

The Link

Between you and the church

December 2009



Worship

Spirituality

Service

Acceptance

Pastor Mark Ramsperger
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Mark Your Calendar

December 13th

Community Choir Concert

December 15th

6:00 pm - Meet at the church at to pack gift baskets

December 20th

9:30 am - Christmas Program

4:00 pm - Hay Ride and Dinner

Meet at the church; dress warmly!

December 24th

Christmas Eve Service

7:00 pm at Berta A Penney

Pastor's Corner

Pastor's Report

Berta A. Penney Memorial UMC Church
Conference, Friday, November 13, 2009

Dear Members and Friends,

Once more we are approaching Advent, a time of joy and reflection as we prepare for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus. I am so pleased to be in ministry with you, and I am excited to share my second Christmas season with you. As it is custom for all pastors of the United Methodist Church at this time, allow me to share with you some information and some reflections about the state of our church.

My most sincere thanks go out to all who have helped to keep our Worship services and other ministries going during the past year. My goal was to first and foremost bring stability and continuity to our family in Christ.

I am pleased to inform that this goal has been achieved. Our Church is in good health, with a solid foundation and no debt owed to anyone. This is very important in today's economic depression. Many churches around our nation have to dip into their savings to survive, our conference had to cut this year's budget, and some churches have to let go of their pastor because the monthly mortgage payment is more than the income.

Our worship attendance has stayed the same compared to last year, although it has actually increased over the recent months. One of the

reasons for this was my absence for a big part of the summer attending school in Claremont California. During this time attendance had unfortunately dipped below average, which is reflected in the overall picture.

I continue to be active in community affairs and happenings of Kemmerer, as have some of our members. In order to represent our church in a wide range of service, I am an active member of the local Rotary Club. I have stepped up to the call and agreed to be their treasurer for the coming year. My wife Doris and I are members of the Kemmerer Gun and Rod Club. I am also representing our church in the Chamber of Commerce meetings. I am a driving force behind the Bell Choir, which is performing during special community events. I am also the president of the Transient fund and in this function I make sure the funds are not misused. We have helped a lot of people in need with food or lodging on their way through Kemmerer. Together with three other pastor friends as well as lay members from the community I am a founding member of an outreach mission called "Grace Love Outreach". One of the goals of this foundation is to help local people in need who for one reason or another fall through the cracks of outreach programs of individual churches. This will help our community to touch more people's lives with the love of Jesus Christ, and in doing so will help our community churches become closer as a body of Christ.

I am also pleased to declare that we have once more met our budget needs for the year 2009. The Finance Committee has spent many hours preparing the budget for 2010. They've labored hard to submit a spending plan that responsibly

addresses our ministry and mission commitments while taking seriously our projected income. Your generous response, coupled with that of others, will empower us to fund a year of strong ministry and mission.

Very dear to my heart is our contribution to the "Tithe Plus Mission", formerly called apportionments. As a congregation we were able to meet our contribution to annual conference/district administration, to missions and wider ministry. I want you to know this does not go unnoticed at headquarters. It is a blessing for us to help in this time of need. As a connectional church we are "bailing out" churches who cannot contribute fully. Therefore, we are obeying Jesus' command to help the least. I wish to congratulate you for this effort.

Some of the climaxes of our ministry together included the contribution to the "Operation Christmas Child", we almost singlehandedly represented the community of Kemmerer, which was also the town who donated most in Lincoln County. The participation in the "Heifer Fund" was a huge success also. Through your generosity people in need were presented with a gift of livestock, a gift that keeps on giving. Christmas Eve Service with community musician participation, town caroling with stops at the Hospital, Nursing Home, and Emerald housing project come to mind. The first annual community Easter Sunrise service at the new Event Center, and of course the second annual blessing of the Animals at the Triangle Park, where "yours truly" blessed over 50 of our animal friends.

I have completed establishing our presence on the World Wide Web: <http://www.penneyumc.org> or

<http://www.penneyumc.com> are the respective links. You now can stay in touch with us anywhere you travel. Our newsletter is available online, as well as our activities calendar and our membership list. In the future my sermons will be available as audio links, transcript, and even video files for those of you who cannot always be present in church on Sundays. We have decided to present you with a contemporary worship experience every month containing a fifth Sunday. I would also like to enhance worship experience by projector and power point presentation. This will help us drawing a younger group of worshipers.

