

# The Link

*Between you and the church*

*November 2009*



*Worship*

*Spirituality*

*Service*

*Acceptance*

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## *Mark Your Calendar*

*November 13<sup>th</sup>*

Church Conference  
6:00 pm at Berta A Penney UMC  
Rev. Paul Holland presiding  
All are welcome to attend; dinner will be provided.

*November 16<sup>th</sup>*

Operation Christmas Child boxes are due

*November 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>*

Choir practice immediately following fellowship after the worship service. The Choir will perform at the Community Thanksgiving Service on November 24<sup>th</sup> and also on November 29<sup>th</sup> at Berta A Penney UMC during the regular worship service.

*November 24<sup>th</sup>*

Community Thanksgiving Service  
7:00 pm - Neighborhood Assembly of God Church  
619 Pearl Ave

*November 28<sup>th</sup>*

9:00 am  
Decorate the church for the Christmas season

## *Pastor's Corner*

Dear Members and Friends,

Our country is once more on the threshold of introducing major legislative changes to the basic fabric of our society. One of those earlier changes was the introduction of Social Security in the late 30's. The other was the creation of Medicare/Medicaid in the late 60's. Both those changes were originally vehemently decried as creating a "socialized state". Opponents of Social Security warned of the looming massive loss of jobs if this law was passed. Opponents of Medicare warned of the dangers of "socialized medicine".

It seems to me that those same arguments have been resurrected once more in this latest health care debate. As a pastor of The United Methodist Church and the leader of our local community of Christians, it is my duty to stay informed on matters such as these, and to stay true to the facts. I was curious to learn where our founder John Wesley would stand on this issue today. After all, we cannot call ourselves followers of "Wesley's Theology", and completely disregard what our founder would advise us to do.

I know by voicing my opinion I walk on "thin-ice" so to speak. However, a leader is supposed to lead or get out of the way. By

providing you with the following "thinking-points", I'm hoping to help you sort through the breathless chatter of the "noise machine" today's so called media, as well as politicians who are indebted to their major "campaign donors". If Christians are to participate meaningfully in this conversation, we will rediscover the fullness of God's gift of salvation for all people, even the beaten man on the side of the road.

Our Lord Jesus Christ gives us an example to ponder in this discussion; it is the parable of the Good Samaritan. Jesus asked the expert in law: "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

A common argument I hear often against affordable health care for all is this: "It will create an avenue for much fraud". Unfortunately I have to agree. It is human nature to take advantage. We will help way more people who need our help desperately, and therefore we cannot shut out our grace for others because of the devious nature of a few. God's grace works for all, criminal and saint alike, unfair or not. We have been made in the image of God, "yeah but....." will not work as an argument, look in the mirror first. Jesus was a preacher, teacher and healer, caring holistically for the spirit, mind and

body. Did we lose sight of that? John Wesley was always deeply concerned about health care, providing medical services at no cost to the poor in London and emphasizing preventive care. The first Methodist Social Creed adopted in 1908, urged working conditions to safeguard the health of workers and community. The Rev. Ken Carter states: "Health care isn't just the province of TV news and talk radio. It's also the business of the church". Our Book of Resolutions states in article 113 *Universal Health Care*. "The health care system in the United States is in need of serious systemic change. We call for legislation that will provide universal access to quality health care with effective cost controls".

The concern of The United Methodist Church for health is rooted in our biblical understanding that salvation embraces wholeness of mind, body, and spirit. The redemptive ministry of Christ, *which focused on healing and wholeness, spiritual, mental, physical, and emotional*, is our model for health ministry.

*<sup>1</sup> If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be*

*nothing. <sup>3</sup> If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing.*

1 Corinthians 13:1-3  
(New Living Translation)

To finish my thoughts for you, let me quote from John Wesley's sermon "On Charity" from the year 1872.

