



Deming, New Mexico

June 2008

Adopt-A-Bell Successful!

The Adopt-A-Bell program was a huge success. The goal of the program was to raise funds sufficient to refurbish the existing handbells plus purchase a two- or three-octave set of hand chimes.

Thanks to your outstanding generosity, the funds needed to refurbish the handbells have been collected. The handbells are on their way to the factory — we expect them to be returned, shiny and expertly retuned, in mid-June.

The appeal for funds to purchase the hand chimes was also successful. A three-octave set of hand chimes has been ordered with delivery expected in June. NOTE: The first two are here!

Performing Arts Camp

Plans for a second season of Performing Arts Camp are being completed. This will follow the very successful inaugural 2007 PAC at which *Godspell Jr.* was presented.

FUMC Music Director Joe MacDonald has announced that the play *The Gospel According to Charlie Brown* will be presented at PAC 2008. The dates and times are 5-8 pm beginning July 28 and continuing through August 8, intervening weekend excluded. Several performances are tentatively scheduled for August 8th and 9th. !

PAC 2008 will be a fast-paced time of performance opportunities open to anyone who has completed 2nd through 12th grade. The ability to follow instructions is a must; some singing and movement skills are desirable.

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Youth Activities

Editor's note: to many, the church youth may be invisible. But they do exist and are quite active. This article was derived from a report presented by Sue Holdridge to the Ad Council in May; it is presented here for your enjoyment.

The youth finished Confirmation Classes in November of 2007. Beth Simpson has been leading the Bible Study for the youth since the winter Wednesday Night Live. Beth and I decided it was important to continue the study after the end of WNL. I offered to work on meals since the youth have a 4 pm First Call meeting and a 6 pm youth meeting. Dee Dee Baker graciously offered to assist in making meals and helping with clean up. What an incredible blessing she and Beth have been!

Many of the youth will be going to Disneyland in June with First Call.

Plans for Bible Study through the summer have not been finalized and will depend on the possible hiring of a new youth leader.

Recent Youth Activities

Walk for Life in March - Lela, Bekah, Rachelle, Allegra, Savannah, Anthony, Josh, Amanda, Catherine, Austin, Lauren D, Lauren H, and Kaitlyn all participated in the Walk for Life.

Spring Break: The week started with Russell and Dee Dee Baker kindly taking the youth on a hayride to their home where they had a meal prepared. One of the youth prepared a Bible Study and Jeremy Dubois proved to be a wonderful organizer of Capture the Flag and other games. During the week the youth

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worked on the service project for homeless and watched movies together. Another youth prepared a Bible Study for the group.

We went bowling with Bethel Baptist Youth in Silver City and then went to the park for lunch (and a Bible study.)

Murray Baskett, with help from other parents, put on a hilarious game night. I am so grateful to the parents that helped make this week possible. I think we had as much fun as the kids.

Sunday, May 4th—Youth met with First Baptist Church youth. The groups sang praise songs together then in conjunction with the National Day of Prayer went prayer walking around the high school and mid-high. You would have been blessed to hear their prayers.

Senior Breakfast: Sophomores and parents planned and served Senior Breakfast which honored Haley Bruggink.

Future Activities:

July 7 - July 11: Park Ministry dates. This will be a week for the youth to reach out with the love of Christ to kids in the city. As we have done for 3 years, we will bring a Bible study (mini VBS) to the park. This Bible study will be Veggie Tale theme. We partner with other churches when we do this. At present First Baptist and Bethel Baptist are participating, but other churches may be added.

The youth will arrive at 11 am and eat lunch with the kids in the park. Then the youth engage the kids in games or crafts and begin to build relationship. The Bible Study follows as well as a small snack and drink. The youth will be meeting Monday - Thursday in the park for this activity. The youth meet back in the evening and each participating church takes a night to host an activity and a Bible Study. Last year our kids worked hard to put together a Band to play on the night we hosted.

