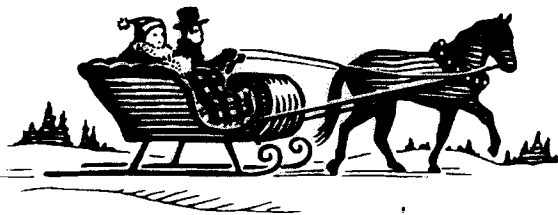
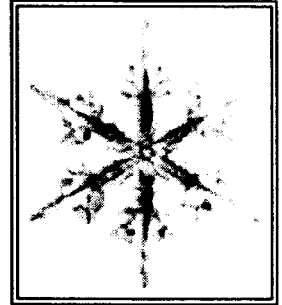


**FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
OF ORLAND PARK**

FAITH MATTERS

January 2010

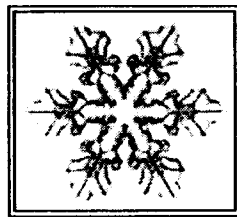


The year 2009 will go down as one of the most historic years of our life together as a congregation. We have been officially merged for more than one year. Our Administrative & Ministry Committees are now one. We have sold the West Campus property and are still in the process of selling the East Campus. The first service held at Marcus on Nov. 1 was a total group effort and success. It was a lengthy service but we had much to celebrate and much to give thanks for in the vision that has brought us to this moment.

INSIDE

- ◆ Pageant Photos
- ◆ UMW News
- ◆ Altar Flower Info
- ◆ Prayer Requests
- ◆ Flower Cards
- ◆ Birthdays
- ◆ Safe Sanctuary Class
- ◆ Financial Letter
- ◆ Internet Overload
- ◆ Missions Recap
- ◆ More!

Our hope for 2010 is that, in a matter of months, we will complete the purchase of the Calvary Reformed property at 80th & 151st. Our ministry is strong and growing. Lay participation is a joy to witness and the enthusiasm is contagious. We are truly a new church start. We still cherish the heritage from which we have come and will continue to celebrate and enhance those ministries that have carried us in the past. We look forward now to some new approaches, some new ways of moving the ministry forward, and especially in making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.



One of the several approaches we are attempting in the Marcus setting is to offer a variety of worship settings. Blended, contemporary, and traditional styles will be offered. It is our hope as your pastors that we will all learn together to appreciate worship in more varied and dynamic settings than we have been accustomed to in the past. Our hope is to capture the attention of young and old alike, and to attract those who are seeking to find faith in Christ in a setting that is somewhat less formal. However, it is our desire to capture the mystery and the awesomeness of the God in our worship regardless of style. This will require some give and take on the part of us all to do "Creative Worship" as Rev. Rich Rubietta challenged us at a recent worship seminar. As one of your pastors, I am enthused by the attempt to

(Continued on page 2)

2009 CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT



(Continued from page 1)

carry forth the goal of a more "Passionate Worship."

I applaud our Sunday school staff and teachers for their willingness to be, for a time, in this new setting. There are three theaters that are housing our nursery and Church School every Sunday. It is temporary, indeed, but our hope is that from this temporary setting we will see some growth and some new and creative ways to reach children and youth. As one of the children said as they entered our "new sanctuary" on the first Sunday, "Wow! This is cool!"

Our new Administrative Center is now buzzing with a host of activities including our small group studies, choir rehearsals, God Squad, women's circle meetings, and the ministry and administrative committee meetings.

I continue to be blessed and privileged to be one of your pastors. Both Pastors wish to express their thanks for the heroic-like efforts of the many of you in the move that took place during the month of October. Even though Dodie and I were in the Philippines for the balance of that move, I was truly amazed by your effort, your commitment to get things done, and your continuing effort to help this ministry grow stronger and more effective in the days and years to come.

My appreciation to all the staff who worked so very hard and put in long hours to see that all was coordinated and done in a timely manner. We go forward with much faith and the love of Christ that binds us together.

