

# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Deming, New Mexico

August 2007

“If you keep doing what you’ve always done,  
you’ll keep getting what you’ve always gotten.”

## STAFF AT FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. D. Max Whitfield - Bishop  
Rev. John McClean - District  
Superintendent  
Rev. Keath Baskett - Pastor  
Joe MacDonald - Music Director  
Gordon McIver - Lay Leader  
Claire Phillips - Secretary  
Beth Simpson - Assistant to the Pastor

*More people come to church for the first time through invitation than by any other method. We encourage everyone to **invite** your friends, family members and neighbors to come with you to worship on Sunday mornings.*

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fumc@zianet.com (general & Pastor)

fumcmusic@zianet.com (Music Dir.)

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Website: <http://www.fumcdeming.com>

## FUMC - DEMING MISSION STATEMENT

BUILDING UPON  
A FOUNDATION OF PRAYER  
FIRST UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH,  
DEMING, NEW MEXICO  
EXISTS  
**TO REACH OUT**  
AND BRING A  
VARIETY OF PEOPLE  
INTO A  
GROWING RELATIONSHIP  
**WITH JESUS CHRIST.**

The pastor would appreciate hearing about anyone who is in the hospital, has experienced a recent loss, or perhaps would like a visit. Please call the church office if you are aware of such a situation. We'd rather get many calls about someone than none at all. Thank you.



## PASTORAL PONDERINGS

August marks new beginnings - mostly for our children as they start back to school. Since Pastor Keath is on vacation with the family, before they start back to school, we are using his space to highlight our back to school events.

Sunday, August 12, we will have the "Blessing of the Backpacks, Lunch Boxes, Totes, and Diaper Bags." During our prayer time at each service, we will be asking the children, youth, and babies (who are in daycare) to come forward to the Communion rail, with their school/day care gear to the Communion Rail where we will have a special blessing.

So kids and parents, please remember to bring your backpacks, lunch boxes, totes and diaper bags to church on August 12th. If you happen to forget, come forward anyway as the blessing is primarily for the kids.

Then, on Sunday, August 26, we will celebrate promotion Sunday. On that day, our 3rd AND 7th graders will receive Bibles to celebrate their promotion to these grades. If your child will be entering these grades, please contact the office by August 3rd so that we make sure a Bible is ordered for your child. We don't want to forget anyone!

Also, the Sunday School is planning an end of summer swim party. Come to Sunday School so you can get the details for the swim date!

Watch out! We're "mugging" our local visitors! We'd like to drop off FUMC coffee mugs to our local visitors. If you are aware of anyone who has recently moved to Deming and comes to church, or if you meet someone new to our church, please get their names, phone number and address for the pastor. He will then drop by and mug them. If you provide Keath with multiple names, you might get mugged too!

To help fund our next round of mugs for visitors, we're selling our current mug for \$6.50 each (or more as you feel led). You can purchase one from the office during office hours.

As we prepare for new beginnings, there will be new people who have moved to our community. Why not invite them to attend church with you? Did you know more people come to church because of a personal invitation than for any other reason? It's true! So invite someone today!

(Keath's column if he was here to write it!)

## ***SUMMER BLUES***

(Jack Galbraith)

The *dog days* of summer – I remember them well from growing up in northern Ohio – so named because even the dogs were stretched out on the cool earth seeking relief from the heat. People certainly became more lethargic when the dog days were a-barkin'. Upon reflection, it was the humidity and not the temperature that caused the lethargy.

Demingites seem to deal with the summer heat differently. A reverse snow-bird process seems commonplace – load up the ol' RV and head for places cooler. We witness this by seeing fewer people on the streets and fewer people in the pews.

The in-pew lethargy directly leads to a giving lethargy. Utility costs, however, are at their peak and salaries don't take a vacation. Wouldn't it be nice if giving during the first quarter had produced a surplus that could be used during the dog days? Wishful thinking! Instead, the office staff begins juggling the bills!

Giving through the first half of the year is 43.8% of the annual budget. If continued at this rate, the giving through year end will be \$44k below budget.

Lethargy is the problem; we know the solution: continue supporting the church regardless of all the summertime activities that demand your attention. This is easily done by having your bank write a monthly, weekly, or semi-monthly check to the church. The in-pew lethargy may not change but the church will remain solvent during the dog days.

## ***LINE UP YOUR DUCKS AND APPETITES!***

Once again Deming is gearing up for the Duck Races. And once again FUMC is gearing up for its' 26th annual Duck Race BBQ, to be held on Saturday, August 25th, from 11am to 2pm.

