

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Deming, New Mexico

July 2007

“By living fully, recognizing that all we do is by His power,
we honor God; He in turn blesses us.”

Becky Laird

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

*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 - 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

Hearers and Doers

Very often I have to admit that I find the words of the Bible more convicting than comforting! Some of the early verses of James are a good example: "But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves."

All too often I see something around me that needs doing and find myself thinking, "Someone should do something about that." Then I promptly forget about it until the next time I see that same "something" that needs doing. The next thing I know I'm trying to take care of it myself, and I grumble the whole time. Somehow when I finish these little projects I still feel more irritated than satisfied.

Charles Coleson once shared the following story, which has certainly caused me to look at some of the "whys" and "hows" of some of the things that I do:

A bus driver became annoyed with his job because he had to wait 7 minutes after every run near an open field which 'litterbugs' had made into an unofficial dump. He often thought that somebody should do something about that unsightly mess. One day he himself decided to get out and pick up some of the tin cans and other debris which were lying all around. This improved things so much that he soon was eager to complete his route and spend all his free moments in cleaning up the area. When spring came, he was so enthusiastic about this project that he decided to sow some flower seeds. By the end of the summer many were riding to the end of the line just to see what the motorman had accomplished by doing what he and others had only talked about before.

Deep down, Christians are doers. James reminds us of this, as do many others. There can be great excitement in doing things – even the little things – if we do them for the right reasons. Cleaning up a field, sharing a kind word with someone who usually irritates us, inviting a neighbor to church, or any number of things that we might do just because they need doing can mean so much more if we do them because of our love for Christ.

One of the joys that I have had at FUMC, Deming, is that there are so many people who are doers. One of the best doers that I have ever had the pleasure of working with has been Beth Stevens. Technically her job title has been, "Assistant to the Pastor." She has done that for three pastors now. Yet she has really been a good example of a doer for us all. We will never know everything that she did as a representative of Christ and our church, but it was a lot! We will all miss her on staff, but I for one am glad that she will still be an active doer in this church.

Let us never grow tired of doing the things that Christ has called us to do in the world, because then we can know real satisfaction in our lives.

I look forward to seeing you in church!

ANNUAL CONFERENCE PERSPECTIVES

Rev. Keath Baskett, Joe MacDonald, Claire Phillips and Elmer and Imelda Veeder attended the New Mexico Annual Conference held in Glorieta, New Mexico, June 6, 7, 8 and 9. The following are some of insights and perspectives.....

Joe - from my perspective, it was very moving to see pastors ordained into service, and the solemnity of our tradition carried on with these new ministers. Unfortunately, due to a health scare with Julien, we were unable to attend more events so I look forward to next year. (continued on page 3)

Continued from page 2

Imelda - Elmer and I recently represented this church at the New Mexico Annual Conference. Conference was held at the Lifeway Center, at Glorieta, New Mexco. The purpose of Annual Conference is to review ministry, adopt policy and resolutions and strengthen spiritual life. The theme for this year's conference was Following the Shepherd. This was in recognition of 30 years of ministry in the Four Corners Area. In preparation for many interesting meetings, we were given a pre-conference journal of reports which had already been turned in, and we were asked to read a book called FIVE PRACTICES OF FRUITFUL CONGREGATIONS, by Bishop Robert Schnase. Bishop Schnase was also the main speaker at each worship service.

I personally, enjoyed this conference very much. The business sessions were very informative, and the worship services were wonderful! My favorite service was the one which took place on Friday night. The Four Corners Native Americans led this service. The first speaker's reminder that there are many sheep who are still outside the corral, was my reminder of what is the most important thing! I/we are to be reaching out to those who do not know Jesus Christ. If you ever have the chance to attend conference as a delegate, or just have the interest, I would definitely encourage you to go. If you have any further questions, please feel free to ask.

Elmer - The "United Methodist Church" is a big denomination, as you all probably know, and as such requires a lot of organization. Part of that involves participation by both the laity and the clergy in meetings to review new and ongoing missions and ministries, education, budgets, evangelism, denominational policy, etc. Often I tend to look at the actions of the Methodist Church in a very narrow scope that deals with local issues and my tendency is to look at the larger church organization as a burdensome bureaucracy. As in the past, attendance at the annual conference was a chance to see that bureaucracy from a different perspective.

