



Online Newsletter

Church

Vandalism Anniversary by *Jack Galbraith, May 27*

We remember that one-year ago this month was the last break-in, the one resulting in the devastating damage to our church building. Let's take a look at what has happened in the past year.

- Thanks to our many volunteers, much of the damage was cleaned up within the first few days of that break-in, including sweeping (and shoveling) broken glass, cleaning areas covered with fire extinguisher residue, cleaning the carpets, inventorying broken/damaged items, and setting rooms back to order.
- We replaced the broken windows.
- We re-keyed the entire building.
- We installed steel grates on interior doors.
- Thanks to your donations, we installed a security alarm system.
- Most of the damaged and stolen equipment has been replaced, including computers, TV's and DVD players.
- Work is progressing on fixing the stained glass windows in the sanctuary.
- The set of apostle prints are in the process of being restored so they can once again grace the walls of our Fellowship Hall.
- There are still some items yet to be replaced. The trustees will be finalizing this soon.
- We have experienced the outpouring of support and love from the community.

Perhaps the most important thing that we have discovered is that the church is more than just the building we inhabit. The church is actually all of us, the Body of Christ, who use this building as a central gathering place. If the building were not here, we would find another place to meet, to worship our loving and gracious God, and to be a living example of that love for our community.

Church

Children's Summer Activities posted *May 28*

What is an Underground Church? One built underground? One that is kept a secret? You'll find out if you join us Sunday mornings during Sunday School as the children explore the world of *Paul and the Underground Church* this summer. Each week, there will be an update on the large white board in the Sunday School wing. Even if you're not a kid, stop by and see what the children are learning!

We're also planning to visit Crocodile Dock for Vacation Bible School in July. This year, we are doing something different. VBS will be held July 13-17 from 5 to 8 pm. We'll meet for a light supper and then proceed to explore the Bayou; crocodiles, flamingos, and fireflies – Oh My! It will be great fun for the whole family. We'll even have movies for your parents so be sure to bring them. We'll begin online registration later this month, so keep checking the church website for information.

Church

Sunday Encounter by *Jack Galbraith, May 27*

Sunday Encounter is a monthly event at which is discussed a variety of topics of interest to those in attendance; the event is led by seminarian Joe MacDonald at the FUMC in Deming.

The Sunday Encounter on June 14th will be slightly different. We welcome back to the church **Haley Pekron** who has agreed to, once again, entertain us with her fiddle playing. The June meeting will begin at 4:00 pm rather than the normal 5:00 pm starting time.

See ya'll at Sunday Encounter on the 14th.

Church

Performing Arts Camp by *Joe MacDonald, May 27*

Performing Arts Camp is an opportunity for children and youth to learn a variety of skills in the

world of performing arts as they work on a production of **HONK**. They will learn music, theatre, set production, costuming, makeup, lighting, sound, and everything else that is involved with preparing for and performing this musical.

Performing Arts Camp will begin June 8 and continue through June 20 (the intervening weekend excluded). Time is 8:30 am through 11:30 am each day. All children and youth who have completed any grade from 2 through 12 are invited to participate. The children and youth will perform **HONK** at 7 pm on the evenings of June 19th and June 20th.

There is no charge for attending the Performing Arts Camp; however, your voluntary donation will be joyfully accepted during the two evening performances.

Please register your child for Performing Arts Camp today by using the registration form on the church website www.fumcdeming.com.



Special Sunday Events by Claire Phillips, May 26

Sunday, June 7th is *Communion Sunday* and also *Peace with Justice Sunday*. We will be collecting non-perishable food items for the local food bank. Your donations may be left in the white barrel in the hallway outside of the sanctuary. Our Communion Sunday collection will benefit Peace with Justice programs to empower United Methodists to work for peace, love and compassion for God's children everywhere.

Sunday, June 21st is *Father's Day* and also *Bread Basket Sunday*. Our special collection will be for camp scholarships. A camp experience can be life changing for a child or youth, as many of our children and youth will testify. However, due to rising expenses, camp is a luxury many families cannot afford, particular if they have more than one child who wants to go. This collection will allow us to offer scholarships to our children and youth who want to go, as well as paying the way for adult sponsors to accompany the kids. Why not make a donation in memory or honor of that special father or father figure in your life? Sponsoring a child for camp is a wonderful gift for the man who has everything, especially knowing your donation will help change a life. Thank you for your generosity for these programs.



