



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Deming, New Mexico

March 2007

“Christ has wiped out the damning evidence which hung over our heads by nailing it over his own.”

Colossians 2: 14b

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
Beth Stevens - Assistant to the Pastor

*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

Where Do Pastors Come From?

One of the questions that I have been asked repeatedly over my 25 years of serving as a pastor is: Why do pastors move around so much?

Pastors move like we do because that is how Methodism spread in the early days of the movement. Itinerancy (which is the regular moving of pastors by the Bishop) was the mission strategy for the early Methodists. In its beginnings, it worked well for single men who could ride the circuits without the demands of family. The early circuit riders succeeded in taking the Gospel to the furthest reaches of the frontiers of this country. As time passed, and modes of transportation improved, some of the pastors began to marry and have families. Appointments started to last a little longer in some places.

Today United Methodists have two orders of ordained ministry. One is the deacon. Deacons are called into the general ministry of service. Typically a deacon may preach, teach, and lead in serving others. Deacons may serve as Christian education directors, youth ministers, music ministers, chaplains in hospitals and nursing homes, and similar places. Deacons are not appointed like the other order of ministry, the elders. Deacons negotiate their places of ministry directly. Deacons are not appointed as pastors, and they may not do the sacraments of Baptism or Communion, but they can do weddings and funerals. In general, while they do have their own

ministry of service, they also assist elders in their ministry. Our Music Director, Joe MacDonald, is a candidate for ordination as a deacon.

The order of elders is the second order of ministry. Elders are ordained to do most of the things that deacons may do, and in addition they are typically assigned as pastors of congregations. They preach, administer the sacraments, and lead and oversee the ministry of a congregation or congregations.

Elders offer themselves "without reserve to be appointed and to serve, after consultation, as the appointive authority may determine." This is the covenant for mission and ministry, which is at the heart of the itinerancy.

The itinerant system has made it possible for Methodism to go where no church has gone before: to every crossroad community, every city in every state. As people pushed into the frontiers of America, the circuit riders found their way to communities being settled. At its best, itinerancy still makes that push into the frontier of America possible.

In case you're wondering why I am giving you a church history lesson, it is because each year the Bishop and the District Superintendents all gather to appoint pastors to churches. Personally, I hope that it's many years before I am appointed to a different congregation. But in reality, I have to be ready each year. Bishop Max, and the District Superintendents, are making appointments now, and I know that they appreciate our prayers!

See you in church!



YOU OUTTA BE IN PICTURES!

Really. Truly. Honestly. We wouldn't fool you. YOU outta be in pictures!

But we have one special picture in mind - our upcoming pictorial church directory. And this is a very special directory because this one will help commemorate our congregation's 125th year in Deming, NM. Can you imagine - 125 years? Wow!

One of the special ways in which we will celebrate is to have an "all church" picture made that will be a collage of all of the pictures taken for this directory. So now you know one reason why it is so important to have (and your family) in our directory.

The second reason has to do with Pastor Keath. We did give him a pictorial directory prior to his arrival. But, as you well know, a lot of things can happen in five years (that's how long it's been since our last directory). We've had lots of changes in faces. A new directory would help Pastor Keath keep track of who's who in our congregation! (No, I didn't say he has a bad memory - just that there are lots of names and faces to remember!).

We will be taking appointments after each service on Sunday March 4th. OR you can call the office. Don't worry, if we miss you, you'll get a personal follow-up call. (continued on page 9)

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***CHURCH FINANCES AND CHANGE***

Some people struggle against change. I

seem to embrace most change. I prefer indoor plumbing; I prefer the view from my car on the interstate rather than the view from a horse-drawn carriage; I relish my cell phone and the internet.

Change also permeates our church life. In agrarian times, an offering might include a chicken and a bag of grain. Industrial workers were paid weekly in cash and therefore made an offering weekly. My father saw the change from weekly cash to paycheck; I saw the change from paycheck to direct deposit; from semi-monthly to quarterly 401(k) withdrawal. No longer need there be a connection between our income cycles and the weekly church collection.

