



Online Newsletter

Electronic "First Issue" Newsletter by Jack Galbraith, February 25

This is the first issue of the newsletter for the First United Methodist Church of Deming, NM that began its "life" in all-electronic form. This newsletter "grew" throughout the month, not just at month-end, and was always available on the church website. Notice that each article has, in addition to a title and the name of the contributor, the date it was added to the newsletter; if you had visited the website during the month, you could have read these articles long before now. If you had "subscribed" to the newsletter (free, and easy to do), then the church website would have informed you when a new article was added to the newsletter.

The primary benefit of the Electronic Newsletter is simple: you get the news of the church as it happens, not when it's old and stale. And when you subscribe to the Electronic Newsletter, you get free direct-to-your-computer home delivery.

Don't know how to subscribe. Easy: just visit the church website (<http://www.fumcdeming.com>) and click on the orange button labeled "RSS" which is located at the top-right of the Main page. A page of instructions will be presented. If you're still unsure, just send an eMail to the webmaster (click the word "webmaster" at the very bottom of the Main page) and he will contact you.

March Bread Basket by Claire Philips-Onate, February 27

The March 15th bread basket offering will benefit Cancer Support of Deming and Luna County. Please be generous.

Discover Methodist Class by Claire Philips-Onate, February 27

If you are interested in learning more about the Methodist Church, or are interesting in becoming a member of our congregation, please join Pastor Keath and the staff for a series of Discover classes. Classes will be held on Sunday mornings from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. on March 8, 15 and 22. There is no obligation to join the church. So if you've ever wondering what the United Methodist Church, or our congregation, believe, join us starting on March 8th. Child care is available. Please call the church office at 546-2791 if you plan to attend.

Ramp-builders Needed by Carol at Love INC, February 20

Love INC has discovered a real need in the community - ramps for those who are not able to navigate in or out of their homes because there is no resource to build them. Usually, these people are disabled, have limited incomes or resources to help. Agencies in town have found no resource either.

Recently, we have used volunteers to assess the need and build ramps or help supply the materials for two clients. We now have seven (7) more clients in need. Some of them can help with part of the cost of the materials. What an opportunity for the body of Christ to step in and fill this gap!

Love INC is in need of carpenters, welders, assessors, or those willing to purchase material to help meet this need. If we unite our services, we can accomplish the task and reach out with the love of Christ in a tangible way.

Volunteers, please call Love INC at 544-2400 to sign up. You are appreciated so much.

Caregivers Support Group by Claire Phillips-Onate, February 20

If you are caring for a family member, and would like the Christian support of other caregivers, please come to an informational meeting on Wednesday February 25th at 10:00 am. This group will meet regularly to support and uplift one another.

This first meeting is simply to meet and decide upon meeting times. There is no obligation to attend but we

creates an environment for God to change me. The most comfortable way of working, behaving, and being for me may not be God's way. Waiting upon God opens my ears to hear the still small voice of God speaking a word for the world and me. Waiting upon God focuses an image of the Kingdom of God awaiting fulfillment. It is time to wait upon the Lord.

Grace & Peace,
Max

Celebration of Life by Mary Lou Cameron, February 19

Celebration of Life, sponsored by Deming Rotary Club, will be held on Saturday, March 28, between the hours of 8:00 am and 12:00 noon. This event honors cancer warriors and raises money for Cancer Support of Deming and Luna County.

First United Methodist Church will be signing up members for its "Faith Walkers Team" in the coming weeks. This will be the third year for our church to participate. The past two years we have won the "prize" for the largest team of participants. We hope you will consider joining the 1st United Methodist Faith Walkers. We have a lot of fun while supporting our members who are struggling with cancer or honoring those who were brave in the fight but are no longer with us.

The cost of the walk this year is \$15.00. This includes a tee shirt. The awards luncheon will be located at the Mimbres Valley Learning Center for \$7.00 per person. Lunch will either be either a hamburger or hotdog with chips and a dessert. You may do the walk and lunch for \$22.00, the walk for \$15.00 or lunch for \$7.00.

Come join us! This is a fun time of fellowship together as well as showing our "faith" as members of the Faith Walker Team. You may walk for an hour or two or the full morning. Breaks to visit and fellowship are always permissible!

If you wish to join us, please give us the following information:

- Name:
- Walk: Tee shirt size: Y S M L XL 1X 2X 3X
- Lunch: If you wish to purchase a lunch ticket, please circle one of these: Hamburger or Hot Dog.
- Total amount: You may also make a contribution in honor of a friend or loved one. Please make out your checks to Celebration of Life.

Checks with registration information may be left at the Church Office.

Thanks for your prayerful consideration of participating in this event.

(Team captains may be reached at these numbers: Mary Lou Cameron @546-3103, Mary Frosch@546-7693 and Barbara Walsh@544-0274)

Bread Basket Results by Claire Philips-Orate, February 18

In January, the Bread Basket beneficiary was *Human Relations Day*; you contributed \$304.27 to this ministry. In February, the Bread Basket beneficiary was *Deming Healing House* to which you provided \$380.00 in support. Thank you.

