



United Methodist Church of the Dunes
P. O. Box 341
Grand Haven, Michigan 49417 616-842-7980

CONTACT: Pam Mettler, Director of Adult Ministries
PH: 616/842-7980
pmettler@umcdunes.org

United Methodist Church of the Dunes Members Knit 91 Wool Skull Caps For G.I.'s As Part of Nationwide Effort to Fill Christmas Stockings

—Skull Caps Being Sent to All Branches of U.S. Military Members on Duty in Afghanistan and Iraq—

GRAND HAVEN, Mich., October 20, 2010 – Members of the United Methodist Church of the Dunes (UMC-Dunes) at 717 Sheldon Road in Grand Haven, Michigan have completed knitting and are currently contributing 91 hand-made acrylic and wool skull caps as part of a nationwide effort known as "Operation Shoe Box Skull Caps for Our G.I.'s."

The skull caps will help fill Christmas stockings for all branches of U.S. military members currently on duty in Afghanistan and Iraq.

"These skull caps have been made by a number of people in our congregation. They supplied both the yarn and the labor, which takes approximately two-to-three hours to make just one hat," said Joy Shimp, UMC-Dunes Skull Caps project coordinator.

Each skull cap contributed by UMC-Dunes members has a scripture tag attached from *Psalms 91:15*, which reads: "He will call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him."

The idea for the church members at UMC-Dunes' involvement arose from project coordinator Joy Shimp's interest in and attendance at cribbage tournaments throughout the country. In Green Bay, Wisconsin, a cribbage friend told Joy Shimp that she had made hats as part of "Operation Shoe Box Skull Caps" and asked Joy if she was interested in bringing back the idea to the local UMC-Dunes church congregation. Shimp brought the idea back, made the pattern and put out a plea to church members for help in making the hats. All conform to the pattern, which calls for four-ply yarn in acrylic or wool—there are both knit and crochet patterns available.

"The idea for making hats just blossomed. Our members have made all ninety-one of the hats, which I am shipping to my contact at The Villages, Florida. From there, the hats will go to our active G.I.'s in Afghanistan and Iraq," said Joy Shimp.

-MORE-

All hats have been blessed and prayed over by senior pastor Dan Duncan and the UMC-Dunes congregation members at a recent Sunday service.

"As I knitted the hats I made, I also blessed them," said Joy Shimp, adding, "I feel the idea of adding the scripture tag will help military men and women want to hold it in their pockets as they go about their active duties."

Anyone interested in receiving further information about "Operation Shoe Box Skull Caps for Our G.I.'s" should contact Donna Miller, Wisconsin project coordinator, at 715-832-8934 or via e-mail at: dcmiller2104@hotmail.com or United Methodist Church of the Dunes at 616/842-7980.

The mission of United Methodist Church of the Dunes in Grand Haven is *"to be a church with outstretched arms demonstrating the caring of Christ to each other, the community, and the world by encouraging growth in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ, challenging and equipping all to be faithful disciples for the transformation of the world."* Founded in 1873, UMC-Dunes moved to its present location at 717 Sheldon Road, Grand Haven in February, 1962. The church provides a variety of community outreach ministries to women, children, men and families in the area, supports the annual CROP Walk, offers membership in its United Methodist Men and United Methodist Women groups, plus book and Bible studies, a weekly creative arts and crafts group, participation in Coast Guard Festival, plus Christian service projects to ministries in Haiti. Children's, youth and adult educational programming is provided throughout the year. For further information about UMC-Dunes, contact the church administrative office at 616/842-7980. Visit the UMC-Dunes website at www.umcdunes.org.

###