

"Loving God, Serving Others, Changing Lives"

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

REUBEN'S RAMBLINGS

July 2021, Issue 7

I love baseball. I played it as a child and have had the privilege to coach both of my sons in little league as they were growing up. And now I have had the great opportunity to coach both of my grandsons. This spring with my son Ben we coached Logan's team at Eastdale Little League on Alameda. After the first two practices, Ben and I looked at each other and said that we would be lucky to win one game. But due to the dedication and efforts of those twelve boys, they won nine games and the league championship. As I have shared before, Logan had the game of his life that night. He had four hits, drove in several runs, caught a critical flyball and pulled off the only triple play of the season in the league.

One evening, Judy and I were early for a game and as I sat there and looked out at the ball field, I thought about how baseball is a lot like life. Some of the aspects of the game of baseball also apply to life. Consider the following for example:

1. No one is perfect; no player gets a hit every time at bat. No pitcher or team wins every game. It's the same in life, while we get a few hits and may even score some runs, we will strike out at times. God is patient with us even when we strike out and fall short of being the servant He wants. We worship and serve a God of second chances.

2. Hope springs eternal: the start of every season inspires hope. Every team expects to win the championship. When we accept Jesus Christ into our hearts, we get a new start on life. With this new life comes hope.
3. Don't get discouraged, keep trying. Baseball, like life, is a game of high and low points – homeruns and strike outs. As Christians, we are called to keep going, put our mistakes behind us and walk in faith; remember in Jesus Christ there is hope.
4. Every batter has heard the term "keep your eyes on the ball." At times, life will throw us a change-up, curve ball and an occasional inside fastball that knocks us down. Jesus never promised us a rose garden, but He did promise to always be with us. In Matthew 6:33, He tells us to seek first His kingdom; in other words, keep our eyes on Him.
5. Be a good sport. I told you about the water balloon fight following the championship game. The kids on both teams didn't care who won or lost; they just had fun. In John 13:34-35, Jesus said: "A new command I give you: Love one another." The word Jesus uses here for love is agape which means seeking the best for the

other person no matter what they have done or said about us.

6. In our league, everybody gets to play no matter their ability. In the same way, the Church is made up of many different people with different backgrounds and opinions. Each of us are to use our spiritual gifts in the service of the Lord. As the body of Christ, we are to support and encourage each other.
7. Finally, enjoy the game whether you are a player or a spectator. Jesus said that He came that we may have life and have it abundantly. We have only one life to live; let's live it for Jesus Christ.

I once had a T-shirt that read:

"Life Begins with Baseball."

Many die-hard baseball fans would agree with that statement, but for me life begins with Jesus Christ. Until we full accept Him into our heart, and walk with Him each and every day, we are not truly living. Put Jesus first and let life begin! Play Ball!

God Bless.

Reuben

“BEAR AND BLANKET KIDS”

So, here's how it all went down!

A few weeks ago, I brought the devotional at our Women With Purpose meeting about how small acts of kindness can grow and bless many. I used the miracle of the loaves and fishes to illustrate my point. After I shared with the group about how a lad gave his small lunch to Jesus and 5000 hungry folks had fish sandwiches for lunch, I gave each lady attending a five-dollar bill with instructions to do something for someone else and report back to the group if she wanted to.

The first one to report back on how she spent her five dollars was Lisa Isenberger. She had purchased some pink fleece material on sale and made a cute baby blanket and adorable stuffed whale to send to a single mother about to give birth to a baby girl. She even sent pictures. She then decided to try making stuffed bears and more blankets —thanks to Linnette Carlson's gift of some fleece she had on her closet shelf. Next, we were on the hunt for recipients of our creative offerings! We contacted Officer Monica Casaus of the Rio Rancho Police Department who met with Glynda Samford and me to explain how our “Bear and Blanket Kits” project could bring comfort to children in our community whose lives were in disruption for various reasons. Now the ball was rolling! We shopped for fleece. And MORE fleece! Lisa, with the help of Rose Meyer, was sewing up a storm. Officer Monica suggested we include a bag of toiletries in each kit so Judy Ballard lovingly knitted wash cloths to go with the soap, toothbrush, comb, etc. Our project came together like clockwork!

It was our privilege to have Officer Monica attend our meeting June 3rd. She helped us assemble 20 kits in the largest Ziplock bags I have ever seen. (Thank you, Sissy Othick.) Monica talked to us with warmth and passion as her obvious heart for children was revealed. We so appreciated her time. We loaded up her police vehicle with the kits and sent her off with our prayers and gratitude for her most important work.

And once again we see— little is much when God is in it! What began as a small act of kindness miraculously resulted in a big project involving many willing hands. We hope the kits will bring comfort to children on some very tough days.

I am thinking we will do this project again soon. The need is great.

