



Report from the Ad Council

The Ad Council has reviewed the budget provided by the Finance Committee. A few minor changes were made, but it was essentially accepted as proposed. In this tough economic climate, we are looking at all options that will allow us to save money and do not cut back on church activities and missions. Two changes were approved. First, we will no longer print a bulletin for Sunday services, and second, we will no longer print and mail a church newsletter to all church members. These two changes will save money on paper, printing costs, and postage for mailing the newsletter.

Church newsletter: This copy of the church newsletter will be the last copy that is mailed to all members. Beginning in March, the monthly newsletter will be published on the church’s website. A few copies of the newsletter will be printed and placed on the information table at the back of the sanctuary for those members that do not have access to the website. Printed copies will also be delivered during visitation to our homebound members without access to the Internet.

If you wish to continue to receive the newsletter by mail, you may do so simply by paying for the cost of the postage. Please notify the church office and remit a check in the amount of \$5.00.

Church bulletin: We will also no longer be printing a bulletin for our church services. We have been using the overhead screen for many years now and will expand its use as needed.

Monthly calendar and prayer list: The monthly calendar and the prayer list which was included in the bulletin may be

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found on the church's web site. For those who do not have access to a computer, a printed copy will be provided at the back of the sanctuary on the information table. The printed copy will be updated monthly. The website copies will be updated as needed, daily if necessary.

The church's website is: www.fumcdeming.com

Bulletin Board: We plan to use a bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall to post the budget, monthly financial statements, minutes of church committees, and upcoming events.

Church Budget for 2009

The church budget for 2009 has been established. The Giving (income) budget is \$320,000 whereas the spending budget is \$342,050. The difference will be obtained from fund-raising events throughout the year so that desired plans and programs need not be cut. Details of the budget are on the church website.

United Methodist Women

The UMW Rummage Sale is on February 7th from 9 am 'til noon. Setup and sorting begins on Feb. 6th at 8 am. Setup assistance is welcome, and please come to the Sale. You may drop off donations in the church gym through Feb. 5th.

NEEDED: We are still asking the membership to help replace hostess sets and dishes that were destroyed. If you have any hostess sets you would like to donate to the church (or would be willing to loan when needed), please call Rosalee Gillett, 544-8201. Also, if you have new unused or gently used sets of dishes you would like to donate, call Rosalee or the church office.

First United Methodist Church of Deming, New Mexico

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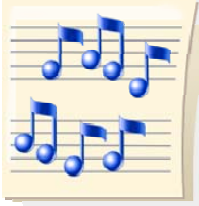
keath@fumcdeming.com (Pastor)

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Visit us at www.fumcdeming.com



TAKE NOTE

February is here. This month brings many reminders. We remember our loved ones on February 14th. We remember the contributions of our African-American brothers and sisters with the singing of wonderful spirituals.

Perhaps the most solemn event of this month is Wednesday (Feb. 25). This day begins the 40 day vigil we keep until Easter Sunday. This is the time of the year that we are challenged to give up something for which we yearn. The thought is that each time we desire what we give up, we may be reminded to keep our eyes focused on the cross remembering that Christ gave the ultimate sacrifice.

This year my family has decided to do something a little different. We will have a family devotional every night through the season of Lent. I challenge you to do the same. Plan your family meeting and try to honor God together. Honor Him as a family unit. It is amazing the lessons that you can learn in your very own home. Think about it: many parents are in their Sunday School classes while the children go to their classes. We do not study the Bible together. Why not try?

Schedule for February:

week of 2nd: Regular rehearsal schedule;
 Extra Handbell Practice - February 4th
 9th Regular rehearsal schedule;
 Extra Handbell Practice - February 11th

February 14th Valentine Day Concert and Dinner: 6-8 p.m.

16th Regular rehearsal schedule

23rd Regular rehearsal schedule

ASHWED SVCS: 7 am (ashes only) & 6 pm (w/Communion)

A Sunday Encounter

A Sunday Encounter, the monthly praise music, scripture study, and reflection series, is fast-paced and presented in many formats. If you like to sing the newest Christian music, this is a study for you. The next meeting is Sunday, February 8th at 5 pm. Everyone is invited.

