



Online Newsletter

Civic

Autumn Carnival *posted September 26*

We are celebrating the many blessings in our lives with an Autumn Carnival. This will be a time for the children to have some fun, while also helping the children at the Palomas, Mexico orphanage.

The orphanage is home to over 30 children who are infants up to 12 years old.

All of us can help these children by donating any of the following items:

- Staple food items such as rice, beans, canned fruits or vegetables, flour, sugar, coffee, cooking oil, hot chocolate mix, etc.
- Cleaning supplies such as soap, laundry detergent, dish soap, cleanser, all purpose cleaners, sponges, etc.
- School supplies such as pencils, pencil sharpeners, crayons, colored pencils, notebook paper, safety scissors, glue, rulers, spiral notebooks, etc.
- Simple toys with NO small parts or batteries, such as jump ropes, balls, trucks, cars, dolls (with no accessories), simple coloring books, etc. To also help the economy, please consider buying toys made in the U.S.
- Children's books written in Spanish - the office has some information on children's Christmas stories written in Spanish, if needed.

These items may be brought to the Autumn Carnival, or dropped off at the church. We'll have collection boxes in the Fellowship Hall. We are also requesting donations of candy to be distributed during the Carnival.

Now for the fun part! The Carnival will be held Saturday, October 10th, from 4 to 6 pm in the gym. There will be games for the kids, booths to visit, and of course goodies to eat. What a great time to invite your friends and family! So extend the invitation and prepare to have a wonderful time at our Autumn Carnival on October 10th, while helping the orphanage.

Together, we can make a difference, one life at a time.

Civic

Trunk or Treat *posted September 26*

For those of you who may be wondering, yes, we are going to have Trunk or Treat this year – even though Halloween is on Saturday, October 31. We provide this evening of fun as a safe alternative for the children of our community. How can you get in on the fun? Make plans to arrive at our south (paved) church parking lot no later than 4:45 pm. Open up your trunk or tailgate and be ready to dispense your treats to community children. For more fun, wear a costume and decorate your vehicle! Your family and friends are also invited to come and join the fun. We'll be open for business from 5 to 7 pm.

If you cannot come, you can still participate by providing a donation of candy. While we buy our own candy, we need help supplementing our stash because we often have over 200 children coming through our parking lot.

Thank you for helping make Halloween a safe and fun event for all of the children.

Worship

Celebration *posted September 28*

Attention All Ladies! Please join us Saturday, November 7 from 9:30-11:00 for the fall gathering of Celebration, a women's ministry for all denominations. Enjoy breakfast in the fellowship hall followed by a program of praise and worship. We have a special guest speaker you will want to hear: Cindy Masterson, the Celebration Vice President of Leadership Development will be delivering the message entitled "Choose Joy!" Bring a friend to share in this fun and uplifting Saturday morning. See you there!

Educate

Group Life Conference Simulcast *posted September 28*

The First United Methodist Church of Odessa is once again a host site for the [Willow Creek Group Life Conference Simulcast](#). This is a great training opportunity for *small group ministry*, whether you have an active small group ministry or are just starting one.

The conference will be held on Saturday, October 24, from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm CT. This training event features outstanding speakers from around the country. *If you register early through First UMC Odessa, you may attend the event for \$20.00 per person (including box lunch). Childcare is available by reservation only.* Register by calling FUMC Odessa at 432-337-1527 or online at www.fumcodessa.org.

Church

UMW News *by Rosalee Gillett, September 28*

The next meeting will be Saturday, October 17 with our *World Thank Offering* program at 2:00 p.m. in the Chapel. Remember to bring your "blue banks" or extra money for the offering. Refreshments will follow.

There is a dark green bag (like those the Senior Center gave at Volunteers' dinner) in the Chapel kitchen containing various items, cleaning etc. along with a package of cheese & crackers. Does this belong to YOU? Please call the office.

Thanks again to all in our congregation who helped with the *Pennies for Alpine* Community Center coke bottle bank in the Fellowship Hall. The bank contained \$61.28 which will be forwarded to Alpine.

The UMW Reading Program paper listing for 2009 was passed around September 19 at the meeting; it didn't get back to me. If you were at the meeting, please check to see if it got mixed with your items. It is needed to order books.

SAVE THESE DATES: following the November 7 Celebration meeting, all UMW officers will meet in the Memorial Classroom for a 2010 program planning meeting. Lunch will be provided; a "Pricing Party" in the gym will follow for Bazaar items.

The UMW Christmas Bazaar fundraiser is November 21, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the gym. We have a need for donations of Christmas items to sell this year. We are also taking donations of jewelry even if it needs repair. Several of our people will be out of town bazaar weekend this year and we are looking for volunteer help from the Congregation on Saturday, November 21st to staff tables or take money. All proceeds go to Missions. Please call Rosalee at 544-8201 for information. Thank you!

Worship

Bread Basket Sunday *posted September 26*

First Deming assists a wide variety of ministries through a monthly "Bread Basket" offering. For October, our Bread Basket offering is designated for Sacramento Methodist Assembly, our conference church camp in the mountains near Cloudcroft, NM. Sacramento is the site of many camps for ALL ages. Summer is the high point with camps for our children and youth. Even if you're not interested in a camp, you may still enjoy the beauty and serenity of Sacramento Methodist Assembly on your own. To find out more, visit their website at www.sacramentoassembly.org.