Doug Hallock Band at FUMC by Joe MacDonald, February 17

Everyone is invited to attend a concert by Doug Hallock and his "Band of Renown" on Sunday evening, March 8th, in the Gym. Doug's music reflects his struggles with addiction and recovery and is very powerful. The concert begins at 6:00 p.m. and is free to the public, however there will be a love offering to help support the Band and their ministry. Come listen to some great music, great worship, and great fun.

Take Note for March 2009 by Joe MacDonald, February 17

Through our Lenten journey music allows us to go to places that the spoken word could never hope go. It is through music that we can express our absolute joy for the Creator. We can also express sorrows that can only be expressed through music. Let music be a major part of your walk. Let this 40 days of discovery call you back to the joy of your salvation.

Schedule for March

All weeks: Regular Rehearsal Schedule

May God's blessings be with you and your families during this season of renewal and rebirth. The risen Christ is with us!!

Blessings and Joy,
Joe

Camp Dates and Prices at Sacramento Set for 2009, February 13

Here are the final dates for NM Conference Camps for summer 2009

- June 12th-14th -- Younger Children's Camp (completed grades 1-4) Camp Dean is Brenda Crowe
- June 22nd-26th -- Mid-High Camp (completed grades 6-8) Camp Dean is Heath Husted
- June 22nd-26th -- Sr. High Camp (completed grades 9-12) Camp Dean is Jachin Ford
- July 6th-10th -- Elementary Camp (completed grades 4-6) Camp Dean is Kim Kinsey

As you noticed the Camp Program committee has listened to your concerns and has changed the Sr. High date to better fit the schedule of youth directors and churches. It will also allow more efficient use of facilities, volunteers, and vans (good news with energy costs on the rise). Even though Sr. High and Mid-High are the same week they will be SEPARATE CAMPS with separate programming. The two camp deans are very excited about having both camps during the same week and are hard at work planning these events.

We Want Your Mug by Don Cameron, February 13

Would you like to take a guess as to how many Styrofoam and plastic cups we, as a church, put in our local landfill every year? Just from Sunday morning fellowship? That figure may be as high as 5,200 per year. When you add in the Duck Race BBQ and other events, the numbers dramatically increase. Now think back over how many years we've been doing this. That is a LOT of trash going into our landfill. The sad fact is that many plastics take hundreds of years to decompose. Styrofoam items show no sign of ever decomposing.

Many of you, by now, have noticed the *mug tree* in the Fellowship Hall. It is there for two reasons. One is as a cost saving item. Dining room supplies cost money. We are hoping to keep our costs down by asking members to bring their own coffee cups or mugs (plastic ones please for the children) and place them on the mug tree. The second, and perhaps more important reason, is Christian stewardship. God created this world just for us. One simple way in which we can help take better care of our world is to reduce what we put in our local landfill. Coffee and drink cups are a part of that. This is one of just many ways in which we, as Christians, can exercise stewardship of the resources that have been entrusted to us.

To this end, we are asking you to:

- Bring in your own coffee cup and mug (plastic ones please for the kids).
- Write your name on it or use one of our indelible markers to label your mug -- *full names please as we have several people with the same first names and last initials.*
- Wash or rinse your mug and place it back on the tree after use.
- Please leave the cups marked "visitor" for those who are passing through and sharing time with us.
- The pegs are for everyone's use so be creative in marking your cup so it is easy to find.

In today's economic uncertainty, utilizing our mug tree gives our pocketbooks a break while also allowing us to practice, and demonstrate, an important aspect of Christian stewardship.

Letters From Dad by Elmer Veeder, February 13

A little information is about a wonderful program for men called "Letters from Dad". So, gentlemen, ask yourself: Do you have something from your dad that is personal, uplifting, and has his signature on it? Most of us may have some things, but very few have a personal memento with dad's signature. What would you give to have such a letter? Well, this is what "Letters from Dad" is all about. It is designed to help us leave this legacy to those we love.

This is a great opportunity. The first meeting is a free barbeque held at First United Methodist Church on March 5th at 6:00. "Letters from Dad" will be explained at the BBQ and those who would like to sign up for

the four session class may do so. There is no obligation to sign up for the class, so just join us for BBQ on March 5th.

While the BBQ is free, seating is limited. So, please email us at lfd_deming@yahoo.com and give us contact information and the number of men you will be bringing, including yourself. You may also call 575-544-5174 or 575-546-4133 and leave a message.

For further information, you may view the web site, www.lettersfromdad.com.

Hope you will join us for this introduction to "Letters from Dad". It will be great.

United Methodist Women by Rosalee Gillett, February 13

Many thanks to all who donated, helped or purchased items at our Feb. Rummage Sale. All were appreciated.

NOTE; Blessings to whomever installed the new door stops (that work!)

Feb. 21 was our Native American Indian Study. Those attending enjoyed the readings and activities. Our speakers were Cody Ayon from the National Guard Reserves and Nancy Johnson, who is very knowledgeable about Pueblo pottery. She also has articles in the Headlight. Our outreach from this study will be to help the 4 Corners Navajo Ministry in Shiprock, NM.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! for our UMW "Denim and Lace" luncheon May 2, 2009. Methodist Men will be preparing the menu. More details in April newsletter.