For those of you who are new to Deming, the Duck Races are a big community event featuring live duck racing on wet and dry tracks. The Duck Race BBQ is a First Deming church-wide fund raiser that we hold on the Saturday of Duck Race weekend.

This BBQ is all you can eat smoked top round, beans, coleslaw, drinks, plus one yummy dessert - all for the price of \$7 for adults, \$4 for children 6-12 and \$2 for children under 6.

Since this is a church-wide event, headed by the United Methodist Men, *we need your help!* You can sign up to help serve food, work the take-out line, serve drinks or desserts, set-up, clean-up, make tea, delivery meals in town, sell tickets, buy tickets (available at the office too) and especially - make desserts. It takes ALL of us to make this event as success. So please mark your name on the sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall, or call Neal Cameron at 546-7767.

Mark your calendars now to attend and help on Saturday, August 25. Work - eat - enjoy the fellowship and the great food while helping us raise funds for college scholarships and a variety of other ministry projects!



Bob Aldrich	Brian/Ann Pettit
Nina & Cody Ayon	John Plant
Jarrold Adams	Porter family
Bill Blake	Bob Proebstel
Tabbitha Bland	Joyce Richards
Joe Bob Brown	Shirley Skaggs
The Burkles	Gary Slayman
Geri Buss	Diane Spencer
Callaway	Karen Tanner
Fran Chase	Myrtle Thomas
Andrea Chavez/family	Gary Ward
Helen Covey	Doug Welborn
Breece DeBoutz	
Ken Dobson	Service men & women:
Travis Dodson & family	Travis D.'s unit,
Starlene Eaglestar	Avilla A.,
Everman Family	Alan B.,
Christopher Fredrick	Alan/Brian C.,
Chris Gonzales	Amber D.,
Mannie Gonzales	Jason H.,
Anita Gutierrez	Joel H.,
Hartman Family	Shaun J.,
Jim Hines	Jennifer/John L.,
Wayne Humphrey	Jennifer/Jarrold M.,
Lois Kelly	Michael N., Josh R.,
Marge Kosek	Tyrell S.,
June Manning	Charles S.,
Gordon McIver	Greg S.,
Sam/Eva Melendrez	Danny S.,
Mary Ethel Miller	Van W.
Bob Moon	
Lynde Murphy	
Marilyn Offutt	

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

## BITS 'N TIDBITS

**REMINDER** - Our cleaning contract only covers heavy cleaning. It does not cover putting up things left out after a group used them. It does not cover picking up Sunday School rooms after class is over. These are our jobs. Unfortunately, they are not getting done. Please remember to clean up after yourself when your group is finished in a classroom or other area. If you use it put it back where you found it or clean it up. Please don't leave this for someone else; that someone else is you! Thank you.

**ROUNDUP** - Empowers the laity to offer Christ to people outside our walls, helps people grow spiritually in their relationship with God, and enriches our love of neighbors in church, community and worldwide. This one-day event will be held Saturday, August 25th at FUMC in Lubbock, TX. Please see the church office for more information on registration and seminars being offered.

**DEMING CHURCH SOFTBALL LEAGUE** has a registration deadline of August 4th for roster, jersey color, sizes and design; and final deadline of August 17th. The league start date is September 8th. Details were in last month's newsletter or see the flyer on the office hallway bulletin board.

We are continuing to **COLLECT BIBLES** to be distributed in our local detention center. Please remove all personal items and "black out" names, etc., before dropping off your Bible at the church office. See last month's newsletter (online) for more information.

**FROM THE MAILBAG**

“Thank You

Dear 1st United Methodist Church and all of its members,

I want to thank you for all that you did for me and my fellow seniors. I was humbled at your Senior Breakfast by all of the wonderful people that attended. I really appreciate the gifts, but even more, the kindness shown towards us.

Sincerely,  
Ryan Hyatt”

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“Thank You for your Blessings & Prayers

Dear Claire & our FUMC Family, the pocket quilt full of cards and messages is awesome. But of course it’s from you, an awesome group of people! We love you so much.

We cannot adequately express our heartfelt gratitude for your generous donation to help Travis. The outpouring of love and support from our friends, our community, and others across the nation has been unbelievable. Travis is doing well and has a great attitude-he is positive and determined. We know it is because so many people around the world have lifted him up in prayer to the Lord God Almighty. Thank you for being one of those people.

