



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

United Church of Angel Fire

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Please find on the following pages, The United Church of Angel Fire Council's Annual Report for 2022-2023. The goal of this yearly publication is to share what has been accomplished through your generous offerings of time, talent, and funds and to thank you all for this love and support.

I know after our first Annual Report in 2015 there were several long-term members who expressed surprise at the many activities of our church. In this ninth edition I suspect that there will be fewer surprises about what we continue to accomplish. However, I encourage all members, both old timers and new, to review these Council reports both in helping us celebrate what has been done but also to see where you can become more involved in helping us to be 'Divine Love in Action'.

Yours in Christ,

Bill Chapman – Council President

MINISTER'S REPORT – Pastor David Willman

One of the things that attracted me to the United Church of Angel Fire was learning about how much the congregation invests in the community to make it a better place. Three weeks as your Pastor and I'm learning even more about how everything we do not only touches our lives but has the potential for changing lives.

The work we do can reflect our understanding of the responsibility we have to preach the Gospel. Every time we gather for worship, every time we pray to God, and every time we act on the love and energy we share with one another, we take a step forward to experiencing divine love in action

I encourage each of you to take time reviewing each aspect of our ministry. Read about what we've accomplished, what we plan for the future, and what we need to do better. While you do so, if you find yourself drawn to a particular ministry, feed your passion and consider taking part and lending a hand, in whatever capacity your gifts allow.

I am so very thankful to be a part of this wonderful congregation. In the years to come, I look forward to sharing in your joy at what we've accomplished together.

Peace, Love, and Joy!
Pastor David

Treasurer's Report to The Congregation 2022-2023

We closed the 2023 Fiscal Year with a long list of successes. Simultaneously we prepared to enter the 2024 Fiscal Year with high hopes and anticipation.

This is only possible because of the blessings of our Lord plus the dedication and commitment of every member of our congregation.

Following are details of our financial successes for July 2022 through June 2023:

Balances as of July 1, 2022

Checking account balance	\$100,292
Savings account balance	\$125,745

Total.	\$226,037

Balances as of July 1, 2023

Checking account balance	\$200,059
Savings account balance	\$127,330

Total	\$327,389
Net Difference	\$101,352

Actual 2023 Offerings

Undesignated	\$267,355
Capital Improvements	\$ 48,678

Total	\$316,033

Actual 2023 Expenses

Pastor and Staff	\$ 57,249
Administrative	\$ 16,989
Building and Grounds	\$ 42,162
Cemetery	\$ 948
Ministry Areas	\$ 89,722

Total	\$ 207,070
Net Difference	\$ 108,963

Throughout the year, God continued to bless us abundantly with wonderful ministers and offerings every week. We continued to pray as we waited patiently for the him to choose the new pastor for our church.

As we enter 2024 God answered our prayers and provided us Pastor David and Laura to lead our congregation. These are exciting times.

As a Christ centered church, everything we do continues to focus on Jesus Christ. Our faith moves us to be a voice of hope and to be known by love in our community.

Jim Brown - Finance

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

To encourage faithful stewardship of Divine gifts of time, talents, and treasure to support our Lord's Church; and help, in Jesus' name, all those within our reach who need it.

Our congregation weathered the storm of Covid and has been able to provide significant aid to others in need. Your faithful stewardship has literally not just kept our church functioning, but kept necessities of life provided for our neighbors in need.

Funds available for Our Pastor to assist in paying electric or propane or water bills during times of misfortune are also a powerful witness for Christ. Lisa helps coordinate firewood requests for those in need. UCAF impacts many lives as we serve Christ by serving others in need.

Your response to our fall stewardship information and opportunity letter helps the council to plan for the "expected and the unexpected" needs of congregational functioning and our outreach. Please respond to the fall stewardship letter. The updated contact information, participation interests and giving estimates assist your Council in planning. Your generosity literally provides nutrition for student's preschool thru grade 12 who would otherwise be hungry at school and at home. UCAF supports the ALM food bank with funds, rotating sacking responsibility and volunteers for supply shipment unloading. Susan Stokes is full time staff with this vital community organization.