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Prayer List
Jan-Mar 2009

Lynda Adams, Andy, Jean Arthur, Joe Bencomo, Velma Blandford, Linda Blazer, Shirley Bobo, Marcus Boulden, Geri Buss, Elaine Coffman, Dale Cole, Florine Costello, Ruth DeGroot, Travis Dodson, Dr. P.A. Feil, Terry Fontenot, Christopher Fredrick, Dick Gillett, Betty Hansford, J.B., Joel Hunt, Jeff, Fred Johnson, Jewel Landrum, Mary Ethel Miller, Bob Mudd, Lynde Murphy, Pettigrew Family, Ann Pettit, Brian Pettit, John Plant, Walter, Schultz, Gary Slayman, Michael Stephenson, Matthew Stevens, Kathleen Swift, Sarah/Gregory Swift, Ralph Tremper,

Trina, Margaret Truax, Earl Veeder, Melissa White, Marlene Zachek, Friends/family affected by economy

Families dealing with grief: Treadwell/Offutt, Floyd, Baker, Baskett, Green, Chase, Cameron, Charles

Service men & women and their units: Travis Dodson's unit, Avilla Augustus, Alan Ballinas, Alan/Brian Carter, Jake Corn, Amber Dunning, Steve Gilland, Maj. Howard Gobble, Jason Hammers, Conrad Hughes, Eric Jasso, Shaun M. Jones, Jennifer/John Lively, Robbie Luna, Jennifer/Jarrod McGee, Michael Nunley, Brian Park, Josh Robertson, Andres Serna, L. Charles Stanley, Aaron Steelman, Greg Stube, Danny Symonds, Van Welch

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

Celebration - for ALL women, Saturday, Feb. 14 at 9:30 in the Fellowship Hall. See the website or bulletin board for info.

Women's Depression Support Group... meets from noon until 1:00 pm at the church on Thursdays. Bring your lunch and join us as we share hope and encourage one another. All conversations are strictly confidential. Call Beth Simpson at the church if you have any questions.

Do You Ever Wonder...

how God uses your offerings and your love gifts? If so, this story is for you.

Love INC (Love In the Name of Christ) is our local clearing house for assistance requests. The director of Love INC, Carol, contacted our church about meeting a need for a young woman who lives out of town. She owns her own trailer but pays rent for the land. The only heat she has is propane. Her income is enough to meet her needs except for being able to have a rental propane tank set up on the property. Because of your generosity, we were able to meet this need. Carol's writes:

"I just got a call from xxx who was ecstatic and crying. She said it was better than a sweepstake because she now has propane and it's all hooked up and everything. I told her to just thank God and do something good for someone else. She is blessed. She thanks you and I thank you."

We'll be sharing more stories of changed lives because your support helped open a door to the future—a future with hope.

ROC Mid-High Camp

ROC (Rhythm Of Christ) mid-high weekend camp will be March 6-8, 2009 at Sacramento Methodist Assembly. Cost will be \$100 per camper/adult. Visit the Sacramento website for registration information. SAVE THE DATE!

Ash Wednesday Services will be held Feb. 25th in the sanctuary: 7 to 8 am for imposition of ashes and quiet prayer, and at 6 pm for an full service including Communion and Ashes.

Helping Hand Needs Our Help

Helping Hand, the Deming food bank, desperately needs: canned fruit, oatmeal, dry cereal, toilet paper, detergent (both for laundry and dishes), cooking oil, flour, sugar, macaroni & cheese, spaghetti and spaghetti sauce, tuna, peanut butter, face soap, toothpaste, and toothbrushes. They will also take any monetary donations so they can purchase more food.

Food and/or money may be dropped off at Helping Hand weekdays from 10 am until noon.