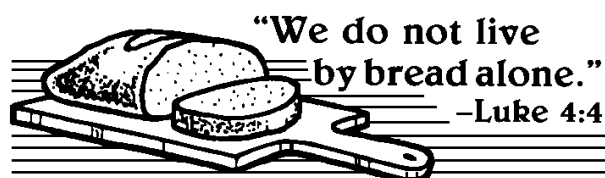
He is now at the Center For The Intrepid in San Antonio, Texas, where he will get prosthetic legs and learn to walk again. We

don’t know exactly what his future holds, but your kindness has made it easier to face. And because of God’s faithfulness has made it easier to face. And because of God’s faithfulness, we know He will continue to walk this path with us. We have asked God to return your gifts and blessings to you many times over. And may we all be blessed with the greatest blessing of all, knowledge of the one true God.

Love, Casey, Cheryl Kae, Travis, Lauren, Haley and Chris”

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The NMSU Wesley Students are back from their mission trip to the inner city in Hollywood, CA. “The whole mission trip was an amazing learning and spiritual equipment as we served people in need living the Hollywood area. ....the group served at Union Rescue Mission, the Los Angeles County Food Bank, World Vision Storehouse, and the Dream Center. ....We saw many aspects of human need, up close and personal. We learned what it was like to live in a small house in a poor urban neighborhood. But most of all, we saw that even with all the problems, God is present and working in many ways in Los Angeles! Again, we thank you for all your prayers and support!” (The full report on their mission trip is on the large bulletin board located in the office hallway.)



***LADIES! CELEBRATION!***

**LADIES....**Your prayer life. Is it what you want it to be? Do you need some suggestions on how to enrich your quiet time with God? On Saturday, August 4th, Rev. Lynette Meyer will lead us in a study on prayer. Join us for Celebration's Fall Gathering with refreshments at 9:30am, and this special program, which begins at 10am. Bring a friend, she'll be glad you did! Call Cazandra at 544-8161 for more info.



***CONTINUE THE CELEBRATION WITH CAROLYN!***

You are invited to help Carolyn Charles celebrate her 80th birthday, along with her family, on Saturday, August 4th, from 2 to 4pm in the Fellowship Hall. This will be a come and go fellowship with finger foods, cake, and beverages.

Carolyn says the gift of your presence on this special day is gift enough for her. So please drop in and wish Carolyn a Happy 80th Birthday!

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***14TH ANNUAL LABOR DAY CAMPOUT AND REVIVAL!***

Yes, you read right. This is the 14th annual campout. It's that time of year and we are

gearing up for a wonderful campout. This year's featured speaker will be Dave Ratzlaff.

Pastor Dave was born on December 16, 1954, in Stromsburg Nebraska. He married Maxine in 1975 and they have two children - Heather, age 26 and Jesse, age 24.

Besides Nebraska, Pastor Dave has lived in Colorado (where he was saved at age 10), South Dakota and New Mexico. New Mexico has been his home for the greater share of his life, having lived several places in the state for over 30 years.

Pastor Dave began his married life and his career in Animal Damage Control as a Government Trapper in 1975. In 1977 his assigned duty station was Cuba, NM.

In 1981, while checking traps near Cuba, the Lord called Pastor Dave into full time Christian service. And during the following years he served as Associate Pastor and then "Bivocational" (meaning two full time jobs) Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Cuba while continuing his career as Government Trapper. He and his family lived in the Cuba community for some 12 years.

In November of 2000, the Lord, in His grace, called Pastor Dave to Church of Grace on El Paso's West side. Having lived in small mountain communities for the majority of their married life, El Paso has certainly been a change of pace for them (maybe even a little culture shock... OK, a lot of culture shock!). Church of Grace has made some major changes since Pastor Dave came to town. (continued on page 8)



**TAKE  
NOTE**

Okay, can anyone tell me why the summer flew by so fast? I can't believe another school year is about to begin. The coming of the school year marks another season for the church. We begin to think about plans for the fall and winter. Christmas will be here before we know it!!!

The week of August 13<sup>th</sup> marks the return from break. Several ensemble begin rehearsals. Please make a note of Wednesday, August 15<sup>th</sup>. **We will be celebrating the return of the schedule with a potluck dinner.** *Anyone who is interested in the music program at FUMC is invited to attend.* We will start the dinner at 5:30. We will all sing and celebrate our ministry by hearing several people talk about how music is important in their lives.

