavy book bag in graduate school, my neck and shoulders have tended to tighten into painful, stubborn knots. It started as an odd tingling. By the time I was 40 the tingling had turned into chronic pain. As a superintendent, driving my district, I experienced shooting pain when I turned my head to check my blind spot. A physical therapist showed me that with the right intervention, the proper disciplines, changes in environment and behavior, you can fix problems that you have lived with for decades. This is true of the way we live in our bodies, the way we live in relationships, and even of our faith life.

Follow this illustration with me to the state of our United Methodist Church. It's no surprise to anyone in leadership in the church that our Church has been declining for 40 years or more. What should we do? One response is to learn to live with the pain – keep doing what we have been doing. We are called to be faithful in our service of God. It is up to God to bless our faithfulness with fruitfulness. Returning to my physical therapy analogy, if I had taken this approach, I might have said to myself, "I can live with the pain." I would have kept driving the car that contributed to the problem, continued to let my range of motion diminish, continued to expand my pain tolerance. And if I were a spiritually unhealthy person, I might have told myself, "See how longsuffering I am for God?"

But this is not a faithful response, either personally, or institutionally. God leads us out of suffering and decline. God calls us to fullness of life, and fruitfulness. We are not too old to be healed. We are not condemned to decline.

What might right interventions and proper disciplines for the church be in an age of decline?

Exercising its responsibility for giving "spiritual and temporal oversight" to the church, the Council of Bishops issued a *Call to Action* last year to challenge our church to take a long look in the mirror and to work to become healthier, stronger, more engaged, and more engaging. Two major research projects were completed to inform the church's response to decline. The research produced an adaptive challenge for the Church.

CRITICAL ADAPTIVE CHALLENGE FOR THE CHURCH

To redirect the flow of attention, energy, and resources to an intense concentration on fostering and sustaining an increase in the number of vital congregations effective in making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

The research also identified several “drivers” of vitality in United Methodist Churches in the United States, regardless of whether they were large or small, urban, suburban or rural, and spanning all ethnic groups.

DRIVERS OF CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY

- *Effective pastoral leadership*
- *Multiple small groups and programs for children and youth*
- *Mix of traditional and contemporary worship*
- *High spiritual engagement of laity in leadership roles*

It is no surprise that churches bearing these marks are livelier and more fruitful than churches that do not.

So what are we going to do? The **VITAL CONGREGATIONS PROJECT**, developed in response to the **CALL TO ACTION**, every local church is challenged to 1) set goals for growth and 2) measure and report indicators of vitality. In the Yellowstone and Rocky Mountain Conferences, we hope to be ready to fully participate no later than **January 1, 2012**. Each local church is going to set goals for growth in vitality, and we are going to report our performance toward those goals.

Goals from every church in North America will be collected and celebrated at General Conference in May, 2012.



Newsletter NEWS

This newsletter gets better and better with

YOUR contributions.

What is your ministry or mission or committee doing? The congregation should hear about it!

Email articles to lauri.baker@d51schools.org

or pastordea@skybeam.com