

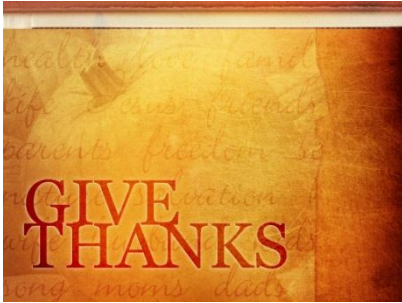
# THE SNAKE RIVER EDITION

Oregon-Idaho Conference—The United Methodist Church

NOVEMBER 2011

Rev. Kim Fields— Assistant to the Bishop  
Phyllis Ross – Administrative Assistant

## *From our A2B*



I have to admit I came into work today in a whiney mood. I know A2B's aren't supposed to be whiney but sometimes we are. My plate was more than full and I did not know where to begin. I had several churches that were upset with their pastors and pastors who were upset with their churches and I knew I should be working with them but before I could tackle them I really needed to work on the Collin's Grant. And the conference nominations process needed to be redesigned right away so that we could start laying out the necessary rules and legislation to allow it. And I had just read a number of church financial reports (most of which were more than five figures behind budget) and was worried about how an anticipated major corporate layoff might impact them and what that might mean in terms of pastoral appointments. And I needed to respond to a long list of emails and phone calls left over from yesterday when I was in meetings most of the day. And all this needed to be worked in around several appointments. And... well, like I said, I was in a whiney mood.

It was then I recalled that I had promised Phyllis I would get a newsletter article to her this week and so I decided to start with that. Which left me with the question of what to write about. In my experience, just as there is really only one thing to preach about on Christmas Eve and one thing to preach about on Easter Sunday, there is only one thing to write a newsletter article on in the month of November; that is giving thanks for the blessings God has sent our way.

So I started counting my blessings: the beauty of the fall colors as I took my walk this morning, my health, my kids health, the grandeur of this district as I travel across it on a regular basis, the chance to be a part of implementing important changes, faithful churches, faithful church leaders, hearing almost daily about new exciting ministries, listening to the stories of people who are called into ministry, hearing of lives that are touched, of people who are fed, the sound of the organ playing down the hall, laughter from the room next door, and the list goes on and on, far longer than my whine list ever could. I am truly blessed.

The amazing thing is that as I listed these things I stopped feeling whiney. I was visiting with a counselor the other day who spoke about the importance of "acting as if". She mentioned that when a client is depressed it often helps them to act as if they were energetic and happy and they often found that they were feeling more energetic and happy. When they were fearful and anxious it helped them to act as if they were calm and confident. In the same way, when I am feeling whiney, it helps me to count my blessings and give God thanks in all things. Besides that is what the Bible advises me to do in 1 Thessalonians 5, "Rejoice always; <sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing; <sup>18</sup> in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. <sup>19</sup>"

I know that I give thanks for you.

Kim

## Where is our A2B?

**Nov. 2**      **Superintendency Committee**  
**Nov. 3**      **Legislative Subcommittee**  
**Nov. 6**      **Kuna UMC**  
**Nov. 8**      **Cabinet, Portland**  
**Nov 9**      **Ministry Leadership Team, Portland**  
**Nov. 10**     **Cabinet, Portland**  
**Nov. 12**     **Magic Valley CLD**  
**Nov. 13**     **Burley UMC**  
**Nov. 20**     **Castleford UMC**  
**Nov. 27**     **High Desert Cooperative**



### CARNEGIE HALL

Director of Music and Worship Arts at Boise First United Methodist Church, Dr. Paul Aiken, has confirmed that Cathedral of the Rockies' Ministry of Music has been invited to sing at Carnegie Hall once again. After having an amazing experience the first time there in 2010, it is definitely an honor and reaffirms just how richly blessed Boise is to have this wonderful group. Dr. Paul is pleased to announce that the Ministry of Music participants can now look forward to Carnegie Hall in 2013.



