



Newsletter for August 2010

1 * Communion Sunday	2 * Choir(s) rehearsal	3 * Praise team rehearsal	4	5 * Desert Quilters * Women's Depression Support Group	6 * Men's Bible Study * Rummage Setup	7 * UMW Rummage Sale
8	9 * Choir(s) rehearsal * Finance Committee	10 * Ad Council & Charge Conf. * Praise team rehearsal	11	12 * Women's Depression Support Group	13 * Men's Bible Study	14 * Celebration
15 * Bread Basket Sunday * UM Men Breakfast Mtg	16 * Choir(s) rehearsal	17 * Praise team rehearsal	18	19 * Desert Quilters * Women's Depression Support Group	20 * Men's Bible Study	21 * UMW Picnic
22 * Promotion Sunday	23 * Choir(s) rehearsal	24 * S.O.U.L. Kids * Praise team rehearsal	25	26 * Women's Depression Support Group * First Call	27 * Men's Bible Study * BBQ Setup	28 * Duck Race BBQ Meal
29	30 * Choir(s) rehearsal	31 * S.O.U.L. Kids * Praise team rehearsal	August 2010			

From Pastor Ernie *posted July 28*

Well, we've been here a month. The time has gone by quickly and it is hard to imagine that I have already been here that long. Thank you all for the wonderful grace and love you have showed Corrie and me. We truly feel welcome here and are enjoying ourselves.

Since arriving, I have preached four Sundays, been involved with one memorial service, conducted a wedding, attended Finance, Ad Council, and Trustees meetings, sung with the choir, gone to a United Methodist Men's breakfast, Men's Bible Study, done Vacation Bible School, and even (gasp) tinkered with the order of worship. It's all been good. And it will continue to be good; through joys and concerns, triumphs and struggles, rain and shine, as long as we are serving God, it will be good.

I truly look forward to the ministries that we will share together while I am privileged to be the pastor here at FUMC Deming. Over the next few months, I look forward to listening to you and get to know all of you. Please know that I am your pastor and I am here to work with you. If you want to talk, give me a call or come by and see me. I am anxious to learn more about the ministries here and what your visions are for the future. I also look forward to sharing my own vision with you so together we can do our best to serve God and this community through the church.

My prayer is that God will be truly honored by this church and that I can help direct us in ways that it will happen. Please pray with me as we all seek God's directing that we will recognize that direction and will move forward together. And let's have a good time doing it.

In Christ's Love, Pastor Ernie

VBS Thank You *posted July 28*

If you weren't here July 19 through 22 in the evening, then you missed out on all the fun of our **High Seas Adventure** Vacation Bible School. Because it started at 5 pm, meals were served to participants. They enjoyed Octopus Tentacles with Shark Eyeballs (spaghetti and meatballs); Shark Barf with a side of Chopped Squid (frito pie with mac and cheese); Walking the Plank with a side of Squid (sloppy joes with mac and cheese); and burger and dog cookout on the last evening.

While learning about God, the kids sponsored **For God Loves Me Blankets** to be given to children who are the victims of natural disasters. The blankets were touched by love as each child got to help knot the ends of the blanket and pray for the child who would receive it (each knot was a prayer knot). They made prayer journals, made God **Comforts Me Pillows** for sleeping and made fun items such as sailor hats, tattoos, and shrinky-dinks. One of their games was Bible Verse Pictionary. Those kids were sharp! They also got to throw their troubles in the box (giving them up to God). Back Up Again Bowling reinforced the death and resurrection of Jesus. They also Walked the Plank (a water game enjoyed by all).

VBS culminated on Thursday evening with Ernie's shaved head being decorated by Sarah Williams who painted rainbows and flowers on it. The paint colors were first tested on Kaitlyn Brodbeck's arm to make sure it was washable. Ernie wanted to make sure it would come out before an upcoming wedding he was to perform! The children performed the songs they learned at both worship services on July 25th. We hope everyone was able to attend.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped with VBS, whether you participated, worked, donated, and/or prayed. We could not have done this without each and every one of you. You have been a blessing and we thank you!

Time for Ducks! *posted July 28*

It is August. That means it's time for ducks. When it's time for ducks, it's time for our Duck Days BBQ! Each year the United Methodist Men head up a major fundraising event during the Deming Duck Races. This year, our BBQ will be Saturday, August 28, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The cooks slow-cook top round roasts over a mesquite fire. This is an all-you-can eat meal served with beans, coleslaw, condiments, plus one dessert.

