

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Deming, New Mexico

November 2007

What we *are* communicates far more eloquently
than anything we say or do.

STAFF AT FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. D. Max Whitfield - Bishop
Rev. Beverly J. Jones - District
Superintendent
Rev. Keath Baskett - Pastor
Joe MacDonald - Music Director
Gordon McIver - Lay Leader
Claire Phillips - Secretary
Beth Simpson - Assistant to 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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E-mail:

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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

Everyone has one. It’s usually one of the first things that we receive in this life. Yet we rarely think about them. What am I talking about? **Names.**

Several years ago the Wesley Foundation at New Mexico State University wanted to do something special to honor the founding director of the campus ministry. Somewhere around 1963 Rev. Doug Wofford, and his wife, Melba, were appointed to Las Cruces to start a Methodist campus ministry. They started with a lot of faith and not much else. By the time that they were moved to their next appointment there was an active student group meeting in their own building on Jordan Road.

The best way the board of directors could think of to honor the Wofford’s was to name the recreation hall after them. During the dedication ceremony Dr. Wofford asked an important question during his sermon. “What’s in a name?” He then answered his own question by saying, “Not much, unless it’s your name.”

I mention all of this about names because of the Exploring Faith group that is meeting and preparing to be confirmed into full membership in the Church. This is the time when these young adults will take for themselves the name of “Christian.” For them it’s an intentional choice. They will be

identifying themselves as belonging to the Body of Christ.

Every time that I am involved with a confirmation class, it reminds me that every day we make a choice to take the name of Christian. In some circles today, the word Christian is considered a bad word. And in many ways it has taken a beating! Some who have taken the name of Christian have been caught doing some very un-Christlike things. Sometimes it can be discouraging to think about how some people think about us Christians.

Yet Christ continues to call followers—Christians—and people keep on answering the call. Soon the confirmation class will have the opportunity to profess their faith in Jesus Christ, and their commitment to follow him. I hope and pray that when they do, you will be there, and you will renew your faith and commitment to Christ. It is still a name worth having!

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## THE CHURCH MOUSE

The Church Mouse sees things others might not notice. One of our members takes time to walk the grounds and pick up trash and also makes sure our patio area is swept and ready for Sunday mornings. We just want to say thank you to this individual, and to all of you who do things behind the scenes. We have noticed and we gratefully say, ***thank you!***

## STEWARDSHIP

*This article, as written by Don Cameron, first appeared in the October 2005 newsletter. It is quite eloquent and applicable today (with some updating of the numbers.) Please give this message your careful consideration. Note: the content in italics has been added since 2005.*

We at First United Methodist Church have a tradition of passing the offering plate each Sunday to give towards the work of the Kingdom of God and provide for the work of ministry. We should give as God has blessed us. "Not grudgingly, nor of necessity, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Giving to the work of God's Kingdom at First United Methodist Church is between you and God. Those who count the offering each Sunday do not keep track of giving by individuals or families.

Your giving during the first 8 months of the 2005 financial year has made it possible for our congregation to reach out to others through music, children and youth ministry; missions; and outreach. Your giving has allowed us to make necessary maintenance to our church facility by repairing the roof; repairing and replacing outdated air conditioners; and upgrading lighting. The table on the next page shows how we spent our money during this period.

| 2005                                                                                           | 2007              |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| New Mexico Conference<br>\$28,603, 13.7%                                                       | \$24,232, 11.5%   |
| Ministries to the Membership<br>(Salaries, local expenses, etc.)<br>\$128,450, 61.3%           | \$142,072, 67.6%  |
| Church Maintenance<br>\$39,986, 19.1%                                                          | \$37,478, 17.8%   |
| Local Church Programs, including<br>Nuture, Membership, Worship and Outreach<br>\$12,393, 5.9% | \$6,392, 3.0%     |
| <b>Total</b><br>\$209,432, 100.0%                                                              | \$210,174, 100.0% |

Your tithes and pledges at the November 2004 Consecration Sunday went beyond the expectations of the Finance Committee. While your written commitments were tabulated collectively, the church is not keeping tabs on the percentage you have given. You and God are the bookkeepers.