Pastor Ted A. Jones



Faith United Methodist Women

UMW BOARD MEETING – January 9th, 9:30 a.m., Administrative Center

This is an important meeting. We need to plan for next year, set the calendar, etc. I hope new, returning, and retiring officers will come so we can get to know one another and hand over the reins, so to speak. Please call me if you are unable to attend.

EVE CIRCLE – Friday, January 8th, Sandy Snow's house, 7:00 p.m.

A new UMW Circle is forming - THE EVE CIRCLE

* The women of Eve are demographically "mothers of young adults" who are focused on serving the needs of the congregation, strengthening family bonds, and preserving resources for future generations. We are committed to Christian lifestyles, mentoring our children and young adults by supporting family units as well as demonstrate ways to be conscious of our use and reuse of material items affecting our environment.

Our project for the next few months - FOOD COUPON COLLECTION

The Eve Circle is collecting extra or expired food coupons to send to Schweinfurt Army Base in Germany. The project is coordinated by the Southtown Star. Coupons on the Army base are accepted up to 6 months PAST the expiration date. Don't throw them away - donate them in the Eve Circle Coupon Collection Box in the Narthex! Thank you!



December Holiday Project and Party – Thank You!

The holiday project and party was a big success. We filled approx. 95 patient gift boxes and put together 18 shut-in gifts. It only took about 90 minutes and everyone seemed to have a good time. The party at Sandy Ward's "Christmas House" afterwards was great. There is always something new to discover. **Thank you, Sandy**, for sharing your Christmas spirit with us.

Thank you to all who donated items or money and to those who came to fill the gift boxes for Plaza Terrace Nursing and Rehab Center in Midlothian. There were far too many for me to list here, but you went above and beyond the call. **THANK YOU**. A special thank you to Donna Petersen and Becky Cristofaro for helping wrap the empty boxes. It sounds easy, but it wasn't; and to Debby Fuller and Vici Kleinow for making a shopping run for us. Those little extras you picked out for the shut-ins were a hit. The staff at Plaza Terrace thought our boxes were great and they really appreciated the extra supplies. Several staff came into the reception area as we brought the boxes inside, and each of them said "Thank You."

Thank you, too, to those delivering the shut-in gifts. We really should visit them more often, don't you think?

TOGETHER WE COPE

Our church has recently received several "thank you" letters from the *Together We Cope* agency for donations of cash, as well as 12 bags of food from our shredding day. This agency strives to assist families in our community by providing food, clothing and shelter information in times of crisis.



The need for assistance has grown tremendously in the past 6 months. Please remember them when you are cleaning out your closets. They need good quality winter clothes of all sizes. You can also bring non-perishable food items to the box at our administrative center, or the reception table at Marcus, and the Bechtold's (or a helper) will deliver it to the pantry.



ALTAR FLOWERS

The East & West campuses have had different procedures for altar flowers, so here's the information to keep things running smoothly. Because we're not in our own worship space yet, and there is only room for one or two floral

pieces, it's important that everyone **SIGN UP** on the flower chart at least 2 weeks in advance, so we know if we need to order flowers or not.

In the past, if someone from the East campus wanted to bring in their own flowers (from a home garden, etc.), that was fine. They were responsible for bringing in a vase & having the flowers nicely arranged, then taking the vase back home.

The West campus has traditionally ordered flowers from a florist. After much trial & error, we found *The Enchanted Florist*, and have been very happy with their service and discounts. The fee is \$28, and you will receive a professionally arranged bouquet valued at over \$50. The standard arrangement is "flowers of the season" in a vase, but you can request special colors, or a *basket* at no extra charge.

If you would like a more elaborate arrangement, there would be an additional cost.

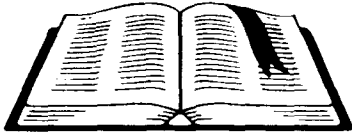
A bud vase with a single rose (your choice of color) with baby's breath & ferns, to celebrate the birth of a new baby or grandchild, is \$12.00, delivered to the church.