Sound yummy, doesn't it? It is! But it also takes many helping hands. While the men head up the event, everyone in the church pitches in to help. Here's what we do:

- Stay at the church overnight (Friday afternoon to Saturday morning) to help cook the meat. We have an experienced crew but would like to hand down the cooking wisdom to a new generation. The meat crew also prepares the beans and puts them on to slow cook. Ladies are always welcome.
- Help prepare and then stir the vinegar based coleslaw (come into the church once a day for 3-5 days to stir it all up). Veggies are pre-sliced so preparation is a matter of mixing it all up.
- Help cover the tables with table covering and set up the serving areas.
- Slice onions.
- Prepare tea (we serve tea, water and coffee).
- Help with final setup the morning of the BBQ.
- Help serve the day of the BBQ; either 1 or 1½ hour shifts or the whole three hours. Servers are needed in the dining area and in the take out/delivery area (Fellowship Hall).
- Cut up and pre-package desserts on the morning of the BBQ.
- Help serve desserts during the BBQ.
- Be an in-town delivery driver. Most of the meals are served in house or by carry out, but we also have a number of deliveries in town.
- Man the phone for delivery orders.
- Sell tickets at the door for walk-ins.
- Help clean up after the BBQ is over. (*Hint: Those who are there at the end get first dibs on buying any leftover meat.*)

- Bake and bring desserts – **lots** of yummy desserts. We are known for our wonderful cooks who bring the best desserts.
- Sell tickets to your friends, neighbors, co-workers and family members. The cost for this all-you-can-eat meal is \$7 for adults, \$4 for children 6 to 12, and \$2 for children under 6. Books of tickets are available in the office or from the UMM.

This church-wide effort benefits the community in a number of ways. Among other things, proceeds from the BBQ are used to provide food baskets for needy families at Thanksgiving and Easter, provide scholarships to students going into or attending college, fund local community ministries (such as building ramps for handicap residents), and purchase needed equipment at the church.

Besides helping with the BBQ, there is one more important benefit. That is the *fun* everyone has working together. Don't miss out on the fun and fellowship. Call the office today to help.

Labor Day Campout *posted July 29*

Our annual Labor Day Campout, held at the Sapillio Campground in the Gila National Forest, will be September 3rd through 6th. The format will be a little different this year. There will be two evening worship services, Saturday and Sunday evenings, preceded by a potluck each evening. Pastor Ernie Vineyard will speak at either one or both of these services. Saturday's potluck will feature meat from the Duck Days BBQ. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be served Sunday along with potluck fixin's.

There will not be a cost for camp this year but please complete a registration form so the organizers can set aside enough space, etc. at the campground. Registration forms are available in the office or on the small table in the back of the sanctuary. Remember to bring chairs (and tables if needed) for everyone in your group as there will be no extras this year. A love offering will be taken for the church.

This is a wonderful time to experience nature, visit with friends, enjoy worship services and share a meal. Please our website, www.fumcdeming.com, for upcoming details on the campout.

Celebration! *posted July 29*

Celebration's quarterly meeting will be held on Saturday, August 13th from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Celebration is a non-denominational women's group and is open to ALL women. Join us for breakfast, singing, praises and a motivational speaker (we're going to let you be surprised). There are also door prizes to add to the fun. Make plans to be part of women of faith joining together!

Cinco Estrellas Church for 2010 *posted July 29*

Each year, our Annual Conference recognizes churches involved in Mission Outreach in the world and in their local community. To be recognized as a Cinco Estrellas Church, the local church must meet five of the following criteria:

- Paid the previous year's World Service **and** District Missions shared ministries in full.
- Participated in the Annual Conference Mission Project for the year.
- Supported at least 1 Advance Special at each of three levels:
 - Conference
 - Jurisdictional
 - National/World-wide
- Observed (with offering) One Great Hour of Sharing.
- Shared one mission project/trip story with the New Mexico United Methodist Reporter.
- Sponsored at least 1 person (per 100 members) on a United Methodist Volunteer in Mission project/trip.
- Been involved in a significant mission project in the local community.
- Have a GBGM Covenant Relationship with a United Methodist missionary.

