

# The Methodist Mailbox

A Publication of The Seward United Methodist Church

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

January 2013 • Vol. 9, Issue 1

## New Worship Opportunities Coming in January!

At their October meeting, the Administrative Council approved a change in our worship schedule and offerings beginning in 2013. Seward UMC will offer three different worship experiences each and every Sunday. Our prayer is that everyone will be able to worship in a setting that best meets their needs, and helps them to connect with God in a meaningful way. **Beginning in January 2013, our worship schedule will be:**



8:00 a.m. A very traditional service with Holy Communion offered every Sunday. Bulletins and hymnals—no PowerPoint

9:15 a.m. A blended service with both traditional and contemporary elements. Holy Communion still offered on the first Sunday of each month. Bulletins and PointPoint.



10:30 a.m. A non-traditional service with more contemporary elements and themes. Holy Communion will still be offered on the first Sunday of each month. No bulletins—all PowerPoint. January 6: Who are the Wise Men and why are they still ‘hangin’ around? As the wise men followed the star to the infant Jesus, we’ve followed the leading of your Spirit to come today and worship you, Lord.

January 13: “I have called you by name,” says the Lord to each of us. “You are mine” (Isaiah 43:1). Thank you, God, for claiming and loving me. Led by a women’s trio.

January 20th is our GOSPEL PRAISE SUNDAY!!

# Risk Taking Missions

## BLUE VALLEY COMMUNITY ACTION PANTRY

Collection item for January 6  
**Rice**



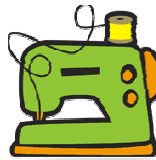
### KNIT WITS

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.

### UMW Workday



This Month



**January 12, February 16, March 16**  
Please bring sewing machines as we will also tie quilts and be having soup for lunch. Join the UMW from 8:30 a.m. until ??? for fun, fellowship, and sewing.

### All Church Conference

January 20, 2013—11:30

The Building Improvement and Capital Campaign Committees will be presenting a motion concerning the sale of the current parsonage building. Please read the one page insert for details and come to the meeting and vote!

# Prayers of our Church



### JOYS AND CONCERNS

Please remember those with on-going health concerns through the month of January: Connie Atkinson, Cliff Damrow.

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

Thank you! Thank you! I wish To express my appreciation for prayers, cards, visits and phone calls from my friends and church family while in Bryan and Seward Hospitals, and also after I came home. Thanks to Pastor Doug for your prayers, visits and phone calls. Your thoughtfulness means so much to me. God bless you all.

—Arnold Boldt

*Thank You!*



**Seward United Methodist Church  
Capital Campaign  
Agenda Point  
January 20th, 2013**

**Capital Campaign Committee & Building Improvement Committee Members:** *Jim Lee, Chair, LeAnn Lowther, Secretary, Beth Hentzen, Roy Josoff, Jr., Jan Matzke, Merlyn Nielsen, WessRobotham, Carole Briggs, JedRojewski, John Moody, Judy Rojewski, Marian Fosler, Maxine Moore, Sharon Clowser, Sue McHugh, Tom Hanson, Vernon Curtis, Doug Griger, Pastor*

**Issue Addressed:**

Sale and removal of the current parsonage on the south property.

**What are the facts?**

- The Administrative Council approved the creation of a Building Study Committee and a Building Improvement Committee. A building expansion plan was developed by an architect, and it includes removal of the current parsonage structure to allow space for a new nave and adjacent parking.
- The Seward United Methodist Church via Church Conference approved the creation of a Capital Campaign Committee to begin raising funds for the expansion of the church.
- The Capital Campaign Committee held focus groups in November to get congregant feedback on expansion plans.

Throughout this building improvement process, feedback has been provided regarding the current parsonage on the south lot of the church. The south property was purchased in 2001 for the future expansion of the church. Throughout the past 10 years, work has been done to improve the 'curb appeal', correct structural problems, and improve human health conditions of the house which has served as a parsonage. The focus group that was asked to discuss the parsonage as it relates to building expansion came up with four alternatives for the future of the house. Options they created were; a) sell the house to a buyer who agrees to pay for all expenses related to moving it, b) keep the house as church property, find new land, and move the house paying for all expenses, c) move the house and sell it, or d) demolish the house.