The experience I had at the Annual Conference this year at Glorieta involved much time in meetings reviewing reports of various committees and agencies in the church, budgets, discussion about issues such as Safe Sanctuary policies and many other business type issues one would find in any very large organization or government agency. And, I must say that alot of that was tedious to me. However, I must say annual conference gave me the opportunity to see what the United Methodist Church has done and is doing to take the gospel to persons who have not heard or understood. The reports of the beneficiaries of the funds we provide through our congregation's Shared Ministries giving (otherwise known as apportionments) caused me to be more receptive to supporting this aspect of the United Methodist Church.

A few of the highlights of the conference for me included:

Hearing Bishop Robert Schnase give sermons about 5 characteristics of churches that are effectively presenting the gospel and involving the congregations in that work. Those practices are radical hospitality, passionate worship, intentional faith development, risk-taking mission and service, and extravagant generosity. Having breakfast with a young couple just out of seminary who were just ordained and excited about going to their first church assignments in Albuquerque. She, coincidentally, was a member of one of Keath Baskett's congregations while growing up. Meeting and visiting with a newly ordained elder that has a thriving ministry in Presidio, Texas - on both sides of the border. Getting to visit with a young pastor in Las Cruces whose congregation was recognized as the outstanding medium membership church in the El Paso District and had been involved with FUMC in Deming as a youth director a few years back.

Attending special worship services led by people involved with the Four Corners Native American Ministry. (This article is continued on pages 7 and 8.)



Bob Aldrich	Alan & Brian C.,
Jarrold Adams	Amber D., Jason H.,
Bill Blake	Joel H., Shaun J.,
The Burkles	Jennifer/John L.,
Helen Covey	Jennifer/Jarrold M.,
Ken Dobson	Michael N., Josh R.,
The Dodson family	Tyrell S.,
Christopher Fredrick	L. Charles S.,
Jim Himes	Greg S., Danny S.,
Wayne Humphrey	Van W.
Lois Kelly	
Marge Kosek	Please be in prayer for
June Manning	<i>Wednesday Night Live</i> ,
Gordon McIver	a program being
Mary Ethel Miller	offered to our
Bob Moon	community in the fall.
Lynde Murphy	
Al Nason	
Marilyn Offutt	
Ann/Brian Pettit	
John Plant	
Bob Probstel	
Joyce Richards	
Shirley Skaggs	
Karen Tanner	
Myrtle Thomas	

Service men &
women:

Travis D.'s unit,
Avilla A., Alan B.,

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

The **Emmaus Community** needs you if you've been on an Emmaus Walk, Chrysalis, Kairos, Kairos Outside, or Tres Dias please support the community by attending the La Ristra reunion meetings, (held every other month). For email updates, contact dennis505@juno.com. For snail mail updates, contact Linda Hurd at 505-524-7526, 4242. For more information about La Ristra, contact Mike at 546-7470.

We have **updated our prayer list**. Please advise, in writing, the names of those who should remain on the list. Your assistance in keeping this vital ministry up to date is deeply appreciated.

The office will be **closed** July 4 in observance of the holiday.

The **July Bread Basket offering** (July 15) is for Camp Scholarships. Your donations will enable us to assist children, youth and adults with the ever increasing cost of attending church camp. No one should be denied this potentially life changing experience, so please be generous.

Bibles needed for prison ministry. Our Deming Ecumenical Ministry at the Luna County Detention Center needs Bibles. If you have extras at home that you would like to donate, please drop them by the church office during business hours. Please remove all personal items and tape or bind them as needed. If you would to purchase a Bible to donate, please select one with contemporary English language. Thank you.

The **Chapel and Sanctuary are open for prayer** during office hours. Please feel free to stop by and spend some time with God.



**TAKE
NOTE**

It is hard to believe that we are in the middle of the summer. The days are a little hotter. Life is supposed to go a little slower. This is the time for family and friends. Routine has given way to a freedom from a set schedule.

I remember back to last July. We were excited that we were beginning a new journey in our lives. We came to Deming and interviewed and liked what we saw. The good news is you liked what you saw as well. It was truly a "God Thing". We give great thanks for making the decision to come to worship and be a part of this community. You folks are awesome.

All ensembles are on summer break. Enjoy!!!

(NOTE: Chancel Choir and Praise Team resume practices August 8. First Call and SOUL Kids resume after Labor Day.)