Our application for this award showed our participation in five of these areas:

- ✓ We participated in the 2009 Annual Conference Mission Project for Presidio Outreach Center by publishing the needs list in our newsletter, as well as several weekly Sunday bulletins. Items collected were brought to Odessa by our delegate. Additionally, \$35 was donated to Presidio.
- ✓ We participated in Advance Specials as follows:
 - ✓ On the Jurisdictional level, we took the 2-in-One offering for the Methodist Children's Home and Methodist Missions Home, collecting over \$836.60 which was split between them.
 - ✓ On the Conference level, we collected \$389.46 for the Clergy Spouses' Congo Project, we supported Lydia Patterson Institute with an additional \$346.25 above our Shared Ministries amount and we collected \$650.50 for Houchen Center.
 - ✓ On the National/World-wide level, we collected \$1,800.00 for UMCOR, as well as \$434.10 for flooding in North Dakota (UMCOR Disaster Response, USA-901670)
- ✓ We observed One Great Hour of Sharing during worship, with an offering of \$531.90.
- ✓ We shared one missions project with the NM United Methodist Reporter by submitting an article earlier in the year regarding Shepherd's Run. Our United Methodist Men and United Methodist Women, with support from the congregation, assembled and delivered goodie baskets on Christmas Eve to law enforcement and emergency services personnel. This was well received by a variety of agencies in both Deming and Columbus, NM (30 miles south).
- ✓ In our local community, we have supported an orphanage in Palomas, Mexico (which is just over the border from Columbus, NM) by collecting foodstuffs, household items, toys and monetary donations. Before Christmas, one of our Sunday School classes assisted in providing Christmas presents for the children (approximately 35 plus their caregivers). Our assistance, combined with that of several other churches in New Mexico, provides support not only for the orphanage but also helps feed up to 4000 people per month through daily meals provided by Palomas churches. Due to the economy (high prices and low wages), many people only eat this one daily meal.

Based on this application, our church was recognized with a Cinco Estrellas (Five Stars) award at Annual Conference this past June. The award is displayed in the Fellowship Hall on the counter. Churchwide participation in our various mission and ministry projects helped us achieve this award. Congratulations First UMC Deming!

How to Go Green *posted July 28*

"Going green" refers to the process of making deliberate decisions to lighten your ecological footprint. Deciding to recycle your paper and buy energy-efficient appliances are just two examples of way to make your life "greener," or more environmentally friendly. You can go green by overhauling your entire daily routine or by changing just a few small aspects of your life.

While going green is an individual decision, we'll be presenting some ideas and processes to consider. Some these ideas will not only benefit the environment by conserving natural resources and reducing carbon emissions, but they may also have a benefit to individuals with money savings and improved health (such as choosing organic products).

We'll start with electricity use. The best way to start making changes to your electricity use is to conduct an analysis of your energy use – an energy audit. This audit can be done your electricity provider (usually for free or for a small charge) or through a professional. You can also do it yourself by inputting the information from a year's worth of your electric bills into Energy Star's online Home Energy Yardstick tool. This tool will compare your home's energy efficiency with that of the national average. You can find this tool at

http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=HOME_ENERGY_YARDSTICK.showGetStarted

An energy audit will assess how your electricity usage compares to that of other homes of similar size and age, and with the same number of residents. Based on that information, you can set goals for cutting back the amount of electricity used annually.

Next month, we'll talk about energy-efficient appliances.

Thank You From 4 Corners Native American Ministry *posted July 28*

Thank you for your donation of \$2,498.00 for the Sacramento youth trip. We pray that you have been blessed by sharing in Christian ministry with the Navajo people.

Despite the summer heat, activities are in full swing. While many of our local congregations are busy with revivals and tent meetings, our office has largely focused on two areas of ministry – youth ministry and our mission team/new construction program.

June saw 28 youth and 4 adults attend the senior high and mid high NM Conference youth camps at Sacramento Methodist Assembly, while 19 youth and adults spent a week at McMurry University, July 10-17. The youth participated in community service projects, sports and photography classes, and sessions on post-secondary opportunities with McMurry University academic counselors. Youth from Ojo Amarillo UMC leave later this month for Austin TX to do urban ministry, serve as VBS leaders, and to enjoy the sights and surroundings of Austin.

The ministry has also received a lot of mission teams. In Shiprock, teams have been hard at work on two new construction projects—the parsonage at Ojo Amarillo UMC and a 2-bedroom staff apartment on our Shiprock ministry grounds. Other teams from TX, NC, and Ark (among others) have served at other sites in the ministry. God has blessed us with generous, compassionate, and Christ-filled donors from around the country. And from the hot high desert of the Navajo Indian Reservation, we offer this blessing based on Hosea 2:11: *God says, I will woo you and lead you into the wilderness and speak to your heart.* Blessed be God forever!