When you sign up on the altar flower chart, please indicate if you are **bringing** or **buying** the flowers, and print clearly if they are in "honor" or "memory" of someone, so we can be sure to spell the names correctly. There are also special flower envelopes on the flower clipboard -- Make your check out to: Faith UMC.

Thank you for helping to make our altar pretty - and afterwards, the flowers make lovely gifts for a friend, a shut-in, or yourself!

Scripture Readings for the Month



January 3, Epiphany Sunday

- Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
- Ephesians 3:1-12
- Mathew 2:1-12
- Isaiah 60:1-6

Jan. 10, 1st Sunday after Epiphany

- Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
- Isaiah 43:1-7
- Acts 8:14-17
- Psalm 29

Jan. 17, 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

- 1 Corinthians 12:1-11
- Psalm 36:5-10
- Isaiah 62:1-5
- John 2:1-11

Jan. 24, 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

- Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
- 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
- Luke 4:14-21
- Psalm 19

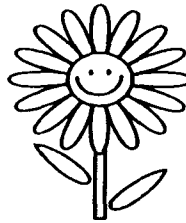
Jan. 31, 4th Sunday after Epiphany

- 1 Corinthians 13:1-13
- Jeremiah 1:4-10
- Psalm 71:1-6
- Luke 4:21-30

Feb. 7, 5th Sunday after Epiphany

- 1 Corinthians 15:1-11
- Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13)
- Luke 5:1-11
- Psalm 138

Flower Cards



Receive a mini flower arrangement or plant each month for a full year for just one low price - all for only \$25.00!

Just buy a card at the registration table, then once each month, whenever it's convenient for you, stop by the Enchanted Florist Shop (at 82nd Ave & 143rd Street in Orland Park) to get your card punched and pick up your flowers for that month. For example, one month you might receive 3 roses, the next month, 5 daisies, and the next, a mini violet plant. The flowers come wrapped in florist paper, but you can have them trimmed and put in a vase for a small extra charge.

This is a fundraiser for the "2010 Mission Trip to Iowa", which is going back to work in the flood area. This is one of the nicest (and prettiest) deals you'll ever get, and it's helping a great cause, too!



What do you see?

Take a look at this line of type:

GODISNOWHERE

Did you read it as "God is nowhere"?
Or are you an optimist who saw it as
"God is now here"?

Shepherd's Ministry



New Prayer Concerns:

For Pastor Bob, as he recovers from surgery
 For Arlene Manning
 For Debbie, daughter-in-law of Rich Carriel, skin & vein graft sites infected with MRSA
 For the family of Rich Van Herik, (a neighbor of Sandi Kucharski) who died while shoveling snow
 From Sandy Huskey, for sister-in-law Judy who is starting chemo & radiation for mass on her leg
 From Allison Petersen, for family of Cara Bendinelli, 32 yr. old coworker
 For Matthew, grandson of Phil & Dorothy Chandler, surgery at Northwestern Hospital
 From the Schwems, for Sydney, their friend's new baby, recovering from surgery
 For Jon Anderson, chemo treatments
 For Angelo, Ray Schmitz III's father-in law, recovering after illness
 For the family of Danny (the Bechtold's nephew). Danny passed away while getting treatments in the Philippines
 From George Motzer, for his friend Paul Merritt in Christ Hospital, in a bad car accident.
 From Charlene Meyer, for her friend Sue who has been battling cancer for over 10 years, and now faces the spread of her cancer with complications
 From Rich Carriel, for his 7-month-old grandson, Anthony, recovering from surgery
 From Genie & Kelly Lang, for a co-worker, Lisa, with breast cancer
 From Connie Lundin, for her son Brian, as he returns to Kuwait
 From Barbara Heffelfinger, for son's mother-in-law (and her family), as she struggles with her cancer & heart in ICU
 From Gladys Bain, for her good friend Edna Burkee, taking radiation for cancer
 For Debbie, Della Ehret's daughter, dealing with multiple serious health concerns
 For Chuck Von Borstel, in hospice at home

