

“Loving God, Serving Others, Changing Lives”

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

REUBEN'S RAMBLINGS

October, 2023, Issue 10

While I was on vacation last month, I read a book by John MacArthur entitled *Twelve Ordinary Men, How the Master Shaped His Disciples for Greatness, and What He Wants to Do with You*. The author discusses in detail the calling of each disciple by Jesus, their struggles and weaknesses, and what we know about them in the Bible and according to tradition. This reading affirmed much of what I already knew about the disciples and provided new insights and background into their lives and ministry. In many ways, they were just like you and me or the people we know. They were ordinary, hardworking people who had their faults, but Jesus saw potential in each one of them and used them to build His Church.

I found it interesting that the theme of one of my recent sermons of sharing our faith with others one-on-one, ran through the book. The first example that the author used was Andrew who we discussed on Sunday July 9th. As we discussed, Andrew was one of the first disciples called (John 1:40-42). He was always bringing others to Jesus. Remember what was the first thing he did after meeting Jesus? He went immediately to

his brother Simon Peter and told him that he and John had found the Messiah. Andrew fully appreciated the value of a single soul. He was known for bringing individuals, not crowds like Peter at Pentecost, to Jesus.

Another disciple who followed Andrew's example of bringing others to Jesus was Philip who we discussed on Sunday July 16th. His first response after Jesus called him was to find his personal friend Nathanael and tell him about Jesus. Friendships and relationships provide the most fertile soil for sharing our faith with others. MacArthur states: "When the reality of Christ is introduced into a relationship of love and trust that has already been established, the effect is powerful." When someone becomes a follower of Jesus Christ, their first impulse is to share it with a friend. Do you feel that way? Have you shared your love for Jesus with others?

And then there's Matthew, the tax collector. In Matthew 9:9, Jesus sees Matthew sitting at his tax collector's booth and says: "Follow me." Matthew immediately got up and left everything and followed Jesus. Then the first thing he did was to invite his friends and colleagues to dinner at his house and introduce them to Jesus.

In his book, MacArthur states: "One thing I have observed in all of my years of ministry is that the most effective and important aspect of evangelism usually takes place in an individual, personal level. Most people do not come to Christ as an immediate response to a sermon they hear in a crowded setting. They come to Christ because of the influence of an individual." I have said it often that you will bring more people to a personal relationship with Jesus by how you live your daily life and share with others than all the sermons I will ever preach. There is no question that the most effective means of bringing someone to Jesus is on an individual basis.

The bottom line is that the Church needs more people like Andrew and Philip who understand the value of befriending just one person at a time and who are willing to step out of their comfort zones to share their love and faith in Jesus with others. Are you willing to be one of these people? Don't forget to invite your friends and neighbors to church.

God Bless, Reuben

OBSCURE NAMES IN THE BIBLE



Who was Potiphar? (in the Old Testament)
Find the answer elsewhere in this issue.

Bible Studies Available

To help us grow spiritually in our personal relationship with Christ, High Desert UMC is offering the following Bible studies this fall. Please join one of the following studies in the classroom.

SUNDAY 10 AM: Studying The Gospel of Luke, Topical Bible Studies, Led by Tony Smith.

MONDAY 9 AM: Studying "40 Days Through the Book of Acts" by Randy Frazee. Class is led by Francie Larsen.

WEDNESDAY 10:30 AM: Starting September 6. Led by John Kottenbrook, will begin studying the Holy Spirit and the Psalms.

WEDNESDAY 5:30 PM: Studying the entire Bible using "The Story", by Max Lucado and Randy Frazee. Led by Reuben Thomas

AT FAIRWINDS: Tony Smith leads a Bible Study at Fairwinds each week.

ONLINE STUDIES: We are currently sending out each week an email from Tony Smith discussing a chapter from the Book of Isaiah. In addition, you can participate in one of Tony's online studies on Daniel, John and Revelation at coraleno@aol.com.

PODCASTS: "Footsteps" Available on the church website.

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE



The September outing was an afternoon at the **baseball game**: September 10th at the Isotopes. We had a fun time and the Isotopes played a great game.

For October, our fellowship event will be the Church Cookout on Friday, October 6th at 5:00 PM.