SEASONED CITIZENS RETREAT

All adults 50 to 90+ are invited to enjoy a weekend in the mountains at Sacramento Methodist Assembly August 13-17. A variety of lodging is available, along with a full-time nurse and a golf cart for those who assistance going building to building.

For more information, please contact Ellen Trout at 432-362-7570. Registration forms are available in the church office.

STAFF OPENINGS

As you are aware, the SPRC (Staff-Parish Relations Committee) has a sub-committee that is investigating all aspects of creating a new position here at First Deming. As of press time, the committee had not yet finalized a job description, but the new, full-time position will serve youth.

Also, with Beth Steven's resignation, we have an opening for Assistant to the Pastor. This position is primarily responsible for congregational care in a variety of ways, including visitation at home, in hospitals and nursing homes, and continuing with or creating new support programs to help our members as they deal with a variety of issues.

We are utilizing our Methodist connection by putting the word out among you - our church family - to see if anyone is interested in one of these positions, or if you know of someone who might be interested.

If so, please contact the office so that we can set an appointment to discuss the details of either of these openings with the pastor.

This is an exciting time in the life of our church! We ask you to lift up prayers of celebration for these positions, as well as prayers of wisdom and discernment in the hiring process.

God is good—all the time. Praise the Lord!



BBQ!

Prior to our annual Duck Race BBQ (in August), the Methodist Men are testing out their BBQ smoker by offering BBQ top round roasts, whole or half for cost (about \$4-5/pound). Whole roasts run about 15-20 pounds while halves are about 8-10 pounds. The roasts will be cooked around July 14. The deadline to order is July 6th so call the office today with your order!



DEMING CHURCH SOFTBALL LEAGUE

First Baptist Church is organizing a church softball league that will begin play on September 8th. The cost is \$50/team, which covers the trophy and t-shirts for the 1st and 2nd place teams.

The registration deadline is August 4. If you would like to play, please contact the office who will coordinate a team list for First UMC.

For more information, please contact First Baptist Church at 546-6509.



ACADEMY FOR FAITHFUL MINISTRY

Come to McMurry's campus in Abilene, TX for a faithful ministry conference where you can choose from a variety of sessions for only \$35 (that includes one-night stay in

newly renovated dorms, Friday dinner, and Saturday breakfast and lunch).

The Academy will be held Friday, July 6 and Saturday, July 7. For more info, see the poster on the bulletin board.



LOST AND FOUND CENTRAL

We have established a central location for lost and found items or things to be left for church members (including egg cartons).

Please place those items in the wooden cabinet in the Fellowship Hall. If you are leaving something for a church member, please *notify* them accordingly. We will be periodically cleaning out the cabinet so check it often!



VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION

Take a mission trip: change a life and prepare to be changed!

Upcoming missions trips will be taken to Juarez to build homes (once in July and again in Oct./Nov.), to Kenya for hospital construction, and to an Indian reservation for roofing work. If you are interested in any of these trips, please visit the Conference website at www.nmconfum.com.

In addition to the VIM link, there is a *wealth* of information on the conference website, and our own website (www.fumcdeming.com). Visit both for the latest events and news!

THANKS

“How can I say thanks for all the things you’ve done for me”---

That’s a phrase from a song and yet it exemplifies my feelings now as I write to

all of you. In some ways it seems like only yesterday I began to work here and in other ways I feel as if this is where I’ve always been.

When I started here in August of 2002 I could have never imagined what a blessing it would be. I was terrified and yet “you took me in”. You nurtured me and fed my soul. I was allowed the privilege of being present with some of you during some very difficult situations and able to rejoice with you in others. Hearing your stories of faith, perseverance, and witnessing Christ in you has caused me to appreciate the unique way God deals with each of us.

Living in the desert southwest we are not as accustomed to the changing of the seasons as some people from other parts of the country, but we are aware that our lives also have seasons. When summer turns to fall the feel in the air is crisp and although the summer has been great we look forward to what comes next. So it is in life. We can remember the past, smile and revisit moments that have touched our hearts. Yet we look forward to what the future holds with assurance that nothing comes as a surprise to God—only to us—and trusting in Him we’re eager for tomorrow.

My season as a staff person at FUMC has come to an end. I am so grateful for the time we’ve shared together and I will always value you more than words could ever express.

The friendship that you have shown me is priceless and what I’ve received from you has blessed and enriched my life.