New Joys:

From Sue Eade, recovering from surgery, with praise for good results
 From Joe Siebert, his Mom had her 75th birthday, and said she won't give up her motorcycle!
 Congratulations to Richard McClaney, grandson of Elizabeth Parrish, who graduated from Bradley University on Dec. 19 with a BA in marketing



Please remember our shut-ins:

Ray Bumba, John Cranston, Dorothy Davidson, Warren Hardt, Buzz & Jean Heinecke, Lorraine Johnston, Elaine Kunkel, Arlene Manning, Jean Metzger, Alma Pinkston, Carolyn Reno, Martha Rojakovick, Pat Romanek, Marge Thomson, Ginny Thweatt, Chuck Von Borstel, and Phyllis Wallent.

Please keep in your prayers:

Rita Bartak's sister, Linda; Bev Carriel's friend, Terry Truemper; Wayne Reno; Gene Tressmer; Dena Baro's sisters, Brigit and Coraleen; Rich Mawhinnie; Chuck Johnson; Kitty Chapple's father, John Griffin; Brenda Madding; Mary Nichiporenko; Clarence & Ione Olson; Carolyn Reno; those out of work, Joan Smith; and Tom Terlep.



January Birthdays



01/01	Doris Mihelic	01/12	George Motzer	01/19	Craig Damrow
01/02	Jackie Konidaris	01/12	Ed Kawczynski	01/20	Patrick Coyne
01/04	Ray Doctor	01/14	Eric Bryce	01/21	Sally Cooper
01/05	Christy Claus	01/15	Jennavieve Mack	01/21	Emily Haight
01/05	Doriss Hoover	01/15	Simon Vath	01/23	Viola Vande Kerkhoff
11/06	Eleanor Peterson	01/15	Timothy Vath	01/24	Jean Mager
01/07	Jennifer Marynowski	01/16	Greg Bradach	01/25	Tom Duracka
01/08	Andy Chapple	01/17	Lori Baker	01/26	David Foster
01/09	Katheryn McClay	01/17	Jaclyn Carmichael	01/27	Anne Manchester
01/10	Kyle Kawczynski	01/18	Suzie Bayles	01/27	Jana Kubicki
01/11	Steve Fuller	01/18	Jim Hudik	01/28	Ryan Krell
01/12	Paul Cooper			01/30	Jim Kough

SAFETY TIP

CELL PHONE USE WHILE DRIVING MORE DANGEROUS THAN PREVIOUSLY THOUGHT

Three major studies* have recently shown that "texting" (typing on a cell phone, I-pod,



GPS or Blackberry type of device) while driving is actually **more dangerous than driving while drunk**. People who thought they were only "glancing down for a sec" actually tended to look at their devices for close to 5 seconds. Going 55 miles an hour, you can travel *more than the length of a football field in that time*.

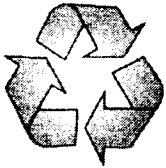
Texting or dialing a cell phone made a person 23 times more likely to be in a crash or near-miss. Bottom line? Don't use your cell phone while driving...pull over to talk, or just wait, like we all did just a few years ago when no one even HAD a cell phone!

*(Virginia Tech, Nat. Highway Traffic Safety Inst., & State Farm Insurance)

