United Methodist Women Donate for Paxton Youth

By Lori Holmstedt

Paxton United Methodist Women’s Organization President Laurie Stevens is shown presenting Paxton Consolidated Superintendent with a box of hats, gloves and mittens for the children of Paxton Consolidated School.

Members of the Paxton United Methodist Church and the United Methodist Women’s Organization are responding to the resolution set forth by their Bishop Scott Jones’s by establishing the Great Plains Conference Public Education Partnership with Paxton Consolidated School. The resolution promises hands-on support, public advocacy and school recognition. The mission of this partnership with the Paxton Public School system is to help supply needed items for teachers and students.

Teachers may make requests for items they would like to have for their classrooms that would aid in the students education. Earlier this fall the organization was able to provide book covers for new math books.

The organization recently collected winter mittens, gloves and hats for children in need. The group will also supply coats for children who are in need. United Methodist Women’s Organization President, Laurie Stevens, presented the winter items to Paxton Superintendent Del Dack.
Operation Christmas Child
Shoeboxes bring joy to kids in need

By Maegan Detlefs
REGIONAL EDITOR

YORK — Churches and organizations all around York are working to spread a little Christmas cheer to children in Mexico this holiday season.

By donating shoeboxes filled with gifts to Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan’s Purse, local residents will give joy, fun, and a new understanding of what Christmas means to the child that receives their gift.

In the middle of the project is the United Methodist Church of York who volunteered to be the drop-off point for any church, organization, business, family or individual in York who wants to participate in this special charity.

“This is our first year for being a drop

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off center but our youth group has always packed boxes,” explained Tammy Boston. She and Nancy Catchpool are the Co-Coordinators for the York Operation Christmas Child drop-off site.

Through Nov. 24, the United Methodist Church in York will be accepting packed shoeboxes between the hours of 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.

The boxes for children can include toys, school supplies, non-liquid hygiene items, accessories (such as socks, hats, flip-flops, etc.), and a personal note from the family.

Boston said the items can be packed in any size shoebox, but preferably not a boot box because they are difficult to pack.

Samaritan’s Purse also asks that you include a donation of $7 per box to help with the cost of shipping.

Boston explained that completed boxes are brought to the United Methodist Church where they will be organized, packed into larger boxes, and taken to Lincoln to be dispersed through Samaritan’s Purse.

“They are the ones who actually distribute the boxes,” Boston explained.

The shoeboxes are sent all around the world. This year, York’s boxes will be sent to Mexico.

Boston said that along with the presents, the children these boxes go to also receive a twelve lesson Vacation Bible School that will teach the children about God’s love.

“Through these boxes and this project, these children will learn about Jesus Christ,” Boston said. “This is a chance for us to be evangelical to these children.”

Each round of boxes that comes through the door is prayed over by the members of the United Methodist Church before they are added to the pile. The boxes will all be prayed over again at each stage of their travels as they make their way from Nebraska to Mexico.

Already, the church has received 300 boxes in the three days they have been open. Wednesday morning, Emmanuel Faith Lutheran brought over 90 boxes by foot to the United Methodist Church’s door.

“It’s great to see kids giving to kids,” Boston said. “It’s infectious.”

Church member Kristi Hilberg is a first time volunteer with the program. She said she was only suppose to work a few hours, but was so inspired by the influx of gifts that she has stayed the whole week.

“It’s really great to see what comes through the door,” Hilberg said.

“The time and effort people have put into shopping and wrapping the boxes is amazing. They are people who are really thinking about what to put in them.”

Boston said that some have even been planning for this charity all year long.

“One lady brought in 38 boxes that she had put together over the course of a year,” Boston said.

Currently, the United Methodist Church hopes to send at least 500 boxes to Lincoln, which they believe they are on track to accomplish.

The United Methodist Church encourages anyone wishing to find out more about Operation Christmas Child to contact them or visit the organization’s website at samaritanspurse.org.