

The en - Ligh - ner

Monthly

Newsletter of

First United Methodist Church

July 2017

Mission Statement: To make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

July Sermon Series

*Faith in God Brings
Hope to Life*

July 2nd - Acts 2:36-42
God Forgives, Can We?

July 9th - Acts 2:43-47
Where There is Harmony
God will Give Growth

July 16th - Acts 3:1-10
We Must Share the Gift of
Christ

July 23rd - Acts 3:11-16
God Alone is God

July 30th - Acts 4:1-12
Discipleship Comes with a
Price



Stewardship

Stewardship is a way of life. We are all stewards of God's wonderful creations. God gave us the responsibility for taking care of each other and all that He created.

Here at First United Methodist Church in Portales, the stewardship committee conducts an annual stewardship campaign; however, the main task of the committee is to educate and develop gifts, talents, and abilities for everyone in the congregation. Our hope is to develop Christian stewardship as part of an ongoing faithful spiritual journey that deepens and matures with our faith. When someone becomes a member of First United Methodist Church they are asked "As members of this congregation, will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, and your service?"

The Church serves as a steward, and the congregation is a steward in the way it celebrates each other's joys and weeps with those who go through times of sorrow. The congregation acted as a model steward when it decided to build a new church building and made a 20-year commitment to pay for that building and is successful. We will celebrate with joy this great accomplishment on Sunday, August 6th.

Many of us remember making the commitment to build and pay for a new church building. Unfortunately, others that shared that vision are not here to celebrate with us. We won't forget their dedication and commitment.

Following is an article by Dave Russell, who was very involved in this building project and has kept track of the bonds from the beginning to the final payment. We thank Dave for all he has done.

By Donny Massey

September 1999

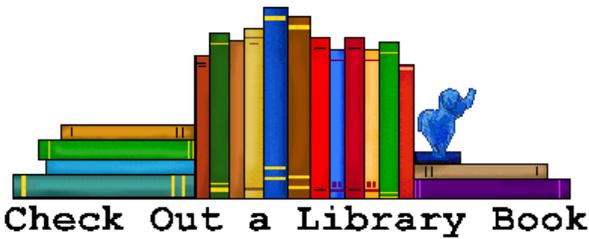
What's so special about that date? There was no earth shattering events that occurred then. There was no cure for cancer. There was no peace in the Middle East. There was no end to poverty. So what happened? That date was when we started seriously considering building a new church. Eighteen years ago. That's not so long ago when you consider the age of First United Methodist Church-Portales. We had just celebrated our Centennial a few years before.

(Continued on page 3)





Mark Your Calendar



NOTE TO LIBRARY USERS

On top of the card catalog, there is a wooden frame containing a sample book card and instructions for checking out a book from the library. You sign your full name and date you are taking the book on the book card. File the card alphabetically behind the author's last name. Please don't leave the cards lying on the desk or table. Reference books do not have book cards and are to be used in the library. They are not to be checked out.

UMW MEMBERS

On the WMW Reading Shelf, there is a sheet with instructions for checking out your books. Sign your full name and date taken. Put the book card in the **red box** on that shelf. DO NOT FILE IT IN THE LIBRARY'S CARD FILE.

If readers will follow these instructions, then everyone can find a book where it's supposed to be or know who has it. Thanks to everyone.

Fayrene Powers

Welcome to New Members

Bob and Lou Sikes joined the church on 6-18-17. Watch for a complete profile in the August newsletter.

July



1st	Dianne Parker - B
2nd	Sheryl Borden - B
2nd	Charles & Desarie Evelo - A
4th	Ruth Wood - B
4th	Happy Birthday America!
6th	Jeremy Hilliard - B
7th	Jon Kiernan - B
9th	Lavon Brown - B
10th	Gage Bonestroo - B
10th	Tori Collins - B
11th	Chris Barnett - B
12th	Drew Pierpoint - B
13th	Earlene Brinker - B
13th	Dean DeGroot - B
18th	Logan Hebert - B
19th	Chris Hilliard - B
21st	David Myers - B
22nd	Sarah Rice - B
22nd	Abby Legler - B
22nd	Mark & Cindy Stone - A
24th	Shay Daugherty - B
24th	Conner Rooney - B
28th	Milz Bickley - B
29th	Sam Rice - B
30th	Mark Stone - B



BISHOP BLEDSOE TO VISIT SUNDAY, AUGUST 6

That fall, over 50 members voted to conduct a Stewardship campaign in order to finance the new building. The vote passed by a large majority. I remember Sharon Cissell commenting after the vote tally was announced: "Oh my gosh, we're going to build a new church." And we did.

