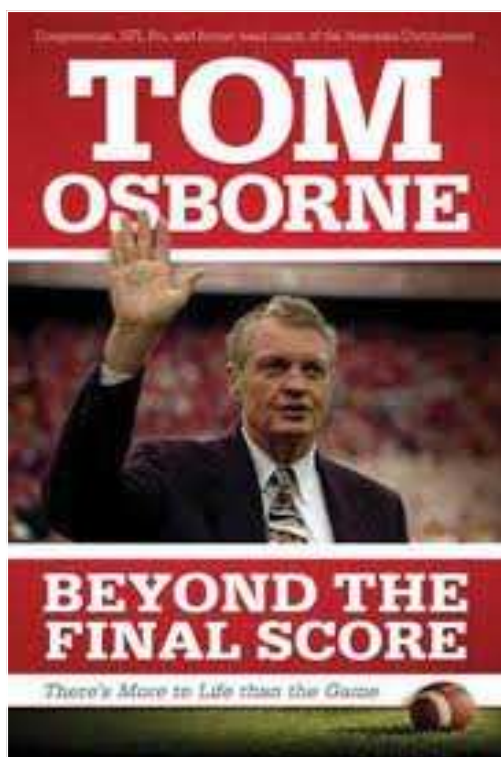


# The Methodist Mailbox

A Publication of The Seward United Methodist Church

1400 North 5<sup>th</sup> Street • Seward, NE • 68434

January, 2012 • Vol. 8, Issue 1



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**Tom Osborne** will be speaking on his book

*Beyond the Final Score!!*

When: February 1, 2012

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Where: Seward High School Auditorium

This event is sponsored by the SUMC Foundation. Sign up to participate in a group discussion of *Beyond the Final Score* on the clip board in the narthex.

Tickets will be available to church members beginning January 1st, following worship.

A limited number of copies of *Beyond the Final Score* are available to check out from the church office. You can also purchase *Beyond the Final Score* (\$24.50) and *Secrets to Becoming a Leader* (\$7.45) by Tom Osborne through the church office or at Chapters Books & Gifts. (tax included).

Dr. Osborne will not be signing autographs the night of his presentation.

# Nebraska

# Heartwarming Worship

## Worship Schedule

8:15 a.m. Worship  
9:15 a.m. Sunday School for all ages  
10:30 a.m. Worship  
11:30 a.m. Fellowship for all

## CAN'T BE IN WORSHIP?

Watch us on Cable 13 at 9:30  
p.m. on Sunday and 10:00 a.m.  
on Thursday mornings.

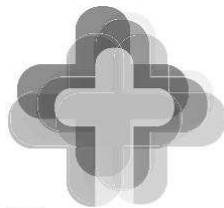
## GOSPEL

Join the Adult Praise  
Team for  
**Gospel Sunday**

January 15, at the 10:30 service!!  
We will be singing some of the old  
favorites as well as some toe tapping  
songs! Please join us!



# Prayers of our Church



*Prayers*  
FOR LOVED ONES

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

Please remember those with on-going health concerns through the month of November: **Jim Henry, Cletus Bender, Connie Atkinson, Dean Goings, and John Craig, George Joy, Phil Wurst.**

Please call the church office if you have a prayer request.  
(643-4156)

We welcome our new members: **Missy Chess, Mike and Laura Shriver, and Leo, Katy and Layla Bowman.**

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of **Shirley Herrold** who passed away December 4, 2011. A service was held at SUMC Monday, December 19.

We join together expressing Christian sympathy for the family and friends of **Leona Ebers** who passed away December 15, 2011. A service was held at SUMC Tuesday, December 20, 2011.

Our prayers are with the family and friends of **Alma Howdeshell** who passed away December 23, 2011. A service was held at SUMC Wednesday, December 28.

# Risk Taking Missions

**BLUE VALLEY COMMUNITY  
ACTION PANTRY**  
Collection item for January 1 & 8, 2012



## Rice

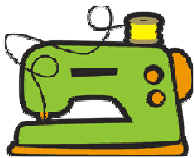


UMW Prayer Shawl Ministry

### KNIT WITS

The Knit Wits will be meeting once a month, every third Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. Please notify a member if you have a need for a shawl or you know of someone who can use a shawl for extra comfort. Call Sarah Shively with questions. (402-643-3036)

UMW Workday  
 This Month



## January 14

Save the dates for  
the following  
**UMW WORKDAYS**

February 11  
March 17

Join the UMW from 8:30 a.m. until noon for  
fun, fellowship and sewing!!



### Heifer Update

56 families will receive "animal loans"  
\$718 in funds available to use as we  
decide at end of mission-ministry.

**\$4,714 in total giving!!!!**  
**This is very close to the \$5,000**  
**needed to send a FULL ARK!!**

**Specific gifts:** 3 goats, 3 shares of goats, 4 flocks of chickens, 5 pigs, 2 heifers, 1 share of water buffalo, 1 rabbit trio, 2 shares of rabbit trio, 5 flocks of geese/ducks, 4 honeybee hives, 6 sheep, 9 shares of a sheep, 2 gifts of tree seedlings, 2 llamas, 1 share of a camel, 1 flock of Hope (geese, ducks, chickens mature and ready to produce eggs)



# Miscellaneous



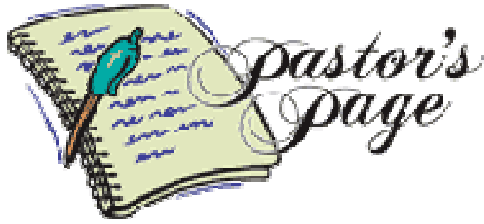
Bright Beginnings would like to give a big thank you to Larry and Christina Chapman for sewing curtains for the Preschool/ Sunday School Classroom. Please stop by and see the wonderful curtains.

