

"Loving God, Serving Others, Changing Lives"

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

REUBEN'S RAMBLINGS

June 2021, Issue 6

Last month I introduced our new mission statement. I bet you didn't know we even had one! The old statement was printed on the front of the bulletin each Sunday: "Changing Lives One at a Time." Our new mission statement is: "Loving God. Serving Others. Changing Lives." This statement is based on Jesus' command to love God and love our neighbor. By putting God first in our lives and reaching out and serving others, hopefully we will change lives, and make a difference in this world.

Now I have used mission statements throughout my career with the Federal government and in previous churches. A mission statement is used by an organization, company or church to explain in simple and concise terms, its purpose for being. In other words, why it exists and what it is called to do. Thus, we are called to love God, serve others and by doing this change lives, bringing others to know and love God and His Son Jesus Christ.

We can accomplish this mission statement in several different ways. The focus of my message on Sunday May 16 was missions. We are truly a mission-oriented church with several outreach programs such as the Food

Pantry, Feed New Mexico Kids, the Interfaith Bible Center, Community of Hope, Gilbert Chavez Ministry, Heifer International, Haven House, United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), gift baskets, and work teams. While this is an impressive list, as I noted in my message, I am always looking for new opportunities; so if you have any ideas, please let me know. I am truly thankful for your continued support and contributions to our Second Mile Giving each month. I also hope that you will get involved in one of these mission programs if you are not already.

We also support our mission statement by strengthening our personal relationship with God and His Son Jesus Christ. We do this in several ways. First, I hope that you each are spending time alone each day with the Lord in prayer and reading His Word. This is essential to your spiritual growth. Also, I hope that you are involved in a weekly Bible study. We currently have four classes: Sunday at 10 am, Monday at 10 am, Wednesday at 10:30 am and Wednesday at 5:30 pm. Please check the bulletin to see what they are currently studying.

With things loosening up and getting back to some sort of normality, many of us will be traveling this summer on vacation and visiting family. I hope that you will be attending worship services as often as you can; don't take a break from worship and Christian fellowship.

In addition, with more things opening up in our community and State, we will hopefully experience more visitors at church. Please go out of your way to welcome them and make them feel right at home. In addition, please invite your friends and neighbors who currently don't have a church home to join us here at High Desert.

Finally, be in prayer for our church, its classes and programs, and all who worship here, that we may do God's will and make a difference for Him here in Rio Rancho. So let's love God, serve others and change lives!

God Bless.

Reuben

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY



HONOR THY FATHER by Bruce Packard

With Father's Day just around the corner, I want to take a moment to honor fathers, including father figures such as a favorite uncle or neighbor. God knows the importance of fathers and included the requirement to honor our fathers (and mothers) in the 10 Commandments. While we set aside one day a year to honor each of our parents, the commandments are 24/7. Let us explore the importance of this commandment as I share some of the things my father means to me and my development.

As a young child, dad provided me with clear, simple, and direct commands: how to behave and when to cross the street. You know, the basic lessons on life. As a minister, he was busy, but he always made time for his family. He was there to answer questions and provide guidance to the simple challenges of a young child. Sometimes his guidance focused on what to do, and, of course, other times it was what not to do. He might even have corrected me once or twice when I ignored his guidance. Whatever the situation, he always acted with love and taught me to take responsibility for my actions. In many respects, this is how God treated the Israelites in the Old Testament. God gave direct commands and redirected them when they strayed from his loving way. As the Apostle Paul wrote in the New Testament, the Israelites believed following the law was their salvation.

As I grew older, I began to recognize that many of my father's lessons were through how he lived his life. In the mid 60's he proudly hosted the Bishop of the Iowa United Methodist Conference at his church. Being young, I didn't fully understand the context of the visit at the time. You see, Bishop Thomas was black, and some of the parishioners were unhappy with the visit. As I grew older, I realized that he demonstrated a character that let me know we need to take responsibility for our decisions and to follow God's command to love our neighbor, even when it was uncomfortable.

During my teenage years, his guidance gradually shifted from direct commands to giving me more responsibility to make my own decisions. On one occasion, he trusted me to drive 100 miles for a science weekend at a college, a decision that I suspect gave him a few gray hairs, but he gave me the confidence to handle such a responsibility. Yes, I made a few mistakes, but he was always there to discuss what happened, how I handled myself, and how I might correct my error or make a better choice in the future. His advice was always loving and helped me handle more responsibility. I always appreciated this about my father as it prepared me to be an adult when I grew up and moved on with my life. When I considered the ministry, he provided me with the opportunity to give the message during church, and he supported me when I chose to go into medicine. He provided the same kind of support to each of my brothers and sisters, including attending our school events.