The focus group believed the best option to open up needed space for expansion is to sell the house and have the buyer pay for the cost of moving it to a new location. This option takes the financial burden of moving the house from the church. This option also allows the internal improvements that have been made to be enjoyed by a future tenant. The Seward United Methodist Church would then provide a housing allowance to the pastor and his/her family as many churches currently do.

**WHAT IS THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION?**

***The committee moves to approve the sale of the current church parsonage structure at 1300 N. 5th St., Seward, NE 68434, managed by the Board of Trustees, to a buyer who agrees to pay for any and all expenses regarding moving the house to a new location.***

**Strategic intent**—The sale of the parsonage allows for building expansion plans to move forward.

**Procedure**—This motion is in compliance with the United Methodist Church – Book of Discipline regarding the sale of church property. The Board of Trustees will manage the sale of the property. The Staff Parish Relations Committee will create a housing allowance policy.

**Capacity**—This fits into the current work schedule of the Capital Campaign and Board of Trustees. Staff time will not be increased. The pastor and his family may need to remove themselves from the property as buyers ask to view it and/or as open houses are scheduled.

**Finance**—This alternative removes all financial responsibility from the church regarding the moving or demolition of the parsonage. There will be added annual budgetary costs associated with a pastoral housing allowance. The money acquired from the sale of the property can be utilized for the allowance. The typical housing allowance in Nebraska is between \$1200-\$1500 a month.

**Metrics**—This alternative will be continuously evaluated by the Capital Campaign and Board of Trustees until such a time as the property is sold. The successful sale and removal of the house allows for building expansion to continue.



A new year brings with it new opportunities, and often times, new hope. It seems we can begin with a clean slate and a fresh start. It's been said that God's forgiveness is like getting a clean slate every day. Our sins are forgiven and/or erased. Others feel that God doesn't erase them, but rather gives us a new 'slate' to use each day, suggesting that there is more power in God remem-

bering our sins, but continuing to love us in spite of them than in forgetting them completely. Wherever you stand—in the corner of forgetting the sins, or in the corner of remembering them but loving us anyway—let's use the opportunity this new year to be more intentional about becoming the people and the church that God wants us to be...remembering that we are not here for our own benefit, but for the benefit of God and others.

*Doug*

## Gracious Generosity

### December - BY THE NUMBERS

Offerings Received in December: General Funds: **\$37,089.11**

Trustees Funds: **\$17,448.93**

Average Worship Attendance for December: **287**

Mission Shares remaining in 2013: **\$52,963**



### SNOWTEAM

Snow Team for January 6-12

Team #3: Louis Reeder, Rod Barth, Blaine Clowser

Snow Team for January 13-19

Team #4: John Moody, Neil Butzke, Clay Shepherd

Snow Team for January 20-26

Team #1: Marc Guthrie, Jim McHugh, Crystal Kirby

Snow Team for January 27-February 2

Team #2: Larry Chapman, Darrin Goracke, John Naber



## Heartwarming Worship

### Worship Schedule for December

8:00 a.m. Worship

9:15 a.m. Worship

9:15 a.m. Sunday School for all ages

10:30 a.m. Worship

### 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.

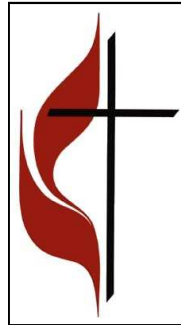
*Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors*

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Email: [umcseward@gmail.com](mailto:umcseward@gmail.com)  
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.



Seward United Methodist Church  
and  
Bright Beginnings

**FEBRUARY MAILBOX DEADLINE IS  
Friday, January 18**

Submit your news by Friday, January 18. You can e-mail articles to the church at [umcseward@gmail.com](mailto:umcseward@gmail.com) or call Katie, office administrator, at 643-4156.

**Local Church  
Activities**

Chair persons for  
January are:

**Virginia Fraser (643-3020)  
Jolene Wiegardt (643-9664)**