Community Devotional *posted July 28*

We have a unique opportunity to be the hands and feet of Christ in August.

Different churches in Deming take turns hold services at the hospital nursing home on Sunday afternoons for a month. August is FUMC's month.

We are asking for groups (UMM, UMW, children, youth, choirs, etc.) and Sunday School classes to pick one Sunday afternoon in August to assist with the music (they love to sing the old familiar hymns), give a brief devotiona,l and visit with the residents. Sarah Williams has offered to play for any group needing help with music.

The services are on Sunday afternoons at the hospital nursing home from 3 to 3:30 p.m. There are five Sundays in August so there is time for everyone to participate. Your gift of presence and time is extremely meaningful to the residents, even if you are not part of a group.

- The Barbershop Group will provide music August 8th but would like someone to help with the devotional.
- The youth will prepare the services for August 15th.
- August 1, 22, and 29 are open.

If anyone would like to help with services on ANY of these dates, please contact the office. Please advise if you need help with music. We particularly need people (even 2 groups together) for the first Sunday.

Thank you for bringing the presence of Christ to those who can no longer get out.

Choir Music Weekend, October 22-24 *posted July 28*

Lake Junaluska, North Carolina. Choir Music weekend brings together choral training, hand bells, workshops on various subjects, worship and great fun in one of this country's most beautiful locations. Participants will learn skills and music that they can take home with them, along with many rich memories and lasting friendships. Find out more at www.lakejunaluska.com/choirmusic/

UMW News *posted July 29*

We've been having so much fun! We took a "good idea" and put it into action. Our "traveling tea party", the sipping kind, has visited a total of seven so far plus we're still traveling. Sometimes we're asked to go to someone who needs a pick-me-up and sometimes we've missed seeing someone and want to visit.

Let us know if you see a need or if you'd like to come along.

UMW Rummage Sale - Sorting Friday, August 6th - 8:30 a.m. until? Sale Day is Saturday, August 7th - 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Workers should arrive by 8:00 a.m. Help from the Congregation would be appreciated on either or both days! Rummage can be brought to the Church and placed on the North Wall of the Mac Gym Bldg.

August 21 - UMW annual Potluck-Picnic at the Wolfs (11:00 a.m. carpooling from FUMC parking lot) to El rancho Lobo. Fellowship, short business items, announcements. Coordinator-Rosalee Gillett. All are welcome, you do not need to be a member of UMW - just bring a dish to share. We extend a "special invitation" to those from the Congregation who helped with the rummage sale.

We did not have anyone attend the Christian School of Missions this year.

Church Picture Directory *posted July 28*

It has been four years since our last pictorial directory. We have scheduled a new one for October. We are asking everyone to participate, especially since we have a new pastor. Further details will be coming as we get closer, but mark your calendars now for October 18 through 23 when pictures will be taken.

Some of My Thoughts *posted July 23*

Are your services of worship passionate and engaging? Worship of God that connects us to God in Jesus Christ, regardless of the style of worship, should be passionate.

Passionate worship begins as we enter worship services expecting to encounter the Living God. I experienced that while I was in the Congo celebrating the Centennial of Methodist work in the Congo. The first of those celebrations took place in Lubumbashi, Democratic Republic of the Congo. We gathered outside on a Sunday morning. Worship began with different groups marching down the street, choirs singing, and a band playing. Unfortunately, I could not see much of the marching because it was in front of the Church and outside of the church property and we were seated outside behind the Church. We saw the procession about fifteen minutes after the music began as the choirs and worship leaders worked their way around the crowd. Some of us were considered honored guests and we were seated under an open tent in plastic chairs. Many others were seated on benches, some with backs and some without. Other participants were in plastic chairs, and many were standing. Most of the participants sat in the hot sunshine.

Our guides instructed us to arrive before 9:00 in order to have a seat. The processional started at 10:00. I looked at my watch at 2:30 and realized that Bishop Nhiwatiwa had not been introduced to preach the sermon. Other than being a little hot and slightly sunburned, I was doing fine—even without a Sunday dinner. The worship service came to a conclusion about 3:30 and since I was one of the honored guests, I exited with the recessional group to find the nearest restroom.