I've heard pastors speak of the ideal wherein an offering is part of every worship experience. Pastor Keath recognizes that change is inevitable. He doesn't fault me for my tithe paid monthly; he doesn't object that my check is generated automatically by a bank rather than generated manually by me.

If you enjoy tithing in cash, please continue. If you enjoy writing a weekly or monthly check, please continue. But if you, like me, dislike the check writing process, please consider having your bank automatically generate that check for you. You benefit by eliminating a task from your already busy schedule; you benefit by knowing that your financial support of the church will continue regardless of sickness, visitors, vacation travel, or similar distractions. The church benefits from your support of its programs regardless of changes in your daily life.



|                           |                                             |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Bill Blake                | John Plant                                  |
| Dawn Blalock              | Joyce Richards                              |
| Joe Bob Brown             | Mary Roberts                                |
| The Burkles               | Howard Roth                                 |
| Helen Covey               | Brian Schumacher                            |
| Breece DeBoutez           | Seymour Family                              |
| Travis Dodson &<br>family | Shirley Skaggs                              |
| Dylan Everman             | Terry Soweija                               |
| Jarod Ferguson            | Myrtle Thomas                               |
| Gerald Gaylord            | Families dealing with<br>grief: Gottschalk, |
| Chris/Juan Gonzales       | Hyatt Luchsinger,                           |
| Manny Gonzales            | Proebstel                                   |
| Valerie Hamme             |                                             |
| Bonnie Hoskins            | Family Members &<br>their units serving the |
| Lois Kelly                | armed forces (some<br>overseas):            |
| Larry & Letitia Koble     | David Chestman,                             |
| Carol LeDuc               | Travis Dodson's unit,                       |
| LeOre Lloyd               | Jason Hammers, Joel                         |
| Joan Mallery              | Hunt, Shaun M. Jones,                       |
| June Manning              | Jennifer/John Lively,                       |
| Marvin Marcak             | Jennifer/Jarrod                             |
| Jeremiah Marquart         | McGee, Josh                                 |
| Derald May                | Robertson, Lucas                            |
| Martha Meyers             | Serna, L. Charles                           |
| Mary Ethel Miller         | Stanley, Greg Stube,                        |
| Al Nason                  | Danny Symonds, Van                          |
| Jo Nichalson              | Welch                                       |
| Marilyn Offutt            |                                             |
| Russell Petersen          |                                             |
| Ann/Brian Pettit          |                                             |

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

**Enchilada Dinner** from 4 to 6 pm on Thursday, February 1, at the Oddfellows Hall on Gold Avenue (just south of Baca's). \$5 per plate includes your drink and a yummy dessert. You can dine-in or get a carry-out box. The proceeds benefit the Oddfellows scholarship programs.

**Blood Drive** - Thursday, March 8, from 9 am to 1pm in our Fellowship Hall. Please call the office for an appointment, or walk-in. An hour of your time and the gift of life are appreciated!

**Plastic grocery sacks** are needed for Deming Helping Hand for the monthly food commodities donations. You may leave sacks in the marked box in the Fellowship Hall). Your donation of time is also needed. If you could also help with the monthly food distribution, please call Deming Helping Hand at 546-2558, even if you can work only once. Thank you.

**Blankets and Pennies** - Grace Fellowship is collecting blankets (new or clean, used ones) and pennies for their shelter and soup kitchen. The blanket box is in the Sunday School hallway next to the white food barrel, and the penny can on the resource table across the hallway. They can also use donations of food (the white barrel outside of the sanctuary) and/or men's clothing.



**Daylight Savings Time** starts EARLY this year, at 2am on Sunday, March 11. This is your reminder to set your clocks *ahead* one hour before bedtime on Saturday night!

*From the Mailbag*

“2/4/07

Dear Friends,

All of us at Deming Habitat for Humanity want to thank you for your generous donation to our organization. Without friends like you, we couldn't continue to build homes for the needy at affordable prices.