And what is the fruit of our giving each week? It is found in 2 Corinthians 9:10, "He supplies the seed, the bread... and multiples what we have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness." The ultimate goal is to make an eternal impact. Money is not the focus, eternity is. Money is just one of the tools that we use.

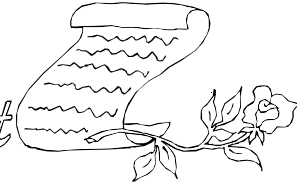
*Please be in prayer as your support of our church and its programs in this time of increasing costs is lovingly requested. If you can't give monetary support at this time, give your heart to God in a special way in prayer. This isn't about money, but about thankfulness. God is good.*

*Jack Galbraith,  
Chairperson, Finance Committee*



OCT-DEC 2007

# Prayer List



|                      |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Joe Bob Brown        | California fire victims |
| The Burkles          |                         |
| Susan Castellani     | Families dealing with   |
| Breece DeBoutz       | grief: Watson/          |
| Travis Dodson &      | McGrath; Cottle/        |
| family               | Offutt; Campos-         |
| Christopher Fredrick | MacDonald               |
| Chris Gonzales       |                         |
| Mim Gottschalk       | Service men &           |
| Ruth Greenwood       | women:                  |
| Dave/Sue             | Travis Dodson's unit,   |
| Hoffmeister          | Avilla Augustus, Alan   |
| Wayne Humphrey       | Ballinas, Alan/Brian    |
| Joe/Chelsie Hunt     | Carter, Amber           |
| Lusia & Fred         | Dunnihoo, Maj.          |
| Lorraine Lutonsky    | Howard Gobble,          |
| Gordon McIver        | Jason Hammers,          |
| Allan/Sandy          | Conrad Hughes,          |
| McNiece              | Shaun M. Jones,         |
| Sam/Bea Melendrez    | Jennifer/John Lively,   |
| Lynde Murphy         | Jennifer/Jarrold        |
| William Penn         | McGee, Michael          |
| Ann/Brian Pettit     | Nunley, Josh            |
| John Plant           | Robertson, L.           |
| Chris/Gene Reynolds  | Charles Stanley, Greg   |
| Shirley Sayre        | Stube, Danny            |
| Gary Slayman         | Symonds, Van Welch      |
| Bob/Kitty Tobey      |                         |
| Bob Ward             |                         |
| Ferne Wolf           |                         |

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 an **Enchilada Dinner** on Thursday, November 8th, from 4-6pm at the Oddfellows Hall on South Gold (just behind Baca's). \$5/person for a yummy meal and dessert! Proceeds benefit many programs, including local scholarships.

Visit our website, [www.fumcdeming.com](http://www.fumcdeming.com) for what's happening in our church! Remember to **invite a friend** to join you for church, Sunday School, or one of our many activities.

We have **orphan dishes** that need to go back home. They are on the back counter of the Fellowship Hall kitchen. Those not picked up November 14th will be given to new homes.

**REMEMBER!** Daylight Savings Time ends Sunday, November 4, at 2am. Set your clocks **back** one hour before bedtime Saturday night. **ALSO**, our area code has now changed to 575. Get a jump on the permanent change by notifying family, friends, credit cards companies, businesses, etc. of the area code.

Our **Bread Basket Collection** for November benefits the UM Retired Minister's Day offering. This offering is used to assure that retired ministers (and spouses) can live out their lives in dignity. The offering will be taken November 18th.

Deming Arts Council present **Jerry Barlow**, acclaimed Celtic guitarist, in concert on Sunday, November 11, 4pm in our sanctuary. There is no admission but donations are welcome. See the hallway bulletin board for more information.

### FROM THE MAILBAG

“Dear Church Family,  
 I cannot thank you all enough for your prayers, cards and kinds words following the passing of my father. Joe, Julian, Caeleb and I have truly been comforted knowing that we are surrounded by such amazing men and women who are truly the hands and feet of Christ.