Below is the schedule for the month of August:

13 <sup>th</sup>	Handbells	4:30 – 5:30
15 <sup>th</sup>	Potluck Dinner	5:30 – 6:30
	Praise Band	6:30 – 7:00
	Chancel Choir	7:00 – 7:30
20 <sup>th</sup>	Handbells	4:30 – 5:30
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Praise Band	5:30 – 6:30
	Chancel Choir	7:00 – 8:00
27 <sup>th</sup>	Handbells	4:30 – 5:30
29 <sup>th</sup>	Praise Band	5:30 – 6:30
	Chancel Choir	7:00 – 8:00

\*\*Looking Ahead to September  
3<sup>rd</sup> - No Handbells

5 <sup>th</sup> Praise Band	5:30 – 6:30
Chancel Choir	7:00 – 8:00

PLEASE NOTE: These schedules will change in September, the week of the 10th, due to *Wednesday Night Live!*



**UMW  
NEWS**

We cannot end this half of the year without once again thanking, with sincere appreciation, all who helped in many different ways with our activities and fund raisers the last six months.

There will be no regular meetings in July, but 3 members and 1 youth attended the School of Missions at Sacramento Methodist Assembly on July 20-23rd. Our These was “Sing Across the Walls” and the studies were Israel/Palestine and globalization.

Our meetings will resume this month with the annual Potluck Picnic to be held at El Rancho Lobo (home of Waldon and Ellie Wolf) on Saturday, August 18th. Since the Wolfs live a bit out of town, we will be carpooling from the church’s paved parking lot, leaving at 11:30 a.m. ALL LADIES are welcome to attend. It is *always a fun time!*



“Ask,  
and it will be given you;  
seek,  
and you will find;  
knock,  
and it will be opened to you.”

-Matthew 7:7

(continued from page 6): Several years ago an old west saloon style coffee shop, called the Bar-None Coffee Saloon, was created inside the church, furnished with finishing, furniture, antiques and accouterments from that era. The Bar-None Coffee Saloon even has it's own silver dollar size coin that is custom made for specially for the Bar-None.

During this past year, the exterior of the church was also remodeled to match what is inside. With an edifice on the front that closely resembles an old west store front to the post and beam construction porch, it's like stepping into the 1880's. Today, the whole church is decorated in the tradition of Old West. Church of Grace isn't just a church, it's a destination.

Pastor Dave says "I'm anxious and excited to see what the Lord is going to accomplish in and through His people at Church of Grace."

Why not make time to meet Pastor Dave? The campout is held at the Sapillo campground in the Gila National Forest. This is a rustic campground with no running water. However, several of us bring extra barrels of water to share. Porta-potties are provided. Sapillo campground is approximately a 2-hour drive from Deming so a day trip is certainly feasible. Maps and information on cabins and motels in the area are in the church office.

We will once again have an opportunity to feed our guest speaker. If you would like to be on the meal list, please call Karen Bruggink at 544-3624. This is a wonderful opportunity for fellowship, fun, and basking in God's greatness, love, and grace.

## ***ADOPT A HOSPITALIY MONTH!***

Many of us have enjoyed the refreshments provided by Leon Manley and Velma Blandford, accented by the home-baked goodies from Pat Porcher. *THANK YOU for your hard work!* However Leon and Velma would like to retire from this job. They make coffee and punch and make sure it is set out for Sunday Fellowship along with other goodies, and that it's cleaned up when 2nd service begins. **YOU ARE NEEDED** to provide the gift of hospitality to our members and visitors. Would you or your group consider adopting a month? Please discuss it and see Claire to adopt your month.



## ***WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE!***

*Join us for an exciting time of study, food and fellowship beginning Wednesday, Sept. 12th* We'll have the Food and Fellowship from 5 to 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall. From 6 to 7 pm we'll break out for a variety of class studies. Child care will be available, as well as tutoring and other classes for the kids.

We'd like your suggestions on classes to offer so watch for the survey sheets in Sunday bulletins! And get ready for fun!

## ***STRENGTHEN OUR STAKES!***

Sacramento Methodist Assembly needs your help! Not with a building project but with strengthening (repair/upgrade) the infrastructure of their aging equipment and facility. This project ranges widely from sewer maintenance (any sewer rats out there?) to light switches to vehicle transmissions. Most of us take these items for granted, but they are exactly the type of support services badly in need of repair at our Conference campground.

One way we can help is by pledging a gift. A memorial or honorarium would be a wonderful way to remember family or friends. What about as a Christmas gift for the guy or gal who has everything?