Yours,  
Sandra Palmer, Board Member”

**Note:** Last year we supported Habitat for Humanity with donations of over \$640.00 - all thanks to you!

The following is an except from a letter of thanks from Angel Tree, a ministry of prison fellowship that allows prisoners to purchase Christmas gifts for their children.

“I want to convey my heartfelt thanks to all of you for the time, energies and resources invested in making sure that so many children were connected with their inmate parent and shown unconditional love and acceptance through you and your volunteers. In New Mexico alone, 5074 children were served while 119 churches and organizations helped make that possible!”

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***LENTEN/EASTER  
SCHEDULE AND ACTIVITIES***

**Lenten Soup Suppers** are an opportunity to meet new people as well share memories

with old friends. Take this Lenten time to invite someone new into your home to share a meal, maybe two people you know and one or you don't or someone you could know better. (Don't forget the singles and widows/widowers; they like to have fun too!) Serve a simple meal, such as soup, bread and fellowship! You could do a Lenten devotional or ask one of your guests to share a few thoughts about this special time of year. The idea is to come together in fellowship. By keeping it simple, you might find you want to do it more than once! Pass it on, have fun, and remember, keep it simple.

**Our Holy Week Services** will begin Wednesday, April 4th when we will participate in a joint Tennebrae service with St. Luke's Episcopal Church, the time and location to be announced.

On **Maundy Thursday**, we will have a Communion Service at 6:30 pm, with a special musical presentation by the combined music ministries of First UMC.

On **Good Friday**, we will have a service at 6:30 pm.

On **Easter Sunday** (April 9) we will *celebrate Christ's Resurrection* with a Sunrise Service, time to be announced. We will have our regular 8 and 10:30 am services to include special music, as well the service of Holy Communion. Also, there will be an Easter Egg hunt for the kids during Sunday School.

On a side note, if you would like to help (on a rotating basis) with **Children's Church** (during worship services), please contact Murray Baskett at 494-7547.

## *UMW News!*

Thank You from the UMW. Your generous support of their recent rummage sale helped them raise over \$600.00. This money goes to support a number of ministries. Among them are McMurry University (we have 2 students there!), Four Corners Native American Ministry (Elmer Yazzie's work is included here), Houchen Community Center and Lydia Patterson Institute - both in El Paso (our backyard), McCurdy School in Espanola (another back yard), The Methodist Children's Home in Waco, TX and the Methodist Mission Home in San Antonio, TX (both supporting at risk children and families), Sacramento Methodist Assembly (our church camp) and locally: Deming Helping Hand, Grace Fellowship, Healing House, St. Vincent de Paul - all ministries that assist low income and very low income families. WOW! Your support goes a LONG way!

Did you know??? The New Mexico UMW consists of three districts - Albuquerque, Clovis and El Paso. Last October at the Annual Meeting, the combination of a silent auction, mission candle (our funds were sent for a minute in memory of Martha Deuel) and two offerings brought \$7,885.12 for mission giving for all three districts.

Our local unit is in the El Paso District and we are privileged to host the UMW Annual (state-wide) meeting here at FUMC on April 20 and 21st. We will need the support and help of the congregation. Towards the end of March, we will have a sign up sheet in the

Fellowship Hall listing areas of help. So look for that as well as further details in the April newsletter for ways you can help.

Many, many thanks to all who contributed and helped with our rummage sale (our total proceeds were \$616.85). A special thanks to Loraine Lutonsky, George Chase, Dick Huffman and friends with trucks who helped distribute the leftovers.

Congrats to Kellye Stimpson (daughter of Joe and Mickie Stimpson) on making the Deans List at ENMU, Portales!!!

The March UMW meeting is on the 17th and will be held in the Chapel at 2 pm. Our speaker will be Barbara Walsh, author of "On Angel Wings." Come and enjoy this informal angel discussion and explanation of why she started carving angels and how the book came to be. ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME.

