

The FOOLS

A Publication for The People of Central United Methodist Church



Our Vision ... to be a **CENTRAL** presence in Albuquerque where the grace of Jesus Christ is **CENTRAL** to life with God, self and our neighbors.

Our Mission ... to make the unconditional love of Jesus Christ **CENTRAL** to life.

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Vol. XIII, No. 2

February 2012

The Sharp Point

A couple of years ago Reverend Adam Hamilton of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection wrote the book *24 Hours that Changed the World* which takes a detailed look at the last week of Jesus' life. This powerful book is going to be the focus of our worship services this year during the Season of Lent which begins on February 22 with Ash Wednesday. During the Sundays of Lent we will focus on one aspect of the last week of Jesus' life so that we might understand more fully what the death of Jesus on the cross means for us today and how his resurrection on Easter Sunday changes everything in our lives.



Because we are following the chronology of Jesus' last week some of the things that we "normally" do in worship during Lent will be a bit different this year. For example, instead of celebrating Palm Sunday on the Sunday before Easter we will be telling the story of Palm Sunday on March 4th. Similarly, we will celebrate Holy Communion on the last Sunday of March as we remember Jesus' Last Supper with the disciples. Here is a schedule of Classic Worship Themes during Lent:

February 26: Jesus foretells his death (Mark 10: 32-34)

March 4: Palm Sunday (Mark 11: 1-11)

March 11: Jesus cleans the temple (Mark 11: 15-19)

March 18: Jesus is anointed (Mark 14: 1-11)

March 25: the Passover (Mark 14: 12-31)

April 1: The Passion Narrative (Mark 14: 32- 15: 47)

I hope that you will find this exploration of the last week of Jesus' life to be a powerful way of spending the Season of Lent as we journey to the cross even as we set our hopes on the resurrection. For a deeper appreciation of this special season of the church please order a copy of Adam Hamilton's book *24 Hours that Changed the World* and read it during Lent. Better yet, read it with a group of people and talk about the journey of Jesus to the cross and what it means for you today.

United Methodist Women: February Events

General Meeting: February 11 at 9:30 am, rooms 315-317

Program: "World Methodism," presented by Jane Perry; coordinator, Ruth Cook

Other February meetings:

February 2 Legislative Advocacy Meeting, 9:30 am, Santa Fe

February 3 Church Women United, 9:30 am, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church,
(for details call 266-7079)

February 9 Executive Committee meeting, 9:30 am, Conference Room

February 10-11 NM Conference Mid-Year Meeting, Asbury UMC, Albuquerque

February 15 Friendly Lunch Bunch sub-group, 11:45 am, Conference Room

February 18 Lydian Sub-group, 9:30 am, Room 308

Word from the Street

When I served in the Air Force I had the great fortune of travelling around the world. During my 20 year career, I visited at least two dozen countries. I have been to the pyramids of Egypt, the gardens of South Korea, and the Sistine Chapel of Vatican City. While I have been to some incredible places, I have recently discovered a place in Albuquerque that is among the most amazing, ArtStreet.



ArtStreet is located within Albuquerque Healthcare for the Homeless. There is only one rule at ArtStreet, while you are there you have to create art. The art could be a painting or a poem, a drawing or a piece of music. The walls of ArtStreet are covered with the works of the artists who use the facility. While the art itself is impressive, it is the people of ArtStreet that make it one of the most amazing places I have ever visited. There you might find a person living on the margins, painting with oils, sitting next to a doctor, who needs a place to go where he is simply known as "Joe" and not doctor.



One of the best-known personalities at ArtStreet is a man named Chris, who is known for his crosses. I told Chris about our new Community of Hope worship service and that I wanted a cross for our altar. Chris showed me a cross he had already made and I loved it. But I told him that I need a base for it so the cross could be free-standing. From the pile of supplies, Chris pulled out a used seat from a barstool. Within minutes, Chris transformed the barstool seat to the base of the cross. What a picture of redemption, that the piece of wood people sat on at the bar, would become the base of the image of the transformational power of Christ!

"For the Love of Wesley" Fundraising Dinner

Please join us for a delightful evening of food and fellowship! Entertainment will be provided by 'MTSings', who will be performing love-themed Broadway tunes. And, there will be a Silent Auction as well!

Saturday, February 11 from 5:00—8:00 pm

St. John's United Methodist Church

2626 Arizona NE

\$15 per plate or \$25 per couple; free child care

Proceeds will benefit the UNM Wesley Foundation's spring break mission trip to Joplin, Missouri.