GREEN TIP

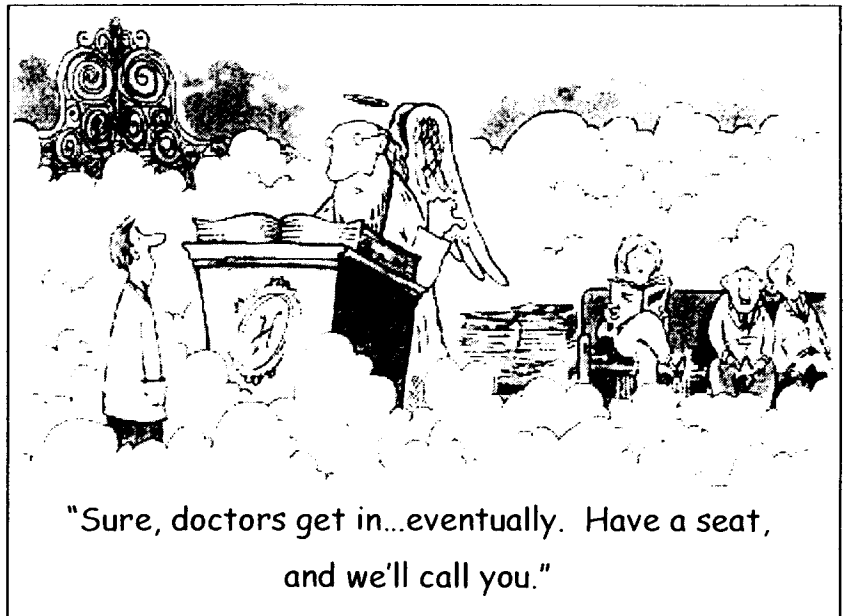
from Sandra Snow

Our "green" tip of the month -



On prescription medications... fill only those prescriptions you're sure you will use, and never

flush unused or expired prescriptions down the toilet or drain. Pharmaceuticals in wastewater have been found to damage plants, fish, and animals. Because so much medicine is wasted, if the average patient over age 65 who fills 24 prescriptions annually purchased only those drugs that would be fully consumed, he or she could save \$70 per year at the pharmacy. From all patients, the amount of medication saved could fill a giant 45-foot-tall medical bottle each year.



"Sure, doctors get in...eventually. Have a seat, and we'll call you."

WORKING WITH KIDS ?

Sandy Ward will hold a **"Safe Sanctuaries"**



training session on Saturday, January 9th from 11:00 am until noon. If you want to help with our children in any way (driver, teacher, roamer, nursery helper, etc.), you

must take this class at least one time. Please let us know if you will be attending.

YOU'RE AN ANGEL!



Thank you so much to all those who bought gifts for the Angel Tree

children. You have been an angel to a child this Christmas. What greater gift can we give than the gift of sharing.

Bob and June Ohlson

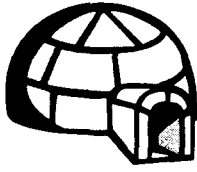
HIS LAST PRAYER

When he lay dying, John Knox, famous Protestant reformer of the 1600's, prayed earnestly for those who had persecuted him, and for the ungodly who had thus far rejected the gospel. Queen Mary of



Scotland said, "I fear his prayers more than I do the armies of my enemies."

WINTER STUDY



We will be using the book:
**"Selling Swimsuits in
 the Arctic
 Seven Simple Keys to
 Growing Churches,"**
 by Adam Hamilton

A four-week study
 at the Ad Center
 from Jan. 13th to Feb. 3
 Bring your own bag dinner
 if you wish to eat first.
 Dinner: 6:00 pm.
 Study : 6:30 - 8:00 pm.

LENTEN STUDY

**24 Hours That Changed
 the World**
 by Adam Hamilton



This book will guide
 readers to understand
 the significance of Jesus'
 suffering and death
 in a way they have never
 done before.

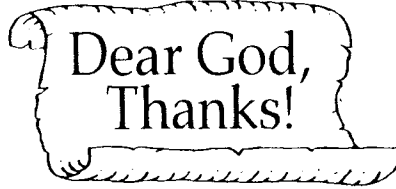
A seven-week study
 from Feb. 10th - Mar. 31st

LIFE'S LITTLE BLESSINGS

The Bible tells us to "Be thankful for ALL things",
 but most folks only remember the Big Events, and
 tend to overlook the *smaller blessings*. In fact, it's
 often easier to focus on things that go wrong.