UCAF was at the forefront of providing volunteers, funding housing assistance and spiritual support for the many who were forced to evacuate because of the massive wildfires in our area spring 2022. Many are to be thanked for the caring outreach which occurred. Samaritan's Purse was here for the "long haul". The dedication and organization of the Samaritan's Purse staff was exemplary and inspiring. Divine Love in Action helped heal fresh losses and change old stereotypes.

Several memorial gifts were made and acknowledged during the year. There will be near- and long-term capital projects. Eventual replacement of the original heating system is one.

There are many ways to support UCAF and our missions. We have resumed plate offering. Checks can be mailed to UCAF, PO Box 949, Angel Fire, NM 87710. A simple "automatic push" from your bank (ACH draft) to the UCAF account at IN Bank is used by many. Please contact Shelly Kaiser at finance@unitedchurchofangelfire.com or call Lisa at the UCAF office 575-377-1559. There is a secure link for online giving at UCAF website or at the weekly email "Sunday's Coming". For those of us with retirement investment RMD (Required Minimum Distribution) you might find it convenient and advantageous to make contributions to UCAF by this funding method. By making a "qualified charitable contribution", you are not required to have that amount added to your taxable income. This method is simple and secure. Most retirement fund custodians (banks and brokerage houses) do not charge for mailing such checks. Gifts of stocks or bonds can also be made periodically or through one's estate planning.

Your gifts will be distributed as witness to the Love of Christ as we serve Him by serving Others in Need.

In His Service,
David Hartson

WORSHIP MINISTRY REPORT

“To deepen and enrich congregational and individual faith journeys through spiritual growth utilizing preaching, prayer, music, congregational participation in conducting worship.”

This has been a challenging but wonderful year. We were blessed with many incredible guest ministers and a few lay people to provide the spiritual uplift that was greatly needed.

All Saints Day was special in the honoring of those who had passed during the year. Hanging of the Greens was done before Thanksgiving, and many helped with this event.

The Christmas season was celebrated with lighting of Advent Candles by various families. Rev. Peggy Trott and Roz Garland composed a beautiful script embedded with Christmas carols for the Christmas Eve service. It was very well attended, received, and enjoyed by all. Christmas was on Sunday and cookies along with hot chocolate were served.

The spring consisted of ministers who were in the pulpit for longer periods of time, which was very helpful in many ways to the congregation.

The praise team has gone above and beyond throughout this year. Our beloved Roz and Henry traveled throughout the fall, winter, and spring as much as possible. The praise team handled all of the music. They did and continue to do a tremendous job. Please thank them for their hard work. Words can't express how vital Roz was to our worship, we deeply miss her, and worship isn't the same without her.

Our new minister and his wife are here, and they are amazing. Praise God for bringing them to Angel Fire. Only God knows what's in the future for our church and we're so glad that David and Laura are here for the journey ahead.

I want to thank the worship team for all they've done. They consist of Dr. Jen Fitch, Karen Chapman, Linda Hartson, Jerry Easley, and Don Woolsey. We now have Rev. David Wilman joining us with new ideas for worship.

Thank you UCAF congregation for your support and love this past year.

To God be the glory,
Deb Cristy, Worship Chair

MISSIONS

Annie Lindsey – Missions Chair

Goal:

Designation of 10% of the UCAF's undesignated income to support local needs and mission programs.

LOCAL NEEDS:

UCAF mission team prioritizes local immediate needs such as rents, utility payments, car repairs and healthcare needs. Most likely the recipients of these serves you at one of our local stores or restaurants. Our church has been blessed with offerings that have allowed us to increase the amount of help that can be given each year.