Contact Tim Nuzum to RSVP (tnuzum@stjohns-abq.org, 883-9717 ext. 141) or through Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/#!/events/196898067072137/>

Another Look at Wednesday Nights at Central

"Not another thing!" That's exactly what came out of my mouth as I looked at my calendar. I could not possibly fit in one more thing – not a meeting, not a dinner, not a *nothing*! Do you ever feel like that? Does your life sometimes seem to veer from one meeting to the next until it feels as if you are spinning completely out of control? Trust me, I understand. Between work, kids, study, daily duties, exercise, errands, and about a million "other things" it often seems as if there is NO TIME for anything else.

And yet ... I finally squeezed in a Wednesday Night at Central into my week and I was amazed! This is THE place to be in the middle of a crazy week. A DINNER is provided (with no clean up after!). There is just enough WORSHIP to get you centered in the mid-week and GROUPS of all kinds that are filled with interesting topics and really fun people.

Join us each Wednesday (or even the 1st Wednesday your schedule allows this month!)

Dinner - 5:00-5:45pm ("free will offering" accepted)

Worship - 5:45-6:00pm

Small Group Studies & Classes - 6:00-7:00pm

There is ALWAYS at least 1 "drop in" class for any age group and there are 2 new classes being offered during Lent: **Welcoming for the Rest of Us** led by Donna Berry and **The Last Week of Jesus' Life** led by Pastor Greg Henneman. Both of these classes begin Wednesday, February 29th. Just come!

ALFIES Sunday School Class

February 5 and 12--These sessions will explore how advances in research on the brain have radically changed our understanding of substance abuse and addiction, as well as the implications for health care and criminal justice policy and individual prevention and treatment strategies. We will also explore the role of institutions such as churches in substance abuse treatment and prevention and the implications our changing understanding of addiction might have on theological issues such as free will.

February 19--We will discuss Dan Ariely's *The Upside of Irrationality*. In this book, Ariely exposes the surprising positive and negative effects irrationality can have on our lives. Led by Mike Leppala

February 26--*The Gnostic Gospels* by Elaine Pagels. With a particular emphasis on Origen, an early Christian scholar and theologian. Led by Katie Kinsman

Friendly Lunch Bunch

More Bad Girls of the Bible is the Barbara Essex book Friendly Lunch Bunch has chosen for their study this year. Participants can order a book or read the assigned scripture that will go with the chapter for the meeting. At the February meeting participants will meet Shiphrah and Puah by reading Exodus 1:8-22. This United Methodist Women Subgroup meets the **third Wednesday of the month at 11:45 until 1:00** in the Youth Lounge on the third floor of the church. Bring your lunch and join this group of women on your lunch hour on Wednesday, February 15th. Call Dodie Hawkins at 255-2405 if you have questions.

Book Club

The Book Club will meet **Wednesday, March 14th at 2:00 until 3:30**. The selection for March discussion is *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot. It is a true story. Women of all ages are welcome to come and share their thoughts and questions about this book. Call Betty Jo Nye at 344-7113 if you have questions.

Vision for Our Youth in 2012

We have been doing a lot of vision-casting in the life of our church lately. We recently celebrated 130 years of Central UMC which gives us a good chance to reflect on God's faithfulness and where He is taking us next. As a youth director I have been doing a lot of praying, dreaming, and brainstorming about where we are headed as a youth ministry in 2012 and beyond. After looking towards the mission of the United Methodist Church and the new vision/mission statements of Central UMC and envisioning who God is calling us to be I've put together a vision statement for our youth ministry in 2012:

**"To invite youth into a grace-filled community that equips students
in becoming lifelong followers of Jesus Christ"**

With everything we do from camps to lock-ins, to Sunday mornings and service projects I hope that we can be intentional about coming back to this vision. It's good to know who we are and where we are headed and I invite you to pray for the students, the youth sponsors and their parents who invest so much into the lives of their youth. I'm looking forward to 2012 and excited to be a part of what God is doing here at Central!

-Scott Carver

Super Bowl Party @ The Holts: Feb. 5

Join us for the big game! The Holts will be opening up their home this year. Please bring a snack/appetizer to share with everyone. Even if you don't like football, please come and hang out with us!

When? 4:30 PM --> 8:30 PM

Where? The Home of Paul and Andrea Holt, 1700 Ridgecrest Dr. SE Albuquerque, NM

CCYM Winter Event: Feb. 10-12

Keep the Sr. Highers in prayer this weekend as they head to Sacramento for the CCYM (Conference Council on Youth Ministries) Winter Event!