Wanda Golsan



Wanda Golson and
Officer Monica Casuas



Completed “Bear
and Blanket Kits”

WOMEN WITH PURPOSE


Women With Purpose Meeting –

Thursday, July 1st, 2021 at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary

New Mexico Heart Gallery (founded by former state senator Candace Gould) gets our attention this month. In the past, our efforts have been to support the girls aging out of the foster care system with 'baby shower in a bag' (for those starting out with their own family). But this time we will address a different need. These young women leaving their foster families are faced with the daunting task of setting up their own homes and at the same time pursuing employment opportunities. We will be assembling 'starter kits' to help these girls by providing many household essentials: toilet paper, dish soap, cleaner, towels, shampoo, conditioner, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and anything else we can think of.

Ladies, will you come help this emerging generation get on their feet?

Did you know that there is an additional way you can support HDUMC when you shop online at places - other than AmazonSmile!

 **iGive.com** works like Amazon Smile but includes online retailers that you likely order from frequently; i.e.: Albertsons, Best Buy, Chewy, Costco, Instacart, Kohl's, L.L. Bean, Land's End, Staples, Walgreens, Walmart. Shopping online through the iGive.com website generates donations for HDUMC **at no cost to you.** Most UMC churches in New Mexico are participating in the iGive.com and it is listed at the UMCMarket.org website.

MORE INFORMATION WILL SOON BE OUTLINED IN A CHURCH BULLETIN INSERT!

Do you order from Amazon.com?? Did you know that when you order from Amazon, you can automatically generate donations to HDUMC, (at no additional cost to you) when you have selected **"High Desert United Methodist Church, Rio Rancho" to be your charity through Amazon Smile? Or you can use your own unique link for HDUMC.**

For more information, see flyer in Narthex or contact the church. When customers click on your unique link, they skip this charity selection process. Instead, they're taken to smile.amazon.com and are automatically asked if they want to support High Desert United Methodist Church.

Your unique charity link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/20-5181819>.



Our “Angel Among Us” this month goes out to Gary Cowles! If you hear a gentleman talking with a Texas drawl, that would be Gary Cowles. Gary joined HDUMC in June of 2020 and has been active ever since. Gary works at the Pantry two times each month and helps with unloading deliveries when needed; sometimes with a short notice. He has volunteered with his wife Joyce as greeters and has frequently offered to cover for others. Gary is also involved with Bible Studies, actually three of them! But one of the greatest things about Gary is his smile and welcoming greeting at church where his Christian spirit shows through. **THANK YOU, Gary for all you do!**



UPDATE FROM THE EDITOR:

Back to our “Angels Among Us” If you have someone you think deserves to be our Angel of the month, let me know.

generations4counseling@hotmail.com or phone 505-331-8894.

Francie Larsen

BIBLE STUDIES ANYONE??

Sundays, 10 AM, Studying Revelations, Led by Tony Smith

Mondays, 10 AM, “The Gospel of John” (DVDs). Led by Francie Larsen

Wednesdays, 10:30 AM, Studying Books of Jonah, Joe and Amos, Led by Judy Ballard

Wednesdays, 5:30 PM, Studying 2nd Timothy, Led by Pastor Reuben

Community of Hope by Pastor Jon Moore

This past week, during one of our weekday Community Breakfasts, Pastor Jon found himself laying his hand on the shoulder of Brian (his real name has been changed to protect his privacy), a former drug dealer and addict, as Jon prayed for Brian and his son. The day before Brian had lost his housing and had discovered his son was doing drugs. In a truly rare moment, tears flowed down Brian's cheeks. On the following Sunday, Brian offered the public prayer during Community of Hope's worship service.

Community of Hope (CoH) is an official new church plant of the New Mexico Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. Finding shelter at First United Methodist Church, in Downtown Albuquerque, CoH seeks to help people experience the "Big Three" from 1 Corinthians 13 – Faith, Hope, and Love – within a Christian community.

We take care of some of the basic needs of people experiencing poverty and homelessness as an expression of God's unconditional Love for all of us. We feed 3 breakfasts and 1 lunch each week, provide various basic needs like clothing and toiletries, and help people obtain things like driver's licenses or birth certificates or pandemic stimulus checks. For some, being loved is a new experience!

We renew people's Hope that there are people and places who will treat them with dignity, meet them where they are... and that the Church really is doing what Jesus Christ calls the Church to do. As we see the re-ignition of hope in people's lives, we end up able to help people prepare for job interviews or provide work clothes or boots for folks beginning new jobs or furnish basic items when our folks get housing. We find that dignity and respect are infectious and inspiring! **AND** there are plenty of people who aren't grappling with poverty or lack of shelter but are still looking for the Hope in Christ found at the center of Community of Hope.

