

NEWSLETTER
for the
MANCOS UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

Issued Quarterly

July-August-September Edition

Missive from Pastor Craig:

In learning to pray, no laboratory is needed but a room, no apparatus but ourselves. The living God is the field of force into which we enter in prayer and the only really fatal failure is to stop praying and not to begin again.

Douglas V. Steere, *Dimensions of Prayer*

How is your prayer life?

This morning I arrived at my office with the intention to start my day with some prayer time with our God. I closed my eyes and started to move into a still state of mind, peace...but wait... I'm just sitting here praying, so I might as well turn the computer on and download all those e-mail messages I haven't looked at for five days. That will make good use of my time while I'm praying.

I got the computer up and I only had 364 messages to download and retrieve. I saw one message from an old friend from Taiwan, so I had to read it and respond to him. Twenty minutes later I was ready to pray.

I closed my eyes again. Peace, communion with our eternal loving God. I heard the sprinkler system kick in on the east side of the sanctuary. "God, I give you thanks for the service we had yesterday. I thank you for each person there. Thank you for..." I wonder if that sprinkler head is rotating right. Stick with your prayers, Craig. But, it wouldn't take long to check out that sprinkler head. "God, may we grow in our spiritual maturity." The ground is a little dry and brown there; I should take just a few minutes from my prayers to look at it. Well, the sprinkler head needs to be adjusted. I make a note to call Brad, again.

Well, now I can finally pray. I close my eyes and the phone rings...

How is your prayer life? We might feel uncomfortable answering that question. Some of us might feel that prayer is a private matter. We might feel inadequate to speak clearly about prayer. Regardless of our response, prayer is one of the foundational elements of our faith.

Adele J. Gonzalez says in *Deepening Our Prayer*, "In prayer we communicate with God verbally or silently, and we allow time and space for God to communicate with us." Through prayer we open ourselves up to the grace, the hope, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit in our lives and our world. Prayer is not always easy, natural, or spontaneous. If we take our prayer life seriously, it is often a challenge and a struggle.

All of us have demands on our time. Gonzalez says we live in a complicated, busy society yet she is amazed at the many things we squeeze into our busy schedules when they seem important enough. Let's make prayer an important part of our lives.

May God's Peace Be with You,
Pastor Craig

News from Connie Goodell, Lay Leader

Mother's Day Tea

Linda Walters, Gloria Thomas and Glennyeth Heyer held a high tea just before Mother's Day in the fellowship hall with 15 ladies in attendance. The tables were covered with beautiful tablecloths and each had a lovely bouquet of flowers in a tiny teapot. The quiches, the dainty pastries, and the chocolate covered fruits were not only lovely to look at, but were delicious. We are delighted that the ladies plan to make this Mother's Day Tea an annual event.

Community Dinner

Our spring community dinner, held in May, was a huge success, attended by more than 90 people. Our next dinner will be Wednesday, June 30th and the theme will be a "Chuck Wagon," with a menu similar to the one served at the Bar D. Hopefully the weather will be nice enough to set up tables outside as our numbers are getting too large for the hall. The dinner on August 25th will be our "Back to School Picnic" which in the past has been one of our largest dinners. Our community dinners have been successful and we are pleased that they are so well received. The times of the dinners are 6:30pm, so be sure to come and bring a friend.

Trip to Antelope Canyon

Thirty of our members and friends had a wonderful trip to Page, Arizona where we spent the night; the following day we toured the beautiful and fascinating Antelope Canyon. Antelope Canyon is a slot canyon that empties into Lake Powell. Carved from the rugged Navajo sandstone by millenniums of rain and wind, these natural cathedrals are a masterpiece of color. This canyon is truly a photographer's paradise and can be enjoyed by all, as it is easy walking, all on one level. The canyon is world famous and is visited by numerous foreigners. If you have never been to Antelope Canyon, it is a spectacular spot you will want to visit.