As required by our conference, I am enrolled in the course of study at Claremont Theology Seminary. I was able to finish my second year classes in June and July of this year. I'm expecting to continue my education with the next modules in July of 2010. I want to take the opportunity here to thank you all for your willingness to support me with expenses incurred.

The Conference furthermore requires every Pastor under appointment to attend a Conference Church Ethics and Sexual Misconduct Prevention Training every four years. I attended this training in November of 2006 in Salt Lake City. My next training on this subject therefore will be at the end of 2010.

Part of my service to the community involves being an active member in the Ministerial Alliance. This is a team of regional church leaders. We convene once monthly for encouragement and exchange of ideas to further His Kingdom. Furthermore, out of this larger group, three of us like minded Pastors

have formed a support and accountability group who meets weekly for breakfast. My intent is to show the community our enthusiasm to be a congregation which truly lives up to the Methodist slogan, "Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors". I will continue to represent our congregation to the best of my ability. If you know of an event our church should be represented in, please let me know.

My priorities as spiritual leader for the coming year include increasing our membership, attracting younger families with children, supporting our UMW, and possibly reestablish a UMM club. I would also like to see our choir grow and being utilized more throughout the church year. I will continue various levels of Bible Study groups, and increase our level of membership support and caring, through events other than our regular Sunday worship gathering. I will be reaching out, and receiving with joy all who will respond. I will encourage all of you in your relationship with God and invite you to commitment to God's love in Jesus Christ.

I encourage you warmly to assist us making the Church Year of 2010 a year of solid growth, faithful worship, loving mutual ministry and caring, productive outreach to our community, and to a world in desperate need of reconciliation.

I look forward to the New Year, and the many opportunities of ministry and service which will be afforded my wife and me in our ministry with you. I feel most honored to be in ministry with you, and recognize that working together we will accomplish great things for our Lord and his community. I ask your continued prayers for me and my wife Doris. I assure you of my prayers for you. I cannot tell you

often enough "I love you!"

May God bless you and us as we accept the blessings and challenges He has given.

Your pastor, friend, and sheepdog



Mark Ramsperger

My Christmas Wish

As the year draws to an end, I reflect upon all the things I wish I had done, all the opportunities missed. Many times I filled my life with things that I felt were important at the time, but hindsight shows me more clearly what is really important.

My Christmas wish is that in the upcoming year, both you and I spend our time . . .

- Enjoying the beauty of God's creation
- Giving and receiving love
- Being grateful for all we have
- Sharing
- Telling others how much they mean to us
- Taking care of ourselves physically, mentally and spiritually
- Trusting God to lead us where we need to be

God bless and Merry Christmas,
Cindy Vetos

Church Council

Minutes of Church Council Meeting November 9, 2009

Co-chairman Joan Beachler called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Those in attendance were Mark Ramsperger, Brenda McGinnis, Sharon Luthy, Stacy Werner, Cindy Vetos, Bob Zakotnik, Mary Kay Zakotnik and Celeste Mori. Agenda was approved and the Mission Statement/Goals of BAPMUMC were acknowledged.

Prayer concerns were addressed before Mark opened with a prayer.

Secretary's Report: Minutes from October 2009 council meeting were accepted as printed.

Treasurer's Report:

October

Income	\$3,515.49
Expenses	\$3,902.81
Difference	(\$387.32)

Stacy presented the Council with the 2010 budget. After review and explanation on some line items, it was moved and seconded that the budget be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

PPR Report: Bob Z. reported on the meeting held in mid-October. It is the committee's recommendation to the finance committee that Pastor Mark be reinstated for another year, that the salary be the General Conference minimum salary plus an increase of the reimbursable account by \$250. This is reflected in the budget presented by Stacy. Bob also noted that he performed a walk-through of the parsonage and the church may need to prepare for a new refrigerator in the future.

Nominating Committee Report: The committee will meet at 5:30 p.m. Friday (before Church Conference) to go over a list of nominees to present to the Conference.