Don't miss this one! Mark your calendar for a UMW High Tea and Fashion Show May 19. Again, ALL women, young and old, are invited to attend.

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## *SIS - Singles In Service*

A Non-Denomination Singles Group, **SIS (Singles in Service)** has been formed for the purpose of fun, friendship, and service. Singles of all ages and backgrounds are welcome to stop by the First United Methodist Church at 5:30pm on any Thursday, for a soup supper and meeting. Why not come and make a friend - and bring another single friend?



**TAKE  
NOTE**

With the coming of the Easter Holiday, comes the anticipation of the Lenten Season. Let us remember in our daily routines to take a few minutes to give thanks for all that God has given to us. Remember, time is fleeting. Give thanks while you can.

Schedule for March:

Week of 3/5: Regular Rehearsal Schedule

\*\*Extra Rehearsals for Easter:

Treble Voices 3/5, 6:30-7:30 pm

Tenor/Bass Voices: 3/6, 7:15-8pm

**Week of 3/12: Modified Rehearsal  
Schedule**

3/12 (Mon.) - Bell Macto 5:30-6:30 pm

Chancel Choir 7-8 pm

3/13 (Tue.) - SOUL Kids, 3:30-5 pm

3/14 - (Wed.). \*\*\*No Rehearsals\*\*\*

3/15 - (Thus.) Praise Team, 5:30-6:30 pm

Week of 3/19: Regular Rehearsal Schedule

Week of 3/20: Regular Rehearsal Schedule

Looking Ahead:

**Week of 4/2, Holy Week**

4/2 (Mon.) - Bell Macto, 5:30-6:30 pm

4/2 (Mon.) - Chancel Choir, 6:30-8 pm

4/3 (Tue.) - SOUL Kids, 3:30-5 pm

4/3 (Tue.) - Praise Team, 6:30-7:30 pm

4/4 (Wed.) - No Rehearsals; Tenebrae  
Service, 7pm at St. Luke's Episcopal  
Church, (see page 5)

4/5 (Thus.) - Maundy Thursday service and  
cantata at 6:30 pm in our sanctuary.

4/6 (Fri.) - Good Friday service at 6:30 pm  
in our sanctuary.

**Week of April 9<sup>th</sup>: No Rehearsals**

May God's blessings be with you and your families during this season of reflection.

Blessings and Joy,  
Joe

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YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALONE

Hospice could use that as a motto as they seek to walk with families going through difficult situations. If you have heart to help (drive, talk, read, listen, smile or even cook), then the Alma Field Hospice Board is looking for you. There will be a training session for Hospice Volunteers on March 24 at the Amber Care office on 112 W. Pine. If you are interested, stop by and pick up an application. You can also call Amber Care at 546-4664 for more info.

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There are many wonderful **community events** happening this month. Due to space constraints, we are unable to publicize them all so stop by and check out the bulletin board in the office hallway for what's doin' in Deming!

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You can help **keep our kids safe** by escorting your children (or grandchildren) to and from the Sunday School wing, keeping an eye on them when they are playing on the playground equipment, and asking them to remember not to run in the church. Let's help create a safe sanctuary for ALL of God's children!

Join FUMC "Faith Walkers"

The *Faith Walkers* of 1st United Methodist Church will join other groups from the community on Saturday, March 31, at the second annual Celebration of Life sponsored by the Deming Rotary Club. The Celebration will take place at Voiers Park (formerly called Pit Park) from 8:00 am to 12:00 noon. Registration begins at 8:00 am followed by the walk at 9:00 am. Immediately following the event, ceremonies and a catered lunch will be held at the Deming Special Events Center.