*"The sum of all that has been observed is this: Whatever I speak, whatever I know, whatever I believe, whatever I do, whatever I suffer; if I have not the faith that worketh by love, that produces love to God and all mankind, I am not in the narrow way which leadeth to life, but in the broad road that leadeth to destruction. In other words: Whatever eloquence I have; whatever natural or supernatural knowledge; whatever faith I have received from God; whatever works I do, whether of piety or mercy; whatever sufferings I undergo for conscience' sake, even though I resist unto blood: All these things put together, however applauded of men, will avail nothing before God, unless I am meek and lowly in heart, and can say in all things, "Not as I will, but as thou wilt!" Let every man, therefore, that has a soul to be saved see that he secure this one point. With all his eloquence, his knowledge, his faith, works, and sufferings, let him hold*

*fast this "one thing needful." He that through the power of faith endureth to the end in humble, gentle, patient love; he, and he alone, shall, through the merits of Christ, "inherit the kingdom prepared from the foundation of the world."*

I will be more than willing to discuss this subject further with you; this "food for thought" hardly scratches the surface of this complicated issue. I kindly ask you to share your thoughts with me in order for us to gain more understanding and respect for each other. The "Imago Dei" is reflected in you.

See you in worship.  
Your sheepdog,



## *Operation Christmas Child*

Operation Christmas Child has become an annual outreach project at Berta A Penney UMC. You can take a box, pack it yourself and return it to the church by November 16<sup>th</sup>, or you can purchase items and leave them in the collection box at church. We will meet before the 16<sup>th</sup> to pack boxes with the donated items. Pastor Mark will announce the specific time from the pulpit.

If you're not sure what items are appropriate, see the following lists.

### **Yes, Please!!!**

- **Toys:** Bears, soft toys, tennis balls, finger puppets, jigsaws, yo-yos, building blocks, small musical instruments, trucks and cars, dolls
- **Educational supplies:** Felt pens, pens, pencils, pencil sharpener, erasers, coloring books, notepads, picture or puzzle books, chalk, pencil cases, stickers
- **Hygiene items:** Toothbrushes, toothpaste, hairbrushes, combs, hair clips, soap
- **Other items:** Sweets (sell by date to be at least March of the following year), gloves, scarves, sunglasses, caps, hats, bangles, necklaces etc.

### **No Thanks!**

- No Food - especially chocolate. Only exception, non-chocolate sweets
- No medicine or vitamins of any kind.
- No war related items: Toy guns, soldiers or knives of any kind.
- No clothing other than listed above.
- No fragile items, glass containers, mirrors.
- No liquids including blow bubbles, shampoo, bubble bath, toiletry sets or aerosols.
- No dangerous items, no sharp objects, no scissors or razors.
- No novels.
- Nothing of a political nature.
- No hand knitted or stuffed toys without a CE mark.

Remember, all donated items or packed boxes must be at the church on or before November 16<sup>th</sup>.

# Church Council

## Minutes of Church Council Meeting October 8, 2009

Co-chairman Cindy Vetos called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Those in attendance were Mark Ramsperger, Brenda McGinnis, Sharon Luthy, Stacy Werner, Leonard Nichols, Keith Segó 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 September 2009 council meeting were accepted as printed.

### Treasurer's Report:

	August	September
Income	\$4,942.59	\$4,145.46
Expenses	\$4,536.41	\$3,827.48
Difference	\$406.18	\$317.98

In addition to the ordinary income and expenses the Church spent \$1900 for wall repair and paint. Donations for the project were approximately \$300 over the cost. This carryover will be used to help pay for the siding of the steeple and gable which should be completed in October. The Council offered sincere thanks to the members for their financial support of these projects. Stacy reminded everyone

who is authorized to purchase items locally on behalf of the church, to please remember to get signed receipts to her.

**PPR Report:** No report.

**Nominating Committee Report:** The committee will be directed to replace Keith Segó as Chairman on the Trustees (see below).