But taking time to appreciate little pleasures and
 happy coincidences is

important. It will make
 us happier and more
 relaxed. Here are a few
 to get you started...



- ☺ Having the light turn green just as you drive up. *(Thanks, God! You knew I was running late.)*
- ☺ When you sneeze and a total stranger says, "God bless you." *(God, please bless them too!)*
- ☺ Taking off your shoes after a long day. *(Ahhh, thanks for small comforts!)*
- ☺ When a waitress brings you that basket of free bread, and it's really fresh & warm. *(Thanks for this good food, God.)*
- ☺ Buying a tank of gas just before the price goes up. *(Perfect timing God!)*
- ☺ When something made out of glass falls, but doesn't break. *(Wow! Thanks God!)*
- ☺ Putting in the last piece of a jigsaw puzzle. *(That was fun God!)*
- ☺ Finding that the very item you wanted to buy is on sale. *(Hey, thanks God!)*
- ☺ A smooth landing in an airplane. *(Thank you God, for keeping us safe.)*
- ☺ Discovering an unexpected \$20 in a coat pocket. *(Cool, God!)*
- ☺ Getting the first scoop out of a new carton of ice cream. *(Mmmm yum, God!)*
- ☺ Now go add your own!



(adapted from the website: 1000awesome things)

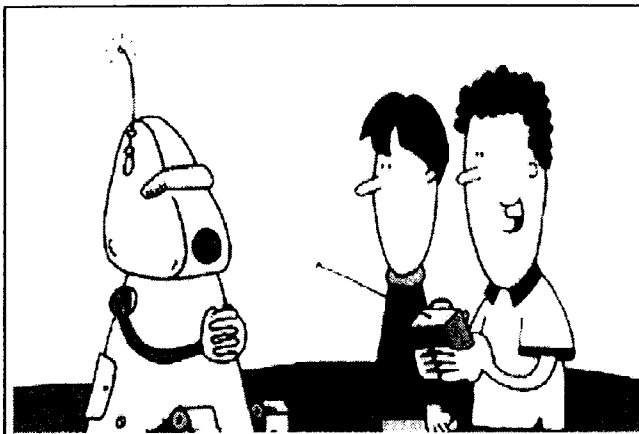
DIGITAL FASTING?

(Adapted from an article by Bobby Ross Jr. in the Nov. 2009 UMC Reporter)

Known as "Marko", youth leader and techno-hipster Mark Oestreicher had literally thousands of "friends" on his Christian Facebook site. One day he'd had enough, and unplugged from his online circle of friends. "It's not that I don't think online connections are real. It's just that they are perpetually superficial."

Others are also re-assessing the potential negative impact of online overload. "Unplugging has become essential to my spiritual journey, and truly hearing God," said Anne Jackson, a pastor in Nashville, and author of "Why I Kissed Facebook Goodbye." "I don't believe everyone should quit using Facebook...we just need to be aware of the ways *any* form of media can interrupt our time with God or those closest to us."

Rev. Margot Starbuck, mother of three and pastor in N.C., who typically replies to e-mails within minutes of receiving them, said, "If I'm not at my computer, I'm wondering what I'm missing. I check e-mail first thing in the morning and ...last thing before bedtime. I am not proud of that."



"He's programmed to pray at 9 pm every night,...in case I forget."

Trying to maintain all those online connections distracted from his real-life relationships with his family. Months after unplugging, he voiced surprise at how little withdrawal pains he experienced.

"I think that was primarily because I so immediately saw a return of four things I was hoping for: time, presence, focus and creativity," he said. "My family could tell the difference...it was rather astounding, actually."