We encourage one another to deepen faith in our weekly worship service, every Sunday at 1:00pm in the Courtyard of FUMC, Albuquerque. All our ministries of love and hope create space for faith to come alongside as opportunities to pray and have spiritual conversation abound. We look forward to re-launching CoH small groups that were stopped when the pandemic started. This past year has also seen us begin new initiatives to reach out with online worship and an enhanced social media presence on the web.

Community of Hope thanks High Desert UMC for partnering with us in providing Sunday lunches. We know CoH has created mutual ministry for us to come together as we love God and love our neighbors. "We're just doing what Jesus wanted His Church to do."



Regular CoH volunteers, in the FUMC, Albuquerque Courtyard.

NEWS FROM THE SCHUMANS

Dr. Stephen Schuman to retire May 31

Yesterday at 7:00 a.m.  40 Comments  23 Likes [LIKE THIS](#)

Dr. Stephen Schuman will be retiring after serving at CM for over 22 years in the Teen Clinic. His last day will be May 31.

Dr. Schuman received his M.D. from Kansas University School of Medicine and completed his Pediatrics Residency at University of Missouri Hospital & Clinics. His first clinical experience was spent doing medical missionary work with refugees in upcountry Thailand, followed by a variety of general pediatric practices in New Mexico.

Along the way he discovered an affinity to working with teen patients which brought him back to the Midwest and CM Teen Clinic in early 1999. He was integrally involved in overseeing the resident and medical student rotations in the Teen Clinic and thoroughly enjoyed the teaching aspect of his work, receiving several accolades along the way.

Dr. Schuman appreciates the opportunity CM gave him to focus on providing quality primary care to our community teens, as well as indulging his passion for teaching & mentoring. He will sorely miss the professional relationships and camaraderie he had with the wonderful, dedicated staff in the Teen Clinic but knows that will extend beyond the bounds of work. He encourages all to continue to give the best of yourself to bring out the best in others!



Steve's son, Joel, pianist, played for our Sunday Worship Service 2 1/2 years ago.

Debbie Schuman Hover

Debbie Schuman Hover retired after 20 years as Administrative Assistant of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program for 9th- 12th grade students at Poudre High School in Fort Collins, Colorado, (a position she had served initially as a volunteer for over 2 years before permanently hired!)





Involvement v. Commitment

Involvement: The fact or condition of being involved or participating in something.

Commitment: The state or quality of being dedicated to a cause or activity.

While both are essential to the success of any endeavor, I believe the differences here are measured in levels.

Let's use a simple example of a ham and egg breakfast: The chicken was involved but the pig was definitely committed.

When we choose to participate in the many outreach missions available to us at HDUMC, we each choose our level of involvement and hopefully after seeing the results of your efforts and the satisfaction gained through helping others, this involvement will evolve into genuine commitment that will sustain the organization you are supporting well into the future.

To the many members of HDUMC, thank you all for your continued support.

Michael Fawcett – Co-Director HDUMC Food Pantry

OBSCURE NAMES IN THE BIBLE



Next month: Who was Queen Vashti of the Old Testament? *Judy Ballard*

ANSWER FOR JUNE: Who is Hannah of the Old Testament?

Hannah was one of two wives of Elkanah and was childless. This was a deep source of regret to her (familiar theme in the Bible). She bargained with God, that if he would grant her a son, she would dedicate him to the Lord's work in the temple. She bore a son and called him Samuel ('Heard by God') and dedicated him just as she agreed. Hannah wrote a magnificent poem of gratitude to God; 1 Samuel 2:1-10.

JULY SECOND MILE GIVING HEIFER INTERNATIONAL

Our Second Mile Giving for July is Heifer International. Its mission is to work with communities to end world hunger and poverty and to care for the Earth. Heifer International was founded by Dan West, a farmer from the Midwest and a member of the Church of the Brethren, who went to the front lines of the Spanish Civil War as an aid worker. He found that giving refugees a cup of milk was not enough; what if they had a cow?

Thus, the Heifer Project adopted the philosophy of "teach a man to fish," by providing animals to families instead of handouts. The animals provide both food and reliable income, as agricultural products such as milk, eggs and honey can be traded or sold at the market. Families are empowered to turn hunger and poverty into hope and prosperity. Since 1944, Heifer International has provided livestock and environmentally sound agricultural training to improve the lives of those who struggle daily. They have been in ministry for 75 years providing animals to 20.7 million families in 125 countries. The goal of every Heifer Project is to help families achieve self-reliance.

Your contributions will be used to purchase animals. The current price is as follows: heifer - \$500; goat - \$120; sheep - \$120; rabbits- \$60 or flock of chicks - \$20. Thank you for your continued support to our mission program.