It was heart-warming to hear stories at Annual Conference from the youth who cemented a relationship with Jesus Christ while at camp. Yet, in today's economy, Sacramento is struggling financially. Our donations will help assure that this camp will be available for the children within our conference, as well as ourselves. Lives are changed at camp. Please give and be part of this change.

Church

Save Energy *posted September 26*

To help us be good stewards of our resources, we are asking everyone's cooperation to turn off lights when leaving a room (or a part of the building) and to turn off heaters or coolers when leaving.

While you may not have turned them on, turning them off will help reduce the church's energy usage and energy costs. If everyone keeps an eye out for lights and coolers/heaters, we can make an impact in energy usage!

**Reminder** *posted September 26*

If you use an area for any group activity, please remember to clean up after yourself. The cleaning service is responsible for the heavy cleaning but we still have to pick up our trash; wipe down our counters and tables; wash, dry and put away any dishes, cookware or silverware that was used and return borrowed items to the correct kitchen and cupboard. Cupboards and drawers are labeled. It would nice if all kitchens, tables and classrooms were self cleaning, but until that day comes, we're on our own. So thank you for cleaning up!

**Thank You** *posted September 26*

Our money counters want to extend their thanks to everyone who places unfolded checks and money in the pew envelopes and the collection plate. Not only does this save time, but it also helps to assure an accurate count (unfolded bills and checks don't get stuck together) each week. So thank you!

**World Communion Sunday** *posted September 26*

Sunday, October 4th is World Communion Sunday. Normally on Communion Sunday, we contribute to the pastor's fund to aid those less fortunate in our community. But on World Communion Sunday, we join other Methodist churches and other denominations in celebrating Communion, and we take a special collection that is used to provide scholarship for U.S. (racial and ethnic minority) and international students, on both undergraduate and graduate levels. By contributing to their educational needs, these students are empowered so that they can empower others, in their communities and in their ministries. We will also be collecting non-perishable food items for our local food bank. Food items may be left in the white barrel in the Sunday School hallway (outside of the sanctuary). Your generosity makes a world of difference!

**S.O.U.L. Kids Minister to Kenya** *by Sarah Williams, September 22*

Pack your bags and get your passport because the First United Methodist Church is headed to Kenya, Africa! S.O.U.L. Kids will be ministering for both services Sunday, October 4, 2009, for World Communion Sunday. Please come and support our children as they sing to the Lord in both English and Swahili.

**Love Strong Marriage Retreat** *posted September 18*

Your relationships with God and with your spouse are the most important in your life. Do you wish you had more time to focus on them? Does life distract you from love? If so, then this is the event for you!

February 5-7, 2010 is the date. Terry and Leah Green are once again the facilitators of this event and Curtis and Allison House will be leading worship. *Descriptive brochures are available in the church office.*

Hint, Hint, Hint ...guys and gals--this would make a great Valentine gift for the one you love!

**Thoughts from Bishop Max** *September 8*

A friend sends me a Murphy's Law calendar each year. It not only reminds me of the day of the week and the month, but also often brings a smile to my face. The saying quoted back in June was entitled Peterson's Principle, "Traditions are solutions for which we have forgotten the problems". I call this traditionalism, but the point is that we sometimes keep doing the same things over and over, long after we knew why we performed the acts in the first place. For instance, why do many worship services start at 10:30, 10:45, or 11:00? Those times were solutions to problems faced by communities of faith. The solutions continue long after the problems ceased to exist. In fact, the "old solutions" may be creating "new problems" for a vital community of faith.

I am amused by titles and names that made wonderful sense at some point in the past, but no longer convey their intended meaning. The Carden Young Married Sunday School Class began about 1965. First Methodist Church formed the class for persons recently married. Mrs. Gladys Carden was the teacher. It was a strong class and continues to this day. Mrs. Carden ceased to be their teacher over 30 years ago. Very few members of

the class are recently married. Most of the members talk about their grandchildren, and a few brag about great grandchildren. The name remains, but it certainly does not reflect a current reality. Tradition continues long after the title had meaning.

I love candles and candle lighters. Many worship services begin each week with young people processing down the aisle with candle lighter in hand. Some congregations attach meaning to this tradition that was a necessity to provide light in previous generations. The members of the congregation loved the action, and forgot why they performed the action. The unchurched only see meaningless activity.

Traditions often begin as solutions to problems or realities. They continue for a wide variety of reasons. Ringing a church bell, standing, sitting, or kneeling at particular moments in a worship service, were all done for particular reasons in the past. Congregations must regularly examine their practices to see what activities and actions have outlived their usefulness. Some practices can cause the de-churched, the unchurched, and the nominally churched people to decide that the Church and Jesus Christ reveal people who celebrate rituals and behaviors that are unimportant or a waste of their time.