The youth look forward to the night time activities. The week normally concludes with a trip to Wet and Wild on Friday.

This year we may also have the opportunity to include a youth group on the 7th of July. Another out of town youth group may

Continued on page 4

Youth Activities cont.

be coming back from a mission trip and we will be thrilled to include them in our first night.

July 14 - 18: VBS. Many of the youth have helped with VBS in the past.

Camps: There are several camps available for the youth.

This is an overview of activities. As we all will agree, it is not activity but relationship with Christ that will change lives. Please pray that each of the activities will help to build that relationship in the youth and leaders life.

I am excited to see some of the youth prepare and present small Bible Study. Pray that they will continue to challenge each other to grow spiritually. Please pray that the youth will learn how to reach out to one another in love and be sensitive to each other's feelings. (Guess we as adults could use that prayer too.) I love these youth and am agreeing with you for God's choice and His timing on a new youth leader.

Special thanks to the Trustees for improving the steps. What a blessing!!! My knees thank you.

/s/Sue Holdridge

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 *aluminum* beverage cans. They 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.

We have a LOT of kids who want to go to camp. Your donations will help make that wish come true. Thank you.

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

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TAKE NOTE

The music ministry is alive and well even though many of the groups are on summer break. This is an exciting time as we get to see different kinds of ensembles participate in church services. If you would like to help with music during the summer months, please call me at the church office.

God Speed,
Joe

Rehearsal Schedule for the Month of June:

Monday	4:30 – 5:30	Handbell Ensemble *
	5:30 – 6:30	Praise Band
Wednesday	6:00 – 7:00	Chancel Choir **

* *after return of renovated handbells*

** *no Chancel Choir rehearsal on June 4th*

Beth Moore Bible Study

Stepping Up: A Journey through the Psalms of Ascent by Beth Moore will be offered this summer.

Time: Wednesday evenings from 6:30 - 8:00, beginning June 11 and continuing through July 23. The workbook cost is \$15. Contact Dianne Donaldson at 546-7079 for more details or to register.

Did You Know?

Did you know the United Methodist Church is a *connectional* church? Because of our connection with other United Methodist Churches worldwide, our gifts become multiplied loaves and fishes, providing us a greater benefit than if we were working alone. That is what Shared Ministries is all about!

Shared ministries are funded through regular giving. If you'd like to make a *second mile* donation that would go specifically for this purpose, please mark your donation "shared ministries" and place it in the collection plate.

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Little Lambs Preschool (by Meddy Garrett)

April seems to have passed rather quickly. We had a week off with spring break, and it was gone before we knew it. We studied spring and the wonders of the earth waking up after a long winter's sleep. We even studied dinosaurs and made our very own. For a little while, dinosaurs walked across the walls of Little Lambs. We reviewed the skills we have worked on all year and feel confident that we are ready for kindergarten and summer.

Our 4's classes will have their graduation on Wednesday, May 14th at 9am. They are ready to show everyone what they have learned. It will be fun...please come if you would like some really good entertainment. (This info was not provided in time to make the May newsletter.)

Editor's note: Pastor Keath used his camera to video most of the graduation activity. That video has been converted to a DVD. Ask nicely and he might make a copy available to you.

Ringers Wanted!

The church has multiple active handbell ringer groups: adult, youth, and children; duet, trio, and ensemble. These groups are always looking for new participants. Desire is the only requirement—we will teach you. For example, Dee, Marge, Jack and many others all learned to play the handbells at FUMC.

Interested? Watch for the handbell-practice resumption announcement. Then join the appropriate group.

Women's Depression Support Group

Our Support Group is now meeting at a different time, from 12 noon until 1:00 pm, at the church on Thursdays. Feel free to bring your lunch and join us as we share hope and encourage one another. All conversations are kept strictly confidential. Invite a friend or just come to observe if you want to find out how it works. Please call Beth Simpson at the church at 546-2791 with questions.