District Youth Rally: Feb. 18

McMurry University is hosting a district Youth Rally at St. Johns in Albuquerque from 5:00-7:00pm. They will be offering free pizza, games, and leading worship.

Weekly Places to Plug-In:

-Sunday Night Youth Group: 5-7 PM

-Sunday Morning Sunday School: Mid & Sr. High 9:45-10:45 AM

-Wednesday Night's "DIG DEEP": 6-7 PM

All groups meet upstairs in the Youth Lounge unless otherwise noted.

Young Adult Group

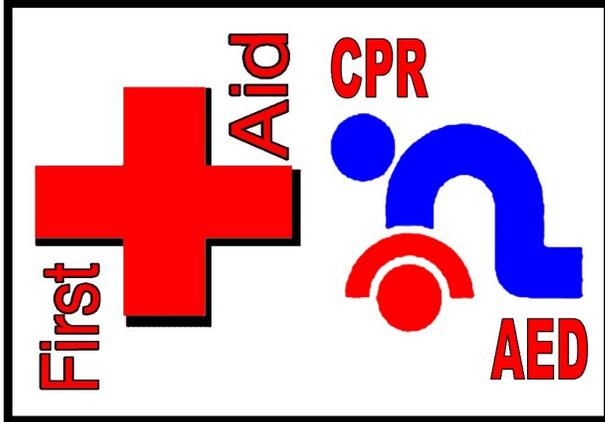
Are you 18-29 and looking for a place to connect here at Central? Scott and Christa Carver open up their home every Thursday night @ 7 PM for a time of fellowship, Bible Study, discussion, and snacks. We are studying the book of Hebrews right now. Please contact Scott @ scottcarver@centraltolife.org or 505.243.7834 for directions and more details. *"We would love to have you join us sometime! We desire to see students grow more and more in love with God and be a vibrant part of the church. Hope to meet you soon and if you have any questions please contact me!" - Scott*

Children's Ministries

DATES to SAVE

Holy Week Craft Day (a.k.a. Pretzel Day): April 6th

Vacation Bible School: July 23-27 & 29

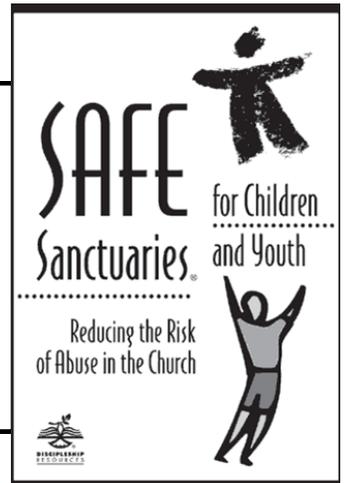


CPR & First Aid Training

Do you need CPR and 1st Aid for work? Do you want to take it as a parent? Central is hosting a CPR & First Aid training on **Feb 19th from 12noon-4pm**. Cost is \$20 (\$35 if you want to buy a student book). There are only 16 spots. Please call or email Christy today to save a spot! (243.7834 or central.christy@gmail.com)

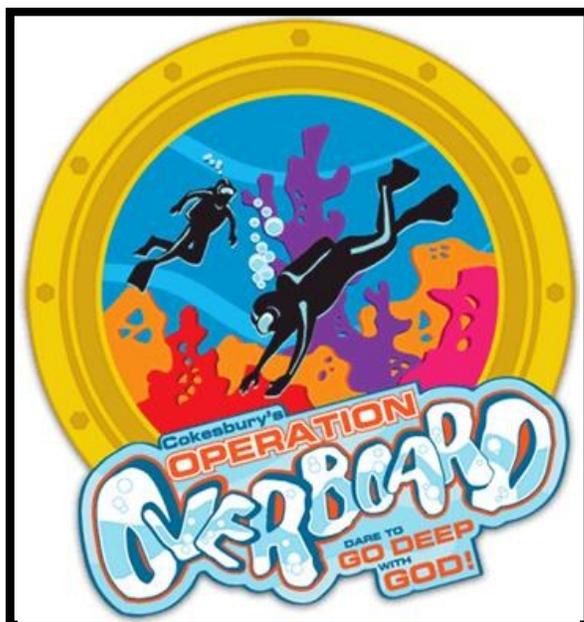
Safe Sanctuaries Training

Are you an amazing servant leader who works with and learns from our children and youth? If so, it's time to renew your Safe Sanctuaries training! The next training will be **February 12th from 12noon to about 2pm**. (The last version of the training was a video, so if that's the training you remember, you need to renew!) Call or email Christy to sign up! (243.7834 or central.christy@gmail.com)