Thanks to all who donated sets of dishes. We now have all we need for the FH Kitchen. Several very nice sets that were not needed were put in the UMW Bazaar for November. If you would like to have them returned to you, call Rosalee 544-8201. Also, thanks to all who donated hostess sets to the church. We still need more! We continue to collect Campbell Soup Labels for McCurdy School. Remember we only need the bar code and logo. We want to also start saving the red labels Box top Education found on many products. Each is worth 10 cents and since 2004 McCurdy has accumulated \$40,000, ten cents at a time. Check the basket in the hall just outside the Sanctuary for examples.

UMW Sunday will be March 15. We are very pleased to have Rev. Beverly Jones as our guest speaker. Our March 21 program on Saturday at 2 p.m. in the Chapel is to be announced. Come and see what has been planned. All ladies are welcome.

How a Guest Rated Us, January 29

Glen and Jo Kruger had visitors in January and invited them to church. Their guests were asked to provide a report of their experience. This is how we were rated:

"We attended the early service at your church and were welcomed cordially by lots of people. They gave us a little "goody bag" with candy, bookmarks and a tea bag that was nice. Many of the folks came over and greeted us at the greeting time in the service.

We liked the music, most of which was unfamiliar but easy to sing. The pastor's wife did a nice children's sermon and she also talked to us quite a while after the service. We did not stay too long afterward since we wanted to be on our way. There were lots of young families at this service and the children were all well behaved. We really enjoyed worshipping there. The pianist played and sang for the offering and she was really good. We got alot out of the pastor's message. All in all a great experience."

RSS by Jack Galbraith, January 28

Website designers created a mechanism, i.e. *Really Simple Syndication* (RSS), by which the website itself will tell you when something of possible interest has been added. You benefit by knowing when something new is on the website without having to visit the website. RSS is free and simple and (virtually) painless to use, and consists only of readable text so it cannot infect your computer with a virus.

CNN, MSNBC, ABCnews, indeed most online news services, and this church website all have RSS available. An RSS item typically contains a headline plus a sentence or two that summarizes the information available. You make the decision to click the provided link to connect to the full article, or to not click and thereby ignore the article/information.

The church website has two RSS feeds available: (1) a list of the new stuff added to the website, and (2) the

Online Newsletter being created for the next month—articles are added as they are received and are available to you before the month-end electronic publication.

Subscribe to one or both RSS feeds from the church website now. Visit the main page on the website and click the orange button labeled RSS. You will receive full instructions. You may always contact the webmaster if you have questions or need assistance.

Some Of My Thoughts by Bishop Max Whitfield, January 23

I ran across a statement recently that caused me to stop and ponder its implications. The railroads in this country were at the height of their success and they failed to understand the nature of their business. The executives saw themselves engaged in the railroad business instead of the transportation business. These executives ignored those utilizing cars, trucks, and airplanes for transportation because they were in the railroad business. Automobiles and airplanes were not railroads and they only focused on how to run a railroad. It was only after the railroads faced extinction that the executives realized they had made a significant miscalculation. They were, in fact, in the transportation industry as they ran a railroad.

I struggle through many meetings because it appears we do not understand what our business is. We see ourselves in the church business. We build church facilities, own property, and recruit members. After all, we are in the church business. The focus becomes on how we maintain and sustain the institution. We even talk about our “market share”. We examine how we are performing compared to other churches. “We are the second largest church in the community. We are the largest church in the community.” We fail to understand what our business is.

The church growth movement in the 1970's and '80's helped many congregations, and perhaps some denominations, recognize that growing numerically is important. Declining membership is not a positive characteristic. The negative consequence of the church growth movement was that many congregations began to focus on institutional survival or congregational success, measured numerically rather than focusing upon developing maturing disciples of Jesus Christ. Too many advocates of the Church Growth movement saw themselves in the church business, instead of developing maturing disciples of Jesus Christ.

We must not envision ourselves in the church business. We are in the disciple making, transformation business. We are in the business of helping individuals engage in a relationship with Jesus Christ that transforms their lives and grafts them into a community of faith focused on glorifying God as revealed in Jesus Christ.

One of the books I recently read described the characteristics of healthy congregations. Healthy congregations understand their mission, foster open communication, allow disagreements, and encourage both clergy and laity to utilize their gifts in leading their community. A congregation may be growing numerically, but they may be extremely unhealthy and headed toward disaster. Congregations may resemble great-looking athletes who are only moments away from death because of their risk-taking behavior. Congregations in decline should recognize that they are traveling a pathway that if not addressed, will lead to disaster.

Seeing a congregation that is growing and creating a community where persons are becoming disciples of Jesus Christ, maturing in faith, and transforming the world in which they live is our business. If lives are not being transformed, then we may be working hard at the wrong business.

Jesus calls us to love God, love our neighbor, and make disciples. Let this be our focus.

Grace & Peace,

Max