Our Group at Lake Powell Following Dinner



One of the Spectacular Views at Antelope Canyon



Hiking Club

The exercise class does not meet during the summer months, so during that time we have become a hiking club. We meet every Tuesday at the church and leave from there to hike the trails that Connie Anderson has planned for us, After hiking Chicken Creek Trail, which was 8 miles long, our last hike was a 4-mile hike above Echo Basin into a meadow that was covered with beautiful lupine and gave us a fabulous view of the mountains. All ages and abilities are welcome to join us.

Up-Coming Events

On July 17th, we will be going to Kennebec Pass to view the wildflowers. We will be carpooling in 4-wheel drive vehicles and you will need to bring a sack lunch. Look for the sign-up in the Fellowship Hall.

Music in the Mountains "Romantic Rendezvous" is on Sunday July 18th. Tickets are \$35.00. Sign up if you would like to go.

We have been asked to hold our church service on the Sunday of Mancos Days at 9:00am in the park. Each person is being asked to bring a lawn chair to the park.

On August 9th, we will be going to Santa Fe for the opera, "Madame Butterfly." It will be an overnight trip, and if you are interested in going be sure to sign up in the Fellowship Hall.

On September 17th and 18th we will have a trip to El Morro National Monument and Zuni Pueblo. Watch for details closer to the event.

Bar D will be the site of a gathering on August 21.st We will have dinner and see one of their famous shows.

Notes from Jennifer Paschal

May Food Distribution

Once again the May 19th Food Distribution was a wonderful success! We had a special anonymous food donation before we had even made our big food purchase. We were able to help 15-20 families and they were all so appreciative. One gentleman grabbed my hand and said, "I don't know why you all do this, but it sure helps out. It's just an incredible gift for my family!" So I wanted to thank you, congregation, for your commitment to our Food Distribution Program. It does touch lives and makes a difference. Our next distribution day will be on Wednesday, July 21st. So once again, if you happen to be out shopping and run into a great deal, feel free to add to our give-away by bringing additional food(s) to Fellowship Hall by the Sunday before the Wednesday give-away (July 18th). Then I can see what I need to purchase without duplicating what has been donated. Again, many thanks for your commitment.

A Special Presentation

Emily Easton will be presenting a program that she created called "Living Between the Lines . . . the God Stories." The program will be held on Monday, July 5th at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall at the Mancos United Methodist Church. This is a special

program that she has created and will be presenting in Albuquerque. Please plan on attending!

History Corner--by Jean Bader and Amy Wise

History of the Mancos United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall

In the late 1940's there was one Sunday school of 30-40 children in two small classrooms; the rest were in the sanctuary. There were three groups, one for stories, one for singing, and one for lessons, all held in the sanctuary. Rooms were built onto the church sanctuary to accommodate the children. The rooms were about 10 feet square and are what we now use as our annex and our cry room. Still, with a shortage of space, the drive to get a Fellowship Hall for Sunday school and other activities began. At this time, Jean Bader was the Sunday school superintendent.

In the 1950's church members Jean Bader, Betty Alexander, and Betty Dillon began a project to raise money for a Fellowship Hall (then called the Education Building). The project was a birthday calendar and people paid money to get their birthday on the calendar; in addition, local merchants paid to advertise on the calendar. The ladies produced the calendar for three years making nearly \$500 as seed money to draw up plans and such, in order to get their idea underway.

A church letter from 1965 states: the preliminary plans for the education building had to be approved by the Methodist Department of Architecture and by the Fourth Quarterly Conference of the local church. The estimated cost of construction and furnishings was \$20,000. The current building fund and other sources had only \$8000.00 to put toward the project, so \$12,000 still had to be raised by the membership of our little church...all from tithing.

In 1964, Reverend Soto came and helped with the building process, and July was spent forming the church as a non-profit. Interestingly enough, during the process of creating a non-profit, it was discovered that our church's name had not been legally changed from its original name, The Methodist Episcopal Church, South, though there never was an Episcopal church. The name was then changed to its current name, The Mancos Methodist Church. Later that year, a ceremony was held to kick off fundraising for the \$12,000. Jack Ott (chairman of the building committee), Claude Gawthrop (representing the official board), F.E. Reddert (church-school superintendent), Callie Alexander (president of the Women's society), Margie Bader (Methodist youth president), Betty Alexander (chair of Maizie Circle), and Jean Bader (organist) were present.