In 2002, the church sold \$750,00.00 worth of church bonds. Later, in 2004 we found that we needed to increase the bonds to \$1,000,000.00. This past May we were able to pay off the last of the bonds and are **debt free**. By paying off the last seven years of bonds early, the church saved \$314,979.86 in interest. The total amount we paid came to \$1,564,301.86. We also had bonds that were signed over to the church as gifts in the amount of \$17,259.00.

It is now time for the Stewardship Campaign for 2018. Since we won't be making payments towards the debt reduction we will only be concentrating on the operating budget for the upcoming year.

I would conclude with some humorous one-liners:

"The lord loveth a cheerful giver. He also accepteth from the grouch."

"It's church budget season - time for the sermon on the amount."

"A lot of people are willing to give God the credit, but so few ever give him cash."

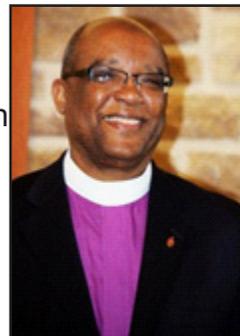
"Don't give until it hurts. Give until it feels good."

Holy Humor: Inspirational Wit and Cartoons: Cal & Rose Samra

God bless you and keep you.

Dave Russell

Bishop W. Earl Bledsoe and other Conference officials, as well as special guests, will join us in worship and celebration Sunday, August 6. This visit will be in celebration of our church bond payoff, and the Bishop will be bringing the message. We will have a nice, delicious potluck in the Fellowship Hall immediately following church services. Members of the church will be given an opportunity to speak briefly during the potluck on what the new church building has meant to them. This is a very special time for our church.



Our initial bond was \$1,000,000.00 set to mature in 23 years. The maturity value of the bonds, including principal and interest, was \$1,564,301.16. Through the faith and diligence of the members of First United Methodist Church and the Holy Spirit, the bonds were paid off in 16 1/2 years – that's 6 1/2 years early! The early payoff resulted in \$314,979.86 savings in interest. Not only was it a great interest savings, it now leaves us extra funds to build our worship and Sunday School programs.

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, August 6, and plan to be with us as we celebrate this milestone.

First United Methodist Church Staff

Pastor - Dr. Keith Wilks
Office Manager - Gerri Bradsher
Nursery - Melissa Borden
Lay Leader - Linda Weems
Choir Director - Jan Smartnick
Accompanist - James Golden
Youth Leader - Amberlyn Mauldin
enLightner Editor - Sheryl Borden
Bishop - W. Earl Bledsoe
District Superintendent - Jane Vaughan

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(You can click on any of the blue links in this newsletter, and they should open the link or website. If they do not open, you can cut and paste the URL or email address into your browser.)



Dianne Parker led Childrens' Moments on 6-25-17



Some of the children who attended Vacation Bible School present a song they learned.



James Golden assisted with Vacation Bible School, which was held June 19-21.



On June 25th, Jordan and Jayden Roehl were baptized by Pastor Keith. Shown left to right: Janet Roehl, grandmother holding Jordan and Jordan Roehl, mother holding Jayden.

CERTIFIED LAY MINISTRY

For additional information, contact:
Rev. Pamela Rowley, Conference
Facilitator for Certified Lay Ministry.
575-522-8220 or 575-642-8559
pam@uumclascruces.org

New Mexico Conference now has 49 Certified Lay Ministers serving faithfully. A new training class for CLM will start this September and will be offered in Odessa & Las Cruces. For more information, please contact Rev. Pamela Rowley, Conference Coordinator for Certified Lay Ministry, at 575-522-8220 or 575-642-8559. Please return required documentation to Pam at: University United Methodist Church, 2000 Locust, Las Cruces, NM 88001, by August 1, 2017.

Required Documents:

- Letter of Recommendation from your local Pastor (Must hold a membership in a UMC.)
- Certificates of Completion of Basic & one Advanced Lay Servant Courses
- CLM Registration Form 2017-18

Certified Lay Minister

Training 2017-2018

Pre-requisites

- Completion of the Lay Servant Basic Course
- Completion of ONE Lay Servant Advanced Course.
- A certificate of completion is required for both.
- A letter of recommendation from the pastor of the local church where he/she holds membership.

Note: The CLM applicant must hold membership in a United Methodist Church.




Dates & Location

Asbury UMC Odessa, TX 4001 E. University	Sept 8-9 Oct 14-15 Nov 10-11 Jan 12-13 Feb 8-10 Mar 9-10 Apr 13-14	University UMC Las Cruces, NM 2000 S. Locust St	Sept 22-23 Oct 14-15 Nov 10-11 Jan 12-13 Feb 8-10 Mar 9-10 Apr 13-14
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For more info contact Rev. Pam Rowley (505) 522-8220 - pam@uumclascruces.org