

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Deming, New Mexico

May 2007

During this month may we remember with love, our mothers and those in our lives who have loved us with a mother's love. May God bless them all.

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.*

Telephone: 505-546-2791
Fax: 505-546-2792
E-mail:
fumc@zianet.com (general & Pastor)
fumcbeth@zianet.com (Ass't to Pastor)
fumcmusic@zianet.com (Music Dir.)
fumcsecty@zianet.com (Secretary)
Website: <http://www.fumcdeming.com>

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

“I Don’t Do...”

This is one of those times of year when everyone seems so busy. The school year is winding down. Spring is here and summer is approaching. People are thinking about vacations and all of the things that need to be done around the house.

Times of busyness are also times when we might start thinking about “cutting back.” We may find ourselves tempted to say “no” to many activities so that we can say “yes” to some of the things that we may want to do. So I thought that maybe it would be appropriate to share with you something that one of my favorite writers and preachers posted on his web site. Enjoy.

“One of our students received an appointment from a bishop, and the student did not feel the placement exactly suited his abilities. I overheard him complaining about it to another student, and then the other student said, “You know, the world’s a better place because Michelangelo did not say, ‘I don’t do ceilings.’”

Her comments stopped me dead in my tracks. I had to admit she was right. If you and I are going to be faithful to the ministry God is calling us to, then we had better

understand that. I reflected on the attitudes of key people throughout the Scriptures and the history of the church.

The world’s a better place because a German monk named Martin Luther did not say, “I don’t do doors.”

The world’s a better place because an Oxford don named John Wesley didn’t say “I don’t do preaching in fields.”

The world’s a better place because Moses didn’t say, “I don’t do Pharaohs or mass migrations.”

The world’s a better place because Noah didn’t say, “I don’t do arks and animals.”

The world’s a better place because Rahab didn’t say, “I don’t do enemy spies.”

The world’s a better place because Ruth didn’t say, “I don’t do Mothers-in-law.”

The world’s a better place because Samuel didn’t say, “I don’t do mornings.”

The world’s a better place because David didn’t say, “I don’t do giants.”

The world’s a better place because Peter didn’t say “I don’t do Gentiles.”

The world’s a better place because John didn’t say, “I don’t do deserts.”

(continued on page 7)

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Can you believe that school will end this month? That means summer is almost here, bringing one our most cherished traditions, Vacation Bible School.

Joe MacDonald has assembled a crew to help plan this years VBS, to be held June 11 through the 15 in the mornings from 9am until noon for pre-K (at least 4 years old) through 5th grade.

We have many ways in which you can serve:

- Teach Pre-K or Kindergarten
- Lead/help with Arts & Crafts
- Teach Young Elementary
- Lead/help with Recreation
- Teach Middle Elementary
- Tell Stories
- Teach Older Elementary
- Pray!
- Invite children to attend (and provide transportation if needed)

Everyone interested in being part of the VBS ministry team should make plans to attend a mandatory planning meeting on Monday, May 7th, 6:30 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall. All VBS ministry team members will be asked to complete a background check form and abide by our **Safe Sanctuary** policy because First Deming is dedicated to the safety of everyone who enters our facility.

We would love to have you be a part of this short-term ministry team. If you would like to volunteer, or have any questions, please contact Joe MacDonald at 546-2791.

Together, we can all *make a difference* in the lives of many children.

PERFORMING ARTS CAMP

Dovetailing with Vacation Bible School, we will be offering a Performing Arts Camp this summer. It will begin June 11 through 15 in the afternoons, and continue on June 18 through 22 in the afternoons from 12:30 to 3:30 pm. Children and youth are asked to bring a sack lunch if they stay over from VBS.

What is Performing Arts Camp? It 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 "*Godspell, Jr.*". 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 conclude with performances of "*Godspell, Jr.*" in the evening on Friday, June 22 and Saturday, June 23.

All children and youth are invited to participate, if they have complete grades 1 through 12. The cost of the camp is \$50 per child. Scholarships are available.

