

"Changing One Life at a Time"

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

REUBEN'S RAMBLINGS

September 2020, Issue 9

The following is an article that I submitted to the Conference weekly email. In his book *The Hole in Our Gospel*, Richard Sterns said that if your personal faith in Jesus Christ does not have any positive outward expression, then your faith has a hole in it. In Matthew 25: Jesus tells the sheep: "I was hungry and you fed me." High Desert UMC has taken these words to heart. While the doors of the church may have been closed for a few months, the mission of the church has continued to support the following four outreach programs to feed children, families, seniors and the homeless, all God's children:

1. High Desert Food Pantry – High Desert has been operating the Pantry since 2004. The Pantry receives food from Roadrunner and congregational donations, and distributes some purchased items, but mostly commodities. Originally food was distributed on the third Tuesday and third Thursday of the month. In 2019, distribution was expanded to include the first Friday of the month. Special thanks to Mike Fawcett, John Samford and our dedicated volunteers who unload the trucks, stock the shelves, pack the food boxes and distribute the food. During the

coronavirus, food is distributed in the church parking lot. The Pantry is currently serving 132 families a month, with the majority being seniors.

2. Feed New Mexico Kids – over 245 children in Rio Rancho are homeless and even more go hungry, especially on the weekend. To address this need, High Desert through Women With Purpose is participating in Feed New Mexico Kids, a local nonprofit organization which provides weekend food packs to children in our local community. In 2019, we started supporting 28 children at two local schools and have now expanded to 60 children at three local schools. Due to the generosity of the congregation through Second Mile Giving and donations, we are able to purchase the necessary food items. Teams of volunteers assemble the food packages.

3. Interfaith Bible Center – is located in the International Zone in Albuquerque. Rev. Joanne Landry, the pastor, serves meals to the homeless five days a

week, about 100 meals a day. One week they served over 700 meals. Earlier this year four families at High Desert started providing \$350 a month to purchase food for these meals. With the demand continuing to increase a Second Mile Offering was taken in July; the congregation generously contributed \$2,000 to support this mission.

4. The Community of Hope – for the last two years High Desert has prepared a meal and helped serve the homeless on one Sunday each quarter at First UMC in downtown Albuquerque. Special thanks to Dave and Sue Duranty taking over the leadership of this project.

Thanks for your continued support of these mission projects. You are making a difference for the Lord.

God Bless

Reuben



WOMEN WITH PURPOSE

September 3rd, 2020 at 10 a.m. in HDUMC sanctuary

Despite appearances to the contrary, Women With Purpose is not fading into the background. We are alive and well, and thriving! And we are thriving not only because we are responding to the community's needs, but the needs of each other as well. In this aura of pandemic isolation, individuals have a tendency to focus inward. This is not what we are about, ladies. No. We are about nurturing one another, uplifting one another and *loving* one another as our Lord Jesus expects us to do. Not only the needy people we identify, but *each other*.

There are a few changes to our regular routine however, this being the main one: WWP will meet only once a month, at 10:00 a.m. on the first Thursday. We will gather in HDUMC's sanctuary where we are able to comply with **all** CDC's guidelines, e.g., social distancing. September's meeting is a surprise and promises to be fun—and safe. So be sure and join us!

October's meeting will follow an established pattern of our mission to Saranam. If you will recall, in years past, WWP has provided a year's worth of Birthday in a Bag to be distributed to the children living in the Saranam program. Names, genders, and ages will be provided, and each bag contains cake and frosting mix, candles, a personalized birthday card, a book. You won't want to miss this get together, either.

