



# Newsletter

## Mancos United Methodist Church

#2 February 2009 - March 2009

“You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity.”  
(2 Corinthians 9:11)

I can't count the number of times I have heard, “All the church wants is your money.” I would respond “yes” and “no.” Tithing (giving 10% of our income) has biblical roots and principals but seems crazy and impossible. So, why would we want to tithe or work towards a tithe over time?

In the book, Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations, the author says we, the church, talk about putting God first and having God at the center of our lives, but in actual practice most of our major decisions are made without reference to God's will or priorities, and God is really peripheral instead of central. Instead of giving God the leftovers at the end of the month, tithing is a spiritual discipline that puts God first. Tithing is a way of saying, “God really is Lord of our lives and we will not give into society's expectations, our possessions, or our appetites.”

A commitment to a tithe forces us to think about how we use money entrusted to us. Tithing makes us spend our money more wisely, with less waste and fewer superfluous or impulse purchases. And, tithing does bless us as we move from a God of scarcity to a God of abundance. Robert Schnase says, “Generosity enlarges the soul, realigns priorities, and reflects the nature of God.”

As we enter into another year think and pray about how you use the money given to you. Is working towards a tithe a consideration for you? Jennifer and I made a commitment to work towards a tithe several years ago and it took us some time and we had to make some hard decisions, but now we feel less trapped by possessions and wants. There's freedom in not being controlled by money. “Growing in the grace of giving is part of the Christian journey of faith and strengthens congregations to fulfill Christ's ministries,” says Schnase. We give because we serve a giving God.

In God's Peace,

Pastor Craig



## February

3 - Velva Brampton  
4 - Steve Hawkins  
8 - Dale Wright  
7 - Madeleine Guillette  
11 - Dean Wolcott  
14 - Larry & Margie Russell (anniv)  
15 - Erica Russell  
17 - Peter Cruser  
22 - Steve Budd-Jack

## March

6 - Dave & Beth Stevick (anniv)  
13 - Wyatt Richard

### **Prayer Concerns**

Continued prayers for Charlie Reno as he goes through chemotherapy in Arizona.

Prayers for Marsha Moss and the Moss family after the death of Lester in early December and the recent death of his son.

### **Christmas Baskets a Big Success**

With the money we made at the pie sale, money donated and members volunteering to provide full baskets, our church was able to fill 20 Christmas baskets for those in need. The community of Mancos delivered 80 baskets total showing what a wonderful and caring community we live in.

### **Christmas Dinner Canceled**

Due to the bad weather and all the snow, our Christmas Dinner was canceled. We have planned a community dinner at the Community Center on Friday, February 20th at 6:30pm. This is a low part of the winter so the theme of the dinner will be "I Would Rather Be at the Beach". The meal will be a picnic with hamburgers, hot dogs and all the trimmings. The sign up sheet to bring a side dish is posted in the Fellowship Hall. This will be a great mood lifter for everyone.

## **Heavenly Fitness Moves To 2 Days a Week**

Upon request, Heavenly Fitness will be meeting two days a week. We will meet on Mondays and Fridays at 10:00am. It runs for an hour and is open to all levels of fitness from the beginner to the more advanced. It is a lot of fun and a great place to exercise during these cold winter months.

## **Game Night, January 30th**

A game night is planned for Friday, January 30th at 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to bring their favorite game and we will be setting up the ping pong table. A casual dinner with hot dogs will be provided. We will be having another game night when our summer residents return. We are asking everyone to bring a childhood picture so we can post them and have a good time guessing who the child is. So summer residents, you need to bring a picture of yourself as a child when you return to Mancos. This should be a lot of fun.

## **Local Missions**

**Several of our members have been involved with local mission projects such as cleaning up yards, putting in steps for a couple in need, and providing funeral dinners and meals for families. We appreciate all of their help. We also appreciate the help of all of the members who helped clean up our own Church, Fellowship Hall and yard. Gorgeous blinds, curtains, gardens, flower gardens, flower arrangements, a newly stained front door to our Church, cement parking spaces, a new back porch on Fellowship Hall. These are just a few of the lovely gifts that our own silent angels provided last spring and summer. There are probably many things that have been forgotten for which we apologize.**

## **The Valley Inn Ministry**

**The Valley Inn Ministry is a three year ministry that provides a weekly study of the "Godly Play" stories told by Pastor Craig, and a monthly luncheon spearheaded by Barb Cover. The residents love the lovely "Godly Play" story props, and the luncheon provides a rare opportunity for the resident to eat a delicious homemade meal provided by Barb and many other members of our Church family. Barb's sister had been in a nursing facility in Oregon, and in honor of her sister she felt moved to provide a homemade meal for the residents of the Valley Inn. The Valley Inn is so supportive that they**

**immediately began supplying place settings to make it as nice as possible. What a blessing this has been for so many.**

### **The Homeless Shelter Ministry**

**Ten members of the Mancos United Methodist Church volunteered, two at a time, from 5:30 to 10:00 pm on Monday evenings through the month of December at the Homeless Shelter in Cortez. "We check people in, feed them and help them get set up in a room for the night," said Pastor Craig. It's a great opportunity for us to help our neighbors who are less fortunate than us. It is a great ministry for our Church. Thanks to all of you who are able to help out in this capacity.**

### **Prayer Chain Ministry**

**If you have prayer concerns that you would like our Church and the Prayer Chain to know about, please contact Jean Bader or Betty Alexander. They are at the top of the Prayer Chain and will contact all of our other Prayer Chain warriors who will uphold and lift you up in prayer. Thank you Prayer Chain.**

### **Parents Night Out Ministry**

**Is it Parent's Night Out or is it a Kid's Night Out? That would be in the eyes of the beholder according to all involved. Dana Petersen has been providing a very popular, once a month ministry to parents with kids. She realizes that finding the time and money to go out can be difficult for families, and has offered this amazing program for almost three years now. On a Friday night from 6:30 to 9:00 pm, Dana and the kids have been known to fly kites, play fun ball games, bob for apples, make airplanes and Christmas cookies, as well as other action centered activities. She also provides yummy snacks and a good old kid movie. Terry Wells has been helping out with this much appreciated program, so many thanks to Dana and Terry. You are brave souls!**

### **Exploring Hebrew Scripture**

**What we often refer to as the "Old Testament", scholars and teachers now call the "Hebrew scripture". Pastor Craig and Dale Wright are leading a class every Thursday at 5:30 to study and respond to passages from Hebrew scripture. It is for people who want to learn more about the Bible and the basic stories of the Christian faith. The book that is being used is "Meeting God in Scripture: Entering the Old Testament". The study is designed to run 8 weeks and there are around 15 people in the class.**

## The congregation Dispersed But United

Greetings from Marjorie and Keith to all our friends at MANCOS Church. We had snow in December for the first time in 20+ years, I'm convinced it's global warming.

The urge to return to MANCOS is building as we look for signs of Spring. The Narcissus are starting to bloom, the Camellias are in bloom, the ~~Fiji~~ Tiwan Cherry trees are in bloom and the Red Maple trees are blooming all heralding the coming of Spring.

Our winter has been colder longer but with enough 60 and 70 degree days interspersed to make you feel good. We have enjoyed being back but look forward to the time we can return.

Except for a cold we have stayed healthy and busy which makes time fly. We miss all of you and look forward to the fellowship and worship together.

May God bless each of you.

Marjorie & Keith

Deadline for the next Newsletter is March 15. Articles for the Newsletter should be given to Connie or sent to Dick Saletzki at [rdsnkb@aol.com](mailto:rdsnkb@aol.com)