

EXCITING NEWS!

This week, along with a number of laity and clergy from Utah, I had the privilege to meet with Rachel Simeon, Associate General Secretary of the United Methodist Committee on Relief. Rachel came to Utah to announce that UMCOR has decided to establish a Western United States Warehouse Depot and Field office in Salt Lake City. This is so exciting because it brings the large and vital presence of the United Methodist Church to Utah and to the western half of the country! Rev. Skip Strickland, Rocky Mountain Conference Director of Mission and Ministry, wrote the following regarding this latest news -

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is the not-for-profit global humanitarian aid organization of the United Methodist Church. UMCOR works in more than 80 countries worldwide, including the United States. UMCOR's mission, grounded in the teachings of Jesus, is to alleviate human suffering – whether caused by war, conflict or natural disaster, with open hearts and minds to all people. UMCOR responds to natural or civil disasters that are interruptions of such magnitude that they overwhelm a community's ability to recover on its own.

The Salt Lake depot will help supplement the UMCOR Sager Brown depot located in Baldwin, LA. Sager Brown has served as the primary UMCOR aid distribution site for a number of years. The depot in Utah, along with another planned for the Philippines, will allow UMCOR additional flexibility and ability to send assistance to persons impacted by natural disasters throughout the United States and the world.

The administrative cost of UMCOR is funded by your generous contributions to the "One Great Hour of Sharing" offering that next year will be collected on Sunday, March 22. Mark your calendars now. The money from this offering allows UMCOR to send your donated supplies and funds directly to places and people in need.

Sometimes we think our contribution to General Church ministries end up in black holes. But I bear witness that, more often than not, our contributions produce "quasars of goodness". In this case the quasar is right here in the Rocky Mountain Conference.

The depot is scheduled to be up and running by the first of the year and will provide powerful volunteer mission / service opportunities for people of Utah and for the rest of the United States. God is doing incredible things through the people of the United Methodist Church. Please pray that this UMCOR Warehouse Depot will flourish in the years to come as we seek to bring peace and comfort to those in need.

Peace,
Rev. Brian Hare-Diggs

THE BISHOP IS COMING!

The new Bishop of the Rocky Mountain Conference, Rev. Elaine Stanovsky, will be visiting in Utah on **Sunday, November 16**. She will be giving the morning message here at FUMC at our 10:30 AM worship service. A potluck luncheon will follow.

A reception will be held for Bishop Elaine at Christ UMC, 2375 E. 3300 S., at 4:00 PM, followed by a time of sharing for all Utah Subdistrict United Methodist churches at 5:30 PM

Be sure to mark your calendars and plan to attend!

FROM THE TRUSTEES

Last Sunday I saw a visitor enjoying the Lee Room after the 10:30 AM service. She was admiring the paintings and enjoying the serenity. I introduced myself to her and we learned a little about each other. She hopes to come back and be a regular at First Church. I hope so, too.

She told me that she knows a bit about Feng Shui and positive energy. I think the Lee Room passed the test because she had a big smile and was obviously enjoying the visit. We talked about the donation of a painting that is a family heirloom. She felt the church was the proper place for it to hang. I'm looking forward to seeing it and visiting with her more.

The face-lift of the First United Methodist Church building is not just in paint and new carpet. It is a transformation of how we view our obligation of prayers, presence, gifts, and service to our church, our relationship with each other, and how we welcome and serve the community with the Holy Spirit's guidance every step of the way.

Every time we gather together we are charged with caring for the physical space that is used to honor the glory of God. Thank you to everyone who is working so hard to "beautify" the church and to everyone who takes good care of her in so many ways. Though we may be accustomed to seeing a few things needing repair, first impressions still count! I look forward to meeting more new visitors and members who feel welcome and find peace and purpose on Second & Second.

If you are able, please join us in fellowship during our monthly clean up on Saturday, November 22, from 9 AM - 1 PM (one week early due to Thanksgiving).

Very truly yours,
Julie Newland

*In Celebration of
Charles Wesley's 300th Birthday*

The Salt Lake Chapter of
the American Guild of Organists and
First United Methodist Church
Present

An Evening with Wesley

Friday, November 7, 2008, 7:00 PM