### LUNCH WITH THE PRESIDENT

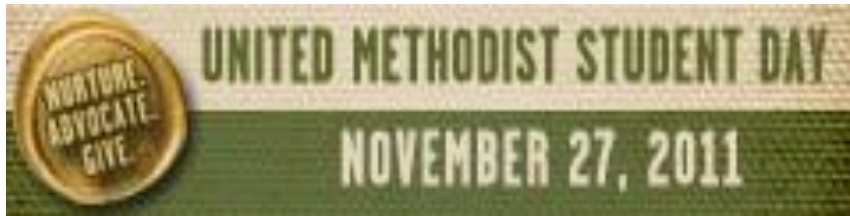
Kathleen McKeivitt (second to the left of the President) of Jerome is pictured here with President Barack Obama and five other grassroots community organizers from across the nation who were selected for a lunch with the president.

Kathleen is a freelance photojournalist and writer and said that sitting alongside her commander-in-chief was overwhelming at first but gradually became more comfortable.

The two talked about Idaho, where the president indicated that his 2008 campaign stop in Boise was a memorable one.

The conversation centered around community organizing

and the value of a grassroots movement where people are informed directly, where we listen to their stories and find out what they're really thinking. Kathleen's blogs are [AGWriter.com](http://AGWriter.com) and [OneLightStand.com](http://OneLightStand.com). On occasion she fills in on Sundays for Rev. Carol Thompson.



Gifts to United Methodist Student Day offering help deserving United Methodist students continue their education and their faith journeys as they strive to make a difference in the world and discern what God has called them to do

To order free resources for United Methodist Student Day, call (888) 346-3862, or visit [Resources](#).

Leaders' guides, PowerPoint presentations and other celebration materials are available at [Special Sundays](#).

Watch or download United Methodist Student Day videos at [YouTube](#).

Give generously to the United Methodist Student Day offering. You can give [online](#) any time of the year.

Resources, stories and videos are all available online at [www.umcgiving.org/UMSD](http://www.umcgiving.org/UMSD).

Scholarships and loans funded through [United Methodist Student Day](#) prepare leaders for The United Methodist Church and the world. The financial support students receive helps keep them in school and focused on their studies. Loans and scholarships for United Methodist Student Day are awarded through the [General Board of Higher Education & Ministry](#) on a yearly basis and must be reapplied for each year. Read more about it in the October 6 edition of the UM Connector.

## ENGAGE: Youth Workers' Training opportunity:

Join us December 2nd at Tigard UMC for [ENGAGE](#): a time of training and connection.

Author Mark Yaconelli will share his insights on the purpose of youth ministry and how we can develop our approach to it.

This training is open to volunteers, parents, pastors, youth workers, and anyone interested or involved in youth ministry! We hope that you will come away from this training with a rekindled sense of purpose, a new or renewed vision for youth ministry in your setting, and a plan to recruit and equip people to bring that vision into reality.







You may read more about the proposed district changes from Bishop Hoshibata concerning the financial implications of the move in the next issue of the UM Connector.

Ballots will be mailed to voting members of the Annual Conference about the first of November and should be mailed back in the addressed, stamped envelope by November 16. They will be tabulated and the results announced about December 1.

It will be important that you PRINT your name on the back of the envelope as this will be the roll call and your actual vote will be inside. **BE SURE TO VOTE.**

## Love Your Neighbor Training Event *(from the UM Connector)*

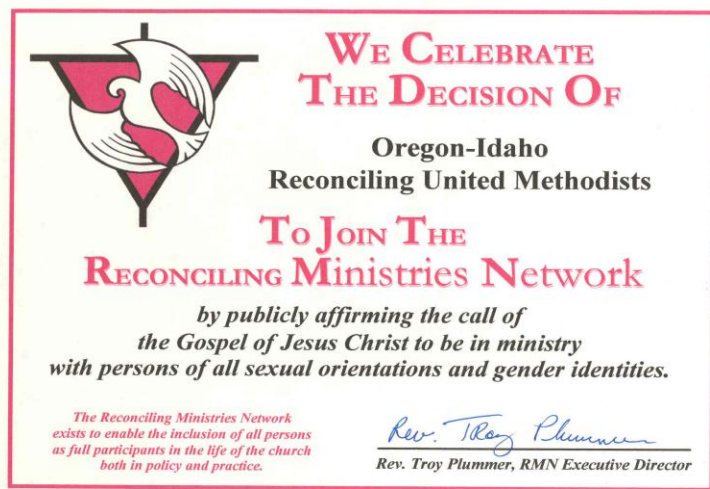
Oregon-Idaho Reconciling United Methodists and OR-ID Methodist Federation for Social Action are

hosting an event to help us bring full inclusion of all persons in the life of our church.

