

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Deming, New Mexico

September 2007

“To get what we’ve never had,
we must do what we’ve never done.”

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 - Pastor’s Assistant

*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)

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

“Where Has the Summer Gone?”

Is it really almost September? It seems like we were just celebrating July 4th! Where does the time go? No one really knows where time goes, but here are some timely thoughts on the subject:

- Hours and flowers soon fade away.
- Many people have time on their hands—and their faces!
- When you kill time, just remember it has no resurrection.
- Time can be wasted but never recycled.
- Time is nature’s way of preventing everything from happening at once.
- No wonder time flies. Have you noticed how many people try to kill it?

Regardless of where the time goes...it goes! Here are a few ways that it has gone at the church this summer:

- A great Vacation Bible School.
- A fun and challenging Performing Arts Camp, concluding with a very well-done performance of **GODSPELL, JR.**
- A sad farewell to Beth Stevens who left the position of Assistant to the Pastor, after over 5 years of fabulous service.
- A joyous welcome to Beth Simpson who became the new Assistant to the Pastor. It’s great to have her and her family with us!
- A difficult time for the Trustees as they seek bids and oversee repairs and

remodeling on things like the church roof and parsonage roof, damaged by hail; creating a functioning handicapped restroom; repairing and replacing air conditioners (including the Fellowship Hall and the MAC Building); selling land; among other things.

- A successful (and delicious) Annual Duck Race BBQ—many thanks to the workers and supporters!
- A great Labor Day Campout—thanks to the organizing team.
- A lot of work planning the Fall schedule, which will include Wednesday Night Live (a light supper and classes, groups, etc.), the music program, a visitation program, missions (planning a work trip to McCurdy School), youth ministry, and more.
- An easier-said-than-done search for a Director of Youth Ministry (which continues).

Speaking of time, I have run out of it! The deadline for the newsletter has come, and this is the last article to go in. I hope and pray that it has been a good summer for you, and that you will be involved this fall in what God is doing at FUMC, Deming.

Keith

Each
ONE
Bring
ONE

The Church Mouse Hears.....

This is a new segment designed to pass on acts of hospitality and graciousness being practiced by our congregation.

Of all of the churches he has visited, one young man was overheard to say that First Deming was a very welcoming church. He was invited several times to attend Sunday School classes and also received multiple invitations to join our youth in their activities.

Pass it on!

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Our Newest Staff Member!

Hi! My name is Beth Simpson, and I am the new Assistant to the Pastor for Visitation and Congregational Care. I'd like to tell you a little about myself. My family and I recently moved to Deming after living in Hobbs for 5 1/2 years. We are quite familiar with Deming because my husband, Bryan Simpson, grew up and graduated from high school here. His parents, Joyce and Marty Sweetser, live here, and Joyce is an active member of this church. We have 2 children: Matthew is 7 and Rachel is 4.

I went to seminary at Duke Divinity School (where I met Bryan) and graduated in 1999. I am not ordained but have worked as a director of youth ministry and later as a director of children's and family ministry – both times at St. Paul's UMC in Las Cruces. The last 3 years I have worked as a preschool teacher – teaching children about God and stories from the Bible each day.

As my work changes to a ministry of visitation and congregational care, I am excited about getting to know as many of you as possible. I look forward to seeing you on Sunday mornings or visiting you at your place of residence – wherever that may be. Please know that I would like to hear from you if you have any special needs, health concerns, or just need someone to talk to. Please call me if you or someone you care about would like prayer or a visit. I'd also like to hear from you if you would like to participate in this rewarding ministry to members of the Body of Christ. You may call me at the church: 546-2791, my home: 546-2089, or my cell phone: 505-318-4751.

It is good to be in your midst serving God together at this wonderful church!

Your fellow servant in Christ,
Beth Simpson

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Labor Day Campout!

Remember our Labor Day Campout at Sapiillo Campground in the Gila National Forest, August 31 through September 3. You can camp for the weekend (\$15/family) or come up for the day. Join us Saturday night for a 5pm potluck followed by evening worship services at 7pm.

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More Tidbits: If you visit Christianbook.com by Sept. 30, and use code 262895ADHWYK at checkout, the church receives 10% of the merchandise total for those who use this code.



