



Deming, New Mexico

April 2008

MAC Building Renovations

The Methodist Activity Center (MAC) stairwell renovation have begun The men's MAC restroom will be inaccessible for the duration which will affect all groups who might be using the MAC building, including United Methodist Men, United Methodist Women, Little Lambs, both 4-H groups, Crafty Kids, and table tennis.

Also, the contents of the medical loan closet have been relocated. Once the restroom/stairwell work is completed, some medical loan items will go back into the restroom closet and the remainder stored elsewhere. Your cooperation during this time is appreciated. Please contact the office if you have any questions.

New Email Addresses

Effective immediately, the church has started using new eMail addresses to send and receive eMail. Please add these eMail addresses to the address book in your computer. The old eMail addresses will remain active "for a short while" to ease the transition.

Front Office: main@fumcdeming.com
Pastor Keath: keath@fumcdeming.com
Beth Simpson: beth@fumcdeming.com
Claire Phillips: claire@fumcdeming.com
Joe MacDonald: joe@fumcdeming.com

A special note: Zianet, the service provider for both web site and eMail service to our church, is now doing so at no charge to us. We gratefully acknowledge their generosity and sincerely thank Zianet for their support.

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Roamers welcome

Adults are needed to “roam” our Sunday School hallways on Sunday mornings (from 9:30 to 10:15 am) to help greet and assist visitors who may get lost in our building. Having adult roamers also strengthens our *Safe Sanctuary* policy. As you know, this policy has been enacted by our church in order to assure the safety of adults and children alike when they are in our facility. If you would like to volunteer for one Sunday, several Sundays, or for a regular schedule, please contact the church office by phone or eMail.

Crafty Kids

Beth Metcalf and I have decided to retire from the Crafty Kids Program. We have really enjoyed working and playing with your children. It's a fun program and hopefully some one else will volunteer to take it over. There are many supplies in the Memorial Classroom closet which we will donate.

Thanks, Jo Kruger

Blood Drive

The next blood drive will occur on April 10th (9 am to 1 pm) in the Fellowship Hall.

United Blood Services has begun providing cholesterol test results to all donors. You may visit their website (<http://www.unitedbloodservices.org>) seven days after you donate blood to check your results.

First United Methodist Church of Deming, New Mexico

Telephone: (575) 546-2791; Fax: (575) 546-2792

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claire@fumcdeming.com (Secretary)

joe@fumcdeming.com (Music Director)

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TAKE NOTE

This is one of my favorite times of the church year. Spring is about rebirth and about life. There seems to be magic in the air as we look forward to the warmer weather. Summer is close. The days are longer.

May this season of Easter bring you much happiness as we celebrate the one who, through His rebirth, we may truly have life.

Schedule for April

Week of March 31st:....Regular Rehearsal Schedule

Week of the 7th:.....No Rehearsals –
have a great Spring Break!!

Week of the 14th:.....Regular Rehearsal Schedule

Week of the 21st:Regular Rehearsal Schedule

Week of the 28th:.....Regular Rehearsal Schedule

Blessings and Joy,
Joe

Thank You

Jamie and I and the rest of our family would like to thank everyone for all their prayers, visits, cards and helping with the Sunday morning fellowship time for which Jamie had been scheduled but was unable to fulfill due to his illness. Thank you to everyone who has helped Murray with Sunday School and Wednesday Night Live while I was with Jamie.

God certainly heard and answered all your prayer for Jamie. He is well on the road to recovery. What a blessing to have such a caring and wonderful church family - Thank you all!!

Jamie and Cyndy DuBois and family

Remember to Greet Our Visitors! Your hello will make a difference in their world and yours

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General/SCJ Conference Delegates Need Your Help

Because of fairly significant overspending for the 2004 delegation from New Mexico to General and Jurisdictional Conferences, the 2008 Delegation is working with very limited resources. There will be roughly \$1,000 for each delegate. The expected expenses per person, however, exceeds \$2,500.00. Your NM delegates are serving at great personal expense.

I'm calling for your help. Two ways you can be of immediate help:

- ◆ We still need airline tickets for some members. Maybe you have frequent flyer miles that you could donate?
- ◆ Individuals and/or churches may send donations to the conference office, 11816 Lomas NE, Albuquerque NM 87112. Make the check payable to the NMAC UMC and note that it is for "General Conference 2008."

Be assured, we are committed to keeping our expenses at a minimum so that we will not put the 2012 delegation in a similar situation. Please share this need with others, and consider it prayerfully.

