

Across the District→

January 2009

FROM CHURCH TO CHURCH, AMEN!

AMEN to FUMC, Kingsville, for their hospitality. With open doors, they hosted the Bishop's meeting with the lay members of the McAllen District as well as the District Superintendent's pastor conversations.



Bishop Dorff at FUMC, Kingsville

AMEN to FUMC, La Feria, whose committed young adults have renewed and revitalized children's church, Sunday school, UMYF, and TWEENS.



La Feria Birthday Party for Jesus. 11 children, 4 adults

AMEN to FUMC, Hebronville, for sending 55 Christmas boxes to the Franklin Graham Operation Christmas Child ministry. The entire city got behind this program and, as a result, 55 needy children will experience the love of Christians through a shoe box filled with goodies.

AMEN to St. Mark UMC for conducting a toy drive for Sacred Heart Children's Home in Laredo. In addition to the preschool, Sunday School classes, and church members making donations, Family Christian Bookstore donated 60 new teddy bears for the orphanage.

AMEN to FUMC, Falfurrias, who hosted a Fall Bazaar for the first time. Proceeds benefit the church's mission and ministry.

AMEN to FUMC, La Feria, who combined with St. Xavier Catholic Church to organize, prepare and host The Feast of Sharing, the community Thanksgiving dinner. Over 1,000 were served.

AMEN to FUMC, Raymondville, whose "Feed My Sheep" food pantry distributed 50 pounds of food to each of 200 families. The church partners with volunteers from Gateway RV Park, members of the local veterans' organizations and HEB, who loans grocery carts to help folks haul food bags to their vehicles.



Shopping carts at Raymondville's "Feed My Sheep" food pantry



AMEN to FUMC, McAllen, for holding their annual Blue Christmas Service to remind us that God's presence is with those that mourn or struggle as well as those that celebrate. The service is followed by refreshments and fellowship.

AMEN to Wesley UMC youth and adults for presenting a Live Nativity on a street corner for the community and for having Christmas dinner in their fellowship hall for those who find themselves alone on Christmas Day.

AMEN to Zapata UMC for renovations to their Fellowship Hall, including new flooring and chairs, and for renovations to their front yard, improving their curb appeal.



Zapata's Curb appeal—new sod

AMEN to FUMC, McAllen, for adding a Food Pantry to their mission work. Their Food Pantry will be an official agency of the Food Bank of the Rio Grande Valley. Church members will volunteer time and money.

AMEN to Bruni UMC who has begun to remodel their annex.

AMEN to Freer UMC for starting a fellowship time before their church service.

AMEN to FUMC, La Feria, for hosting a part of the Angel Tree project for the Valley. The church was the central staging area for wrapping and delivering of over 1300 presents for children of prisoners in the area. They, also, hosted a party for several hundred children and caregivers in the area.



La Feria wrapping



AMEN to FUMC, Edinburg, for joining with churches around the nation that are a part of the “Advent Conspiracy”, challenging members to cut back on non-essential Christmas spending and instead donating money to a cause that honors Jesus. Offering from Christmas Eve services will go toward drilling water wells for impoverished communities.

AMEN to Wesley UMC for suggesting giving a gift that will have lasting impact on people in poverty--the giving of a goat, a chicken or some bees through Heifer International.

AMEN to FUMC, McAllen, for once again honoring their babies born during the past year with a Baby Banquet.

AMEN to FUMC, La Feria, for ten years of hosting a drive-through Live Nativity on the church parking lot. Many adults, youth, and children participated, as well as numerous livestock. Over 100 church members worked to make this project a success and over 500 guests viewed the scenes that told the story of the Birth of Christ.



La Feria Live Nativity



AMEN to FUMC, Edinburg, who, after canceling worship for their Faith In Action Sunday, plan to make a habit of serving others by holding regular Faith In Action Saturdays in the coming year.

AMEN to Los Fresnos UMC for featuring youth news complete with local and district youth group pictures in their monthly newsletter.

AMEN to FUMC, Port Isabel, for reminding us that what we do with our lives once we say we believe in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior is stewardship. Amen for the stewardship of 54 baskets of food and 600 toys for needy families during Christmas in addition to teddy bears for the police department, prayer shawls for the ill, communion carried to shut-ins, and intercessory prayers on behalf of the church and community.

AMEN to the McAllen District churches for support of their pastors and for donating to the Pastor's Appreciation Dinner.



Pastor Appreciation Dinner at St. Mark UMC



AMEN to the McAllen District churches for encouraging their youth groups to come together for mission, worship, training, and Christian fellowship. Some youth groups recently collected blankets and socks, other youth groups participated in Donna's Corn Maze ending with dinner and worship, and still other youth groups are already making plans for summer missions.

AMEN to our Wesley nurses who continue to give service and suggestions for good health to their communities. FUMC, Kingsville's newsletter included an article from their RN giving us clues to symptoms of Caregiver Burnout and tips for easing Caregiver's burdens.

Do you have an **AMEN** to share about the McAllen District? If so, contact Mary Howard by phone or email. (956-421-3630 or yard23@aol.com)

PLEASE PASS THESE ON TO OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS. THANKS
