



*CELEBRATING, LIVING, AND SHARING  
THE DISCIPLESHIP OF JESUS CHRIST*

CIMARRON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Newsletter—January, 2016

**PASTOR HAS RETURNED**

***A FRESH NEW YEAR***

Dear Friends...

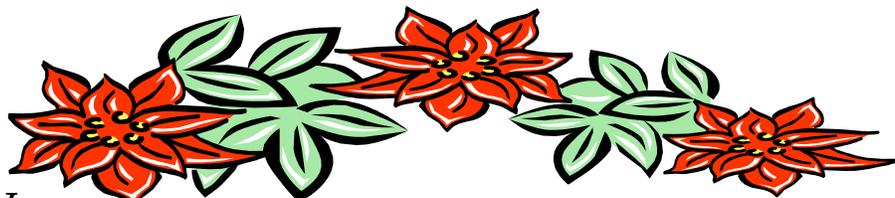
Happy New Year! And it begins in a familiar way (as I always begin) a little behind. We welcome Mary Baldwin to our “staff” as newsletter editor. We are so happy that she can give Sharon a reprieve until May when newest little Baldwin is due. And we thank her; I thank her especially since this letter is two days past due!

As we begin thinking and planning for 2016, I want to share a story I heard actually in a sermon by Rev. Larry Thomas at University Christian Church where I worship when I’m in Fort Worth. The story prompted a response to the question that guides a living faith in Jesus Christ, I think, about the Christian’s response to life challenges whether those challenges concern issues of justice, poverty, war, hate, etc. In my mind and heart, I ask, “What is my Christian response to this?” This story, reportedly about Fiorello LaGuardia, the great mayor of New York City, tells how LaGuardia strived to live with the people. There was little attribution; I looked on the internet and could not actually substantiate it. Here’s the story: It was not unusual for LaGuardia to ride with the firefighters, raid with the police, or take field trips with orphans. On a bitterly cold night in January of 1935, the mayor turned up at a night court that served the poorest ward of the city. LaGuardia dismissed the judge for the evening and took over the bench himself. (At that time in New York, mayors were given this power.) Within a few minutes, a tattered old woman was brought before him, charged with stealing a loaf of bread. She told the mayor that her daughter’s husband had left, her daughter was sick, and her two grandchildren were starving.

The shopkeeper, however, from whom she stole the bread, refused to drop the charges. “It’s a real bad neighborhood, your Honor,” the man told the mayor. “She’s got to be punished to teach other people around here a lesson.”

LaGuardia sighed. He turned to the woman and said, “I’ve got to punish you. The law makes no exceptions. Ten dollars or ten days in jail” But even as he pronounced sentence, the mayor was already reaching into this pocket. He extracted a bill and tossed it into his famous hat, saying, “Here is the ten dollar fine which I now remit: and furthermore I am going to fine everyone in this courtroom fifty cents for living in a town where a person has to steal bread so that her grandchildren can eat. Mr. Bailiff, collect the fines and give them to the defendant.”

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*MORE PASTOR'S PEN*

The following day, New York City newspapers reported that \$47.50 was turned over to a bewildered woman who had stolen a loaf of bread to feed her starving grandchildren. Fifty cents of that amount was contributed by the grocery store owner himself, while some seventy petty criminals, people with traffic violations, and New York City policemen, each of whom had just paid fifty cents for the privilege of doing so, gave the mayor a standing ovation.

As we begin this year, we remember – we are a people of remembrance – God’s generosity. This story reminds us to respond to life’s impositions with the same generosity of God’s Spirit.

Blessings and Happy New Year!



*JANUARY BIBLE STUDY PLANNED*

**J.C. ODYSSEY JOURNEYS TO PHILIPPI**

Look forward to a journey to Philippi in December as Pastor Ellen will teach a three session Bible study on Paul’s “Letter to the Philippians.” Marked with exceeding joy, Philippians is a book for Advent. Included in the study will be remarks concerning the sermons of Advent when Pastor Ellen returns. Pack your bags, think about what might be necessary for a journey of this proportion especially during Roman times in the 1<sup>st</sup> century, and enjoy exploring the scriptures as we “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4: 4-7).



# Features



## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

11	Cathryn Hickman
14	Natalie George
16	Janice Clark
16	Kirsten Anderson
17	Llewelyn Kenneke

### *Did you know??*

A new slate of church officers will be installed in early January, 2016. *Thank you* to those that have willingly served in the past and *welcome* to those of you that have agreed to serve! A complete list of church leaders for 2016 may be found on the table in the Narthex.



*Some people are kind, polite and sweet-spirited. Until you try to sit in their pews.*

## CHURCH MEETINGS SCHEDULE

### Church Council—

2nd Monday of odd-numbered months

### Finance Committee—

2nd Monday of every month except July

### Board of Trustees—

3rd Monday of odd-numbered months

### S/PRC—

Quarterly at the committee's discretion.

### United Methodist Women—

2nd Thursday of every month except June, July and August

## LAY SERVANT SHIRLEY DALE

How can it be years end? Where did 2015 go? So many wonderful things were blessings for CUMC in December, Ellen returned safe and pain free into her usual whirlwind of activities in the community. Martha's Lunchbox continues. Can you help? Call Jim or Libby.

The Christmas shop for children was wonderful with help from great ladies. Refreshments, lots of laughs and pictures, smiling faces from everyone and gifts galore to choose from.

Christmas Eve services were beautiful.

Check the calendar for January events. The new year starts, ready or not!

Be safe, be well and God bless

~Shirley



## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

*Cimarron United Methodist Church believes that Jesus Christ offers everyone a journey to eternal life, and that the church provides the community for discipleship of love and mercy.*

### CIMARRON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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(corner of US 64 & NM 21)  
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Editor: Shirley A. Dale (575) 376-9128

Everyone is invited to worship with us on Sundays at 11:00 a.m. Sunday school at 9:45 a.m.

Visit our website [www.cimarronumc.org](http://www.cimarronumc.org).