Memorial Service by Claire Phillips, May 26

Bill Blake, a member of our congregation, passed away on April 22, 2009. There will be a memorial service for Bill on Saturday, June 27th at 1pm in the sanctuary.

Following the service, friends are asked to visit with the family at a desert reception to be held at County Club Gardens at 1201 Tennyson Drive South.

Please join Bill's family as they celebrate his life.



Church Softball League by Heather Chavez, May 25

The church has received an invitation to organize one or more mixed-gender softball team(s) to participate in the Deming Church Softball League. Registration is open from now 'til June 30th. Dates of practice and play have not been announced.

Teams may have a maximum of 20 players. A minimum of three women per team is required. All players must attend at least one service each week to participate on a team.

If interested in either participating on a FUMC-Deming team, or becoming the team organizer, please contact the church office.



New Beginnings by Rose Commodore, May 19

By now, many of you have heard about Healing House, our local domestic violence shelter. We are blessed to have that available. But did you know that we have another ministry to help support women? It is called *New Beginnings*.

New Beginnings is a private home in a residential area (in the county) with a capacity to assist six women and four children. They seek to serve women who are in a transitional time in their lives, including:

- Women coming out of prison

- Women coming out of a foster care program
- Women who have lost their home or job
- Women who are going through a divorce, etc.

Their target population is local people in Luna County. They will be accepting referrals from Love, INC., local pastors, the Detention Center, or Human Services. Women who enter the New Beginnings program will be asked to sign a covenant and to commit to working on set goals that are established in dialog with the facility manager. Such goals could include getting their GED, finding a job, or other goal needed to help them transition into a new beginning. Women will also be asked to follow established house rules. Women may live there rent free but, if working, will be required to make \$100 monthly donations towards food and utility expenses, along with a one-time donation of \$100 towards household maintenance.

New Beginnings is currently in Phase One. They have a small board of directors, have established bylaws, set house rules and created an intake form. They are in the process of applying for non-profit status and a 501c3. In Phase Two, the board hopes to pursue grants and donations to help offset the cost for those with no money. They also want to be able to child-proof the house so that they can offer their services to women with children. In Phase Three, they hope to expand to other homes and include families dealing with transitional events, not just women.

New Beginnings seeks to assist women with developing their relationship with Jesus Christ, connecting with a church family, and making sound, moral decision. These goals will be accomplished through a spiritual mentorship program, group prayer, Bible study and church attendance. They also are looking for volunteers who would like to be trained to assist women with:

- Finding and/or keeping a job
- Saving and budgeting money
- Moving into their own home or apartment
- Improving their parenting skills
- Improving their basic life skills (cooking, cleaning, etc.)
- Increasing their literacy skills by at least 3 grade levels.

These are ways in which you can help this fledgling ministry move forward:

- Volunteer for maintenance, painting, landscaping, etc.
- Mentor a woman by sharing your life-skill (reading, cooking, sewing, etc.)
- Volunteers to drive women to various locations or help them with haircuts, or their nails, etc.
- Staff the home while the manager is at work or away, etc.
- Financial donations will be appreciated
- Donations of other supplies (call for a specific list) or Pepper's Supermarket gift certificates
- Volunteer to become a board member to assist with planning

For more information, please contact Rose Commodore at 544-0063 or you may email her at newbeginningrose@hughes.net. The mailing address is 713 W Spruce, PMB #66, Deming NM 88030.



Deming Habitat for Humanity by *Richard Hayes, May 15*

Habitat for Humanity is a Christian organization that has done a lot of good for the community.

There are several families that would not have a house of their own without Habitat for Humanity.

Habitat does not give houses away but makes it possible for low income families to buy a house with payments they can afford. This is possible because much of the labor is by volunteers and the mortgages are interest free. The family also has to put in 500 hours working on their house or another Habitat house.

Deming Habitat for Humanity desperately needs more members, especially Board Members. This organization will not survive if there are not more people willing to participate.

Deming Habitat for Humanity is now accepting applications for the next house to be built, providing there is enough help to build the house. This will be the last house built by Habitat unless more people get involved with Deming Habitat.

If you would like more information, please leave a message on Deming Habitat for Humanity's office phone, 546-4540.