**Remember when mailing to the Church office,
please use PO Box 45378, Rio Rancho, NM 87174**

BIBLE STUDY

Sunday Mornings at 10:00 AM at the Church – Tony Smith, teaching

Wednesday Morning at 10:30 AM at the Church – Judy Ballard, teaching

Wednesday Evening at 6:30 PM at the Church – Pastor Reuben teaching

OBSCURE NAMES IN THE BIBLE



Next month: **Who is Ananias of the New Testament?** *Judy Ballard*

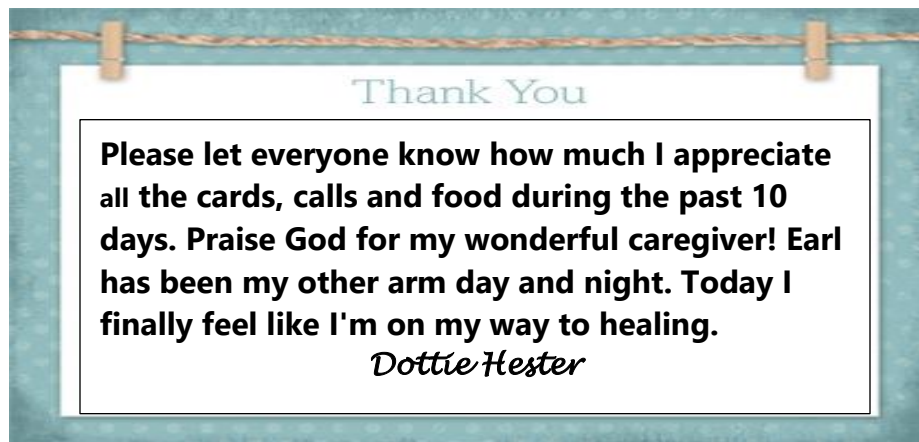
ANSWER FOR SEPTEMBER:

Who Was Simeon of the New Testament?

Simeon was a just and devout man in Jerusalem waiting for the Consolation of Israel. The Holy Spirit informed him he would not die until he had seen the Lord's Christ. So it was that the Spirit led him to temple at the same time the parents of the Child Jesus came to carry out the custom of the Law. Simeon took the infant into his arms, raised him up and blessed God:

“Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
According to your word;
For my eyes have seen Your salvation
Which you have prepared before the face of all peoples,
A light to bring *revelation* to the Gentiles,
And the glory of Your people Israel.”

Joseph and His mother marveled at those things which were spoken of Him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother, “Behold, this *Child* is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel . . .





Our “Angel Among Us” this month goes out to Bruce Packard! Bruce Packard and his wife Lana joined HDUMC a year ago coming from Houston, Texas. How blessed we are that he came to our church with both feet on the ground running. Nothing has been too much for Bruce to do. He has joined the choir, served on the COVID-19 committee, volunteered at the pantry in many different capacities, helped Earl with construction, assisted with developing the sound system, educated our members on COVID-19, frequently manned the sound system on Sundays and has sang solos with his beautiful voice. He truly exemplifies “to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and soul”. We are blessed to have this silent servant. **THANK YOU, Bruce!**



UPDATE FROM THE EDITOR:

We are continuing the monthly article about the History of HDUMC. I hope you are enjoying it. Each week I will be putting in new information you might not know of until I run out of information or until it becomes boring. We are continuing the feature of “Obscure Names In The Bible”, and Judy Ballard will be providing the information for that. Our calendar is getting back to where it was before. Make sure you call the office if you are not sure about scheduled activities. Please do not forget to send me articles or suggestions for our “Monthly Angel”. Be safe, but most of all be happy!

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

Francie Larsen

Next Deadline: September 24th



High Desert United Methodist Church

“Still Doing Our Part”

DIFFERENT FOOD PANTRY - DIFFERENT WORLD

The Food Pantry continues to serve Sandoval County residents during the challenging times brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic. To adapt to the safety and security changes, we have implemented social distancing, cleaning procedures, as well as pantry to vehicle deliveries.

As we start the next phase of our service to the community, we see a relatively consistent number of seniors, adults and children taking advantage of our offerings, with some variations due to the heat. We would expect to see more families, especially those with children out of school attending the distributions, but the numbers remain as consistent as it was before the outbreak. We generally see a drop in attendees during the Summer months, primarily due to family vacations, but this year I believe our slight drop in attendance is due to the state restrictions on travel and individuals following the governor's stay-at-home orders.

July has historically been a time of re-registration for our clients, but this year with social distancing ever present, we are doing things differently – following Road Runner Food Bank guidelines but with an extended timetable to get our clients registered.