Prayer List
Apr.-Jun. 2008

Bonnie Baker; Debbie Baker
Shirley Breeden;
Calloway Family
Nikki Carnish; Mary Chase
Dale Cole
The J. Cote family
Helen Covey; Jim Culberson
Ruth DeGroot; Travis Dodson
Ruth Greenwood
Bob/Sharon Grogan
Betty Hansford; Carol Hoefler
Bill & Sue Hoffmeister
Florence Holt
Wayne/Janet Humphrey
Joel Hunt; Jeff
Fred Johnson; Lois Kelly
Bruce Lee; Maxwell UMC
Beth Metcalf; Bob Moon
Jack & Betty Morrow
Gale Murphy; Lynde Murphy
Pecoraro/Kornuta families
Ann Pettit; Brian Pettit
John Plant
Reuben & family

Alberta Sires; Vee Shirk
Gary Slayman
Oris & Nina Spencer
Sarah & Greg Swift
Margaret Truax; Earl Veeder
Donna Wallace
Pearl Whetstone
Garnet Wietbrock
Marlene Zachek

Families dealing with grief:
Ketcham, Burkle, Jontra,
Arthur

Service men & women and
their units:

Travis Dodson's unit, Avilla
Augustus, Alan Ballinas, Alan/
Brian Carter, Amber
Dunnihoo, Steve Gilland, Maj.
Howard Gobble, Jason
Hammers, Conrad Hughes,
Eric Jasso. Shaun M. Jones,
Jennifer/John Lively, Robbie
Luna, Jennifer/Jarrold 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.

Pray for our Sunday School children. Look for the prayer jar on
the table in the back of the sanctuary.

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Volunteer Mission Trip to Belize

The Rev. Joseph Barthlow will be leading a VIM team to Burrell Boom, Belize approximately October 16-24, 2008, for the first 11 people who respond. Volunteers will work on the school master's house, including cement, electrical and plumbing work.

There will be some on the trip who may want to work with the school children in the school. Belize is an English speaking country so language is not a barrier.

The approximate cost per person will be \$2,000 which includes air fare, room and board, supplies and exit tax to return into the U.S. The air fare will depend on how much the airlines raise their fares in the next few months.

A passport and picture I.D. is required. It is also recommended that each person have a current tetanus shot and Chloroquine 500 mg tablets to prevent malaria. Due to the mosquitoes, insect repellent is a MUST with at least 85-95% DEET. Sunscreen also is needed.

The people are very friendly and receptive of Americans. For more information, please contact Rev. Barthlow at josephbarthlow@sbcglobal.net.

First Time Home Buyers

Luna County Housing Corporation (LCHC) is building eight new single family affordable homes. You might qualify for one of these homes if you have been a renter for at least three years, if your household income from all sources is between \$21,600 and \$40,100, and you have four to six people in your family. Credit counseling and possible down payment assistance are available.

For more information, please call Laura at 575-546-4181. LCHC is a non-profit organization dedicated to opening doors for deserving people.

Bithell Farms Summer Fruit order forms will be on the table in the back of the sanctuary from June 8th through the 22nd. The last day to order is June 24th. Thank you.

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Sacramento Shareholders Needed

The *Sacramento Shareholder* program began in 2006 to encourage friends of Sacramento to support an important project that is going on. We ask our “Shareholders” to contribute no more than twice a year when we make the “Call” to contribute your “Share” towards a project. Each “Share” is \$25 and of course you can support with as many “Shares” as you would like to pledge. This is just one of many important ways your church, Sunday school class, youth group, UMW, etc. or you as an individual can have important “Ownership” at Sacramento. (See their website at www.sacramentoassembly.org for info.)

We understand that you have many ministry options to support. We also realize that these ministries have very valuable missions that impact many people. We desire to continue to be one of your options. This ministry at Sacramento offers one of the best life changing opportunities for you to choose to support. Many of the lives that have been impacted here have gone forth and helped make disciples for Christ.