If you are interested in provide scholarship opportunities, please contact Joe MacDonald at 546-2791.

As always, invite the children and youth and please cover this event with your prayers!



Dylan Anderson	Marilyn Offutt
Retchenda Bettisworth	Russell Petersen
Bill Blake	Ann/Brian Pettit
Dawn Blalock	John Plant
Joe Bob Brown	Joyce Richards
The Burkles	Brian Schumacher
Petra Chacon	Seymour Family
Helen Covey	Bruce Simpson
Jessie Cox	Shirley Skaggs
Breece DeBoutez	Karen Tanner
Travis Dodson & family	Myrtle Thomas
Dylan Everman	Bill & Joyce Wesbrooks
Jarod Ferguson	
Gerald Gaylord	Families dealing with
Chris/Juan Gonzales	grief: Anderson, Good,
Manny Gonzales	Gors, Hoefler, Hoskins,
Valerie Hamme	Hyatt, LeDuc, Lund,
Alan Hickman	Ramsey, Sires,
Bonnie Hoskins	Wesbrooks, Williams
Elliot Johnson	
Lois Kelly	Family Members & their
Dorothy Kiley	units serving the armed
Larry & Letitia Koble	forces (some overseas):
Lini Linendoll	Travis Dodson's unit,
LeOre Lloyd	Avilla Augustus, Alan/
Luddy Lutonsky	Brian Carter, Amber
Joan Mallery	Dunnihoo, Jason
June Manning	Hammers, Joel Hunt,
Marvin Marcak	Shaun M. Jones, Jennifer/
Jeremiah/Joshua	John Lively, Jennifer/
Marquart	Jarrold McGee, Josh
Derald May	Robertson, Lucas Serna,
Martha Meyers	Tyrell Shiflett,
Mary Ethel Miller	L. Charles Stanley, Greg
Lynde Murphy	Stube, Danny Symonds,
Al Nason	Van Welch
Jo Nichalson	

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

There will be **Blood Drive** on Thursday, May 3rd, from 9am to 1pm, in the Fellowship Hall. Your donation helps three other people so Be a Hero!

Our May Bread Basket collection will be taken on Mother's Day, May 13, for **Landsun Homes Caring Hands Fund**. Your generosity insures that no resident will be asked to leave their home at Landsun due to a lack of funds.

The National Day of Prayer will be Thursday, May 3, with the theme "UNITE in Prayer" from 2 Chronicles 7:14. There are various opportunities to participate. Please call Sue Holdridge at 546-3225 if you would like to part of this event.

Enchilada Dinner from 4 to 6 pm on Thursday, May 3, 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.

Kiwanis Club of Deming **Annual Prayer Breakfast**, Saturday, May 5, 8:00 am, at the 1st Church of the Nazarene (165 E. Dona Ana Road). The cost is \$5 for the breakfast buffet.

'**Stewards of Creation**' conference at Ghost Ranch September 7-9. The total cost of the weekend (registration, room, board, programs, costs and materials) is \$170. For more information, contact Marjorie Williams at 505-262-1646 or email her at margiew12@aol.com.

FROM THE MAILBAG

“4/18/07

The family of Kevin Gors would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, calls, emails and thoughts during Kevin’s illness and since he has passed on. Thanks to those who came to Kevin’s memorial service, and who brought food to the house.

A special THANKS to Beth Stevens for officiating at Kevin’s service even though she has never met him, and to Ike and Linda Rogers for picking up Kevin’s friend from Illinois at the airport when we were too tired to drive to El Paso again.

I would ask for continued prayers for Barbara, Alex, Dillon, and Bill and I as well, as we make adjustments to our lives without Kevin.

Most sincerely,
Kathy Garland”



BEGIN AT THE BEGINNING

The Chapel Sunday School class will begin a new study on Sunday, May 6. Jennifer Shafer will lead a class on the basic stories of the Old Testament - starting with Creation. EVERYONE is invited to come!

No previous Bible knowledge is required and there will not be any “homework” (what a deal!). So come and join us at 9:15 a.m. in the Chapel (at the east end of the Sunday School wing. If you

have any questions, call Jennifer at 544-8301.