We are relying heavily on RRFB to provide us with the food products we are distributing, while still purchasing additional items that we do not normally receive as free goods. With changes to our worship services and access to the church, we have seen a drastic downturn in food contributions coming from the congregation. We hope and pray that by doing our part in “flattening the curve”, we can get back to normal operations in the near future and make our church, our state and our fellow man safe once again.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many volunteers who have stepped up during the pandemic; to help with receiving products from RRFB as well as to help with the many aspects associated with our monthly distributions. The voluntary participation in the food pantry is invaluable and very much appreciated by our clients, as noted in comments on a recent survey, and our clients have routinely adapted to the many changes we have had to make during Covid-19.

STAY SAFE AND GOD BLESS

Mike Fawcett - Co-Director, HDUMC Food Pantry

Lay 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.

Ella Jerome	813 Banco Court, Bernalillo, NM 87004	206-4894
Lorra Garner	Skies Health and Rehab, 9450 McMahon NW, Albuquerque, NM 87114	
Norvin Schuman	382 Nicklaus Dr. SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	891-0526
Grover Donahoe	766 Hood Way SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	220-3839
Rod & Louise Warpole	600 First Street NE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	994-9339
Mae Washburn	Revenna Assisted Living, 3051 Twin Oaks Dr NW, Albuquerque, NM 87120	
Phil Pittman	Ravena Assisted Living, 3051 Twin Oaks Dr. NM, Rio Rancho, NM 87124 Rm 28	
Glen Nesbitt	Advantage Asst Living, 305129 Wellspring Ave SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	
Sheila Arce	4910 Tramway Redge Dr NE #316, Albq., NM 87111	
Barbara Gatzweiler	4102 Malaga Court SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	994-1964
Lois Brister	2867 Cripple Creek Drive SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	892-7987



Happy birthday!	Mike Bates	9/2	Happy birthday!
	Joey Archuleta	9/2	
	Wilmoth Chambliss	9/2	
	Sheryl Clouse	9/3	
Happy birthday!	Don Roach	9/3	Happy birthday!
	Louise Philson	9/3	
	Francie Larsen	9/7	
	Kevin Fitzgerald	9/7	
Happy birthday!	Sheila Arce	9/10	Happy birthday!
	Glenn Hinchcliffe	9/11	
	Sheila Smith	9/21	
	Emily Sue Chambers	9/24	
	Frankie Harper	9/27	
	Steve Lamoreux	9/28	
Happy birthday!			Happy birthday!

Skip & Emily Sue Chambers	9/4/2009
Gary & Joyce Cowles	9/17/1971
Norvin & Rey Schuman	9/5/1954



SEPTEMBER SECOND MILE GIVING

Our Second Mile Giving for September is ReadWest which has been serving Rio Rancho for over 20 years. ReadWest is a non-profit adult literacy agency which provides free tutoring for adults in basic reading and English as a second language. One out of every five adults in New Mexico reads below the 5th grade level. Following street signs, reading bus schedules, filling out job applications, or reading prescription labels can be very frustrating and even frightening to an adult who struggles to read. ReadWest helps adult learners of English with basic vocabulary, communications for many life and cultural situations as well as helps them to become literate in reading and writing English.

Normally students meet one-on-one with a trained tutor once a week for two hours. However, during the coronavirus, all sessions have been suspended. But the demand will still be there when things get back to some form of normality. The cost to train and support a tutor is close to \$150. The cost to provide instruction to a student is close to \$240. Your donation will help improve the literacy of the members of our community, thus allowing them to live more productive and enriched lives. To make a donation, please write "ReadWest" on the memo line of your check to the church.



Thank You

I am so humbled by your gift card. I appreciate all of you and am thankful that I have a congregation that is praying for all of us during this time ~

Tana Siverty



*Teachers
are
Angels
in disguise*

September 2020



HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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

DEALING WITH COVID IN THE SCHOOLS-

SHARED BY ELAINE PRATT

This has been a very different summer anticipating back to school. If you don't know me or weren't aware, I am a teacher at a wonderful Christian school on the west side of Albuquerque, Cross of Hope Elementary School. This is my twelfth year as a teacher, but what a different school year it has been! In March, the teachers at COHES began teaching online with just three days preparation. I met my little third graders each weekday on Zoom, trying to calm their fears with prayer, teaching live literacy, math or writing lessons, and providing instruction for their day of online instruction through an app where they sent their completed work back to me for grading and comments.