The “Love Your Neighbor” workshop, with a leader from Reconciling Ministries Network on Saturday, November 5 at Rose City Park United Methodist Church, 5830 NE Alameda Street, Portland, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. At the workshop participants will learn how to share their stories in a way that motivates people to

action and change; how they can mobilize delegates to the 2012 General Conference to vote for inclusion; and be empowered to talk more effectively with people in their own churches and conference.

To register contact [winniethomas@comcast.net](mailto:winniethomas@comcast.net). The event is free. There is a \$5.00 cost for lunch or you may bring your own lunch.



HealthFlex  
2012

## Plan Now for HealthFlex Annual Election— November 2 to 17



### Mark Your Calendar

#### Annual Election Timeline

*Begins:*

**Wednesday, November 2, 2011**  
at 12:01 a.m., Eastern time

*Ends:*

**Thursday, November 17, 2011**  
at 11:59 p.m., Eastern time

### Make Your HealthFlex Choices for 2012

Annual Election is your only opportunity\* to make choices about your health benefits for 2012. You can:

- **Save money** with a pretax flexible spending account (FSA) for eligible medical and/or dependent care expenses. Make your 2012 FSA elections online during the Annual Election period.
- **Choose a medical plan** if your plan sponsor offers more than one HealthFlex plan—such as a PPO and the consumer-driven health plan (CDHP).
- **Choose a dental plan** if your plan sponsor offers more than one dental plan through HealthFlex. (Note: Some plan sponsors do not offer dental coverage through HealthFlex.)
- **Add or remove HealthFlex coverage** for a spouse or child dependent. *Contact your plan sponsor as soon as possible to complete the enrollment forms. Forms must be processed by November 17.*

### Make Annual Elections Online!

- Go to [www.gbophb.org](http://www.gbophb.org). Click on “Annual Election”
- Enter your WebMD **username** and **password**
- Click on “Annual Election” to reach the Benefits Online web page
- On the Benefits Online page, browse through “Documents” for 2012 benefit summaries, FSA information and more.
- On the Benefits Online page, click “Open Enrollment” on the top menu to begin making your 2012 elections.

### Tools for You

You'll find resources to compare hospitals and doctors in your area, and to help estimate your costs for treatments and prescriptions.



After you log into the WebMD page, browse the “Useful Tools” options in the right column (“CDHP Consumer Education Tools” for conferences offering the CDHP). If you need help logging in, contact WebMD at **1-866-302-5742**.



Medco can also help you estimate your 2012 prescription costs. Call **1-800-841-2806**.



GENERAL BOARD OF PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS  
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Caring For Those Who Serve

*\* After Annual Election, you can only make changes for 2012 coverage in the event of a birth, adoption, marriage, divorce, death, or loss of spouse's health coverage, if applicable.*

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## Annual Holiday Craft Bazaar

Saturday November 12, 9 - 4

Middleton United Methodist Church -- 104 E. Main St. Middleton 83644

Admission: donate 2 cans or items for Middleton Food Pantry.

Vendors contact Renee at 585-3238 by Oct. 14; (vendor fee=\$25/table)

Baked Potato Lunch for \$5. Hours for lunch are 11:30 - 2:30.

For general information call 585-6621.



## INTERCESSORY PRAYER LIST

Please offer prayers of intercession for the following churches, clergy, and lay leaders on the dates indicated. Pastors may also name these people during intercessory prayer time at their worship services.

November 6	Jordan Valley	Carole Sullivan Sheila Quintero
November 13	Kuna	Rev. Karen Puckett Leila Baker
November 20	Meridian	Rev. John Mars Carolyn Stovall
November 27	Middleton	Rev. June Fothergill Gloria Kley

**We welcome news from your church that would be of interest to all the Snake River District. Please send articles and/or photos to:**

**Snake River District Office**

**717 N. 11<sup>th</sup> St.**

**Boise, Idaho 83702z**

**Our phone is: 208-385-0598**

**FAX: 208-385-0599**

**The office is open from 1 – 5 p.m. Monday**

**through Friday and during the mornings when the A2B isn't traveling.**