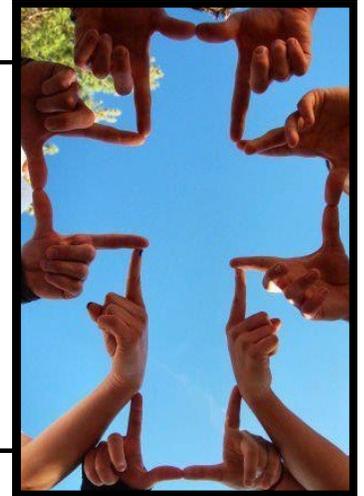
Vacation Bible School

The Vacation Bible School team **NEEDS YOU!** Central is hosting **TWO** Vacation Bible Schools in the hopes of reaching more of our neighbors and church family with a message of God's love. If you can help by teaching art, playing games, leading bible skits, teaching science, helping with worship, decorating, cooking or by simply hanging out with kids, your time and energy are needed! Our 2012 theme is "Operation Overboard: Dare to Go Deep with God." Vacation Bible School will be the week of **July 23-27** with one VBS in the morning and one in the evening. Help us share God's love with our neighbors! Call or email Christy today! (243.7834 or central.christy@gmail.com)



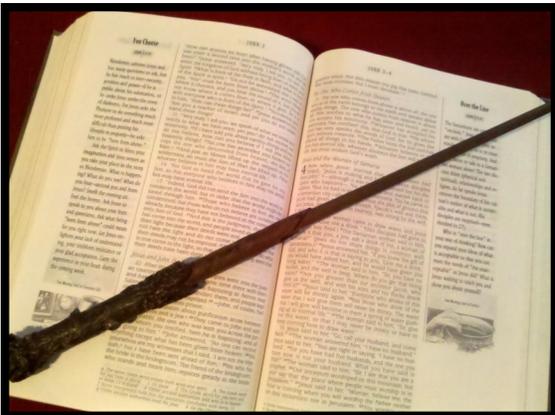
Transforming the Tabernacle

Cast Call for all child actors and actresses! We need you to help us lead worship on Palm Sunday (April 1st) 2012! Our theme will be "Transforming the Tabernacle". Rehearsals will be on Sunday mornings as part of Sunday School and will start **February 26th**. Our Dress Rehearsal will be on **Sunday, March 25, from 9:30am-3:30pm**. There's a part for every age and ability. Call Christy to sign up your child "star" today! (243.7834 or central.christy@gmail.com)



Harry Potter Movie Marathon

Are you a Harry Potter Fan? Do you want to know more about the Biblical themes in the Harry Potter movies? Join us for our first ever Movie Marathon! We will show all 8 films during APS Spring Break, **March 12-15**. After each movie we'll have a Bible study! Watch for details about when each movie will be shown in upcoming church publications. Alohomora!



Shrove Tuesday Party

Mardi Gras! Pancakes! It almost time for our annual Shrove Tuesday Party! Join us for a delicious pancake breakfast, crafts for kids of all ages, a dessert auction sponsored by the Wesley House and live music by the Jim Ahrend Jazz Trio. It all happens **February 21st from 5-7pm!** Don't miss it!



Music & Worship at Central UMC

Shrove Tuesday Party Music: Jim Ahrend Jazz Trio

February 21 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm

Well known jazz pianist Jim Ahrend – he comes all the way from New York City – brings his jazz trio – bass and drums – to entertain you as you enjoy pancakes, games for children, and fellowship on the night before Ash Wednesday.

Ash Wednesday Services

February 22 at 12:00pm in Chapel and 6:00 pm in Sanctuary

The traditional celebration of Ash Wednesday is a time for reflective time to journey deeper into Christ's passion. Receive the sign of the cross with burnt ashes from last year's palms that we waved on Palm Sunday. We have come full circle and begin again. We'll also have our regularly-scheduled Wednesday night dinner from 5:15–5:45pm.

Chamber Chops Concert

February 26 at 2:00 pm

Chamber Chops is a group made up of professional brass and woodwind musicians who formed CHAMBER CHOPS to play music "for fun." They will present a series of concerts at CUMC beginning with Sunday, February 26 at 2pm.

Orchestra & Combined Choir Concert

March 11 at 2:00 pm

The Symphony Orchestra of Albuquerque and the Combined Choirs of SOA Singers, Central UMC Chancel Choir, St. Paul Lutheran Chancel Choir, and St. Chad's Episcopal Church Choir present: Schumann Requiem, Strauss Horn Concerto #1, Mozart Sinfonia Concertante, Beethoven Egmont Overture. Our own Eric Potter will be playing the clarinet solo in the Mozart.