We have been making plans to hopefully return to in person instruction this fall for months. As a private school, we have been given the go ahead, so far, to operate at 25% of our church and school occupancy. To do this, we are keeping our class size at a maximum of twelve students per grade. We also have to follow CDC guidelines and have a School Safety Plan to allow for our students to return safely to school and to try and avoid contracting and/or spreading the Covid 19 virus. Some of these protocols involve separate school supplies for each child, masks for teachers and students, social distancing in class, halls, and playground, staying with the same pod (another grade) for lunch and recess, staggered start of school and dismissal, and volunteers and parents cannot enter the building.

We have many new students this school year from families of first responders that do not have the luxury of staying home with their children.

I thank you for your donations for my classroom and I ask for your prayers this school year.

Elaine Pratt



ST CROIX WRAP UP PART 2

In September 2017, Hurricanes Irma & Maria devastated St. Croix, USVI. On June 2, 2018 the first group of 13 UVMIM volunteers went to St. Croix to rebuild homes for people who might otherwise not recover. Over the next two years, 59 teams went with 919 volunteers donating over 53,000 hours of manual labor. Many went back, multiple times. They repaired 71 homes. Most of the homes would still be damaged today if the volunteers had not come to help & if churches, like High Desert UMC, had not supported this vitally important mission repeatedly through their prayers & financial contributions.

The Director of the Recovery Effort stated: "I believe that God sends angels in many forms, often as people who help us in times of need. You have been angels for St Croix homeowners & for all of us at Lutheran Social Services of the Virgin Islands. ... I cannot say thank you enough!"

Current Status of the STX Recovery Mission:

"We survived many challenges in running a volunteer rebuilding program on a small island 1,000 miles away from the mainland, but we have not survived the pandemic. We have shut down our volunteer rebuilding program indefinitely. This is not a time to ask people to get on a plane & to come to an island to stay & work in close quarters with others. I do not know when volunteer mission activities will be safe again, I just know they are not now. Should the need arise again for your construction assistance, I hope you will consider coming back."

MEET Dennis or Mac (US Marine Sargent E5, Delta Company 26th Marines, Vietnam):

A quiet & mild-mannered elderly man who lived in the St. Croix home he was born in (approx. 125 old "as it was old when my parents bought it"). It was one of the first homes to be worked on or should I say to be "Rebuilt". When we arrived, he was defeated, sad & had nowhere to turn. He had survived Vietnam & later being lost at sea for 23 days in 1979 but Hurricane Maria had severely damaged his home that he still lived in. Four months after the Hurricane, a neighbor's home burned causing cinder burn holes throughout the FEMA blue tarp that covered his home & the heat of the fire melted the plumbing & electrical wiring off the side of his home. So extensive leaks, no electricity OR water for the LAST 6 MONTHS! Many teams worked on Mac's home to once again make it livable & safe. He was so grateful & appreciative that every day, after we finished work, he would rake his yard of the small debris. When we finished reinforcing the rafters & installed a new roof in each room – he would paint that room THAT night! When he no longer had funds to purchase the remaining 5 gallons of paint needed to the finish his home - HDUMC funds purchased the paint! The community noticed his transformation as he walked through town...his head held high, proud, grateful & with a smile. I would always visit "Mac" each time I returned to St. Croix. On the last visit, I found that he proudly erected a US Marine Flag in his backyard that was fully visible from the street!

MEET Barbie: It is said when one door closes–God opens another! During one of my early mission trips to STX, I found myself on a team that the leader believed that women should not be on the roof (even though we had been for weeks before)! That left 4 of us women (ages 19-62, married, single college student, etc.) looking for something productive to do. **God brought us BARBIE & God brought Barbie US!** Barbie was desperate, overwhelmed, frustrated & giving up. Ten (10) months after Hurricane Maria, a majority of her home had developed BLACK MOLD from the water that had dumped into her home. It was not safe for her to live in her home. She had done everything she could do – threw away the majority of her belongings (without any kind of protective gear) & worked endlessly to try to get repairs