To me, the teaching of the New Testament exhibits a similar shift in responsibility. Christ did not abolish the law, but he focused us on the greatest commandment, to love God and to love others. In Romans, Paul tells us that we are not saved by the law. Rather, we are saved by our faith in Jesus Christ and God. The New Testament guides us to live a life that is worthy and pleasing to God. As we mature in our Christian faith, we gain the responsibility to live as God wants us to live, following the two greatest commandments.

Of course, my dad is human and makes mistakes, but he acknowledges his humanity. As an adult, I appreciate his wisdom and guidance even more. No, he cannot always solve my problems, but, with his wisdom, he is an excellent sounding board and helps me choose the best option that is consistent with God's commands. Even now, when I am challenged, he is the first person whose opinion I seek. I love my father and cherish every day.

Join me as we give thanks to our Heavenly Father, to our earthly fathers or father figures, and to all that they have meant to us. Whether they are with us or not, may we honor them on Father's Day, and may we honor our parents throughout the year.



Bruce and his father,
Rev. Gordon Packard



Bruce, his Dad, and
brother Jim

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>.

WOMEN WITH PURPOSE

Women With Purpose Meeting – Thursday, June 3, 2021 at 10 a.m.

Our mission response this month deviates a teeny, little bit from our usual focus of serving only the needs of women (although sometimes with children). This month we will be dealing with children only. These kids are the ones encountered by the Rio Rancho police in their daily service to protect our community and are found to be at risk or in jeopardy. They, through no fault of their own, are sometimes thrown into a situation where they need to be rescued. Our intent is to offer them comfort and hope. These officers will be gifting these children with a personal gift bag holding a handmade stuffed animal, a blanket, toothbrush and toothpaste, comb, bar of soap and a face cloth.

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

 **iGive.com** 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!

BIBLE STUDIES ANYONE??

Sundays, 10 AM, Studying Revelations, Led by Tony Smith **Resumes 6/6**

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 1Thessalonians, Led by Pastor Reuben

THANK YOU

*"Dear High Desert Friends,
Thank you and God bless you for the love and prayers you send
in your cards and hold in your hearts. I am depending on
those prayers and pray for all of you in return. May each of you
be granted the blessings you need daily. Love, peace and Hope,
Sister Barbara."*

HOW I GOT TO HDUMC

How We Came to High Desert United Methodist Church

Melvin (Skip) and Emily Sue Chambers

Skip and Emily Sue have been an active part of High Desert UMC since 2014. Searching for a church with biblical teachings and warm fellowship, they found both in the spiritual and congenial atmosphere at HDUMC. DG was the pastor in 2014 and they loved his informality (even his red shoes) and were made to feel very welcome by members of the congregation. Skip began singing in the choir, and Emily Sue became active by greeting, ushering, occasionally teaching Sunday School and once presenting a 6-week Lenten study.

Both Skip and Emily Sue grew up in the Methodist tradition, having been continually active as youth. Some of Emily Sue's (maiden name *Asbury*!) fondest memories are of MYF on Sunday nights, summer Methodist Youth Camp at Ferrum, VA (junior high) and Blackstone, VA (high school). At church camp she went on her first "snipe" hunt! Skip has fond memories of Methodist youth camp at Grand Mesa, CO.

Previous marriages and moving around the country resulted in both Skip and Emily Sue practicing different Christian traditions over the years.....Skip as Episcopal, then Anglican....and Emily Sue as Episcopal and then Presbyterian. Being Methodist again now, they both feel as if they have come *home*.

Skip loves singing in the choir and is anxious for "post-Covid" activity when the choir will again be able to sing together. Meanwhile, he has volunteered for "solo" and "duet" singing on numerous occasions during our current restrictive services.

Emily Sue serves in more subtle ways – greeting, ushering, helping in the office, participating in Women With Purpose, preparing meals for homebound, helping prepare and serve meals for Community of Hope, etc. She also participates in the Wednesday night Bible Study group.

They both are extremely grateful and joyous for High Desert UMC and especially for Pastor Reuben, Judy, and the many friends they have made and sense of community they feel. It is indeed spiritually uplifting and socially warming to be part of such an alive and fulfilling ministry and congregation.

God is truly good.... all the time!

UPDATE FROM THE EDITOR:

This Edition has many personal member stories. Hope you like them! Angel series again next month.

generations4counseling@hotmail.com or phone 505-331-8894. *Francie Larsen*

SERVICE TO THE LORD



MIKE FAWCETT VOLUNTEERING
ON WORK TEAMS



PANTRY PEOPLE



WOMEN WITH PURPOSE



JEFF PRATT, BUS DRIVER

OBSCURE NAMES IN THE BIBLE



Next month: Who is Hannah of the Old Testament? *Judy Ballard*

ANSWER FOR MAY: Who was Nicodemus of the New Testament?