God’s blessings to you all,  
 Cazandra MacDonald”

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“Dear Deming UMC and Rev. Baskett and family,

Thank you so much for your hospitality during my visit to Deming for the church conference (October 6). You have a wonderful church and an important ministry. Thank you for your well prepared material s which helped the meeting to go smoothly.

And a special thank you for the lovely flowers. They are beautiful!

Blessings to you all,  
 Beverly”

(Note: Beverly is Dr. Beverly Jones, the El Paso District Superintendent)

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“Thank you for your supportive efforts to end domestic violence. Thank you for your contribution!!  
 The Healing House, Inc.”

“To let you know appreciate the lovely chimes at 9:00 a.m. although I have to be out of doors to hear them. A good sound.

Helen Beach”

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“United Blood Services congratulates and thanks you for organizing the recent blood drive (September) at Deming-First United Methodist. Your drive will help assure that blood is available for patients in need.

At the blood drive, 21 people registered to donate, which resulted in 21 units of lifesaving blood for our community.

Your efforts and the support of Deming-First United Methodist are greatly appreciated and will go a long way toward assuring a strong blood supply and ultimately saving lives.

Again, thank you for your contribution and ongoing support of the community blood program. I enjoyed working with you and look forward to our next meeting to plan your upcoming blood drive scheduled for Thursday, December 13, 2007.

Sincerely,  
 Monique Clary  
 United Blood Services”

MARK YOUR CALENDARS TODAY to donate the gift of life!



### **CELEBRATION IS COMING!**

LADIES! A couple of hours with no husbands or children. Sounds good, don't you think? Come join other women who need that time to recharge and take part in our Celebration Gathering on Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup> with refreshments at 9:30 and program at 10. You will be encouraged and uplifted by a special message brought to you by our own Beth Simpson. For more information, please call Cazandra MacDonald at 544-8161 or email [cazandra@q.com](mailto:cazandra@q.com). Bring a friend, she'll be glad you did!

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### **OUR KIDS IN ACTION**

In December Jessie and I would like to invite the youth of the church to make hot chocolate, hot tea mix and cookies then take them out to the community . We will then take the mix to the Border patrol, National Guard , the fire station, the police department and the sheriff's office.

What we need from *you* is:

- hot chocolate mix
- dry powdered milk
- chocolate chips
- peppermints
- dream whip (the boxes)
- Tang
- dry ice tea mix
- ground cloves and nutmeg.

We will also need things with which to make cookies: either cookie mix or the rolled cookie dough. There will be a container at the church for the goodies

We will be making these in December so you will have lots of time In order to avoid lots of duplication, there'll be a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall. Please sign up so we'll know what you are bringing and we'll have everything we need.

If you have any questions, please call Murray or Jessie (when she is home.) at 546-9104. Youth - please see Jessie or myself so we can select a good weekend for this project. Thank you for donating to this ministry to those who don't always get the holidays off.!

Wednesday Night Live is going so well. Thank you to Stephanie and Vanessa. They are invaluable to the children's ministry that Cyndy and I plan.

We are having fun with the children and they are learning so much about the love of Christ. If you have not come to the dinner and fellowship, you are always welcome. We do have a room for homework if that is needed. Walk the Sunday School hallway and see some of the work from the children. Come and join us - we'll looking for you!

Murray Baskett

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### **HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

The office will be closed November 23 and 24 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. Due to the secretary's absence from the office that week, all information for 11/25 bulletin is due 11/13. Thank you.



## TAKE NOTE

With the coming of the Thanksgiving Holiday, comes the anticipation of the Advent 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 November:

#### Week of November 5<sup>th</sup>:

Regular Rehearsal Schedule

\*\*Extra Rehearsals for Christmas (pm):

Tenor/Bass, Tues., 11/6, 6:30-7:15

Treble Voice, Tues., 11/6, 7:15-8:00

#### Week of November 12<sup>th</sup>:

Regular Rehearsal Schedule

#### Week of November 19<sup>th</sup>:

Monday: Bell Macto 4:30-5:30

Praise Band 5:30-6:30

Tuesday: Soul Kids 4:00-5:00

First Call 4:00-5:00

Treble Voices for

Christmas 6:00-7:00

Tenor/Bass Voices

7:00-8:00

\*\*\*\*\*November 21<sup>st</sup>\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*No Rehearsals\*\*\*\*\*