Since I am in such a wide variety of congregations, in various sizes of communities, I often examine the church bulletin, watch what is happening, and ask myself, if I were a thirty year old and coming to a church for the first time, would I return the next Sunday. I certainly cannot answer for that hypothetical person, but I wonder whether the members of the congregation ever ask themselves that question. Do the ways we present Jesus Christ, from the time people enter our parking lots to the time they leave the property, convey the amazing love and grace of God? We can no longer assume that people entering our doors have any real knowledge or understanding of who Jesus is. We must go into our communities, live like Jesus, invite people to our churches, tell them about Jesus, and make sure we participate in passionate worship that enables every person present to encounter Jesus Christ on every Sunday morning.

One of the most distressing statistics is the number of worshippers returning home on Sunday feeling they never encounter Jesus Christ in the worship service. What we are doing is participating in a tradition and failing to worship almighty God passionately.

Let us participate in passionate worship this Sunday.

Grace & Peace, Max



Thank You from Love INC by Carol Lokomski, September 2

To date in 2009, Love INC has had several people from the First United Methodist Church volunteer either in the Clearinghouse, on the Board, or to directly do a service for our clients. Since volunteers are at the very core of our ministry at Love INC, please let them know how much we appreciate them for their willingness to serve as we reach out with the love of Christ to our community.

Marlene Billingsley, Kent Cooper, John Costello, J.W. Donaldson, Adrian Granillo, Becca Holdridge, Rochelle Holdridge, Rick Holdridge, Sue Holdridge, David Robertson, Ike Rogers, Gene Sanderlin, Brannick Sweetser, John Sweetser, Joyce Sweetser, Elmer Veeder, and Genie Wall.



Youth Activity Report by Sue Holdridge, September 1

This report was presented to the Church Council in August, 2009

Community Action

- Youth assisted in city clean up in April.
- Youth worked alongside Rick, Elmer, Don, and Wendell with handicap ramps that were built and installed in homes. Those that received the temporary ramps are clients of Love INC. This community service took place over a couple of weekends plus during the end of May and into June.

We worked on ramps during the day and in the evenings we had a number of activities including going to City of Rocks. We had Bible Study and worship.

- From July 4-13, eight youth and four adults went to Houma, Louisiana to rebuild homes. So much was gained from this trip. First two homes were repaired and the love and compassion of Christ was communicated to the families.

As usual the givers are often those that receive the greatest blessings. We built a wonderful relationship with

one of the women who could not do enough to bless us (home cooked meal, etc.); we grew as a group in understanding and love for one another; and we had to sacrifice comfortable beds and learned to stand in line for showers (four showers for 70 people). Youth learned construction. In fact, one parent called excited that her child was now able to replace the bathroom cabinet and reconnect plumbing.

We had a delightful time in San Antonio at Sea World. We thank the Lord for those who contributed ½-price tickets and four full price tickets. What a blessing!!!!

Spiritual Growth

July 23-25: Girls had a retreat entitled "Living for an Audience of One." We stayed at the Albertson's home in Las Cruces and Sue prepared meals. It was a wonderful time of bonding and growing in the Lord.

When we built the handicap ramps and during the trip in Houma we had daily worship and devotions.

When in town, we had our Bible Study on video based on the life of Abraham. The series challenged us to live by faith and not by sight.

Mentoring by Adults

The youth were able to interact with many mature Christian leaders and gain from that relationship as they worked on the ramps and in Houma.



Deming News (1903-04) by Jack Galbraith, September 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 fifth article extracted from that CD; more may appear in this newsletter from time to time.

In 1903 Deming was a cattle raising and mining country. Two more trunk line railroads and at least some smelting and refining works were expected to be in operation soon. The climate had attracted many tubercular victims and The Great National Colony and Sanitarium was supposed to be constructed within a few miles of Deming to care for them.

The Bisbee railroad raised the salaries of its passenger conductors to \$140 a month, the highest of any railroad in the United States.

Many businesses, ranches and mines had changed hands in 1902 and the oil fever had burned out. There was not an empty house in town. The boarding house that burned was rebuilt of adobe.

When Rev. M.F. Fifield, Baptist district missionary, held gospel services in the 100F hall in January, he announced he planned to make his headquarters in Deming rather than Albuquerque because things were better here.

Many preachers of different faiths were listed as holding services in the small railheads up and down the railroads. The Methodists even assigned pastors to "Mimbres". The schools were used for preaching but no parsonage was provided. The Deming climate made it a nice place for transfers into New Mexico Conference to live until the next annual conference when a permanent appointment might be made.

from *The Deming Headlight*, Jan. 2, 1904

George L. Shakespeare, Editor; Published every Saturday

FIRST DRY SUNDAY

Everything Closed - A Law Abiding Community Complies With An Unconstitutional Law New Sensation to Demingites.

Not since Deming was first started, not since the days when, twenty odd years ago the first mesquite bushes were cut away to make room for a few tents, which were the nucleus from which the county seat of Luna County sprung, has there ever been a Sunday in our town, like the last.

During the week previous, indictments were found against all of our businessmen and, being up before His Honor Judge Parker, were admonished, one and all, that they must cease doing business of any kind hereafter on Sunday...