New Mexico Philharmonic & CUMC Chancel Choir Concert

March 24 at 3:00 pm

Featuring JS Bach cantata #140 – Wachet Auf – Sleepers, Awake – featuring Javier Gonzales, tenor and Kimberley Robinson, soprano. The New Mexico Philharmonic (formerly the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra) will also play.

Chamber Chops Concert

March 25 at 2:00 pm

Hummel, Mozart and Parker (jazz piece with brass and strings) in the Sanctuary.

Palm Sunday Worship

April 1

8:30 and 11am – Palms Processional in Classic Worship

9:45 am – Children’s Play in New Day

Sunday Lunch Concert

April 1 at 12:00 pm

Chamber Chops Wind Ensemble presents a variety of tunes chosen to entertain and help digestion . ask Jerri

Maundy Thursday Service

April 5 at 7:00 pm

Good Friday

April 6

Pretzel Day (a.k.a. Holy Week Craft Day) for Kids from 9:00—Noon

Noon Service in the Sanctuary

7:00 pm Service in the Sanctuary, featuring the Chancel Choir and Liturgical

Great Getting’ Up Morning

April 7 at 7:00 pm

Our annual pre-Easter celebration features the talents of our chancel choir, Jazz Ala Carte, 505 men’s ensemble and Fellowship Baptist Unity Gospel Choir.

Easter Sunday

April 8

Sunday Lunch Concert

April 15 at 12:00 pm

The Albuquerque Girl Choir – ages 5-14 – presents a concert of secular and sacred songs. They were chosen as the honor choir for the New Mexico Music Educators Association All-state convention this January.

Family Promise: "What Is It?" You Ask.

Family Promise of Albuquerque is a local, as well as a national, 501(c) (3) non-profit organization which works alongside people in religious congregations and community organizations to assist the growing number of homeless families within the Albuquerque community achieve and sustain independence.

Our Response:

FPA helps communities to unite to provide shelter, meals and compassionate assistance to those experiencing homelessness. By working with faith communities and social services, the Family Promise of Albuquerque program can do what individuals alone cannot do. Host congregations provide accommodations for families for a week at a time on site. Families rotate to different sites, while participating in the program for 30 to 90 days. The host congregation furnishes clean, safe overnight lodging and two meals a day.

Our Mission: To assist homeless families in the Albuquerque community achieve and sustain independence.

Central United Methodist Church has stepped out in faith along with 13 other faith communities in Albuquerque to participate in this servant ministry. We are very excited to be able to do this. **We will host our first families the week of April 15th through 22nd.** We will need your help in making this ministry a success here at Central. We will need your prayers, your time and energy.

Further preparation for hosting our families will **be attending the Safe Sanctuaries on February 12th at noon.**

February 26th we will have an orientation meeting from 12:00 noon until 1:30 pm in the Social Hall with Jennifer Broderick, director of Albuquerque Family Promise. She will advise us how we will prepare to be the radically hospitable church of Jesus Christ here at Central! Please mark your calendars for these important dates so we can serve our brothers and sisters in Christ.



SARANAM

Transforming the Lives of Homeless Families

Volume 9, Number Q1

NEWSLETTER

February 2012

“Saranam” Means Refuge

Mission

To empower families to end their homelessness and poverty through housing, education and supportive communities.

Saranam’s Core Values

*Respect
Transformation
Empowerment
Integrity
Faithfulness
Compassion*

Saranam Staff

Jennifer Mullen
Case Manager

Sue Campbell
Volunteer &
Community
Outreach
Coordinator

Tracy Sharp
Executive Director

Saranam Offices

1100 Eubank NE
Suite A
Albuquerque, NM
87112
505-299-6154
saranamabq.org

Generous Gifts

Thanks to the generosity of Jane Julian Hanna, another estate gift to Central United Methodist Church, Saranam will have the opportunity to multiply for the future of Saranam.

Saranam exists because of the generosity of Frances Thaxton Ash who bequeathed her estate to Central United Methodist Church. Mrs. Ash specified that the estate would be used to assist homeless families with bettering their lives. From this gift, Saranam was born eight years ago.