Faith United Methodist Church

Administrative Center
9622 W. 143rd Street / P.O. Box 988
Orland Park, IL 60462
(708) 349-0267

E-mail: opumc@sbcglobal.net

Sunday Services: 9:30 am at Marcus Theater,
163rd & LaGrange Road.
Sunday School & Nursery: 9:30 am

Church Office Hours:

Monday - Friday, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Mon, Wed, Fri: 8:00 am - Noon (Sandy)

Ministers: Rev. Bob Haight & Rev. Ted Jones

Program Coordinator: Sandy Ward

Youth /Family Director: Jan Shaulis

Choir Director: Rolf Moan

Organists: Patty Lazarz & Edward Siebert

Please submit newsletter articles at least 3 weeks
before the next mailing. Articles can be
e-mailed, or submitted in MS WORD format.

So she implemented what she calls "Unplugged Sabbath" - no computer all day long. "After worship...I'm free to take a hike with my family and be entirely present to them. By the time evening rolls around, I don't even want to check the e-mail that's backed up all day."

In Mr. Oestreicher's case, he said he's not suggesting everyone stop using the Internet. Rather, he made a personal decision to choose "best over good" and stopped constantly checking his blackberry for updates.



FAITH UMC MISSIONS COMMITTEE

End of year Report



The purpose of Faith UMC is to share the love of Christ and the church through local, state, national and global missions and ministries. During the present year, our church met the goals set for this committee and carried the following ministries.

I. Met the needs of our local community through these ministries and agencies

- A. 1. Made a monetary donation to the great-nephew of one of our members to help cover medical expenses.
- 2. Provided Upper Rooms and care packages for East Campus college students.
- 3. Raised funds through Jewel Shop 'N Share program; allocated funds to the annual mission trip, emergency fund and Together We Cope (TWC) and Orland food pantries.
- 4. Provided needy people with gift certificates for food/gas
- 5. Collected baby items on Bright Sunday (West Campus)

- B. 1. Collected back-to-school supplies for TWC and Child Serve
- 2. Provided Christmas gifts for the children of TWC and Child Serve
- 3. Collected mittens, hats, and gloves for Child Serve and Marcy Newberry Association
- 4. Provided Christmas gifts to Angel Tree Prison Ministries

II. Promoted volunteerism through church mission opportunities.

- A. Volunteered packing food at Feed My Starving Children, Aurora location
- B. Sent 16 Disaster Relief mission volunteers to assist flood victims in Cedar Rapids, Iowa

III. Supported special mission projects

- A. Sri Lanka - Bought a \$1,200 house through Habitat for Humanity, House, 50% donation each Men of Faith/Mission Committee
- B. Maddox Family - Khartoum, Sudan. Sent cash donation
- C. Pads - Contributed \$900.00 to PADS Food Program
Collected socks for PADS on Sock-it-to-Me Day

IV. Promoted the support of mission personnel and opportunities to connect with them.

- A. Funded partial salary support of Global Ministries Missionary Becky Harrell
- B. Co-sponsored, with the UMW, program featuring missionary speaker, Becky Harrell
- C. Funded full salary support of Global Ministries missionaries Yema and Lahi Luhahi

V. Promoted denominational mission programs, interpreting as appropriate

- A. Sponsored special programs for Human Relations Day, Native American Day and One Great Hour of Sharing (East Campus)
- B. Volunteers to Iowa presented a verbal/visual program of their work experience in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Submitted by Lisa Hamilton & Gladys Vergara

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. **Luke 6:38**

Jan. 2010 - FAITH MATTERS
Faith United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 988
Orland Park, IL 60462
(708) 349-0267 opumc@sbcglobal.net

Open hearts, open minds, open doors.

Address Service Requested
Time Sensitive Material

Periodical Mail

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If you don't want this, write "refused" and return (we'll pay postage).



JANUARY 2010

Begin the New Year with God

(Label)

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jan. 8 Eve Circle, 7 pm
- Jan. 9 UMW Board Meeting, 9:30 am
- Jan. 9. Safe Sanctuary Training, 11 am
- Jan. 13 Winter Study Begins, 6 pm
- Jan. 16 Confirmation Class Trip to Mosque
- Jan. 18 Ad. Board Meeting, 7 pm

Please check with the office or the committee chair for exact times and locations. See our website for other, regularly scheduled events & meetings