July 2021

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 WWP 10AM	2 Food Pantry 11AM to 2PM	3
4th 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS	5 10 AM Bible Study	6	7 Bible Study 10:30 AM 5:30 PM Bible Study	8	9	10
11 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS	12 10 AM Bible Study	13	14 Bible Study 10:30 AM 5:30 PM Bible Study	15 Food Pantry 1 to 4 PM	16	17
18 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS	19 10 AM Bible Study	20 Food Pantry 9 to Noon	21 Bible Study 10:30 AM 5:30 PM Bible Study	22	23	24
25 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS	26 10 AM Bible Study	27	28 Bible Study 10:30 AM 5:30 PM Bible Study	29	30	31

Care Ministry

You are invited to call, write or visit our friends in Christ who are homebound or have health issues, and offer your love, support and encouragement.

Sheila Arce	4910 Tramway Ridge Dr. NE, #318, Albq. NM 87111	
Lois Brister	2867 Cripple Creek Drive SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	892-7987
Grover Donahoe	766 Hood Way SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	220-3839
Mac Esquibel	4544 Aguila Road SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	891-1469
Lorra Garner	Genesis, 9150 McMahon Blvd. NW Albq. 87114	408-722-6482
Phil Pittman	C/O Ravenna Assisted Living, 3051 Twin Oaks Dr. NW Room 28, Albuquerque, NM 87120	
Dodie Rossman	The Rio Grande, 2331 Westside Blvd #219, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	300-7499
Mary Lou Schimke	7927 Jamestown Road NW, Albuquerque, NM 87114-4498	898-5911
Norvin Schuman	382 Nicklaus Dr. SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	891-0526
Rod & Louise Warpole	10301 Golf Course Rd NW, #1190, Albuquerque, NM 87114	382-9706
Mae Washburn	Ravenna Assisted Living, 3051 Twin Oaks Dr NW, Albq. 87120	



Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

Barry Birch	7/2
Linnette Carlson	7/3
Grover Donahue	7/4
Sandy Dewbre	7/6
David Zapf	7/7
Riley Siverts	7/7
Lana Packard	7/8
Ellie Mueller	7/10
Diane Youells	7/12
Shawn Colbert	7/14
Ione Harrand	7/18
Kai Warrior	7/21
Warren Herrington	7/22
Ginny Peaslee	7/27
Pat McMillan	7/27
Earl Hester	7/28
Dottie Hester	7/28

Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday!



Tony & Sheila Smith	7/4/1982
John & Lori Kottenbrook	7/12/1991
Paul & Rose Meyer	7/22/1970
Mel & Faye Lora	7/31/1953

HOW I GOT TO HDUMC. . . .

Ken and Sandy Dewbre were married in Albuquerque, but ended up living in Henderson, Nevada, where they had a business with Sandy's dad. Her dad had become ill, so they moved with the business back to Rio Rancho. That was in 1990 and they joined the Rio Rancho United Methodist church, where they met Ron Komatz and others who are now members of HDUMC.. Ron Komatz became minister of a church in Bernalillo, and they started there until he retired. In 2007, they were invited to HDUMC and according to Sandy, "could not believe the warm smiles and welcome given to them". Some of the people they knew before from the Rio Rancho United Methodist Church were members already, so that was a plus. A real "deal-breaker", according to Sandy was the wonderful card they received from Bryce and Sara Hendricks. They became active right away with Ken co-managing the Pantry and was on the Finance Committee; and Sandy was coordinator of Parish Staff. When Sandy was asked what they like the most about HDUMC, she emphatically said the people and the love and care. We are so glad you chose us Ken and Sandy!



GETTING TO KNOW YOU (by Dottie Hester)

Glenda Barber

It's nice to have our member, Glenda Barber, back in church with us again! During the pandemic, Glenda was responsible for helping with 700 meals a day at Meadowlark Senior Center and it was necessary for workers to stay healthy to prepare the meals.

Glenda was raised in William's, AZ and attended the University of Montana. She was married to a cowboy who managed feedlots in Scottsdale, Michigan, California, Edgemont SD (Frankie Harper's hometown) and Texas. While living in Texas, Glenda got her pilot's license.

Glenda and her husband moved to Wilcox, AZ where Glenda managed their quarter horse breeding ranch. After another move to San Diego, Glenda managed the family's business for several years before moving to Phoenix. Glenda moved to NM to be close to a son who now lives in Denver. Her other son also lives out of state. She went to work part time for Sandoval County Senior Services food program where she continues to work full time.



High Desert United Methodist Church

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

"Like" us on Facebook at:
[Facebook.com/HDUM](https://www.facebook.com/HDUM)

HDUMC CHURCH PANTRY

Distribution dates for July are:

Friday, July 2nd - 11:00 am to 2:00 pm

Thursday, July 15th – 9am to noon

Tuesday, July 20th – 1pm to 4pm

**Featured collection for July is: Canned Vegetables (Beans, Corn,
Peas, etc.)**