Church

The Church and Facebook by Carol Alberts, May 13

A new Ministry Protection Memo (MPM) regarding the **Church and Facebook** has been posted on www.umcpact.org. A direct link to this MPM appears below. This MPM will be of interest to any person or group considering the use of Facebook as an extension of its ministry or program/activity. [http://umcpact.org/fileDownload/index.cfm?file=PACT MPM The Church and Facebook.pdf&fileType=m](http://umcpact.org/fileDownload/index.cfm?file=PACT%20MPM%20The%20Church%20and%20Facebook.pdf&fileType=m) The MPM series is offered as an educational tool in support of PACT's property and casualty insurance program to help churches develop loss control procedures to suit their specific needs. PACT is owned by its members; the General Council on Finance and Administration (GCFA) is a member on the Board of Directors of PACT.

Mission

Area Resource Center by Maribeth Williams, May 13

Did you know that the NWTX Area Resource Center has many great resources which are available to NM conference churches? They would love to serve more New Mexico churches by renting them the \$5 or \$10 DVD studies that they have. Their intention is always to keep the most current videos that are helpful and instructional to churches. People can see the catalog, look up titles and topics, and even order online. Take a moment to check out their resources.

The link to the NWTX/NM Area Resource Center is: http://www.nwtxconf.org/resource_find.asp

The link is also available on the NM conference website on the *Other links of interest to United Methodists* page.

Mission

UMCOR West Opens by Cheryl Hicks, May 13

Volunteers have been hard at work preparing the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) West Office and Depot for the grand opening on May 30 in Salt Lake City, Utah. According to director, Rev. Brian Diggs, "the outpouring of support from local United Methodists has been awesome." He continues, "There has been a constant flow of volunteers faithfully coming in to paint, clean, provide administrative support and organize supplies."

The organization operates UMCOR West in Utah and UMCOR Sager Brown in La. Says Kathy Kraiza who manages the operations of both depots, "UMCOR West will provide new mission opportunities for groups, especially those in the Western Jurisdiction. The Rocky Mountain region is a beautiful area to experience the community that comes with assembling relief kits."

An Invitation: The official opening on May 30 is open to all United Methodists and others who are interested in learning more about UMCOR West. Guests are invited to bring assembled kits or donate supplies (visit <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umcor> for needs) as a "housewarming gift." The grand opening celebration is scheduled from 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm. Pre-registration is not required. The day will include a barbeque at noon, ribbon cutting and consecration at 1:00, relief supplies workshop and a tour of the 22,000 square foot warehouse at 2:00, followed by fellowship and Q&A with UMCOR representatives. Says Diggs, "We are looking forward to hosting a community event, answering questions and exploring how we might fully put the Gospel into practice."

Full Story: <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umcor/newsroom/releases/archives09/umcorwestpreparestoopen/>

Worship

My Thoughts by Bishop Max Whitfield, May 12

Many public schools are approaching the end of their year and families are planning for the summer. I strongly encourage you to help place Camping at Sacramento into those plans. Our Camp Directors spend a significant amount of time, energy, and preparation to make our camps an opportunity for children and youth to encounter Jesus Christ, to grow in their faith, and to discover the joy of Christian discipleship. I hope you will do your part by encouraging children and youth (also, their parents) to invest their time and money in an experience they will always remember and cherish.

I hope every congregation will have at least one camper from their community participate in each of the age level camps this summer. Camping is a great opportunity to reach out to children and youth who are not part of

the congregation by offering these young persons a scholarship to go to camp. Try to remember what a camping experience meant to you, or would have meant to you. The children and youth, inside and outside of our congregations, need to know there are people in the United Methodist Church who love and care for them. Pastors and laity may need to make a special effort to transport these children and youth to camp. Some of their parents cannot leave their employment to provide transportation to and from Sacramento. Neighboring congregations can also work with each other to help make these experiences possible.

Let us all work together to make this the best camping season ever.

Grace & Peace,

Max

Church

United Methodist Women -- June 2009 by Rosalee Gillett, May 11

Three boxes were sent to Four Corners Ministry as an outreach of our Native American Study. We are still collecting items for them during the summer. Anyone in the congregation interested in helping with this project, contact Rosalee Gillett 544-8201.

Don't throw away any jewelry, even if it needs repair, cleaning, etc. We are still collecting those items and Loraine Lutonsky or Rosalee Gillett will be glad to pick them up or meet you at the Church.

Have you noticed a giant coke bottle in Fellowship Hall? The UMW is having a penny drive for Alpine Community Center in Alpine, Tx. which is one of our mission projects.

We continue to save Campbell Soup bar code labels and the small bright pink ten cent education labels. The basket for these is in the hallway just outside the Sanctuary double doors.