Bob Aldrich	Marilyn Offutt
Nina & Cody Ayon	Brian/Ann Pettit
Jarrold Adams	John Plant
Bencomo Family	Porter family
Bill Blake	Bob Proebstel
Tabbitha Bland	Joyce Richards
Joe Bob Brown	Delia Sierra
The Burkles	Shirley Skaggs
Geri Buss	Gary Slayman
Callaway	Diane Spencer
Fran Chase	Karen Tanner
Andrea Chavez/family	Myrtle Thomas
Helen Covey	Bob/Kitty Tobey
Ella and Ken Davis	Gary Ward
Breece DeBoutz	Doug Welborn
Ken Dobson	
Travis Dodson & family	Service men & women:
Starlene Eaglestar	Travis Dodson's unit,
Jerry and Joseph Fauci	Avilla Augustus, Alan
Carol Fly	Ballinas, Alan/Brian
Christopher Fredrick	Carter, Amber Dunninghoo,
Chris Gonzales	Jason Hammers, Joel
Mannie Gonzales	Hunt, Shaun M. Jones,
Anita Gutierrez	Jennifer/John Lively,
Betty Hansford	Jennifer/Jarrold McGee,
Alvin Harper	Michael Nunley, Josh
Hartman Family	Robertson, Tyrell
Jim Hines	Shiflett, L. Charles
Wayne Humphrey	Stanley, Greg Stube,
Lois Kelly	Danny Symonds, Van
Marge Kosek	Welch
June Manning	
Gordon McIver	Families dealing with
Sam/Eva Melendrez	grief: Boehm, Everman
Mary Ethel Miller	
Bob Moon	
Lynde Murphy	

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

BLOOD DRIVE - Thursday, September 6 from 9am to 1pm in the Fellowship Hall. In addition to saving up to three lives with your donation, United Blood Services is now offering cholesterol screening. Call the church office TODAY for your appointment or drop by on the 6th!

Our September **bread basket offering** will benefit Healing House, the local women's shelter. In addition to providing shelter for women and children, Healing House collects clothing and household items so that families can be given a new start in a new home. Your generosity on September 16 will bless many lives.

As church members, we are responsible for keeping our church looking neat and tidy, while making it easier for the next person to find things. So, **if you use something** - especially in the kitchens, please arrange to **put it away again** (where you found it), even if you have to come back another day. Drawers and cabinets in both kitchens are labeled for your convenience. Thank you!

Old Fashion Ice Cream Social, Sunday, Sept. 16 from 2-4 pm at Rio Mimbres Country Club picnic area. \$5/person (4 and under free). For more information or to buy tickets, please contact Melody (546-4748) or Linda Rogers (546-9391).

Needed: More Love, INC Volunteers! On numerous occasion, Love INC of Luna County has had the need to deliver food or other items to a client, but had no volunteer available to make the delivery. If you would like to offer this service, and touch a life with God's love, please call 544-2400.

From the Mailbag

“First United Methodist, Deming,

I want to thank my church family for allowing and welcoming the youth choir of Lake Jackson to come and set up camp in your facilities! You were more than gracious and we really appreciate everything you did to help us. Christ was shown in you.

Thanks Joe, Keath, Claire, and Beth!

What Joy, Santhia”

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### *You Are Invited!*

Bob and Carol Ward will be celebrating their 20th Wedding Anniversary with an open house on September 22 at 3pm (1980 Monte Vista SW). We would like to invite all of our church family to join us in celebration (no gifts please; your presence is more than enough!).

To get to the our house, take 8th Street south about 8 miles (you will pass Solana, O’Kelly and Rockhound roads). Continue on to Monte Vista Road and turn right at the stop sign. Go one mile. You will pass two houses on the left hand side. We are the third house. You will see a red building just before reaching the driveway. If you cross Lucca Road, you have just missed us.

Please feel free to call us at 546-3073 for more information. Bob & Carol Ward.

### *McMurry Sunday*

What a treat! Bishop Dan Solomon, Bishop in residence at McMurry University in Abilene, TX, will be our guest speaker on Sunday, September 30 - designated as McMurry Sunday.