LOCAL SUPPORT:

Thanks to your donations, UCAF was able to support our local school's teachers and students by providing over \$1500 in school supplies and \$750 for nursing supplies! In addition, UCAF participated in spreading Christmas love to ENEMS and MVHS teachers and staff by donating 10 baskets full of treats. UCAF also purchased Christmas gifts for 3 local kids from this year's Angel Tree!



Community Assistance Grants

As part of the Missions program at the United Church of Angel Fire, we are honored to be able to offer assistance to those in need in our area. In addition to assistance with firewood for heating and cooking and nutritional support through ALM, our church offers Community Assistance Grants (CAGs) to help with other financial needs. These CAGs are governed by limits and guidelines that have been approved by the Church Council.

During the fiscal year 2022-2023 we have been able to assist nineteen households. These CAGs have enabled families to avoid loss of electricity and propane, and even to avoid loss of their home through rental assistance. In another case, we were able to provide a young student with eyecare and eyeglasses, providing an avenue for success in school.

Thank you for supporting the total Missions program of our church through your time, talents and undesignated giving.

In His love,
Betty Newell



Annual Giving

In addition to local needs, UCAF supports the following programs with monthly or annual contributions.

- Always Loving Mankind Food Pantry (ALM)
- Taos Men's Shelter
- H.E.A.R.T of Taos
- One Great Hour of Sharing
- NM Conference of Churches
- Disciples of Christ
- Presbytery of Santa Fe
- United Church of Christ
- United Methodist Church SW conference
- Mercy Chef
- Operation Christmas Child
- Moreno Valley Ministerial Alliance
- Dream Tree Adolescent Shelter
- St. James Food Pantry
- Food for Kids
- Big Brothers/Big Sisters

Operation Christmas Child

Our congregation began participating in this mission's outreach in 2021. God has blessed our congregation and we've been able to bless children throughout the world with filling shoeboxes for them to receive HIS DIVINE LOVE.

Our shoeboxes have gone to the Philippines, South Pacific islands, Mongolia, and El Salvador filled with all kinds of goodies, school supplies and toiletries. This is an incredible ministry, and we have no idea the impact these shoeboxes are making on the children's lives. We're planting seeds that will blossom in God's timing.

We're asking for donations to purchase various items again this year to fill the shoeboxes. We'll have a boxing party in November to pack them to the brim.

In His Service,

Deb Cristy, OCC Coordinator



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY

Peggy Trott left a big hole to fill when I took on the Chair of the Christian Education. Fortunately, she had planned out Adult Sunday School for the 3rd quarter of 2022 for me to get my feet on the ground in this new role. With *Biblical Interpretation* initially led by Dr. Andy Konigsmark, then finished up by Peggy Trott, we then spent a month last September studying *Why We Do What We Do in Church* covering Worship 101, Baptism 101 and Communion 101. We then returned to complete the Great Courses *Understanding the Old Testament*. Up to Advent, where we began Matt Rawle's *The Heart that Grew Three Sizes*. Peggy Trott began our 2023 year with *Essential Biblical Heroes You Need in your Life*. This was followed by Harry Martz led Ray Lander Loan's *With All Your Heart*. Then we started Adam Hamilton's *Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts & Outlaws*. We then had back-to-back Max Lucado's studies of *Romans, In the Grip of Grace* and *In the Footsteps of the Savior*. I added my learnings from Sharon's and my recent trip in February to the Holy Land to Max Lucado's study of *In the Footsteps of the Savior* which went to the same places as our tour in February. We spent a couple of weeks in late July with current events in a Christian context including the state of *Fatherlessness in America* and the state of *Earth's Inner Core*. Currently, Larry Peckham is teaching us about *Why We Have So Many Denominations*. And we're excited to have Dennis Groat touch on New Beginnings as UCAF starts with its new minister, Rev. David Wilman.