Until next time,

Ken Dewbre,

Fellowship Committee Chairperson



OCTOBER SECOND MILE GIVING:

While Thanksgiving and Christmas are a few months away, we are already starting our holiday preparations. There are three opportunities for Second Mile Giving during October as noted below for helping others during the holiday season:

THANKSGIVING BOXES

For the last four years, High Desert has been providing Thanksgiving Boxes with all the items needed for a Thanksgiving dinner including the turkey to the clients of Haven House. They have indicated that they need 50 boxes this year. Haven House is the only domestic violence shelter in Sandoval County. They provide emergency shelter, case management, support groups, life-skill classes, legal advocacy, referral to job opportunities, housing and other supportive services, and therapeutic counseling for both women and their children. If you would like to support this ministry, please mark "Thanksgiving Boxes" on the memo line of your check to the church. We will purchase all the items and assemble the boxes.

CHRISTMAS GIFT CARDS

St. Joseph Mission School in San Fidel is one of our mission projects. The school serves 40 students from the Acoma and Laguna Pueblos. Last year, when we asked the principal Antonio Trujillo what we could do for the students at Christmas, he indicated that gift cards would be an excellent Christmas gift. Due to your generosity, we were able to give each student a \$50 gift card. This allowed the students to purchase what they really wanted for Christmas. We would like to continue this successful mission project and plan to purchase a \$25 or \$50 gift card for each student depending on how much is donated. If you would like to support this project, please mark "Christmas Gift Card" on the memo line of your check to the church.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

High Desert has participated in this mission project for several years, where members get a shoebox (any regular size will work), and fill it with toys, hygiene items, school supplies and a donation of \$10 for shipping and bring it to the church. We will take the boxes to Grace Outreach Church during collection week on November 17th, for distribution to children in need all around the world. We have been collecting items each month for the shoeboxes and will assemble these on November 17, 2023. You can also assemble your own box (instructions and empty boxes are available in the Narthex) or you can donate \$30 (\$20 for items and \$10 for shipping) to the church and Patty Latter will purchase the items. Last year we collected 127 boxes and our goal this year is 133 boxes. Please mark "Operations Christmas Child" on the memo line of your check.

As you can see, there are several opportunities to give and make a difference in the lives of children and those in need. These three projects demonstrate our commitment to share God's love in our immediate area, farther from home, and throughout the world. We hope that you will support at least one or all these mission projects. Your continued support and participation in the mission program of High Desert is greatly appreciated.

Women with Purpose



Women With Purpose will meet Thursday, Oct 5, at 10:00 AM in the sanctuary. Our focus this month is creating 32 birthday party bags for the children living in the Saranam housing project. Our speaker will be a staff member from that worthwhile project. Join us for music, food, fellowship and work!"

Come and bring a friend!

THE STORY

The Bible as One Continuing Story of God and His People

On August 30, 2023, our Wednesday Night Bible Class began a nine-month journey through the entire Bible using the *The Story* by Max Lucado and Randy Frazee. Condensed into 31 accessible chapters, *The Story* sweeps you into the unfolding progression of Bible characters and events from Genesis to Revelation. *The Story* is different from your traditional versions of the Bible in that it is written as a novel with all the duplication taken out, allowing you to more easily follow the story of the Bible in a chronological order. The texts were chosen to retain the overall flow of the narrative, so that you get a sense of the “big picture” of the Bible. *The Story* will help you understand who God is, who we are, and the meaning and purpose of life. Each Wednesday night, we will discuss each chapter in detail. If you want to learn more about the Bible, the greatest story ever written, it’s not too late to come and join us.

Blessing of the Animals

**Saturday, October 7, 2023
at 9 AM**

Church Parking Lot

All pets welcome.



CHURCH COOKOUT

DATE: Friday October 6, 2023

TIME: 5 – 7 pm

LOCATION: Church Parking Lot



We will provide hotdogs and hamburgers (and buns) with water, lemonade and ice tea. Please bring a dish to share. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for your dish and how you can help with the cookout. This is a great opportunity to invite your friends and neighbors.

Asbury Pie Café

Two teams from High Desert expertly staffed the Pie Café at the State Fair on September 7th and 8th. All proceeds from the sale of pies go to support various hunger ministries throughout Albuquerque. Despite being crowded into a very small space, we efficiently did the job, and had fun doing it.