The UMW will not meet in JUNE or JULY. However, you need to mark your calendars for these dates:

- School of Christian Mission JULY 17-20 at Sacramento Methodist Assembly. There are three scholarships for first time attendees. Spiritual Growth study is Food & Faith.
 - AUGUST 15 for our potluck-picnic at the Wolfs (more details later).
 - OCTOBER 23 and 24 for the 2009 UMW Annual Meeting in Albuquerque
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Youth

Youth Group: Portable Ramps by Sue Holdridge, May 5

Part of the youth group's ministry work in our community to raise money to help purchase portable ramps. These ramps are then installed at homes where the residents, due to various health issues, are unable to negotiate the steps that lead into their houses. These ramps allow residents to more easily leave their homes.

We are working on ramps and, praise God, Don Cameron, Rick, and Elmer Veeder went to a woman's house yesterday and installed an aluminum ramp. Her husband - who has cancer - had not been able to get out of the house due to the lack of a ramp. Praise God, they got a good price on this one and it was ready to be assembled. The ramp is on loan to this couple and will be used for another case when it is no longer needed.

Work is progressing on a second temporary ramp which the youth will complete. The money will come from the youth designated account. This project is part of the youth's mission project.

Ed. Note: Part of the money received from the sale of Easter lilies is being used for this project.

We will be working on other ramps.

Worship

Little Lambs Preschool -- April 2009 posted May 3

April was here and now it's gone. We studied Easter and learned that Jesus is alive forever. We were out for a week for Spring Break and we all got recharged. All the students came back excited and ready for some more learning and fun. We have completed some projects that have taken us all year. We painted and covered our walls with beautiful artwork. We did whip cream, shaving cream, and slime (makes you want to come to preschool). We have one more month of fun and togetherness. What a life we have.

Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed ... Proverbs 16:3



12th Annual Conference (1901) by Jack Galbraith, May 1

Claire found in some church records a CD (compiler unknown) containing material pertinent to First United Methodist Church and to Deming. This is the third article extracted from that CD; more may appear in this newsletter from time to time.

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Methodist Conference

The Twelfth annual session of the New Mexico Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, will convene at the M.E. Church in Deming on Thursday morning, August 22d, with Bishop E.R. Hendrix, of Kansas City, Mo., in the chair. This conference will be composed of some 25 preachers and eight lay delegates, together with a number of their wives and lady friends. At these annual gatherings the preachers all make detailed reports of the work done in their respective charges, the characters of all the preachers and their gifts and usefulness are carefully examined into, and the preachers receive their appointments for the next year's work. The people of Deming have thrown open their doors to receive and entertain the visiting friends, and all are expecting a good time. There will be preaching at least every night during the session and perhaps in the afternoons as well. The opening sermon will be preached on Wednesday night by Rev. E.F. Goodson, presiding elder of the El Paso district.

Bishop Hendrix is a strong preacher, a man of wide learning, culture and extensive travel. The Bishop will preach in the Methodist Church morning and night on Sunday the 26th. It will be a rare treat to all who can attend and hear his opening address on Thursday morning. Let the people of Deming turn out in great numbers and give a hearty welcome to these men of God, and at the same time reap the benefit of their wisdom and long experience in church work. A hearty welcome will be given to all, to both business sessions and devotional services.

More Coverage of 12th Annual Conference

The Herald even put the story on the front page when the appointments were made. Deming was back in El Paso District with E.T. Goodson as Presiding Elder. J.M. Ray was reassigned to Deming (no mention of his absence).

Ed. Note: Previous items in The Deming Headlight report on June 8 that "Rev. I.S. Smith left for Albuquerque, Wednesday evening, to attend district conference", later reported (date unknown) that "Rev. I.S. Smith writes Mrs. W.P. Tossell that he will reach home in time to conduct services at the M.E. church Sunday morning", and finally reported that "Rev. I.S. Smith, his wife and small son went to El Paso on church business on June 15", according to the newspaper, and despite the letter to Mrs. Tossell, never returned. Mrs. Smith did not move her membership to the local church so she must have known the move was temporary. The Deming church was preparing to host Annual Conference without a resident pastor. No church records has been found to explain it.

Robert Hodgson was P.E. for Albuquerque District and Mark Hodgson was named as pastor in Albuquerque. In 1901, being made presiding elder was not regarded as a promotion. It was just another job and serving a smaller church was not supposed to be a demotion. The preachers were just taking turns. The Headlight Aug. 31, gives Closing of Conference.