SENIOR BREAKFAST

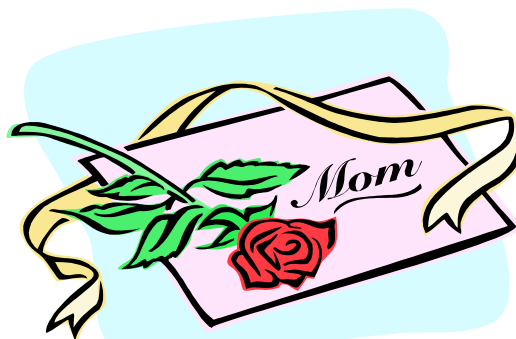
Once again we will be honoring our graduating high school seniors at a breakfast to be held Sunday, May 20th at 9:15 am in the gym. We will be honoring Ryan Hyatt and Matthew Schultz.

You are invited to help celebrate this milestone in the lives of these young men! So join us in the gym that morning for a wonderful breakfast meal. We’ll hear from Ryan and Matthew, and also have a special guest speaker.

Preparing for this event takes a great deal of work. Your assistance would be appreciated. Please contact Karen Bruggink at 544-3624 if you can:

- Provide baked breakfast muffins
- Prepare the egg casserole (ingredients and recipe provided)
- Purchase and cut up fruit (cantalope, strawberries, grapes, honeydew melons)

We look forward to seeing you on the 20th as we honor our high school seniors!



“ON THE MOVE” WITH UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Many, many thanks for all the donations, workers, and clean up crew who participated in helping with the El Paso District UMW meeting (about 30 people involved in one way or another). You are an AWESOME CONGREGATION! It is said there are angels among us who help us in time of need ! Did you know that Don Cameron is an angel in suspenders?!!

Our next project is our High Tea and Fashion Show and Luncheon on Saturday, May 19th. The fun begins at 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. You'll enjoy finger foods, desserts, punch, tea (of course!) and the latest “fashion finds” modeled by church members - all for only \$5 per person! You can purchase tickets from the office (please bring exact change), from any UMW members, or after church services April 30, May 3 and May 13. Make plans *now* to attend the fun!! Proceeds (your support) benefit a number of different ministries and missions on the local, state, national and worldwide scene.

There will be no UMW meetings in June or July. We will resume with the annual potluck picnic in August. More details will follow in later editions.

President's Note: “My heartfelt thanks to the Staff and all the UMW ladies (and spouses) for all their hard work that made the El Paso District meeting a success.

Editor's Note: This is a busy group of ladies. So far this year they've had a rummage sale, participated in the

Celebration of Life Cancer Walk, hosted the El Paso District UMW meeting, and are now gearing up for their High Tea and Fashion Show missions fund raiser. ALL WOMEN are invited to be a part of this excitement. Call Rosalee Gillett at 544-8201 for more information.

CELEBRATION!

Speaking of angels.....

Attention Ladies! Bring your favorite angel!

The next “Celebration” gathering will be Saturday, May 5th, in the Fellowship Hall. We will meet at 9:30 a.m. for coffee, refreshments and fellowship followed by a program of praise, worship, and a message, at 10:00 a.m.

Our speaker will be none other than Barbara Walsh! She will be leading us in some “Angel Talk”. We will have time to share our stories of how angels have come into our lives. If you are a collector of angels, or have a few favorites, bring them along to share.

Women of all ages and denominations are welcome. A nursery will be available upon request (please RSVP by May 1).

For more information, please contact Cazandra MacDonald at 544-8161 or cazandra@wildblue.net.

Bring a Friend. She'll be glad you did!





TAKE NOTE

It is hard to believe that we have come to the end of another school year. We are all preparing for summer vacations, summer camps, and some of us will be in summer school.

This year has seen many successes in the life of our church. Our music ministry continues to grow and change in many ways. Thanks be to God for all of the blessings that have come this year.