Last year, another person gave generously, which will substantially impact the ways Saranam will guide homeless families into their futures. Jane Julian Hanna left a portion of her estate to Central United Methodist Church. Near the end of 2011, Saranam received a call asking “what we really needed for the program and how the Hanna estate may be able to invest in the future of Saranam.” A church-wide meeting unanimously approved a contribution from this estate to Saranam. Unlike most funding sources, this is to be used to help build our capacity to serve homeless families. It is given to expand our staff to help create a more solid identity and diverse financial foundation for Saranam. The contribution will help sustain our program and multiply its worth over time; thus better positioning Saranam to serve more homeless families. Through the generosity of another dedicated person of the church, Saranam will have the opportunity to expand our reach and further our mission to end homelessness in families through housing, education and supportive communities.

Thank you to the Hanna Family for their generosity and for providing life changing opportunities through a planned gift. Thank you to the Samuel Project and Central UMC for supporting Saranam as an important ministry of the church.



Donations

Made in Memory or Honor

- * John & Barbara Williams by Bonnie Hammond
- * John & Barbara Williams by Don Friedberg
- * Ron Curry & Cynthia Nava, Charlie & Betsy Gunter, Marty & Julie McGowan, Dave & Kate Baca, John Linder & Margaret Chaffey by Joseph Gamble & Lorraine Sanchez
- * David & Claudia Ryan by Polly Cuzzort
- * David & Claudia Ryan by Fred & Nancy Thessing
- * Muriel Rose Farley by Susanna J. Maydew & Family (memorial)
- * Christmas Recognition for my subcontractors and clients by Ansel’s Interiors

DONOR CORNER

We truly appreciate the continued support of our donors.

- Albuquerque Community Foundation \$7,750



- Foundation of Carlo \$1,000
- PNM Resources \$1,000
- Albuquerque District Missions \$300
- Cowboy Concert \$520

Saranam, LLC is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization

Mailing Address: 201 University Blvd. NE

Albuquerque, NM 87106

P: 505.299.6154 F: 505.275.5699

Thank You to Our Board Members

This year we say *Thank You* and *Goodbye* to Dick Reinhart and Claudia Ryan, after six years of service. Claudia has led and served the Board as Chair and as Vice Chair and on committees including Governance, Membership, and Property. Dick has served diligently asking questions and participating on the Board as well as on the Property Committee. With much gratitude we say thank you and farewell to Claudia and Dick.

Saranam welcomes our new directors in 2012: Rene Clark, Brad Gibbs, and Rebecca Lappala.

Continuing directors are Cynthia Arndell, Lucia Deichmann, Steve Handy, Elton Hodgson, Janie Rowe, Bobby Sanchez, Donna Stumpf and Scott Sharp.

The 2011 officers are: Mary Ellen Coon, Chair; Dan Long, Vice Chair; and Paula Sears, Treasurer.

Thank you directors for your time and dedication!

Resident Voices

What life skills are you learning and working on that you see as important?

"Why I need to get rid of destructive friends."

"How to recycle."

"How to keep learning even if I have an argument with a teacher."

"How to manage my anxiety and still stay in class."

"How to live on \$35 a week."

"Saying no to friends about drugs and alcohol."

"How to get to know people before telling them my business."

"How to clean up after myself."

"Why I should be honest with myself and my case worker to help my family."

Describe what Saranam means to you:

"A place of hope."

"Saranam likes to give."

"They rescue families."

"Thoughtful, wonderful."

"They're caring."

"It's amazing."

"It's about teaching."

"Faith and love."

"Changing lives."



Christmas Stockings and Other Gifts

Christmas presents arrived at the Saranam office throughout December. Christmas trees and decorations were given to each family. They excitedly took them home to decorate their homes. Jars of cookie mixes arrived one day, then sheets, vaporizers and a few more presents. *Covenant United Methodist Church* brought Christmas stockings for each child in the Saranam program. The stockings were filled with lots of fun things. Instead of a Christmas gift exchange the *PEO Chapter AX* chose to bring lots of kitchen items for future Saranam families. Saranam was filled with joy in December.

Saranam Family Success Stories



In August 2011, four families successfully completed the two-year Saranam program. Their lives are have been transformed, and they are no longer homeless. In each newsletter, we will share their individual stories.



"When I was first accepted into the Saranam Program I was so excited. I had been living with relatives, staying place to place and it was very stressful. In Saranam, I was able to just be with my baby boy and do school. The consistency and structure really helped my son. We no longer had to worry about where to stay at night or the basics of life. I made friends and learned how to talk with my neighbors...which was very hard sometimes. I didn't like the classes at first, and meeting with the Case Manager was sometimes really hard and I didn't like it. But I learned that it's not what I was learning, but the skills that I was learning through the process. I now have a job, I am close to completing my associates degree and am paying my own rent. It feels good to say that I did this...me."