Christian Education has also provided for Children's Christian Education by placing in the Narthex Children Church Worship Service Activity Bags. The Red bags are for 6 and under in age. The Blue bags are for ages 7 and up. These are for parents/grandparents/guardians bringing children to worship to use during the Worship Service with activities for their Child. Parents or others are asked to return used Worship Bags into the Narthex afterwards, we'll replenish all the Worship Bags where they'll be updated with activity pages on a weekly basis.

Adult Christian Education meets Sunday mornings starting at 9:45 am and finishing up with plenty of time before Worship at 11:00 am. We're a group of Adult Christians on individual Faith Journeys who enjoy the discussion, coffee and sometimes, sweets with each other. And we'd love to have you join us!

If this or our other studies interest you and you don't mind coming a bit earlier Sunday morning to church, please join us as we all move along on our individual Faith Journey seeking God's will in our lives.

Chris Sorensen
Chair Christian Education
artsybird@mac.com
936-333-2789"

MEMBERSHIP/OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Mission Statement: *To share God's word with the community and to encourage others to visit and join our UCAF family in worship, study, fellowship, and service as well as support the church's mission to be "Divine Love in Action."*

Activities:

1. Welcome Folders are assembled and made ready to be given to first-time visitors. Included in the folders are a brochure with information about the church, a book mark, a UCAF note card, and cards showing what is needed by the missions UCAF supports (ALM Food Pantry and Heart of Taos).
2. Cards, texts, or emails are sent weekly to first-time visitors the following week if we are able to get addresses/phone numbers/emails from first-timers.
3. As part of each Sunday bulletin there is a perforated form to be filled out by visitors or by those wishing to update information. These forms are to be filled out, torn off, and placed in the offering plates. On the reverse side is a prayer request form to alert the minister, administrative assistant, and/or church council of a prayer need. It can be privately shared or in the bulletin starting the next week.
4. UCAF color brochures have been placed around Moreno Valley to provide information regarding the church name, address, and phone number.
5. Beginning in September we undertook providing meals for up to 75 kids and sponsors one Wednesday night a month for the youth group at the Moreno Valley Church of Christ. Numerous kids in our community take part in this program. Many members of our congregation volunteered to make and deliver submarine sandwiches or Sloppy Joe's, chips, and cookies for these meals. We did this project through May and will begin again in September, 2023
6. Thanksgiving cards were hand addressed, signed, and mailed to all full-time members, associate members, and regular attenders in November.
7. The first Thursday of May is the National Day of Prayer. The Outreach Committee participated in the local Ministerial Alliance event by handing out informational brochures about UCAF to those in attendance.
8. "Happy Mother's Day" carnations were given out on May 7th to all our ladies in honor of Mother's Day.
9. "Happy Father's Day" metal, retractable tape measures were given to our gentlemen on June 18th as they entered the church in honor of the occasion.
10. "Membership Update" forms help us keep our database current.
11. We are pleased to have welcomed 24 new members this year!

Janet Martin
Membership/Outreach Council Chair

FIREWOOD ANGELS (Dave Hartson)

Firewood Angels began as trees cleared from UCAF member's building lots that were blocked, split and given to those in need in the early 2000s. Last winter, Firewood Angels (FWA) delivered 117 pickup loads of split, dry firewood to 32 families in the Moreno Valley.

Most of our recipients are elderly or working with low income. Most recipients use firewood to save on propane or electric heating costs. For some, firewood is their only heat source. Some even cook with wood!

This spring, FWA expanded our processing capacity with the acquisition of a commercial splitter (thanks to UCAF Christmas Eve Offering and special donations). A split wood conveyer was also donated by a FWA patron. This makes the task of moving and stacking wood for drying much less onerous for our aging volunteers. We still use our small splitters for small "rounds". Additionally, the Village of Angel Fire Wildland Fire fighters now separate usable firewood from slash. They requested the loan of one of FWA old splitters which we provided. The Wildland Fire Fighters now cut the salvage wood into blocks, split and distribute the firewood to those in need in Mora and Cimmaron (where they reside). We see this as a win/win. The FWA also bought a used front loader/backhoe from the departing GSR Ranger. This backhoe has been fitted with a "thumb" (welded in place by Randy Kaiser). This machine is necessary to safely handle long logs which the US Forest Service donated to FWA last summer as they created firebreaks while fighting the Hermit's Peak and Calf Canyon fires.