The contractor selected for the Fellowship Hall construction was Roy Diffendaffer of Cortez. Claude Gawthrop worked (for free) diligently with Roy on carpentry with an estimated \$4,000 saved through volunteer labor. Part of the furnishings of the hall included \$750 worth of tables and folding chairs, in addition to a projector, screen, and draperies, totaling \$55.

After more than 10 years, in December of 1965, consecration ceremonies were held when District Superintendent, Don Grooters, came to approve the new Fellowship Hall. The uses of the Fellowship Hall, in addition to being used for church Sunday school and other church activities, included being rented for \$100 per month and janitorial services to the Mancos School.

Report on Annual Conference—by Linda Starliper

This year Lay Leader, Connie Goodell, could not go to Annual Conference due to a family conflict, so I took her place. Pastor Craig and I left on June 17, returning on June 19. The theme of the conference was, “Everyone Leads...Everyone Serves.”

The evening we arrived there was a Memorial and Communion Service for the Pastors and their spouses who had died in the last year. Speaking at that service was Bishop Melvin Talbot, an interesting speaker. Bishop Talbot related that he had had three mentors in his life, all now deceased. Bishop Talbot believes that he is who he is today because of these mentors’ influences on his life. He feels that their spirit touched him and shaped his decisions. Bishop Talbot feels that just as he has been completed by these mentors’ wisdom, so have they been completed by Bishop Talbot’s being who he is today. In this same way hopes, visions, and dreams are passed to future generations. Good works begin with us and will continue in those we touch.

The featured speaker for the convention was Reverend Adam Hamilton, a compelling and energetic speaker. From Kansas City, Kansas, Reverend Hamilton began a church from nothing, actually meeting in a mortuary in the beginning. Today, he has the largest church in the United States, with a membership of 18,000, built on 76 acres of land. His message to us is that we should embrace change, not be afraid of it.

Reverend Hamilton had three characteristics of growing churches: They should have outstanding leadership. They should have meaningful and inspiring services. And, they should focus on the community, not on themselves. I felt proud when I heard his three characteristics; I feel that our church does embody these characteristics. Of course, we can always improve, but we are on the right track, I believe. Frankly, I hope that we never have a congregation of 18,000, but reaching out to the community in a positive way seems a good idea.

Birthdays and Anniversaries:

July

4 – Clay Bader
4 – Keith Nelson
4 – Shirley Whipple
5 – Esther & Jim Cook (anniv)
7 – Wesley Stevick
9 – Kendra Cox
11 – Noma & Brad Macurda (anniv)
12 - Gwen & Steve Hawkins (anniv)
14 – Sam Fleitz
14 – Larry Russell
15 – Philip Walters
17 – Mary Kay Lance
19 – Jen & Craig Paschal (anniv)
22 - Tonie & Dan Corcoran (anniv)
23 – Cathy Yost
25 – Mike Guillette
26 – Bill Ryter
29 – Leonard Goodell
29 – Kerisha & Boe Hawkins (anniv)
30 - Dorothy Reno
31 - Donna Lee Budd-Jack
31 – Silvia & John Fleitz (anniv)

August

2 – Betty Rogers
4 – Kerisha Hawkins
5 – Martha Lochle
5 – Sharon Spinney
6 – Marge Garrett
8 – Brad Macurda
11 – Rosalind Buffaloe
11 – Logan Hawkins
14 – Maggie & Brad Goddell (anniv)
15 – Sharon & Jay Spinney (anniv)
17 – Wesley Ott
18 – Dee & Jeff Booton (anniv)
21 – Manda & Mike Guillette (anniv)
21 - Noma Macurda
22 – Rodney Cox
23 – Gloria & Howard Thomas (anniv)
27 – Nancy & Dick Saletzki (anniv)
31 – Brad Goodell

September

2 – Dee Booton
3 – Dick Saletzki
6 – Morgan Darden
7 – Margaret Bristol
11 – Manda Guillette
12 – Boe Hawkins
15 – Wyatt Goddell
20 – Dave Spevick
23 – Connie Goodell
26 – Dan Corcoran