So-----How can I say thanks for all the things you’ve done for me? I can’t. But I ask God to “...bless you, and keep you; ...make His face shine on you, and be gracious to you; The Lord lift up His countenance on you, and give you peace.”

In Christ-Forever,
Beth

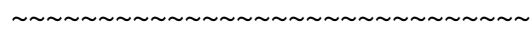
THANK YOU TO BETH

To all brothers and sisters in Christ,

Greetings and grace to all. This June, we have once again experienced the close to a wonderful chapter of our church history. Beth Stevens has left our employment and her services will be deeply missed. Beth has shared her love of Christ with us through her visitation ministry, through her love of our Lord, through her words of compassion, and sometimes, even from the pulpit. She has shared who she is and what the Lord means to her by living His example every day in her life.

On behalf of a grateful church, we would like to thank Beth for her hard work and service. While, FUMC has been blessed by Beth’s dedication and commitment, individually we have been blessed by her love, her enthusiasm, her kind words, and her smile. We wish Beth well in the next chapter of her life and pray she will always use her love in the service of our Lord. We pray for the grace of God and love of Christ to continue to be entwined in Beth’s life.

Mike Hofacket,
SPRC Chairman



Annual Conference Perspectives, cont.

The native Americans' enthusiasm in leading the service and the testimonies they presented caused me to realize that mission projects (money or hands on activity) we support are a wise investment for our congregation.

Another worship service was led by the youth, and once again, their enthusiasm and focus on the need to make disciples was obvious. I heard old hymns (which I tend to prefer) sung with a modern twist that caused most all present to participate in the service enthusiastically. It was encouraging to see teenagers participate and challenge us older people to actively invite those outside the Christian faith to get to know more about our Savior and our faith. (see page 8)

FROM THE BISHOP'S DESK

Some of my thoughts.....June 19, 2007

Some experiences defy normal verbalism. This happened to me at the New Mexico Annual Conference two weeks ago when the various presenters revealed the amount of money donated for the Congo projects and other offerings contributed during the worship services. All I could say was, "Wow." Such an expression appears totally inadequate, and it is, but what else expresses the effectual response to such generosity?

Here are some of the figures provided by NM Conference Treasurer, Cathy Anderson:

Nothing But Nets - \$7,625.16
 Louisiana Church Recovery - \$4,147.35
 Four Corners Native American Ministry - \$7,076.57
 Congo Scholarships—\$2,923.09
 Total Offerings - \$21,772.18

Contributions to the 2007 Annual Conference Mission Project for Scholarships for Seminary Students in the Congo: \$26,917.75

Three congregations were recognized for the highest per capita giving to the Conference Mission Project. They were:

El Paso District
 Fort Davis UMC \$10.07
 Albuquerque District
 Estancia UMC \$15.53
 Clovis District
 House UMC \$33.33

What a marvelous, generous response to assisting seminary students and their families to attend Katanga University, Mulungwishi, Congo.

These figures total \$48,689.93 given during the NM Annual Conference for all of the above causes. This is the largest amount contributed during an Annual Conference session since my

arrival in New Mexico. I can only return to my original insufficient exclamation: "WOW!"
 Thanks be to God,
 for such generosity.

Grace & Peace,
 Max

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### ***Continued from page 7....***

Obviously, these are only a few of the things that impressed me. There will be a conference journal available for our congregation to read if you are interested, but I would encourage any of you who are asked to be delegates for our congregation to consider it seriously, and if you are not asked, I would encourage you to look at the agenda for next year when it is available and if at all possible attend at least part of the conference. It will enlighten you about all the things the United Methodist Church is involved in at the local as well as the international level.

Claire - One of my highlights from Annual Conference was being able to participate in the first award from the Daniel E. Phillips Scholarship. As many of you remember, Dan heard God's call and decided to enter the process to become a second career ordained minister. As we investigated this, finances became a concern. After Dan passed away, I set up this scholarship fund specifically for second career pastors.

The first recipient is Cheri Lyon who serves a two point charge in Albuquerque: Carlisle and Harwood UMCs. I had an opportunity to visit with her - a delightful woman full of love for God and appreciation for her congregations who was so thrilled to receive this scholarship. She is well on her way to achieving her dream.

The enthusiasm of current and new pastors, regardless of their age, was uplifting. We continually heard stories of what is being accomplished all around our conference - pastor and their congregations, are willing to step out of the boat and become "Christ with skin on" to a wide variety of people. So should we all.