In the future, FWA plans to source logs from the burn areas as well. We still need volunteers! There are summer tasks for all levels of strength and experience. Ladies and youth participate. All are welcome. FWA provides gloves, eye and ear protection. Closed toe shoes and long pants are required. We meet at the Elliot Barker Girl Scout Ranch Tuesday mornings at 0900. We enter through the south gate on Elliot Barker Road (just north of the Post Office and on the way to our Moreno Valley Clinic). During fall, winter, and spring, we deliver firewood. We have several 4-wheel drive "wood trucks" that this year will be stored under cover at our processing site for firewood delivery (you may, but do not need to use your personal vehicle). We especially need help during our winter season!

If you know of someone in need, please contact Lisa at the UCAF office 575-377-1559. For questions contact FWA Coordinators: Randy Kaiser 214-704-2491, Jon Ross 432-559-8375, David Hartson 505-400-3860. We serve Our Lord by serving others in need!



MEDICAL EQUIPMENT (Dave Hartson)

The medical equipment “recycling” program at UCAF continues. This was first suggested by our church secretary, Joyce McCabe in 2016. Many pieces of “durable” medical equipment are purchased, used for a short time and then discarded. The items which are available include crutches, walkers, shower chairs, bedside toilets, wheelchairs, canes, walking boots, walking safety belts, knee braces of various types, a CPM machine, a CPAP machine, oxygen concentrators, oxygen tanks, incontinence underwear, urinals. This equipment is collected, cleaned, and stored. The inventory is now stored in the downstairs unused showers in the men’s and women’s restrooms. Equipment is to be loaned or given to anyone who has the need. The UCAF office, The Moreno Valley Healthcare Clinic and Best Care Pharmacy know of the service. If you have an equipment need, contact the UCAF office 575-377-1559 or David Hartson 505-400-3860

CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY

Mission: We care for members and friends during difficult times by demonstrating God’s love.

The Congregational Care Ministry practices "Divine Love in action" by caring for members, friends, and community members who are hurting. We let people know that we care about them and are praying for them especially when they are sick or sad. With help from the congregation, we have delivered many meals, sent cards, and made many phone calls to those on our prayer list and others. We also made monthly visits and brought lunches to a shut-in member.

Funds have been used to purchase gifts for our high school graduates, a special long term substitute pastor, and our new pastor, David and Laura, his wife. We have also contributed to requested memorials for "Celebration of Life" services. Meals have been delivered to family and friends who have attended these services. Funds were also used for postage for cards and packages.

Most of the food delivered, the yarn for the prayer shawls, and fabric for the love knot quilts have been donated by generous congregation members.

Prayer shawls have been delivered or mailed to many who have lost a spouse or who are going through a difficult time. The shawls were made by Cheryl Mason and Roz Garland. We also have "love knot" blankets to be given to those in need.

Thank you to those who have made donations, made and delivered meals, shared needs, and to those who helped to meet those needs.

Karen Chapman
Congregational Care Chair.



FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Mission: To provide opportunities for congregational interaction, mutual support, and a sense of belonging to our church family through fellowship events and one to one relationship.

This has been a very exciting and interesting year for the United Church of Angel Fire. Our goal this year was to increase fellowship, membership, and community outreach through, meals & activities.

Following is the list of activities and fellowships provided through this committee:

July 2022 - Brisket Potluck Dinner- Meat provided by UCAF
Aug. 2022 - Cookie Fellowship - Farewell to Dr. Andy Konigsmark
Nov. 2023 - Thanksgiving Dinner - Catered
Feb. 2023 - Valentine's Dinner - Catered
March 2023- Chili Potluck
April 2023 - Easter Potluck - ham provided by UCAF
May 2023 - Welcome Spring Cookie Fellowship
June 2023 -Cookies provided for VBS
June 2023 Mexican Dinner- Provided for Okla Mission Team & Ministerial Alliance

Cookies were provided following Sunday worship services on many occasions by our committee and the congregation.