Everyone has heard the phrase, 'born again' as it relates to the Bible. This is where it started: A Pharisee named Nicodemus sought Jesus out in the dark of night and asked some hard questions (John 3:1-10). Jesus gave some hard answers including having to be reborn by the Holy Spirit. Nicodemus (John 7:50-52) also protested unfairness at Jesus' trial and brought gifts to Jesus' tomb (John 19:39-40).

JUNE SECOND MILE GIVING GIFT CARDS FOR TEACHERS

Our Second Mile Giving for June will go towards the purchase of Gifts Cards for Teachers. Our teachers do an outstanding job in teaching, nurturing and caring for our children. And especially over the last year, they have gone beyond the extra mile to reach out and be there for the children. They have been patient, creative and energetic as they have explored new technology and online teaching. They definitely deserve our appreciation and thanks. We still don't know what school will look like this fall, but we do know there will be expenses and that there are never enough funds. Many teachers have to use their own money to purchase supplies for their classroom. We will present the teachers associated with High Desert their cards in July so that they can prepare for the start of the school year in August. If you would like to contribute to this ministry supporting our teachers, please mark "Gift Cards for Teachers" on the memo line of your check.

Our members who are teachers, Elaine Pratt, Janna Siverts, and Cynthia.

June 2021

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
VIRTUAL CONFERENCE JUNE 16TH TO JUNE 18TH		1	2 Bible Study 10 AM 5:30 PM Bible Study	3 Women With Purpose 10:00 AM at the church	4 Food Pantry 11AM to 2PM	5
6 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS	7 10AM Bible Study	8 Ministry Team Meeting 6 PM	9 Bible Study 10 AM 5:30 PM Bible Study	10	11	12
13 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS	14 10AM Bible Study FLAG DAY	15 Food Pantry 9 to Noon	16 Bible Study 10 AM 5:30 PM Bible Study	17 Food Pantry 1 to 4 PM	18	19
20 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS Father's Day	21 NO 10AM Bible Study	22	23 Bible Study 10 AM 5:30 PM Bible Study	24	25	26
27 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS	28 10AM Bible Study John Wesley Birthday	29	30 Bible Study 10 AM NO 5:30 PM Bible Study			

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!	Beckie Kim	6/7	Happy birthday!
Happy birthday!	Connie Dowler	6/8	Happy birthday!
Happy birthday!	Judy Ballard	6/10	Happy birthday!
Happy birthday!	Tony Smith	6/11	Happy birthday!
Happy birthday!	Rev. Leslie Barnett	6/12	Happy birthday!
Happy birthday!	John Samford	6/15	Happy birthday!
Happy birthday!	Frank Rotolo	6/17	Happy birthday!
Happy birthday!	Rod Warpole	6/18	Happy birthday!
Happy birthday!	Pat Lein	6/18	Happy birthday!
Happy birthday!	Elizabeth Anderson	6/19	Happy birthday!
Happy birthday!	Natalie Holtgrewe	6/21	Happy birthday!
Happy birthday!	Rev. Ron Komatz	6/22	Happy birthday!
Happy birthday!	Jane Butel	6/23	Happy birthday!
Happy birthday!	Lael Wellington	6/24	Happy birthday!
Happy birthday!	Janet Cram	6/29	Happy birthday!



Troi Donnachaidh	6/1/2001
Earl & Dottie Hester	6/8/1957
Rev. Ron & Jane Komatz	6/9/1961
Dann & Jody Meyer	6/12/1992
Bryce & Sarah Hendricks	6/16/1957
Phyllis Thunborg	6/17
Mike & Linda Bates	6/26
Bruce & Lana Packard	6/27/1987

GETTING TO KNOW YOU (by Dottie Hester)

TONY'S STORY

TONY: It was April 1989 and I was married to the most wonderful woman in the world. She had and still has a true servant's heart and was the most kind, gentle, loving person I had ever met. At the time we had two little boys ages four and two. One day, about a year after we had moved back to Albuquerque, I took the boys down to a little ditch to hunt crawdads. I pointed out the helicopter flying over-head. We were only gone twenty minutes but as we started to drive home, I knew that something horrible had happened even before we turned down our little dirt street. It turned out that the horse Sheila had been riding in the little corral next to the house had tripped and rolled over her head. She was in a coma with a severe brain injury. Sheila was in a coma for weeks to months and in rehabilitation for years learning to walk, talk, write, feed herself and do day to day things that the rest of us take for granted. She was a nurse one day and was admitted to ICU that she worked in the next. I watched nurses that she had worked with just days before, cry as they washed her hair in the ICU bed. But they kept her alive. She was left with some scars that are to this day immediately obvious to people as she walks about.