No matter what your size of shoe or age, come join the 1st United Methodist Church team of *Faith Walkers* at the Celebration of Life. All proceeds stay in Luna County and will go to Cancer Support of Deming and Luna County, Inc. to help our local "Cancer Warriors." If you cannot walk, you can support those who do from the sidelines; or you can make a contribution to go toward our team's contribution to the event. Walkers may choose the length of time they stay on the track. Registration is \$11.00 and includes a t-shirt. For an additional \$7.00 you may eat a catered lunch at the ceremonies immediately following the walk. Registration slips may be found in the church bulletin, at the church office or by contacting Mary Lou Cameron at 546-3103 (maryloucameron@hughes.net); Barbara Walsh at 544-0274 (barbarasbarn@hotmail.com); or Mary Frosch at (mbfrosch@hotmail.com) by March 18.

Help us be a visible sign of our faith working in the community by joining our church team!

Little Lambs Preschool

(Editor's Note: This is from their January news; February's was unavailable at press time.)

Hello 2007. We all had a wonderful Christmas holiday and we're glad to get back to school. We enrolled new students to fill our empty slots and we are doing just fine. We will start taking registrations for the 2007-2008 school year beginning March 1st so tell everybody.

We spent January exercising, cooking, and learning about God creating this great big wonderful world for us to enjoy and take care of. He loves us so much.

Something to smile about: A three year-old student in our class is learning to say the Lord's Prayer with his mother. She said they were working on it. She would say some and he would repeat it...up to the part...she says...give us this day our daily bread. He repeats...she says....but before she could say more, he pipes ups....and butter! The Lord has a wonderful sense of humor....listen to the children.

NOTE: Little Lambs is taking registrations for their three and four year-old 2007-2008 classes (to begin after Labor Day). These classes fill up early so if you are interested, please call the church office (546-2791) and ask for Little Lambs. If it is after 11:30 am during the week, you may contact Meddy Garrett (the director) at 546-8074.

Greet a visitor on Sunday. Please make others feel at home with us!

**THANKS FROM THE
DODSON FAMILY**

Travis Dodson’s family extends their heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you for your concern, your love, your friendship, your help, the cards, the letters, the notes, and most of all - the outpouring of prayer that has surrounded them since Travis was critically injured in Iraq on Valentine’s Day. Your prayers have upheld and sustained them in ways we cannot even begin to imagine.

As you know, Travis is now at Bethesda Naval Hospital in Maryland. Casey, Cheryl Kae and Lauren are staying there. Haley had to return to her job in Phoenix.

Travis has a long and difficult recovery from his wounds. Your continued prayers for the family, for Travis, and for the medical teams who attend him are deeply appreciated.

Cards and letters may be sent to Travis and the Dodsons c/o The Fisher House, 2400 Stokes Rd., Bethesda MD 20814-5002. You can monitor his progress on the web-site set up by family members at www.travisdodson.com. If you have visited the website and experience problems leaving a message in the guestbook, check the FAQ page for more information.

Monetary donations to help support the family and Travis through the recovery process may be made either to the church, or you may take your donation to Michelle Taylor at First Savings Bank who will place it in the Dodsons’ account.

**‘POWER SURGE’ AUTHOR
IS COMING TO NEW MEXICO!**

Michael Foss, author of the book *Power Surge* (distributed at Annual Conference and being read - hopefully - by Ad Council members) is coming to New Mexico THIS MONTH.

He will be in El Paso on Wednesday, March 14, at St. Luke’s UMC (9915 Montwood - directions available at the office) from 10am to 4pm.

This is a **free** seminar. The only cost will be a donation for lunch. Make plans now to attend this interesting and informative presentation.

PLEASE NOTE: The office will be *closed* on March 14 as the entire staff will be in El Paso at the Michael Foss seminar. Also note the change in music practices for that night on page seven of the newsletter.

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YOU OUTTA BE IN PICTURES!

(continued from page 3)

If you are unable to come in for a picture, you can submit one to the church office. Please make sure everyone’s name is listed on the back, in the correct order. If it is from a professional studio (other than Olan Mills), we cannot use it without a release from that studio.

Remember, this is our 125th anniversary edition. Help make it special by scheduling your appointment today. It won’t be the same without YOU!