/s/ Jeff A. Lust, Senior Pastor, St. Stephen's United Methodist Church, Albuquerque, NM 87111, 505/293-9673

UMCOR SAGER BROWN: Kit Supplies Needed

UMCOR's relief supply warehouse, the Sager Brown Depot in Baldwin, La., is requesting donations for 33,000 layette kits, 64,000 sewing kits and approximately 1,000 bedding kits to prepare for uncertain times and future relief efforts.

The Sager Brown Depot has received fewer kits over the last year and stocks are becoming alarmingly low. The Depot is accepting complete kits as well as items in bulk.

Please visit UMCOR's Relief Supplies web page (<http://new.gb-gm-umc.org/umcor/getconnected/supplies/>) to learn about the specific kit contents, the estimated value, the cost for processing and shipping, as well as shipping instructions.

Please give generously to Domestic Disaster Response, UMCOR Advance #901670.

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National Day of Prayer

Each year, on the first Thursday of May, communities across America gather to pray for their respective villages, towns and cities, their counties, states, and for our country.

This year, the non-denominational National Day of Prayer is Thursday, May 1, 2008. The theme this year is *Prayer, America's Strength and Shield*. We are centering the day around prayer including prayer at the gates, prayer walking the business area, prayer drives through the city, a gathering at Courthouse Park at 11:30 am, plus a prayer gathering at 6:30 pm.

The task force members include Chris Mosier, Rick & Sue Holdridge, and Jeanette Simmons (coordinator).

Editor note: this notification is included in the April newsletter for planning purposes because the event is so very early in May.

Thoughts and observations

The Utah Factor

United Methodists are generous, engaged, and attentive to the needs of people around the world. Pastors in churches small and large know firsthand that wherever there is the need, United Methodist people respond with their prayers, hands, and money. At the core of our heritage, character, and experience of the Spirit, we are compelled to be engaged.

Enter the *Utah factor*. For the past decade Utah, with a relatively small population in the interior of the U.S., experienced phenomenal economic growth. Some there thought themselves immune to the ebb and flow of the world's economies. Not any more; as a local economist noted: "We're no longer insulated."

It is apparent that the peoples of the world are intertwined in a delicate balance. And so we unite Jeremiah's report that we are to "... seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you," and John Wesley's vision of "the world is my parish" and recognize anew that we are accountable to each other and to God whose hands hold the whole wide world. *Excerpted from umc.org*

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UMWomen News

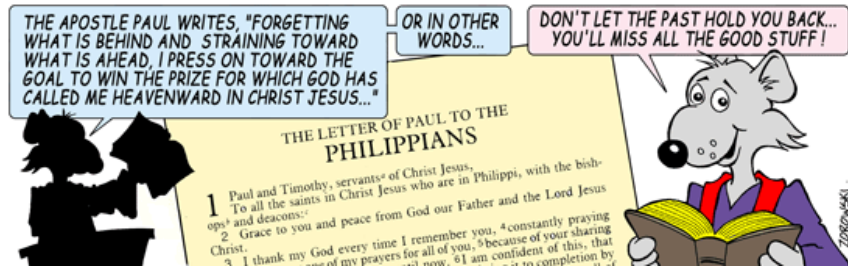
Please mark your calendars for April 26th, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the MAC building for the April Showers luncheon, fashion show and silent auction hosted by Lynde Murphy. Tickets will be \$7 before April 18th and \$10 at the door. Help is needed on Friday for set up.

SOS: clear water pitchers are needed for the luncheon tables; if you can help, please put them in the Fellowship Hall kitchen with your name on the bottom.

UMMen News

United Methodist Men thanks to everyone who donated to the Easter Food Drive. We had 15 well stocked boxes for distribution to needy families in the Deming community. What a good way to celebrate the sacrifice Jesus made for us by giving a tiny portion back to ones who may need it far more than we know.

Thank you, thank you, thank you!



Cans for Camping Kids

Camp can be a life changing experience. We have heard time after time of the many youth who make a commitment to Christ at camp.

Costs are rising everywhere, including the cost of attending camp. In order to assure that our kids are able to attend a life-changing camp, we want your cans – your **aluminum** beverage cans that is! Cans will be redeemed for cash which will then be used to help send our children, youth, and their sponsors to camp. There is a barrel next to the Coke machine (between the Fellowship Hall and gym), ready for your donations.