My lowest ebb during that ordeal came about a week after the accident when I realized that my wife might never wake up. I was afraid and I had lost all hope for the future. It was a simple prayer that I prayed while walking down the dirt road in front of our house one evening. I prayed for God to please let Sheila recover enough to be able to interact with her children so that she could watch them grow up and be a part of their lives. But if not, I asked if God would be merciful and take her right then because in my heart, I knew that is what she would have wanted. Either way, I prayed for him to give me the strength to deal with whatever would come. The next morning after that prayer, I woke up and I can only describe what I now know was that the Kingdom of God had drawn near. I was filled with a feeling of eternal peace. This was not an ordinary peace in the usual sense. It was as I understand it now, the "peace that passes all understanding". It was timeless. It took away all of my fear and worry. It came with an assurance that things would be ok, that time on earth was temporary and that I would be given the strength to endure whatever the outcome might be. It came with the words of Jesus. . . "I will never leave you nor forsake you. I will be with you always even unto the end of time"; "I am the Alpha and Omega. . .the beginning and the end"; and "My grace will be sufficient." For months or maybe even years, when I would say those words, that peace would return. Anyone who has ever felt that peace that passes all understanding can never forget it and they are forever changed. God's grace had rained down and He had revealed himself to me. What did I have to fear?

When Jesus died on the cross and was resurrected, all of his teaching suddenly crystalized for the disciples. All of the gifts that He brought to us became clear for them and clear for us. He gave us many gifts. Among others, He gave us the gift of His peace, the gift of forgiveness, the gift of His unconditional love, the gift of His wisdom and the gift that in knowing Him we have a hope for things to come when this world fades away. He has truly blessed us beyond measure. His grace is such a wonderful gift.

(continued)

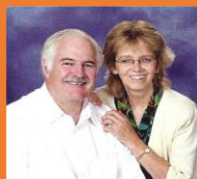
GETTING TO KNOW YOU (by Dottie Hester)

SHEILA'S STORY

Sheila: I have a life verse in the Bible. It is Philippians 4:6 which says, "Don't worry about anything, but pray and ask God for everything you need, always giving thanks." Paul wrote this while he was under house arrest. That verse brings me peace because it tells me I can turn all of my problems over to God and He will be there for me.

My lowest time happened during the first year after my TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury), when I was helpless and so very depressed. All of my movements were very slow and the simplest thing would take forever. At first, I couldn't walk and had to spend most of my time in bed. I couldn't feed myself. Someone had to help me bathe and dress. I was so confused and I could not remember people or things. I couldn't even speak or write. I slowly improved and after months I was able to walk a little on my own with a walker. When I could do that I would get up in the middle of the night and go to the bathroom, sit on the side of the bathtub where I could be alone, and speak my prayers to God. I would ask Him to let me wake up in the morning and be able to do something motherly for my boys. I figured out that one thing I could do for them was to iron their shirts. My movements were still so slow. So, I spent a lot of time ironing by myself in the utility room listening to Christian radio. I started to read the Bible and all kinds of books about God. Gradually, I began to see and feel a change. I was not as depressed. I began to look for ways to serve others. I got active in the Brain Injury Association, trying to help other brain injured survivors. I was able to be a mother to my boys. After that, I was able to regain my nurse's license and became a parish nurse for my church which I did for many years. Our boys are now living in California, and Tony and I are now grandparents!

During my coma, I had walked to a beautiful light that enticed me toward it. It was so peaceful, as if I was leaving the world with all my troubles while I was walking to the light! Tony and I have come to realize that our lives were changed immensely in our time of great weakness. It was just like God said through Paul, "My power is made perfect in weakness." During our time of great suffering and weakness, we both found Jesus. We both found God. Since that day, I realize I have had many more answers to prayers. God's grace has been there for us. Jesus is real. Jesus is here with us. He lives in our souls. Today, I see God everywhere. His presence is so obvious to me now. . . His Grace is Sufficient!



Tony & Sheila Smith

High Desert United Methodist Church

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

[Facebook.com/HDUM](https://www.facebook.com/HDUM)

HDUMC CHURCH PANTRY

Distribution dates for June are:

Friday, June 4th - 11:00 am to 2:00 pm

Tuesday, June 15th – 9am to noon

Thursday, June 17th – 1pm to 4pm

Featured collection for June is: Pasta Sauce