Please keep in mind that we are offering a First Annual Performing Arts Camp for children who have completed 1st grade – 12th grade. The camp will be 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. and run June 11th – June 22nd. Campers will be performing the Broadway Musical Godspell. Please encourage any children you know that fit this age group to please attend. I will direct the camp and Dee Huffman and Marge Kemp will assist.

Thank you for so many wonderful musical memories throughout the year. May this only be the beginning of something great!!!

God Speed,
Joe



NOTE: Please remember that S.O.U.L. Kids had their last session on April 24. They will resume in the fall after Labor Day.

PASTORAL PONDERINGS

(continued from page 2)

The world's a better place
because Mary didn't say, "I
don't do virgin births."

The world's a better place
because Paul didn't say "I don't
do correspondence."

The world's a better place
because Mary Magdalene
didn't say, "I don't do feet."

The world's a better place
because Jesus didn't say, "I
don't do crosses."

And the world will be a better
place only if you and I don't
say, "I don't do ..." :=

-Leonard Sweet
Drew Theological Seminary



KIDZ NEWZ

Crafty Kids

Crafty Kids are having fun! Last month we went to the nursing home. We sang songs and delivered a spring wreath.

We've participated in "cards for troops" by making Easter and Get Well cards for troops who are injured in Iraq or Afghanistan.

This month, we'll be making May baskets to deliver to KOTS (the retirement center across the street).

Some of the things the kids are learning:

- Manners
- Outreach
- Concern for others

Our weekly schedule is:

- Play time
- Prayer time
- Goody time
- Crafts

Beth Metcalf, Sandy McNiece, Jo Kruger

NOTE: For their Easter and Get Well cards, Crafty Kids were recognized by the medics who transport injured soldiers with a certificate and a box of German Gummy Bears.

This after school group meets Thursdays from 3:15 to 5:00 p.m. in the Memorial Classroom and is open to children grades K thru 5. The group will meet through May 17th and then will take a summer break, resuming September 13. Join the fun!!

Little Lambs

Little Lambs is our preschool program for children ages 3 and 4, to prepare them for Kindergarten. They learn colors, the alphabet, how to print their names, sing songs, hear stories, make crafts, bake stuff (the smells are wonderful!), and - most importantly, learn about Jesus' love for them!

The Little Lambs four-year olds will graduate on Wednesday, May 16, at 9am in the church sanctuary. The doors will open at 8:45 am. This is a wonderful celebration of their accomplishments and we invite you to join in the celebration!

%%%%%%%%%

GET INVOLVED!

There are a number of mission and ministry opportunities available, both within our conference and in other areas of the country (and even the world!).

Primetimers is a United Methodist sponsored service organization that combines study, mission, ministry, travel and fun through a number of venues. They have upcoming events in Iowa, South Carolina, New York and Louisiana (these are all in the fall). You can find out more by visiting www.primetimers.info.

You can also visit the main United Methodist website at www.umc.org and click on the "Serve" feature for mission opportunities that fit your abilities! Your service DOES make a difference in the lives of others.

SUMMER CAMPS

Ah - summer camps. I'll bet those words bring back memories for a lot of us. The good news is, your fun doesn't have to end!

Sacramento Methodist Assembly (SMA), our conference camp in the mountains near Cloudcroft, is offering a wide variety of camps this summer and fall for kids, youth, adults and families.

Here is the list of upcoming camps that cover a variety of ages and interest!!

Grown-up Camp (adult men and women)
June 3-8

Family Fitness Camp (families)
June 10-15

Backpacking Camp (13-18 years old)
June 11-17

High School Camp (completed 9-12 grade)
June 11-15

Celebration of Creation (bird watchers)
June 24-27

Mid-High Camp (completed 6-8 grade)
June 25-29

Elementary Camp (completed 4-6 grade)
July 9-13

JUMO (Jurisdictional Youth Ministry Organization Event) - July 9-13

UMW School of Christian Mission (women) - July 20-23

Camp Sunshine (over 15, challenged)
August 6-10

Seasoned Citizens (senior adults)
August 13-17

United Methodist Men's Retreat (men)
August 24-16

Students Walking In Faith Together - SWIFT (college age) - September 14-16

CCYM Fall Senior High Event (9-12 grade) - November 16-18

If you are interested in ANY of these camps, please visit Sacramento's website at www.sacramentoassembly.org or email them at sma@pvtnetworks.net.