So whether God leads you to contribute a large gift, a small gift, or the gift of your time and talents, SMA has a need for it.

Financial support may be sent to:  
Sacramento Methodist Assembly, PO Box 8, Sacramento, NM 88347-0008. If you wish to use a credit call or donate some time, please call 800-667-3414.

Above all else, PRAY! The future generations of Sacramento guests and campers thank you.

%%% - ***SOUND BITES*** - %%%

***VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION*** - There are a number of upcoming VIM trips planned for this fall including the 4th Annual El Paso District trip to Juarez for Operacion Hogar construction, set for Oct. 28 through Nov. 2. The contact person for this trip is Rev. Skip Hodges,

skip@stlukemethodist.org.

More details and other trips are noted on the conference website: [www.nmconfum.com](http://www.nmconfum.com). Make plans now to make a difference in the lives of others!

***AGING IN THE 21ST CENTURY AND BEYOND*** - This senior adult leadership training will be held Sept. 3-5 at Mount Sequoyah Conference and Retreat Center in Fayetteville, AR. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Richard Gentzler, as well as six workshops addressing a variety of issues. For more information, visit the Mt. Sequoyah website at [333.mountsequoyah.org](http://333.mountsequoyah.org) or call 800-760-8126.

***PRIMETIMERS!*** This is a mission volunteers program of the General Board of Global Ministries. Primetimers travel the U.S. and the world engaging in study, mission and ministry. To learn more, contact them (toll free) at 877-882-4724, or visit their website at [www.primetimers.info](http://www.primetimers.info).

***CBD CHURCH REWARDS*** will rebate money to your local church (that's us) every time you use code 262895ADHWYK when you place an order with them. This rebate is good through September 30th at CBD - Christian Book Distributors.

***SEASONED CITIZENS RETREAT*** August 13-17 at Sacramento Methodist Assembly. This is a great opportunity for a spirit filled week in the mountains as we share fellowship, fun and love. For more info, contact Ellen Trout at 432-362-7570 or stop by the office for a registration form. Pass it on to others who might enjoy too!

## ***FROM THE BISHOP'S DESK***

Each morning I attempt to spend several minutes in prayer, meditation, journaling, and the reading of Scripture. Some mornings my mind rushes to the demands facing me in the coming hours or particularly difficult decisions I must make. I find it hard to pray. Prayer for me is not natural. Prayer is a discipline that demands I deliberately focus on spending time with my Heavenly Father. It is similar to spending time talking with my wife. Unless I focus and deliberately engage in conversation with her, I may be in the same room, but very little communication takes place. The same is true for me in my divine relationship. Prayer takes time and effort. It is well worth the effort, but it requires discipline and focus.

Prayer, the way we pray, what we say, when we pray, how often we pray, reveals more about our foundational beliefs than all of our creeds and professions. Traveling from congregation to congregation provides me the opportunity and privilege of worshiping in a variety of settings. One of the most distinctive factors about various congregations is not their style of worship, the hymns they sing, or the ordering of their worship services. The most distinctive factor is the prayer life of the people as revealed in the worship services.

In a few congregations, prayer seems to be a perfunctory act that religious people are required to perform. In other services, prayer appears to be an act to update an uninformed god of what is happening in their community and to God's children. In other congregations, prayer appears to be reserved for "professionals".

On rather rare occasions, I participate in services of worship where prayer appears to be central to what the congregation does. They engage in both corporate, written prayers and spontaneous prayers. They pray prayers of confession, thanksgiving, intercession, petition, and praise. They are led in prayer and encourage individuals to enter into periods of individual, silent prayer. A number of different individuals actively participate in prayer and demonstrate that prayer is not something "professionals" do for the congregation. However, it is also clear the clergy persons are people of prayer.

I know different personality temperaments influence how we pray and what constitutes meaningful prayer. I also know that for many individuals the only place they receive modeling, or instruction on how to pray, is during the Sunday worship service. If only one type of prayer or style of prayer is provided in worship, young Christians receive little direction and assistance to the fullness of life that God offers in a growing prayer life

Prayer is essential for those who earnestly desire to follow Jesus Christ. How else can we discern the will of God? How else can we enter into the oneness with God that Jesus desires? Prayer is the pathway to a relationship where we daily receive support, love, guidance, direction, hope, forgiveness, and new life. May we all grow in our relationship with Jesus Christ and our corporate and individual prayer life. May our prayers reflect what we profess with our lips.

Grace and peace,  
Max