The following is information about McMurry, taken from their website:

“Founded in 1923, McMurry University has gained a national reputation for excellence and value through the achievements of our faculty, students, and graduates. We are a liberal arts university offering bachelor's degrees in the fine arts, humanities, social and natural sciences, business, education, and nursing. Steeped in our United Methodist tradition, our 1400 students are affected daily by our Core Values: Christian Faith as the foundation of life, Personal Relationships as the catalyst for life, Learning as the journey of life, Excellence as the goal of life, and Service as the measure of life. We boast of an outstanding faculty and staff whose goal is to maximize each student's level of achievement and to expose them to those qualities that go into making a successful life. We have been recognized annually since 1996 by US News & World Report for quality and value. You can also read about us in 100 Colleges Where Average Students Can Excel.”

We will be taking our McMurry offering that Sunday. Additionally, Bishop Solomon is hosting a dutch-treat alumni (or ex-student) dinner on Saturday, Sept. 29, at Palma’s restaurant, at 6pm. If you ever attended McMurry, come on down!

## Calling All Kids!

Our after-school program, Crafty Kids, will resume on Thursday afternoons, beginning September 13th!

This program is open for kids from kindergarten on up to 6th grade. They meet after school on Thursday afternoons from 3:15 to 5:00 pm for snacks, games, stories and, of course, crafts.

You do not have to be a member of FUMC to attend so invite a friend to join you!

Parents and guardians - your promptness in picking up your children at 5pm is greatly appreciated by the staff and by the people who volunteer their time with your children.



## Calling All Youth!

First Call, our youth fine arts group, will begin on Wednesday, September 12th. This group covers a variety of fine arts including theatre and music. It is open to youth in 6th through 12th grades.

First Call meets Wednesday afternoons from 4:00 to 5:00 pm in the choir room. Youth are invited to stay for dinner, FUSION (our youth fellowship group) and Wednesday Night Live (see next column).

This event is open to all youth so invite a friend to come with you!

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE!!

What is it? WNL is an evening of fellowship and study for the **WHOLE** family. It is not just for our members, it is for the **WHOLE** community!

When is it? Wednesday evenings beginning September 12 and ending November 14 (but not October 31 which is Halloween; everyone is invited to Trunk or Treat instead).

What is the schedule? We'll meet in the Fellowship Hall from 5:00 to 6:00 pm for a simple meal and devotional. Then we'll break into classes or activities from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

What are the classes? We'll have various activities for all the children, including homework assistance. For the youth, we'll have FUSION (our youth fellowship) and a confirmation class (learning about making a commitment to Jesus Christ and what it means to be a United Methodist). For the adults, we'll offer four classes:

Gen X Bible Study—This is a very unique Bible Study that is open anyone who wants to know more about the Bible and about God. A Study of Luke and Acts—An in-depth look at the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts. Financial Seminar—A basic skills approach to financial freedom. A Beth Moore study (see page 8).

For more information, or to register, please visit our website: [www.fumcdeming.org](http://www.fumcdeming.org). A nursery will be provided.

Remember, this is open to *everyone!*



## TAKE NOTE

It is hard to believe that summer is over. We turn our attention towards the Fall and the changing season. The air is cooler and daylight is not as long. Let us be glad for another season to come together and praise God through the wonder of our music making.

I must say, that one of my favorite times this last month was singing at Mimbres Nursing Home. It touched my heart that so many people attended with a moments notice. One of the ladies told me that we had blessed their day, but I believe I received a bigger blessing for serving. What a strong testament to our faith. Our community yearns to hear the music of God. Let us continue in our tradition by continuing to be the servant leaders God called us to be.

Blessings,  
Joe

### September Schedule

Week of September 3<sup>rd</sup>:

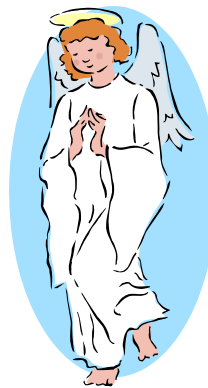
3<sup>rd</sup> Labor Day No Bell Practice  
5<sup>th</sup> 5:30pm Praise Band  
7:00pm Chancel Choir

Week of September 10<sup>th</sup>:

10<sup>th</sup> 4:30pm Handbell Choir  
5:30pm Praise Band  
11<sup>th</sup> 3:30pm Soul Kids (STARTS)  
12<sup>th</sup> 4:00pm First Call (STARTS)  
7:15pm Chancel Choir

Week of September 17<sup>th</sup> (Same Rehearsal Schedule as Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>)

Week of September 24<sup>th</sup> (Same Rehearsal Schedule as Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>)



**T'is the season to write  
devotionals FA LA LA LA  
LA LA!**

If you have a favorite passage you would like to share with the church please let me know. Along with the passage please include some thoughts about what makes make this part of the Holy Scripture so personal to you.