#### Week of November 26<sup>th</sup>:

Regular Rehearsal Schedule

### Looking Ahead:

#### Week of December 3<sup>rd</sup>:

Regular Rehearsal Schedule

#### Saturday Rehearsal:

December 8<sup>th</sup> 9:00-12:00

#### Sunday Perform: December 9<sup>th</sup>

(Call is 5:30) 6:00 Concert

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

Blessings and Joy,

Joe

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UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The United Methodist Women's *World Thank Offering* program will be held at their November meeting, Saturday November 10, from 2:00 - 4:30 pm in the Chapel (refreshments will follow in the Fellowship Hall). ALL women are invited to attend.

November 17 is UMW Annual Christmas Bazaar to be held in the Fellowship Hall from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Featured booths include jewelry, crafts, plants, cards, white elephants, Christmas crafts and, new this year, "Theme Baskets."

It is not too late to contact Loraine at 546-7666 if you have jewelry to donate, even if it is old and needs repair or refurbishing. We also need gently worn/new clothing (not rummage), herds of white elephants, and handicrafts. If you questions or need more info, contact Rosalee at 544-8201.

HOW CAN YOU HELP? Spend Friday morning with us (Nov. 16) as we set-up or help Saturday after 1:30pm as we put the church back. Both are a fun time for all!!

HOSPITALITY IN ACTION

Thank you to those who have taken part in our **Hospitality Ministry** by making coffee and lemon-aid for Sunday morning. It is a simple ministry that easy for anyone! Provide the coffee, lemon-aid, water, cups, napkins and coffee stuff. Pat Porcher (THANKS!) provides the goodies. Everyone pitches in to clean up afterwards. November is covered but we're looking ahead to December. Call the office to volunteer!

LITTLE LAMBS

Did you know that part of First Deming's ministry is to help facilitate a Christ-centered pre-school for the children of our community? It is called Little Lambs Preschool. We will be bringing you regular reports on the children's activities, as well as what they are learning.

"Well, we have started back for another wonderful year at Little Lambs. Our classes full. We have sixty students attending Little Lambs. We have students from different ethnic backgrounds, many religions and many social economic levels...and they are all the same precious gifts from God that we have the privilege to impart the wonders of God and His creations. **God will teach us in his ways, so we may walk in his paths....Isaiah 2:3.**

We have been busy learning how to survive without our moms and dads. The 4's classes have studied basic skills to prepare for the outside world, learned about themselves and how unique and special

God made them, and we got to study farms just before the fair. The 3's start with a new color each week...we have done red, blue, and yellow. We even get to eat the color of the week...pretty good!

Jesus said, "Let the children come unto me"...Matthew 19:14 Thank you FUMC for providing a safe, caring, and blessed facility for Little Lambs. Little Lambs continues to be a mission for FUMC...reaching out into the community to the youngest souls, planting seeds of faith, and nurturing them with love, kindness, and patience. We are also a mission to each of our families. We hope that FUMC supports us with its prayers for our teachers, students, and their families.

On to another great year at Little Lambs...

Meddy Garrett
Director of Little Lambs Preschool"

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

All Saints Day will be celebrated on Sunday, November 4th. If you are aware of church members who have passed away since last year's All Saints Day remembrance, please call the church office with names as these people will be remembered during the service. There will also be an opportunity during this service for you to remember your own saints who have died in the past year.

We appreciate your assistance in remembering these saints.

BE YE THANKFUL!

A few thanksgiving suggestions:

- Be thankful that you don't already have everything you want. If you did, what would there be to look forward to?
- Be thankful when you don't know something. This gives you the opportunity to learn.
- Be thankful for the difficult times. During those times you grow.
- Be thankful for your limitations. They give you opportunities for improvement.
- Be thankful for each new challenge. It will build strength and character.
- Be thankful for your mistakes. They will teach you valuable lessons.
- Be thankful when you're tired and weary. It means you've made a difference.