Thanksgiving Baskets and Pies

In mid November Sue Campbell held a pie making class for the Saranam families at Asbury United Methodist Church. Each family worked together to peel apples, make the pie dough, roll out the crusts and bake a wonderful pie to take home. It was quite an afternoon with 10 adults, 5 babies and 2 young girls all in the same kitchen!

Just before Thanksgiving, Rachel Johnston and Ashley Furniture employees came in a truck loaded with 10 baskets of food to cook for Thanksgiving with turkeys and pies. Each basket weighed almost 40 pounds! The families were surprised to see so much food. Some had never cooked a turkey before.

Thank You Ashley Furniture!



Furniture Donations

Thanks to our many donors, the warehouse is getting ready to furnish apartments this summer. We have several volunteers with trucks that have moved many mattresses and other furniture. The biggest need right now is furniture for the living room-couches, chairs, coffee and end tables. *Please-no sleeper sofas or couches that have recliners.* They are too heavy to move. Give Sue Campbell a call at 505.299.6154 x 100 to make arrangements to get the furniture to the warehouse. Please give us a 1-2 week notice for pickups.



You too can end homelessness in Albuquerque! Go to www.saranamabq.org to help Saranam change the lives of homeless families.

Christmas Tea and Cookie Exchange

In early December we had a Christmas Tea and cookie exchange. Saranam families brought cookies and goodies to eat while drinking many kinds of hot tea. Youth and sponsors from *Christ United Methodist Church* brought wrapped packages of socks and underwear for each family. They even brought diapers for our babies. At the end of the tea, each family took home several dozen cookies to eat during the holiday season.



Congratulations!



Case Manager Corner

Saranam is proud to announce two graduations from families accepted into the program in August 2010! One of our adults graduated with her Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice. She plans to continue her education, hoping to earn a Bachelor's Degree in the counseling field. Her goal is to work with and counsel teens who find themselves in the criminal justice system, and help them find their way to a stable, productive life. She has left Saranam on great terms and we wish her the best!

Our second graduate "accidentally" earned her Associate's Degree in General Studies. She is working hard toward a Social Work degree, and found that she had earned enough credits for the General Studies degree. She was extremely proud to walk in her cap and gown and show her children what they can look forward to themselves! She is continuing her full-time education while remaining at Saranam, and expects to graduate with her AA in Social Work in the summer of 2012.

Our first year families are both excited and nervous to start their first semester at CNM. They have all worked hard to improve their academic skills and all report feeling proud of what they have accomplished. They are learning their way around the CNM campus and institution, and have gotten a crash course in financial aid! Our families have also been taking a serious look at the issues in their lives that have contributed to their homelessness. They are beginning to figure out how to address these issues and make changes that will last a lifetime!

Christmas Gift Cards

Donated gifts cards for the Saranam families were greatly appreciated! Members from **Central United Methodist Church** and **PNM Resources** donated gift cards to different stores and in different denominations to Saranam. The Saranam families were able to purchase Christmas gifts for their loved ones with these gift cards. Here are a few words of thanks from our families:



- ⇒ *"I never expected for everyone to be so generous, especially to families you do not even know."*
- ⇒ *"These gift cards you have sent us are a big eye opener...I feel grateful because I didn't have this when I was growing up."*
- ⇒ *"...You help people to be happy and bring hope into their lives."*
- ⇒ *"May God bless you and Merry Christmas & Happy New Years and Happy Birthday to Jesus."*

"Saranam has helped my family in ways I cannot describe. Beside the obvious things like our apartment, electricity and furnishing, they have also given me hope, a second chance in life to live up to my potential, and become a mother with a college degree. My future has endless possibilities, but one common goal, having a successful career, providing a safe home for my daughter and living an honest, happy fulfilled life." - - Saranam family after receiving gift cards for Christmas

A Note From ED Tracy Sharp

Thank you to everyone who supports the mission of Saranam. Thank you to the many people who give in so many ways so that the lives of homeless families may be changed. Thank you to our many donors, who, without your contributions we could not serve families through housing and education. Thank you to our volunteers, who help make it possible to provide a home and a community to those who have lost their own. Thank you to everyone who works behind the scenes to provide many ways of support for the program and for the organization. We have much to be thankful for! We have much to look forward to in 2012!

Community of Hope



Worship with us
Eat with us, Pray with us,
Be with us

Date
Sundays (Starting January 29)

Time
1:00pm

Location
The South Lawn outside Central
United Methodist Church (201
University Ave NE). North of the
intersection of Central and
University Ave

Join Us! For an outdoor worship service on the south lawn of Central United Methodist Church. This service will center around the sharing of a meal, prayer, worship, Holy Communion, and community.

