

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH,
PHASE ONE**
Farmington, New Mexico

**Sanctuary Renovation, Fellowship Hall,
Classrooms, and Parlor Additions**

The First United Methodist Church of Farmington was dissatisfied with poor lighting in the sanctuary, too small a chancel area for the choir and liturgy, a kitchen and fellowship hall that were located in the basement, limited youth recreation space, cramped offices, an inadequate nursery, and lack of classroom space for their growing church ministry. In simple terms, the church had outgrown all of its spaces.

The first phase of work had to address these needs within a realistic budget. New, more efficient lighting and skylights were added to the sanctuary, the chancel platform was expanded and made accessible to the physically challenged. A new addition at ground level includes a new kitchen and adjacent fellowship hall that can be used for serving meals, as play space for children, and as an indoor basketball court. The church purchased another building nearby to use as church offices and converted the former offices into a nursery. New classrooms were created in the old basement fellowship hall. The entire facility was made accessible through the installation of an elevator, ramps, and accessible restrooms. Outdoor improvements include a drive-through drop-off, new parking, and landscaping.

The highlight of the project was the creation of a large gathering area in combination with a sun-filled atrium space that connects entrances from both sides of the facility. This more than triples the original narthex space and provides the welcoming atmosphere so necessary for a church.

\$1,175,000
1992-1995
Design Architect:
John Freshnock
Architect of Record:
RD Habiger &
Associates Inc
Liturgical Design
Consultant: Robert
Habiger