It's easy to be thankful for the good things. But a life of true fulfillment can come to those who are also thankful for the setbacks. As hard as it may be, find a way to be thankful for your troubles, and they can become your blessings.

As we look around us at the land of plenty that we live in, it is my prayer that we will see through new eyes each day, the ways that God has blessed us.

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## WAYS WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

As the holidays approach, we have a variety of opportunities to make a difference in the lives of those who don't have as much to be thankful for as we do. You might even consider a donation to one

of these ministries as a Christmas gift for the person who has everything, or the hard to buy for person(s) on your gift list!

- Keep Our Kids Warm - as winter approaches, schools and teachers become aware of children who attend without a coat or jacket to keep them warm. Our local project to fill this need is called "Abrigüemos Nuestros Niños" (Keep our Kids Warm). They are requesting donations of new or gently used (clean please) coats, jackets or sweaters. These items may be placed in the box in the Fellowship Hall. Cash donations will also be accepted. The deadline is November 15th.
- Blankets for the Homeless - Grace Independent Fellowship is continuing their ministry of collection new or gently used (clean please) blankets to distribute to the homeless. The box is in the Sunday School hallway.
- Thanksgiving Food Boxes - the United Methodist Men are once again collecting canned goods and dry foodstuffs (sugar, flour, rice, beans, etc.) in order to prepare holiday food boxes for less fortunate families in our community. Please place your donations in the boxes (Fellowship Hall) no later than Wednesday, November 14th.
- This web-site offers ideas for a Christ-Centered Holiday: Whose Birthday Is It, Anyway? Visit [www.simpleliving.org](http://www.simpleliving.org) for ideas and booklets you can obtain with resources for keeping Christ at the center of and the focus of Christmas.
- Don't be a stranger. Remember to greet visitors and those you don't know.

## SOME OF MY THOUGHTS

Valerie's mobile phone died this week. It had functioned far beyond its expected lifetime. She went to select a new phone and discovered the sales force wanted to include gadgets that would allow her to text message, take photographs, listen to music, and watch television. The sales force seemed stunned when all she wanted was a phone she could use to call me.

One of the challenges for clergy and lay leadership is modeling Sabbath rest. Taking time for personal devotions and Sabbath rest is extremely difficult, if not impossible in our electronic, communication age, when we strive to remain "connected" twenty-four hours a day. Christian discipleship is counter culture. Disciples live as those set free from all the demands and expectations of society to spend time each day with Jesus Christ and pause to be renewed and refreshed, physically and spiritually, one day each week.

Rev. Marjorie Thompson, a staff member of the General Board of Discipleship, reminded me at a Pastor's Retreat, of the importance of Sabbath rest in order to be effective in ministering to others. God did not even try to work more than six days before pausing for refreshment and renewal. Do we expect to be stronger than God?

I grew up in a culture where the Church dominated the community. We had "blue laws" that prohibited most businesses from operating on Sunday. The courts ruled the "blue laws" were unconstitutional and

suddenly society began to transform the church. Many Christians blamed the courts for the deterioration of religious practices. The truth of the matter was that instead of transforming society, Christians conformed to the world. The role of government is not to support and enforce religion, but rather to allow freedom for individuals to practice their religion without interference from the government.

Transforming the world is clearly part of the mission of the Church. Yet, instead of transforming the world, many of us are conformed by the world. This is evident in the lack of observance of Sabbath rest. The fourth Commandment states that we are to remember the Sabbath and keep it holy. Most Christians and certainly the remainder of the American society may claim to believe and affirm the Ten Commandments, but our actions demonstrate that we often ignore most of the commandments, especially the call for Sabbath rest.

Now is the time when United Methodists can begin to model for society a much healthier lifestyle. We can begin to take our affirmation of the Bible seriously and practice the Wesleyan works of piety on a daily basis, and works of mercy on the other six days of the week. It is counter cultural, and it is also life giving and releasing.

Grace and peace,  
Max (Bishop D. Max Whitfield  
New Mexico Annual Conference)

*"He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still water."* Psalm 23:2