**Trustee's Report:** Keith submitted report on most recent projects, abbreviated as follows: -parsonage hand rail installed; - louvered door for basement furnace installed; - waterline work completed; - paint project completed; -steeple/gable project anticipated completion by November. Mark offered to take care of getting pellets for parsonage from Evanston (\$3.30/bag). The council discussed the bid from Jeff Fagnant to install a sprinkler system next spring. After discussion Cindy moved and Stacy seconded a motion to accept Mr. Fagnant's bid of \$5,500. The last item is the creation of a parking lot in the back. Council members will meet with George Collins to discuss what is involved in the project, projected expenses, stages of construction, etc. before the next board meeting. Any interested person should contact a council member to attend. Lastly, the board accepted with regret Keith's resignation as Trustee Chairman. He will continue to serve as a member but will be gone frequently this winter.

**Worship Committee:** Sharon asked that committee members meet after church Sunday to discuss Thanksgiving, Christmas, the first contemporary service, and other items.

**Mission Committee:** No report; however, Sharon has an idea for outreach that she will pass on to the committee.

**Youth Group Activities:** Mark has been approached about starting a Boy Scout Troop through our church. An oversight committee needs to be established if the church goes with the project. He asked for volunteers to meet with leaders to see if we would like to pursue this. People already expressing interest were Mark, Keith, Leonard, and Joe Bowers.

**Adult Bible Study:** "Your Study Begins," which is an introduction to the bible, will begin on October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

**Children's Church:** No report.

**United Methodist Women:** The UMW will meet October 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. for a cleaning up and cleaning out of the Miller Room.

**Pastor's Report:** Mark thanked everyone who participated in and met to discuss the results of the internal survey.

**Other:** After the conference in November there will be a new way to schedule

volunteer involvement in the service. Cindy will provide details in the newsletter. There will be a Harvest Carry-In luncheon on October 25<sup>th</sup> after the church service.

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:15 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Celeste Mori, Secretary



## *Church Choir*

Doris Ramsperger is organizing a church choir to sing for the Thanksgiving services and hopefully again for Christmas. If you would like to join this group, please contact Doris.

The choir will practice after the worship service on November 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## *Celebrations*

### **Birthdays**

November 1	Stacy Werner
November 14	Nancy Feeley
November 17	Emily Harris
November 21	Joan Beachler

### **Anniversaries**

November 23	George/Betty Collins
November 24	Jean Edinger
November 25	Lyle/Arlene Beebe

# *We Pray For . . .*

*Terri Marotta*

## **. . . all suffering from multiple sclerosis**

*Irene Banta                  Beverly Riley  
Tharon Thompson*

## **. . . all suffering from alzheimer's**

*Brandon Steward      Dora Peterson  
Chuck Siegler          Linda Wood  
Gerald Gregg          Kathy Gieck  
Tex Geller              Wynn King  
Gayle Robertson      Terrance Luttrell  
Kathy Dailey          Kay Cooper  
Julie & Jim Combs*

## **. . . all suffering from cancer**

*Eric Daniels              John Nuss  
Steven Werner          Joe Bowers  
Andy Bartlett*

## **. . . all serving in the armed forces**

*Jean Edinger              Yoshiye Tanaka  
Julie & Jim Combs      Christine Gilbert  
Kennadi Gilbert          Stephanie Pelletier  
Emily Harris              John Harris  
Ray, Dennis & Grace Barb      Mogan Family*

## **. . . all needing healing**

*Karen Eubanks*

## **. . . all suffering from Bells Palsy**

*Family of Shirley Sears*

## **. . . all mourning the loss of loved ones**

# *Volunteers*

## **November 1<sup>st</sup>**

Liturgist – Celeste Mori  
Children's Story – Sharon Luthy  
Fellowship – Sharon Luthy  
Greeter – Joan Beachler

## **November 8<sup>th</sup>**

Liturgist –  
Children's Story – Sharon Luthy  
Fellowship – Brenda McGinnis  
Greeter –

## **November 15<sup>th</sup>**

Liturgist – Joan Beachler  
Children's Story  
Fellowship – Mary Kay Zakotnik  
Greeter

## **November 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Liturgist – Cindy Vetos  
Children's Story  
Fellowship  
Greeter

## **November 29<sup>th</sup>**

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](http://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](mailto:cvetos@msn.com)) and I will remove your name from the mailing list.