Manning the Café this year were: Sue Duranty, Linnette Carlson, Lisa Isenberger, Bonnie Korngiebel, Patty Latter, Bruce Packard, Glenda Samford, John Samford, Ric Speed, Wanda Whittlesey-Jerome, Reuben Thomas, and Judy Thomas.



Thursday Team



Friday Team



Hard at work serving up pie and ice cream

OCTOBER

2023

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	9 AM Bible Study		Office Hrs 9-12 10:30 AM Bible Study 5:30 PM Choir Practice and Bible Study	10 AM Women with Purpose	11:00-2:00 Food Pantry 5:00 PM Cook Out	9:00 AM Blessing of the Animals
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	9 AM Bible Study 10 AM FNMK Bagging		Office Hrs: 9-12 10:30 AM Bible Study 5:30 PM Choir and Bible Study <i>Mission trip</i>	<i>Mission trip</i>	<i>Mission trip</i>	10 AM Memorial Service, for Lou Christen
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	9 AM Bible Study	9 AM Food Pantry	Office Hrs: 9-12 10:30 AM Bible Study 5:30 PM Choir and Bible Study	1 PM Food Pantry	10 AM Emmaus Agape Group	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	9 AM Bible Study <i>Mission Trip</i>	<i>Mission Trip</i>	Office Hrs: 9-12 10:30 AM Bible Study 5:30 PM Choir and Bible Study <i>Mission Trip</i>			
29	30	31				
9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	9 AM Bible Study					

Care Ministry

You're invited to call or send cards to these of our church family, to offer words of support and encouragement.

Phil Pittman	C/O Ravenna Assisted Living, 3051 Twin Oaks Dr. NW Albuquerque, NM 87120	
Lorra Garner	Genesis, 9150 McMahon Blvd. NW Albq 87114	408-722-6482
Grover Donahoe	766 Hood Way SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	220-3839
Rod Warpole	600 First Street NE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	332-9706
Mary Lou Schimke	7927 Jamestown Road NW, Albuquerque, NM 87114-4498	898-5911
Mac Esquibel	4544 Aguila Road SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	891-1469
Sister Barbara Kopecki	3800 W. Peterson Ave., Chicago, IL 60659	
Ella Jerome	813 Banco Court, Bernalillo, NM 87004	312-2992
Wanda Schierling	921 Purple Aster, Bernalillo, NM 87004	970-398-0501



October 6,	Mac & Laverna McGrew
October 12,	Grover & Doris Donahoe



Dann Meyer	Oct. 3
Dave Duranty	Oct. 5
Susan Fullinwider	Oct. 5
Wanda Golsan	Oct. 6
John Kottenbrook	Oct. 7
Raj Gandham	Oct. 9
Ken Dewbre	Oct. 11
Kay Boss	Oct. 11
Tara Warrior	Oct. 11
Mary Lou Schimke	Oct. 14
Karen Malinka	Oct. 17
Leuretta Lewis	Oct. 17
Bonnie Chalfant	Oct. 18
Usa Van Doren	Oct. 19
Linda Bates	Oct. 20
Mary Ann Birch	Oct. 23
Joy Rhodes	Oct. 24
Jenny Kottenbrook	Oct. 28
Kay Anderson	Oct. 29
Robert Pacheco	Oct. 30

ANSWER TO OBSCURE NAMES IN THE BIBLE:

POTIPHAR WAS THE CAPTAIN OF PHARAOH'S GUARD DURING THE TIME OF JOSEPH'S EXILE. JOSEPH WAS HIS SLAVE, BUT WAS LATER PROMOTED TO MASTER OF THE HOUSEHOLD. THE FASCINATING STORY IS FOUND IN GENESIS 39.

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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We're on the Web!
www.highdesertumc.org

October, 2023 Newsletter

HDUMC CHURCH PANTRY

Distribution dates for October, 2023 are:

Friday, October 7 at 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday, October 17 at 9:00 a.m.

Thursday, October 19 at 1:00 p.m.

October Collection: Canned Vegetables

There is a container in the foyer for these donations.

Contact John Samford at (505) 870-0667

for more information.