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Prayer List
Apr.-Jun. 2008

Bonnie Baker
Russ & Jennie Burkle
Nikki Carnish
Mary Chase
Dale Cole
Helen Covey
Ruth DeGroot
Travis Dodson
Betty Hansford
Florence Holt
Wayne & Janet Humphrey
Jeff
Austin Jontra
Fred Johnson
Lois Kelly
Beth Metcalf
Bob Moon
Gale Murphy
Lynde Murphy
Ann Pettit

Brian Pettit
Alberta Sires
Vee Shirk
Gary Slayman
Oris & Nina Spencer
Margaret Truax
Imelda Veeder
Garnet Wietbrock

Families dealing with grief:
Ketcham

Service men & women and
their units:

Travis Dodson's unit, Avilla
Augustus, Alan Ballinas, Alan/
Brian Carter, Amber Dunning-
hoo, Steve Gilland, Maj. How-
ard Gobble, Jason Hammers,
Conrad Hughes, Eric Jasso.
Shaun M. Jones, Jennifer/John
Lively, Robbie Luna, Jennifer/
Jarrod McGee, Michael
Nunley, Josh Robertson, L.
Charles Stanley, Greg Stube,
Danny Symonds, Van Welch

Hospice patients and their families; our nation; our leaders;
our armed forces; our Sunday School: for increased attendance,
people with a heart and passion for teaching to assist or
substitute in our classes, for faithfulness.

And a special *Welcome to the World* to Samuel Hofacket, son of
Jarod and Lani Hofacket.

Oddfellows Enchilada Supper, April 3rd from 4-6pm at the
Oddfellows Hall on Gold Ave. \$5/plate to benefit scholarships.

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Enhancements to the Web Site

Elsewhere in this newsletter is a Thank You to Zianet for providing web site hosting and eMail to the church at no charge. Economics aside, this generosity also provides the computing “muscle” to enable certain enhancements.

The church website now provides an **RSS** feed to those who understand and use this free capability. RSS (Really Simple Syndication) empowers the web site to automatically inform you when something has been added – one less “to-do” for you to remember. Most news services, i.e. CNN, MSNBC, and others, support RSS so you may stay apprised of happenings throughout the world. You subscribe to an RSS feed, a simple one-time task that remains active until you cancel the subscription, to enjoy the benefits provided by RSS.

To use RSS, you must have an *RSS reader*. Outlook 2007, a component of Microsoft Office 2007, includes RSS reader capabilities – events appear in a manner familiar to eMail users: they may be read, stored, or deleted as the user sees fit. Internet Explorer 7 also includes RSS reader capabilities – the presence of an RSS feed on a web page is announced on a tool bar; the user decides whether to subscribe to the feed or not. The contents of the feed are read via “Favorites.” Third party RSS readers are available to those using Outlook 2003, Outlook Express, etc.

Consider subscribing to the church’s RSS feed. Visit the church website and click the orange RSS button for full instructions.

Love INC Recognition

The Missions committee of FUMC hosted a dinner to recognize the volunteers of Love, INC. In turn, the Board of Love, INC presented the missions committee with a plaque of 'thanks'. This plaque will hang in the hallway near the mission bulletin board.

It was an evening of good food and fellowship. Many thanks to ALL who helped us that night.

This service is a wonderful outreach to the community.

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Mission Trips

Jewish Holocaust Seminar: *A Holocaust Seminar: A Time To Remember* will be held on Saturday, April 19 at the First United Methodist Church-Gallup, 1800 Red Rock Drive from 9 a.m.- 3:30 p.m.

The keynote speaker will be the Reverend Forrest J. Robinson, retired United Methodist Minister from Kansas and a former soldier who was with the U.S. Army when they liberated the concentration camp at Mittlebau-Dora, Nordhausen, Germany. Nordhausen was just one of over a hundred Buchenwald subcamps that existed between 1938 and 1945. Mr. Robinson has given this talk 58 times all over the country. Making these presentations is his second calling. "There is an urgency about this. With the growing anti-semitism around the world and even the denial that the Holocaust existed at all, it is frightening. The simple fact is that it could be [is being] repeated."

Rudi Florian, who as a youth grew up on the Polish-German border during World War II, and Werner Gellert, a Holocaust survivor, will also tell their stories. Mr. Gellert is the co-founder of the New Mexico Holocaust & Intolerance Museum in Albuquerque (www.nmholocaustmuseum.org).

Gallup artist and poet Margaret Rutherford, the daughter of a Holocaust survivor, will share a special remembrance.

Rev. and Mrs. Robinson would be willing to present other talks in the area while they are here. They will be driving to the New Mexico and therefore have some flexibility in their schedule. If any congregation, group or organization is interested in hosting them please note the contact information below.