The pantry & kitchen were restocked as needed.

These events happened only because of the wonderful members of our church who helped when needed! Thank You!

Respectfully Submitted,
Fonda Brown
Fellowship Chairman

**PROPERTY COMMITTEE
FACILITIES AND GROUNDS**
No Report Submitted



Women's Fellowship

To coordinate women's activities at UCAF which demonstrate "Divine Love in Action" throughout the community.

Summer 2022

"Resiliency, Strength, and Hope"

Sylvia Hornback (and hubby Dick) traveled from Texas to meet with us and to discuss her book "Jeanne". About 19 ladies were in attendance. After enjoying yummy breakfast treats, Sylvia told us about her writing process and how she loves writing historical fiction. We discussed the many themes that were in the story and several of us had experienced some of those same themes. What is truly special is that we can incorporate Sylvia's story theme of "Resiliency, Strength, and Hope" into our fellowship and lives. Thank you to Sharon Sorensen for hosting this meeting and all who brought refreshments.



August 8th was our annual Appreciation Luncheon for the staff at Eagle Nest Elementary/Middle School. We tried something different this year; so, instead of serving on paper plates and plastic ware, we had individuals or teams who decorated a table for 6 with fun place settings. There were cowboys/cowgirls, patriotic, and holiday themes along with vintage dishes and contemporary settings. Each table had a themed centerpiece which was given as a door prize.

Henry Garland offered a beautiful prayer for staff and students as well as blessing the salads, desserts, and cold beverages prepared by our members. There were 32 staff members, the superintendent, and 17 of our ladies. Others who couldn't attend sent salads and desserts also.

Our Missions Team purchased school supplies for each grade and provided a generous check for the school nurse for medical supplies. The congregation donated school supplies also. All of these were delivered that day to help those students who need supplies to get off to a great start for a successful academic year.



September 8th, we traveled to Abiquiu and met at the O’Keeffe’s Welcome Center. We learned about Georgia O’Keeffe’s life at Ghost Ranch, Abiquiu, and her camping trips to photograph the beautiful vistas of New Mexico and Arizona to use for her paintings.

Our next stop was lunch at the Café Abiquiu in the 30 room Abiquiu Inn. Besides eating a delicious lunch, many scoped out the AZUL Gift Shop and the Galeria Arriba upstairs.

Next stop was the Saint Thomas the Apostle Catholic Parish which was built in 1754 and renovated in 1935. It is still holding seven services a week.

Bosshard’s Gallery was a very special stop since we learned about the history of Abiquiu and all the unique buildings and their owners. Bosshard’s is an historic adobe compound built around 1893. It has had many owners and now houses art, antiques, artifacts and hand-crafted furniture from cultures the Southwest and around the world.

Our final stop was Bode’s General Store and Kitchen. This store has been serving locals, travelers, stray artists and bandits since 1893. You name it and they probably have it: groceries, produce, alcohol, hardware, livestock feed, housewares, cards, gifts, sporting goods and 24-hour gasoline.

Everyone had a wonderful time and we look forward to the next Women’s Fellowship adventure.



We had a lovely evening in June for our “Meet and Greet” event at the Grande Community Room. The food and drinks were delicious, the venue was wonderful, but getting together with old friends and new ones was the best! If you couldn’t make it, we missed YOU!

UCAF Women’s Fellowship Committee,
Marybeth Maxwell, Janet Martin, Sharon Sorensen,
and Deb Cristy



UNITED CHURCH OF ANGEL FIRE
A Multi-Denominational Christian Congregation
“Look, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut.”
Revelation 3:8



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