No one seemed troubled by the length of the service. The music and dance drew us into God's presence. We experienced the joy of knowing that Jesus Christ is Savior and Lord of our lives. We raised our voices in words we did not understand, but comprehended all praise belongs to God. We gathered as God's children to praise and thank God for the work of Methodism for the past one hundred years to bring salvation to the people of the DRC. Reflecting back on that experience, I realized that far too often when we gather for a service of worship, our hearts and minds are focused on things other than praising God. We may be concerned about the volume of the instruments in the service of worship, how each person is fulfilling his or her responsibilities, or what we will be doing in the coming hours or days. Our hearts and minds drift from worship of God. Is it any wonder that we find the services to be boring? We forget what we are doing and why we are doing it. We fail to encounter the Living God. We arrive to be entertained and we depart empty and unfulfilled.

Can we change our attitudes and our actions as we gather each week? Can all participants prepare in a different way? Can we prepare to gather as the people of God, to humble ourselves before God and lift up our praise and thanksgiving? Can we gather anticipating that regardless of what happens we will leave knowing we were in God's presence and that we expressed our deepest love for Jesus, our Savior and Lord? When we do, our worship will indeed be *passionate*.

Grace & Peace, Max



Retreat for Men *posted July 22*

Men's Spiritual Retreat 2010, *No Man Left Behind*, will take place on September 24-26, 2010 at Sacramento Methodist Assembly. Sponsored by the United Methodist Men of the NM Annual Conference, the Guest speaker will be Brett Clemmer, VP, 'Man in the Mirror.' Music by "Wings & a Prayer" of Epworth UMC Carlsbad; and there will be a Golf Tournament! The local UMM and the church office have

registration forms. All men are encouraged to attend....Contact Marion Jordan wmjordan7@gmail.com at 505-881-8181 for more information.

Children's Sunday School *posted July 15*

By the end of the 2009-10 school year, the Sunday School grades 1-3 had completed their study of the twelve disciples. Each child who received a certificate could name all twelve disciples plus one fact about each disciple. Students who received a certificate from Pastor Keath are Alec Gors, Truett Shaffer, Kendra DuBois, Rachel Simpson, Madison Jacobsen, and Morgan Paulk.

Covered Dish Luncheon, *July 11*

Welcome, Ernie and Corrie.



A Thank You *posted July 11*

The shower bench was a great blessing and a great help to my mother. We thank the Lord and your ministry of helping out the community.

May the Lord continue to shower you with His heavenly blessings, as well with His earthly blessings.

Thank you.

/s/ Helen & Gloria S. Reyes

Children's Ministry Workshop *posted July 6*

The Albuquerque District announces a conference workshop for those involved with children's ministry. ***Dynamic Children's Ministry Workshop*** with Debra Gray of Lake Highland UMC and Highland Park UMC in Dallas TX. The workshop is scheduled for **August 27-28** at **St. Paul's UMC Albuquerque** (9500 Constitution NE in Chapman Hall), from 6-8 pm on Friday, and 9 am-3 pm on Saturday (includes lunch). Cost is \$30/person or \$20/person for groups of 4 or more. Childcare will be provided for \$5/child. Registration must be received by August 22nd.

Tell others....gather a team....come and enjoy learning how to build a strong ministry with and for children.

A Huge Thank You *posted July 3*

When I heard that our Conference Board of Global Missions had chosen ***Mulungushi Nothing But Nets*** as our Annual Conference mission project, I got excited. This is a cause I believe deeply in. And the possibility of saving lives for \$10 a net just seems like such a simple task.

But I knew that Annual Conference offerings typically ranged from \$2,000 to \$3,000. And I wanted us to do better than that for this life-saving cause. So I issued a challenge to my fellow District Superintendents. "Let's encourage each church to raise 10 times their average worship service. The Superintendent of the District that raises the highest percentage of their goal gets a free steak dinner bought by the other two". Hearty congratulations to Reverend Steve McElroy and the **El Paso District** who smoked the other two.

Little did I understand how the churches of the conference would respond to this challenge. I would have been happy, I suppose, with \$15,000 to \$20,000. You all absolutely blew me away. We have raised for ***Mulungushi Nothing But Nets*** – get this –

\$88,000.00!!!!

Wow! Incredible! What a great conference! What a dedicated, generous bunch of United Methodists! Together we will be saving over 8,800 lives of children and their families in Mulungushi, Congo. Thank you for your extraordinary response. I am so proud to be a part of the family of the New Mexico Annual Conference.

--Contributed by Reverend Tom Nagle, Albuquerque District Superintendent

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