The seminar committee would like to welcome others who might have experiences from the World War in Europe or episodes dealing with the Jewish Holocaust to share their story at our event at FUMC-Gallup. For more information contact Betsy Windisch, Christian Education Director at 863-4512 or betsywindisch@yahoo.com.

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Pastoral Ponderings

Good Stories

I love stories with good endings—not necessarily happy endings, but good endings. Remember the movie *Old Yeller*, and how heroic the dog was? The end of the story wasn't happy, but it was powerful!

Sometimes it seems that we can get so caught up in a good story that we aren't really sure when it begins, and when it ends. The *Star Wars* saga was that way, with its sequels, prequels, episodes and trilogies. In fact, a good *Star Wars* fan isn't even sure that the saga is over! We just might be waiting for the next chapter.

One of the stories that many people add to their “isn't-that-a-great-ending-for-a-story?” category is the Easter story—the story of Christ's resurrection. It has everything—drama, crowds cheering for Jesus, betrayal, tender farewells, suffering, death, and...resurrection! (Hollywood, eat your hearts out!) However, I think that the ending confuses too many people—“God raises Christ from the dead.” (Even Mary Shelley liked that kind of story line!) You see, the resurrection isn't the end of the story! It's the beginning of our story.

The Church comes into being with the resurrection of Christ. The Body of Christ begins to take shape. And at Pentecost the Spirit gives life, power, and purpose to the Body of Christ. That's where our journey of making disciples for Jesus Christ began.

The Easter story isn't over yet. The Church has become the Body of Christ in the world. We are the hands and feet of Christ. We are the ones that continue the work of God's Kingdom on earth. I don't know exactly how the Easter story will end, but it is bound to be a good ending!

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Keith'.

Church Calendar

The church calendar may be found on the church website.

Visit us at www.fumcdeming.com

An editorial: Is the Collection Plate Doomed?

Our church periodically receives information describing innovative ways for our membership to enjoy the benefits of electronic giving. Some plans call for the addition of a kiosk in the church lobby while others involve scheduled, automatic transactions charged to a credit card. All these plans provide alternate giving solutions to the traditional collection plate.

Is the church collection plate at risk? Probably. Perhaps not this month; maybe not this year. But some day.

Change is inevitable. We embrace some change and decry other. For example, over-the-counter sales of audio CDs have largely been replaced by download from iTunes. Analog TV has been replaced by digital TV. Cell phones, formerly extravagances, are now essential. And much more.

Wise people know that change is inevitable and plan how to benefit from that change. Are you being a wise person?

Is that an ATM in the church lobby? Credit and debit card swipe machines in churches may startle some of the pious, but such kiosks, already present in some houses of worship, might become even more commonplace now that a new IRS regulation is in effect.

Beginning with gifts given in 2007, the IRS will demand documentation for charitable contributions under \$250. Once, all one needed was a diary entry to vouch for such donations. Specially designed ATMs at church will help document spur-of-the-moment cash gifts as well as planned giving. Also as a result of the new IRS rule, credit card donations and tithing are likely to increase too because such electronic fund transfers leave a paper trail.

Large urban churches have been accepting credit cards for several years, tapping into the Generation P (for Plastic) aversion to carrying cash. Pastors like to tell jokes about parishioners collecting Frequent Flier miles on the way to heaven. A Dallas Morning News poll found that 55% of 200 local churches accept credit and/or debit cards.

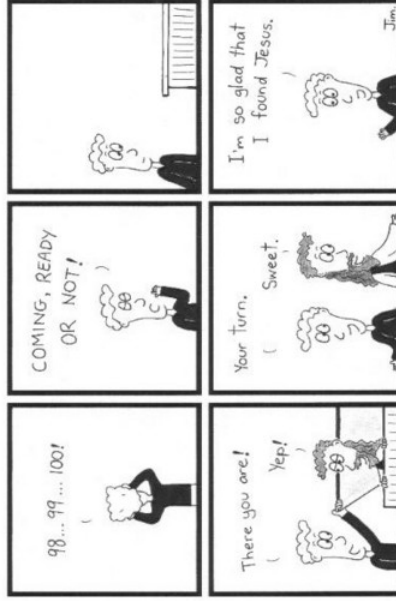
(Excerpted from Time Magazine, July 30, 2007.)

Trinity United Methodist Church – the oldest in Denver, founded in 1859, a year after the city – relies on e-giving for nearly a third of its operating budget according to figures provided by senior pastor Michael Dent. *More at http://www.denverpost.com/ci_6418248.*

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First United Methodist Church
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“I Found The Lord!”

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