Please share your story by e-mailing me, J o e M a c D o n a l d , a t [fumcmusic@zianet.com](mailto:fumcmusic@zianet.com). The stories will be compiled and included in an Advent Devotional Handbook for the holiday season.

All articles need to be submitted not later than October 31<sup>st</sup>. To help the editor, please use Times New Roman 12 font. The handbooks will be delivered the Sunday before the Advent season begins.

Please e-mail me a copy using Microsoft word. If you are not comfortable using a computer, please type or write a very neat copy of your article and hand it to me on any Sunday morning before October 31<sup>st</sup>. We are hoping to have one devotion for each day of Advent.

Blessings,  
Joe

### UMW News

Well, here we are with school starting and that means the UMW Bazaar is not far off.

One of the booths people look for is our jewelry booth. So if you have any old, new, used, or even broken jewelry that you'd like to donate, please call Lorraine Lutonksy at 546-7666. She'll arrange to get your "treasures!" The UMW requests you please do not drop jewelry off at the church. Call Lorraine instead. If she's unavailable, please leave a message on her answering machine. Thank you and watch for future information on the bazaar!

September 9th will be UMW SUNDAY!

The UMW will lead church services that day, with Mickie Stimpson as our guest speaker. Her message will be, "There's a Spirit in the Air."

The September 15th meeting will be in the Fellowship Hall beginning with a business meeting at 1:00 pm, followed by Part 1 of our study, "Israel/Palestine," from 2-4:00 pm. Refreshments will be served. This is a very timely subject and ALL ladies are welcome. Members, you are reminded to be please be working on some kind of craft for the Christmas Bazaar.

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### Beth Moore Bible Study

"A Heart Like His—seeking the heart of God through a study of David" is the Beth Moore Bible that will be presented this fall. The study will be held Thursday mornings in our Sunday School wing from 9:00 to

11:15 am, beginning September 20 and ending December 6.

The workbooks will be \$17.00. The registration deadline is September 5. If you need more information or wish to register, please call Phyllis Mudd (544-7787) or Suanne Delk (546-2985).

If you would like to attend this study in the evening, we will be offering it in conjunction with Wednesday Night Live (see page 6). The registration deadline and cost are the same. Please contact Dianne Donaldson (546-7079) for additional information or to register.

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*Not to be served,  
but to serve.  
Matthew 20: 20-28*

### Service of Installation for our new District Superintendent

YOU ARE INVITED to attend a Service of Installation for Beverly J. Jones, El Paso District Superintendent. The service will be held on Saturday, September 8, at Western Hills UMC, beginning at 1:15pm. A reception following the service will be held at the District Parsonage.

EVERYONE is our church is encouraged to join in this service as we welcome Beverly as our new District Superintendent.

If you would like directions to Western Hills UMC (in El Paso) and/or the District Parsonage (also in El Paso), please see Claire in the church office.

***Upcoming Camps, Retreats, Spiritual Enrichments Seminars and Mission Trips***

There are a NUMBER of worthwhile camps, retreats, missions trips and spiritual enrichment seminars available throughout our conference and region. I will give the highlights and you can contact the church office, or the listed contact person, for more information.

Sept. 27-29 at Many Farms for the Reservation Project. Work on Indian reservations for home renovation. Contact Stan Sager by email: sagerabq@comcast.net.

Oct. 24-27 in Albuquerque: *Blessed to be a Blessing*. Christian Education for the 7th Generation with Preaching from the Center. Website: www.cef2008.org.

Oct.28-Nov.2: 4th Annual El Paso District Trip to Juarez for Operacion Hogar construction (building modest block homes in Juarez, in colonias, where families are living in vehicles and cardboard shacks). Contact Rev. Skip Hodges by email: skip@stlukemethodist.org., or phone, 915-591-8126.