Visit us at www.fumcdeming.com

Some of My Thoughts

I grew up in a very rural county in the Ozark Mountains. Most of us never thought of ourselves as poor, middle class, or wealthy. We were all poor. Life was not terrible, far from it. We had food to eat, shelter to keep us from freezing to death, and friends willing to help at a moment's notice. Things began to change when a man representing a poultry corporation drove into the county and began recruiting farmers to grow chickens for his processing plant some fifty miles away.



Most people in the county raised some chickens, some even raised enough to sell to their neighbors who lived in the towns or felt it was too much trouble to raise them for themselves. It took about 18 weeks from the time the chicks hatched until they were ready for the Sunday dinner. The man from the corporation came to the community and began recruiting small farmers (there were only small farmers in the county) to raise 2,500 birds at a time. They would need to build chicken houses and keep the birds inside at all times. The man claimed that in twelve weeks they could grow a newborn chick to a full-grown broiler. Most of the residents laughed at the man in the big truck with all his fancy ideas. A few decided to enroll in this new project and chicken houses became a common sight. Innovation continued and the time required for raising a broiler declined from twelve weeks to seven weeks. The farmers moved from growing 2,500 chickens at a time to 40,000. Dramatic changes occurred that only a few people could imagine. The surprising point was that the farmers utilized less feed to produce the same amount of weight gain on each chicken. These farmers innovated and adapted in order to accomplish previously impossible feats.

The thoughts raced through my mind about the innovative, adaptive changes congregations must make in order to become all that God intends. The way I learned to be a pastor and lead congregations no longer functions in a world where people drive

40 to 50 miles to work each day. My preparation failed to accommodate a society where most families assume that both husbands and wives must work outside the home to afford the necessities of life. My worldview collapsed when congregations consisted of four to five generations and most of them unrelated by birth. The perspective vanished when the expenditures for utilities, insurance, salaries, and facilities inflated at an astronomical rate. Only those willing to adjust and adapt to a world that is vastly different from the one in which I grew up and received my education and training can survive.

Suddenly, the other shoe fell and I understood that bishops and district superintendents could not survive without a willingness to innovate and adapt. My role models functioned in a different world that no longer exists. I could not perform my work in the same way as I previously did. Suddenly, I wanted the man in the big truck to arrive at my office and communicate a “new way” of functioning as a bishop. I realized the man was not coming. I had to listen to God, learn from others, ask different questions, and go about my work differently if I was to serve effectively.

I felt overwhelmed and discriminated against until the reading for my Bishops’ Learning Group indicated that from the foundation of the earth that every animal and civilization must adapt or die. Innovation is not new. Changes come more rapidly and there is less time to observe and reflect. However, the challenge is not new. It is now my task and my challenge—your task and your challenge.

My empathy rose significantly for those small farmers who wanted to continue to raise a hundred chickens at a time. I understand why they wanted to continue doing the same things and pretending nothing was really going to change. I also realized what a tremendous opportunity God entrusts to us. We can innovate, change, and make a difference in the Kingdom of God.

Grace & Peace, *Max*

The church calendar may be found on the church website.

Paper copies are on the back sanctuary.

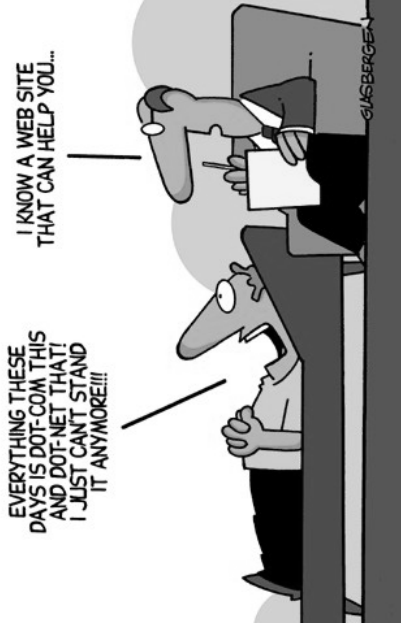
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