We need your continued inspiration toward helping to fulfill that mission.

“FLOORING” is the theme of the “Spring Call” for shareholders to assist us with this season. We have undertaken the important task of redoing some critical flooring areas in camp. One of those areas is at the Dining Hall. For several years now we have been “cited” by the Health Inspector for the tile flooring being in total failure in the food prep areas. The United Methodist traveling RVers called NOMADS are currently in the process of replacing the old tile flooring with Quarry tile. It is looking great, and the volunteer work being used is saving us almost \$8,000 in labor cost but the materials cost is almost \$6,000.

We need your support to help us offset this expense. We, here at Sacramento Methodist Assembly, offer our heartfelt thanks for assisting us in this wonderful ministry. Your “Blessing” to us will continue to help us fulfill our mission: *Come to the Mountain. Let God Refresh Your Soul!*

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Some of My Thoughts, May, 2008

Imagine yourself seated in front of 1,000 delegates with another 500 people watching what is taking place. You are the presiding officer and many of those individuals know the rules of the Conference at least as well or better than you do. Many of those individuals believe God revealed to them the actions that the Conference needs to take and other delegates possess contradictory revelations.



To add to the drama, the officials behind the scenes communicated to you the need to complete a large quantity of work before the Conference recesses for the evening.

Two delegates approach you just minutes before the session and inform you they will watch you very closely to insure you are fair with all the delegates.

The above situation briefly describes the opportunity I had last week as the Committee on Presiding Officers invited me to preside over General Conference. I found my stomach tied in knots and my mouth so dry that speaking was difficult. This was not the gracious, loving, forgiving, helpful situation I experience during Annual Conference sessions. Members from the Northwest Texas and New Mexico delegations met with me on Wednesday morning and prayed for me as I prepared for this responsibility. They called and invited many of you to join in that circle of prayer that continued throughout the day. I adjourned the session a few minutes early on Wednesday evening and invited the delegates to return to their rooms for a time of rest and renewal. I was physically, emotionally, and spiritually exhausted. I needed rest and renewal and felt we shared a common experience.

Explaining General Conference to those who never participated in such an event is nearly impossible. I moved from great thanksgiving to God for some of the most moving, exciting worship I ever experienced, to some of the most frustrating parliamentary maneuvering to keep the Conference

from expressing its will and pleasure. The sessions began very early in the morning and went much later at night than we expected. Some legislative committees skipped meals and met until midnight in order to complete their work.

Sharing a quick and casual personal reaction, I felt this was one of the best General Conferences I had attended since the uniting conference in 1968 when The Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren became The United Methodist Church. The delegates diligently sought to engage in Holy Conferencing (to listen to each other and be guided by the Holy Spirit). We engaged in celebrating what God is accomplishing in congregations around the world. I strutted with pride as they featured St. Mark's United Methodist Church in El Paso as one congregation that is making disciples of Jesus Christ and transforming the world.

There is one thing of which I am certain: it is great to be home and engaged in leading these two great annual conferences in fulfilling our mission. I enjoyed the excitement of General Conference, but I enjoy much more my daily routines. Touching people with the love and grace of Jesus Christ is far more important than all the resolutions the delegates adopted. Seeing lives transformed, communities transformed, and the world transformed, are the wonderful opportunities we can experience every day. Nothing compares to actively participating in fulfilling the mission Jesus Christ entrusted to us.

Grace & Peace,
Max (Bishop D. Max Whitfield)
May, 2008

A Christian steward is loving.

Christian stewards know that the Lord requires justice and kindness and humility, and they follow the two greatest Commandments.

Church Calendar: The church calendar may be found on the church website. Paper copies are on the back sanctuary table.

Visit us at www.fumcdeming.com

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“Be still and know that I -
and only I - am God!”

Paraphrase of Psalm 46:10b

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