The office does have forms for some of the children and youth camps. You can also get contact information for specific camps from the large SMA camping poster on the hallway bulletin board.

%%%%%%%%%

VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION

Wow! You can build houses in Juarez, work at UMCOR's Sager-Brown supply depot in Baldwin, Louisiana or go all over the country helping others in a variety of ways with a variety of needs. So if you have some time this summer (or even want something different to do than the "usual" vacation), check out the VIM link on our conference website, www.nmconfum.com. The variety of mission trips are amazing and your participation will be a double blessing - to the recipient and to you!

FROM THE BISHOP'S DESK

This past Sunday I attended worship, as I normally do on Sundays. It was a thrilling, exciting, passionate (to use Robert Schnase's description) service of worship. I spoke to a person in the next pew and she welcomed me back. I traveled to preach in various communities for the past several weeks and missed worshipping with my wife in her home church. "I had a Sunday off," I said to her, "and I am pleased to be here." She quickly responded, "And you chose to come to Church?" We both laughed and suddenly I realized that many pastors and laity consider a "Sunday off" to mean they do not attend a worship service. A "Sunday off" for me means that I am not preaching or leading in worship. It means that I do not have special responsibilities as a bishop of the Church. I deliberately choose to go to worship, not because I am obligated to attend, or feel compelled to attend. I choose to attend services of worship in order to join in a community of faith in worshipping God, encountering Jesus Christ, and hearing the word of God faithfully read and proclaimed.

Easter Sunday was one of those special times of gathering with a community of faith to celebrate one of the central defining events for all Christians—the resurrection of Jesus. The world changed forever on that first Easter morning. Jesus' resurrection transformed the values of those who followed as his disciples and the resurrection enables us to live each day with confidence and hope. Because God raised Jesus from the dead, Jesus raises us from death to life. Jesus broke the power of death, the chains fell from our arms, and we live as those set free to serve Jesus as Lord and Savior.

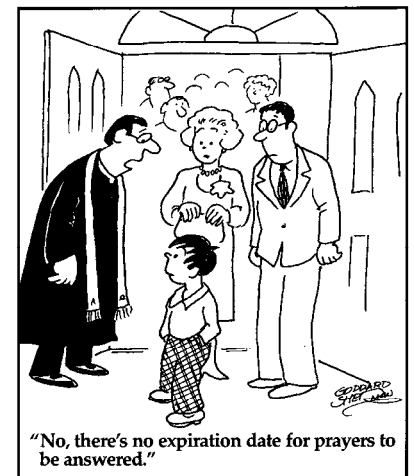
One of my recent joys has been reading Stan Sager's book on the Four Corners Native

American Ministry. I hope every pastor will read and learn from this extraordinary ministry to and with the Navajo people. One insight was worth the cost of the book. Rev. Paul West recognized that many of the Navajo people had a great fear of death. Therefore, he emphasized the resurrection of Jesus as the means of conquering death and that fear of death. This opened the door for people to hear and respond to the Gospel.

Most of us possess very little fear of death. In fact, most of us seldom think about death, until it slams its way into our lives and then we brush it aside assuming that everyone will enjoy life after death. However, many of us live in bondage, not physical, but emotional and spiritual bondage. We are afraid of what others think of us, afraid of financial ruin, afraid to make deep, lasting commitments, afraid of the future, afraid of failure, etc. The resurrection of Jesus sets us free-free to live as those who know that nothing in all of creation can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Jesus will never desert or forsake us. Not even death can separate us from Jesus' love.

Therefore, I looked forward to the service of worship on Easter Sunday morning—thrilling, exciting, passionate worship where we do not say, but shout back—Christ is risen, indeed! I pray you experienced this passion as well.

Grace and peace,
Max



"No, there's no expiration date for prayers to be answered."