You
are truly welcome We are un-housed and housed people called by God into Christian community and ministry for the purpose of transforming all of our lives.

Contact
Pastor Greg
Henneman
(505) 243-7834

We seek to live in genuine community

We respect the dignity of every human being

We give voice to the voiceless

We see the face of Christ in ourselves and others

We share a meal

We worship God

We pray

We sing

We join in outside worship

Central United Methodist Church

201 University Blvd NE
Albuquerque, NM 87106

Televised Services

Sunday, 11:00 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.
Channel 32 KAZQ (Cable Channel 22)

On the Web at <http://centraltolife.org>

Email us at info@centraltolife.org

Office Hours

Monday—Friday, 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Telephone

Voice/TTY – 505-243-7834
Fax – 505-242-6986

After Hours Building Concerns

505-480-0328

CUMC Staff

Pastoral & Program

Scott Sharp, Senior Pastor

Greg Henneman, Associate Pastor

Dr. John Kees, Associate Pastor

Mary Ridgeway, Dir. Ministries & Operations

Traci Bailey, Dir. of Ministries with Adults

Christy Albright, Dir. of Ministries with Children

Jerri Foster, Dir. of Choral Music

Scott Carver, Dir. Of Ministries with Youth &

Young Adults

Support Staff

Scott Zila, Building Superintendent

Michele Humes, Bookkeeper/Admin Support

Jon Romero, Chef

Part-time Staff

Melissa Madara, Bulletin & *Focus* Editor

Cara Balestrieri, ASL Interpreter

Jenelle Bartholomew, Childcare Staff

Carl Crawford, Childcare Staff

Gayle Denslow, Wedding Hostess

Misty Martinez, Childcare Coordinator

Charlie Ford, Custodian

Joe Gurule, Custodian

Isaac Gonzales, Custodian

Rick Ramsay, Custodian

David Ritz, Custodian

Brennan Skipp, Custodian & Driver

Nancy Roberts-Small Handbell Choir Director

Rick Wild, Organist

Saranam

Tracy Sharp, Director

Jennifer Mullen, Case Manager

Sue Campbell, Community Outreach Coord.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Sunday Schedule

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Classic Worship Service | 8:30 am |
| Children's Choir | 8:45 am |
| Coffee Time-Gathering Area | 9:30 am |
| Kidz Prayz & Sunday Classes for K-5th grade | 9:30 am |
| Sunday Classes 2 1/2—thru 5 yr olds | 9:45 am |
| New Day Worship Service | 9:45 am |
| Sunday Classes for Adults & Youth | 9:45 am |
| Classic Worship Service | 11:00 am |
| Sunday Lunch | Noon |
| Thrift Shop Open | Noon—1:30 pm |
| New Life Youth Choir | 12:30 pm |
| Youth Group | 5:00 pm |
| Revive Youth Choir | 3:30 pm |

Childcare is available 8:15 a.m. until 12:15 p.m.

Focus FAQs

Please email articles for *The Focus* to: maryr@centraltolife.org AND melissam@centraltolife.org.

The Focus is published once a month (deadline - 15th of the month), so plan your article(s) accordingly. **Articles should be less than 300 words in length. As a rule shorter articles have greater impact. Articles exceeding this length may be edited.**

Note: An email receipt for your *Focus* article will always be sent. If you do not receive a receipt, please resend or call 243-7834 for verification.

You may subscribe to the e-Focus by sending an email, with "eFocus" in the subject line, to maryr@centraltolife.org. You may also read *the Focus* online by visiting <http://centraltolife.org> and clicking on *the Focus* link. You can also email your *Focus* articles by clicking the link on that page!

Thank you,

Mary Ridgeway

Church Council Members

Paul Holt - Chair

Berin Kinsman - Lay Member to
Annual Conf.

Phil Stanton - Treasurer

Debra Alba - Lay Leader

Cori Hodgson - SPRC Chair

TBA - Trustees Chair

Amy Leischner - Finance Chair

Barbara Allender - Outreach Hub Chair

Dodie Hawkins - Nurture Hub Chair

Kathy Janke - Witness Hub Chair

Ruth Cook - UMWomen Rep.

Ed Vigil - UMMen Rep.

Rachel Kennell - Young Adult Rep.

Eric Small - UM Youth Rep.

Mary Ridgeway - Director of Ministries
& Operations

Jim Hawk - Samuel Project Chair