## SUMC Environmental Stewardship Statement



Monthly tips on how we can continue to meet our stewardship responsibilities toward God's creation.

- ◆ Reuse shredded papers as packing material or bedding for a caged pet in your home. (just ask me...you may have it!!)
- ◆ Magazines, newspapers, and white paper can all be recycled as long as paper is clean and dry. Plastic wrap, stickers, or rubber bands should be removed, but staples and plastic window envelopes are OK.



What an Advent it was! The children of our church provided a spectacular program for us on the 11th, and the musicians of our church helped us to worship through song on the 18th in a glorious way. There is no shortage of talent in our church. The new year is now upon us, and the life of our church continues to pulse with activity. The next 'big thing' for our congregation is on February 1st. Dr. Tom Osborne will be speaking on his book "Beyond the Final Score." Tickets are free of charge, but will be required for admission to the high school theater. This event is sponsored by the SUMC Foundation, and will be open to the community. Church members will be able to get their tickets following worship beginning January 1st. To further the experience, you are also invited to join a small discussion group. Books are available to purchase or borrow from the church office, and a sign up sheet is on the welcome center to join a discussion group. See you at church!

## Gracious Generosity

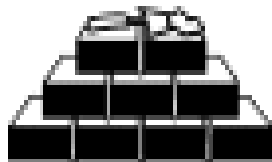
### December - BY THE NUMBERS

Offerings Received through December 18: General Funds: **\$22,278.37**

Trustees Funds through December 18: **\$2,774.00**

Average Worship Attendance for December: **343**

**MISSION SHARES PAID IN FULL FOR 2011!!**



### HOW FIRM THE FOUNDATION

As we come to the end & begin a New Year the foundation would like to thank all of our congregation for there generous support in 2011. As we begin the 2012 year we have some very special events scheduled. On February 1st we have Dr. Tom Osborne coming to speak on his latest book "Beyond The Final Score". This event will be held at the theatre in the Seward High School. It would be more meaningful if you could read his book ahead of Tom being here. Tickets for the event are free and will be able to be purchased at the church office or from foundation members after January 1st, 2012. This event should be very exciting and we hope you choose to attend.

In closing we thank Sandi Rocker & Jolene Wiegardt for their many years on the Foundation board and welcome new members Rod Bruce, Tom Gee, and Linda Flyr. May you all have a Joyous and Happy New Year.

# Miscellaneous



## UMW NEEDS

United Methodist Women are in need of a person to take charge of the kitchen supplies. Connie Doehring has done a marvelous job keeping supplies in the kitchen the past two years. Now as of January 1st she will no longer be able to serve. Therefore we are looking for someone willing to take on the responsibilities. Connie would be willing to tell you the basics.

Job Description is as follows:

- ◆ Check kitchen periodically
- ◆ Check church calendar for events
- ◆ Purchase **items** needed

Contact people:

Jeannie Jeary (402-643-2344)

Kay Schroeder (402-643-4416)

SUMC welcomes  
Shelby Yelden  
as our weekly Sunday  
Nursery Attendant!



## Building Improvement Committee Update

The Building Improvement Committee continues to meet with representatives from architectural firms to get ideas and suggestions about the best way to proceed for our church. Once all of the ideas and suggestions have been received from the various firms, we will be able to make a recommendation as to which way to go. As new information becomes available, we will keep you posted!

One of these teams is not like the other  
One of these teams just doesn't belong  
Can you tell which team is not like the other  
By the time I finish my song?

## SNOWTEAM

Snow Team for January 1 -7

Team #3: Louis Reeder, Chad Doehring,  
Bruce Heidbrink, Darrin Goracke

Snow Team for January 8-14

Team #4: Jim Eitel, Jeff Schulz,  
Joe Schulz, Neil Butzke

Snow Team for January 15-21

Team #1: John Moody, Clay Shepherd,  
Rod Barth, Monte Reeves

**Snow Team for January 22-28**

**Team #2: Jim McHugh and Marc Guthrie**



Can You  
Help?

# Vital Faith Formation



**Leo, Katy and Layla Bowman**

**Welcome**  
*SUMC's New*  
**Members**



**Mike and Laura Shriver**

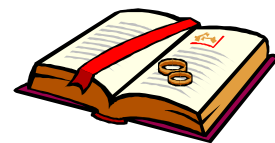


**Missy Chess**



## **THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY**

Join us for Thursday Morning Bible Study. Pastor Doug leads us in an hour of study and fellowship every Thursday morning beginning at 9:30 in the Parlor. Everyone is welcome!!



*Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors*

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Seward, NE  
Permit No. 62

Seward United Methodist Church  
1400 North 5th Street  
Seward, Nebraska 68434



Phone: 402-643-4156; Fax: 402-643-4159  
Email: [sewardumc@windstream.net](mailto:sewardumc@windstream.net)  
Website: [www.sewardumc.org](http://www.sewardumc.org)  
Doug Griger, Pastor; Every Member, Minister

**REMEMBER...** Call the Church (643-4156) or Pastor Doug if you are going to be hospitalized and wish to have the Pastor visit. Due to privacy laws, hospitals cannot disclose information.



**FEBRUARY MAILBOX DEADLINE IS  
Monday, January 30**

Submit your news by Monday, January 30th. You can e-mail articles to the church at [sewardumc@windstream.net](mailto:sewardumc@windstream.net) or call Cindy, office administrator, at 643-4156.

**Local Church Activities**

Chair persons for **January** are:  
Virginia Fraser (643-0563)  
Jolene Wiegardt (643-9664)