Trustee's Report: Cindy reported that they had received a report from the insurance company requesting several items be addressed. They include downspouts, replacement of a section of sidewalk, repairing the chimney. These items may need to wait until late spring. There was some discussion on including the downspouts with soffit, fascia, gutters, and gable area (which was not included in steeple work). The insurance items will take precedence over other deferred maintenance and improvement projects that have been identified.

Worship Committee: The committee met on November 1, 2009 to discuss a number

of items. A full report is available in the "Worship" reporting book found in the Miller Room. Choir will sing at the Community Thanksgiving Service and an up-coming regular service to be decided.

Thanksgiving service on November 22nd will include a reader's theater called "Giving Thanks Is a Way of Life." See minutes and the December calendar for other dates.

Mission Committee: No report.

Youth Group Activities: No report.

Adult Bible Study: "Your Study Begins," is the title of the current study which meets on Thursdays.

Children's Church: No report.

United Methodist Women: The UMW met October 27th at 6:00 p.m. for a cleaning up and cleaning out of the Miller Room. They will meet December 15 to fill baskets for Emerald Housing and the hospital. They will decorate/clean sanctuary on November 28th.

Pastor's Report: Mark will take a nativity scene to the museum before Dec. 13th for the showing. The caroling party and supper have been set for Dec. 20th.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Celeste Mori, secretary

Gift Baskets

On December 15th at 6:00pm, we will meet at the church to pack 40 gift baskets for the residents of Emerald Housing and the Nursing Home. Please come and help.

If you can't help packing the baskets, you can drop off your contribution anytime that day. Homemade cookies are always a hit, but the recipients also enjoy candies, fruits, small toiletries, etc. Your gifts are greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your generosity!

Celebrations

Birthdays

12/8	Latham Sorenson
12/13	Keith Sego
12/13	Sam Vetos
12/13	Melissa Foster
12/14	Dean Sherman
12/29	Jennifer Zakotnik

Anniversaries

12/4	Tom/Ann Banta
12/16	Lester/Kay Fatheree
12/21	Ronald/Shaina Lockwood

We Pray For . . .

Terri Marotta

. . . and all suffering from multiple sclerosis

Irene Banta Beverly Riley

Tharon Thompson

. . . and all suffering from alzheimer's

Brandon Steward Dora Peterson

Chuck Siegler Linda Wood

Gerald Gregg Tex Geller Wynn King

Gayle Robertson Terrance Luttrell

Kathy Dailey Kay Cooper

Julie & Jim Combs

. . . and all suffering from cancer

Eric Daniels John Nuss

Steven Werner Joe Bowers

Andy Bartlett

. . . and all serving in the armed forces

Jean Edinger Yoshiye Tanaka

Christine Gilbert Mogan Family

Emily Harris John Harris

Ray, Dennis & Grace Barb

John Nadasi Jerry Wagers

. . . and all needing healing

Brunskj Family Holland Family

Sears Family

. . . and all mourning the loss of loved ones

Volunteers

December 6th

2nd Sunday in Advent

Liturgist – Cindy Vetos

Children's Story – Sharon Luthy

Fellowship –

Greeter – Sharon Luthy

December 13th

3rd Sunday in Advent

Liturgist – Cleleste Mori

Children's Story –

Fellowship – Joan Beachler

Greeter –

Special Music – Bob and Jenny

December 20th

4th Sunday in Advent

Liturgist – Kamila Ponce & Sarah Sigler

Children's Story – Christmas Program

Fellowship – Kamila Ponce & Sarah Sigler

Greeter Kamila Ponce & Sarah Sigler

December 27th

Liturgist –

Children's Story

Fellowship

Greeter

Berta A Penney Memorial
United Methodist Church
PO Box 704
Kemmerer, WY 83101

OUR MISSION

The Mission of Berta A. Penney Memorial United Methodist Church is to provide everyone with opportunities for: meaningful worship, spiritual growth, Christian fellowship, and faithful service.

The Link can be accessed on the church website

(www.penneyumc.org). If you would like to read the newsletter via the internet instead of receiving a paper copy, please let me (cvetos@msn.com) and I will remove your name from the mailing list.