Nov. 1-4 in Ft. Worth, TX: *Living Faith, Seeking Justice*. Learn important techniques in training and mobilizing others to engage in advocacy and the work that transforms the world for Christ. Contact the General Board of Church and Society at 202-488-5600.

Nov. 2-4 at Mount Sequoyah Conference and Retreat Center (Ark.): *Fall Singles*

*Retreat and Conference*. For all single adults; over 30 individual workshops. Website: www.sequoyahsingles.org or call 800-760.8126.

Nov. 3-4 at Madonna Center in Albuquerque: *Quilting and the Spiritual Life: A Weekend Retreat for Women Who Quilt*. Contact Raquel Mull at 505-507-4249 or email bedeezhil1@aol.com.

Nov. 16-18 at Sacramento Methodist Assembly: *CCYM Fall Senior High Event*. Fall camp open to 9th-12th graders. Contact Johnnie Blalack at 505-397-7777.

Feb. 2-15, 2008 study trip to Palestine and Israel: *Seeking Peace and Pursuing Justice*. For a copy of the brochure for this overseas Mission Study Trip, sponsored by the General Board of Global Ministries, contact Rev. Sandy Burley at 505-922-8991.

Feb. 22-24, 2008 at St. Stephen's UMC in Albuquerque: *Christian Discipleship - Living a Resilient Life*. Guest Speaker is Gordon MacDonald. Contact St. Stephen's at www.ssumc.com

Mar. 7-8, 2008 in El Paso: *The Magnetic Church*. A Conference presented by Andrew Weeks and hosted by First Presbyterian Church. For more information, call Lynette Meyer at 915-533-7551 or email her at lynette@firstpres-ep.org.

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**Reminder:** We are still accepting used Bibles for the local prison ministry. Please drop yours off at the church office!

## ***FROM THE BISHOP'S DESK***

I listened carefully as the pastor laid out her hopes and dreams for the congregation in the coming years.

Each year I have listened to pastors expressing their hopes and dreams in the annual pastoral consultation. A few pastors have articulated significant transformation and renewal in the churches they served. Most have anticipated their knowledge, skills, and leadership would produce sufficient, or at least some, growth in the coming year. My analysis produced anticipation with far fewer accomplishments. The pastors had dreams but few strategies to bring those dreams to reality. They believed their dreams would materialize if they worked harder, made a few changes, or found the “right” new lay leadership. This one conversation was different.

The first difference I noticed was the passion in the pastor’s voice. She wanted more than to see the membership and attendance figures increasing. She wanted more than to see the average age of the congregation declining rather than increasing. She wanted individuals to come into a relationship with Jesus Christ and to grow in that relationship. She outlined several changes and additions that she needed to make in her ministry, and modifications necessary in the congregation’s format of fruitful disciple making. Most of the transformation appeared minuscule in what was expected of others, but gigantic in the impact of attracting, embracing, and converting those drawn to the church.

Bishop Robert Schnase communicated to the New Mexico Annual Conference that the pathways to revitalized congregations are not dramatic changes of the basic functions of churches, but rather intensifying and fulfilling those functions with greater passion,

excitement, and determination. I saw that intensity, excitement, and determination as the pastor shared her hopes and dreams. I knew the future would be exponentially different both in her personal and congregational life. She envisioned a different future for herself and the congregation. She was unwilling to simply work harder and make modest improvements in her ministry. She envisioned a different future from her present reality. Deep changes were about to begin.

For the future to be significantly different from the present requires clarity about the present reality. Congregations and pastors often suffer from a denial of their current reality. One superintendent faced a heated confrontation while presenting basic demographic information about the church and community. One man in particular could not believe the average age in the community was over 30 years younger than the average age of the members of the congregation. He could not comprehend the number of people moving into the community. This denial of the congregation’s current reality prevented them from aggressively communicating the good news of Jesus Christ to the community—and yet the information was readily available without expense to the leaders of the church from the Census Bureau.

Knowing the present reality enables pastors and lay leaders to envision the future God desires for them. God anxiously anticipates a time when every person lives as a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ and for every congregation to be the hope of the world.

I wait with anticipation the day when every conversation with pastors and congregations reflects the passion, vision, and plan I saw that clergywoman illuminating. By God’s grace that day is coming.

Grace and peace, Max