that she qualified for. She got caught in bureaucratic red tape & disputes that resulted in huge appraisal differences to THEN no contractor would now enter the home due to the black mold. With the right equipment (Yes-Tyvek full body suits in the tropics), God reassured us that this was a job we HAD to take & HE WAS SO RIGHT! When we meet her, she just sobbed as she told us her story & showed us her home. We listened! We learned to pace ourselves as seeing everything being ripped out down to the rafters & studs can be overwhelming. Barbie suited up with every day, she bagged all the removed sheetrock/debris & took it to the proper disposal place EVERY night. On the 3rd day, we arrived to work & found the she had removed additional sheetrock walls on her own the evening before! When we asked her about it, she said that she had been watching us ladies closely to see how we used tools to accomplish the needed tasks & figured **"if we could do it – so could she"**! During our time together – we shared lunches, water breaks (frequent), laughter & tears. In return trips, I was privileged to see Barbie occasionally. She proudly showed me the progress in her home. From what she had learned from us, she had advocated for other home owners in making sure quality mold removal was accomplished. On my last visit, I taught her how to make window trim for her new windows!

"We walk with others until they go home again!" With YOUR help....WE walked a lot of people home!

Thank you, Linn Carlson



Miss Barbie



Cleaning the Mold



Miss Barbie and Mold Maids Linn 2nd from right



Mac and Linn



Mac's Completed Home with the US Marine Corp Flag in His Back Yard.

HDUMC History

OUR FOUNDING FATHER" . . . an early RiversEdge UMC member, Barbara Gatzweiler, before she'd met him, tells that Bob Guido phoned her and asked if he could come visit with her. When she responded to his knock at her door, she tells that he stood there with ball cap and ponytail on his head, earrings and tattoos; but she had him come in and was entranced by his story. He had a winning way of convincing her of his genuine Christian message to "Come Follow Me". This persona of Bob's is what won so many persons to his pastorate.

Pastor Bob Guido had been a pastor in Georgia and from June 1989 to December 1996 served as Associate Pastor at Odessa First United Methodist Church in Odessa, Texas. In January of 1998, Pastor Bob received a call from the Bishop, Alfred Norris, of the New Mexico Conference asking him to come to Albuquerque and start a church. Pastor Bob took the challenge, arriving in Rio Rancho on April 1, 1998. His family joined him in Rio Rancho in June of 1998.



"Finding a New Home" (CONTINUED NEXT MONTH)

INTERFAITH BIBLE CENTER

Thanks to all those who contributed \$2,000 last month to the Interfaith Bible Center located at 7501 Trumbull Avenue SE in the International Zone of Albuquerque. Rev. Joanne Landry serves a hot meal to the homeless five days a week, sometimes over 700 meals a week. You can imagine that this is quite expensive, and the demand continues to increase during this difficult time. Over the past few months, we have been purchasing \$350 worth of food to support this ministry. In addition, this month Wanda Golsan took some cookie donations and extra funds for fresh milk. Here is a note that Wanda received from Rev. Joanne:

"Thank you, Wanda, it is always wonderful to see you. And thank you for your heart and hard work to get this wonderful food to us. Please tell the congregation that this food feeds so many. It's hard to believe that in 2020 people can starve without ministries like this one and others. The homeless and elderly we feed really appreciate the wonderful meals we prepare with the food you all donate. Bless you and thank you all from the bottom of our hearts." --Rev. Joanne Landry

Jesus told the sheep in Matthew 25:34-35 – "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat.'" You may continue to support this ministry throughout the year by designating "Interfaith Food Program" on the memo line of your check. Thank you; you are making a difference for the Lord!

Last Minute Addition

NM FEED THE KIDS STILL WORKING!
DELIVERING 81 PACKAGES TO ANGEL
BROWN, COUNSELOR AT VISTA GRANDE
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ON AUGUST 19TH.
(ANGEL BROWN, WANDA GOLSON AND
JOHN SAMFORD)

WAY TO GO EVERYONE!!



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We're on the Web!

www.highdesertumc.org

HDUMC CHURCH PANTRY

Distribution dates for September are:

Friday, September 4th at 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday, September 15th at 9:00 a.m.

Thursday, September 17th at 1:00 p.m.

September Collection: Canned Vegetables (Beans, Corn, Peas, etc.)
