



## Barry's Corner

### Pastor's Report



With her heart breaking, Kelly couldn't imagine living another day, much less celebrating Easter in a week. Twenty people had died, and 86 were badly injured, from her congregation. The tornado had hit their church during the previous week's worship service and she wondered if they would ever be able to recover.

Will anyone be able to bring themselves to worship after such a traumatic experience, Kelly wondered? Will the congregation be able to concentrate on Easter when they're suffering so badly? She didn't think so.

But, to her surprise, church members did call and ask about the Easter service. In their grief, they knew that they needed Easter more than ever. That week, God put a verse of scripture in Kelly's head that she knew she needed to share with the congregation.

The next Sunday, the congregation gathered on the lawn beside the shattered remains of their church building. As the rising sun illuminated the faces of a people in deep mourning, Pastor Kelly Clem began reading from Romans 8, verses 35-39:

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? . . . No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death, nor life . . . nor things present, nor things to come . . . nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

About a year later, the congregation of the Goshen United Methodist Church of Piedmont, Alabama began building a new church building. The architect had met many times with the congregation and had assisted them in designing their new church building in the shape of a butterfly. Why a butterfly? For centuries butterflies have always symbolized new birth. What better way to commemorate Easter?

This Sunday is Easter, and here at First UMC we too will be celebrating the new birth offered to us through Christ's Easter morning resurrection. Our message is simple: The tomb is empty! Jesus is alive! And He is the One who will sees us through our best and worst days!

Come join us for this special celebration. The risen Christ will be here!

Your Servant,



## FAURÉ PRODUCTION REQUIEM

PRESENTED ON MARCH 20 BY

CHANCEL CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA AGMENTED BY SEVERAL MUSICIANS FROM THE COMMUNITY

Members and guests of First United Methodist Church enjoyed the production of "REQUIEM" during Palm Sunday service this past Sunday. Choir members and orchestra were ably led by choir director, Sarah Kelly. Their hard work paid off. Many listeners commented on how the "REQUIEM" made them think more deeply about Christ's death and resurrection.

## Youth Fasted for Thirty Hours



"I learned that going hungry stinks!" "I learned I don't want to be a child in China or someplace..."

Such were some of the comments of participants in the 30-Hour Famine at First United Methodist of Los Alamos, this past March 18 and 19. Nine youth and 6 volunteer sponsor adults participated. All the youth and one adult went a complete 30 hours without eating, to experience just a little of what deprivation so many people, especially children, go through all too frequently, and not voluntarily, around the world.

One of the Youth sponsors commented later on, "This went really well. The youth were really cooperative, and they learned more than they know. There is just something that can't be explained, something good, about doing something for other people, especially people you don't even know, and who can never repay you..." "I truly believe that all of the youths that participated now have a better understanding of how the children of the third world countries that we have now helped feel on

pretty much a daily basis," commented Rachel Ortiz.

The 30 Hr. Famine was concluded with a pasta dinner provided by Pastor Barry and Susan Dickens and Dennis Trumblee and Susan Nava, and all participants really appreciated all the food! Many thoughts were shared as we all got ready to eat, but the one that stands out the most is "Many of these kids go days without eating and here we are in line waiting to eat." Another said, "Well I have decided that I am not ready to go visit Africa anytime soon."

The fasting participants also had "sponsors" who pledged money to be given to World Vision's hunger relief efforts. At last count we had raised \$660.00 and not all pledges had come in yet. A rough estimate of the money we raised will be close to \$1,000.00... just a tiny drop in the bucket of need, but still, something that can be done for those people whom Jesus called "the least of the brothers and sisters."

Thanks and congratulations to the Youth and Sponsors. It is by the changing of hearts that the Kingdom of God comes to the earth.... one heart at a time, one day at a time.

# We Witness

## Our Church Vows

We will be loyal to the United Methodist Church and uphold it with our prayers, presence, gifts and service.

## Our Prayers

There are many, many prayer needs in our church family and community. The caring board by the church office is

filled to overflowing, and there are too many prayer needs to put in this space without leaving out some other equally important needs. Having the complete prayer list is as simple as sending your email address to the church office and asking to be placed on the email list for prayer needs.

# Special April Days



### Birthdays:

Carolyn Ramsey 4/01  
 Mark Hodgson 4/01  
 Linda Leschnitzer 4/02  
 Becky Chavez 4/03  
 Janis Taylor 4/03  
 Rick Reiss 4/04  
 Sarah Sheppard 4/07  
 Dan Swart 4/08  
 Lee Weinland 4/08  
 Dena Zickert 4/08  
 Randy Parks 4/17  
 David Siebe 4/17  
 David Hodgson 4/19  
 Don Casperson 4/19  
 Egan McCormick 4/21  
 Michelle Cash 4/22

Dick Warnes 4/23  
 Kathy Siebe 4/23  
 David Janecky 4/24  
 Mary Courtright 4/25  
 Gregg Janecky 4/27  
 Emily Collom 4/29  
 Brian Douglass 4/29  
 Anja Blacakdar 4/30

### Anniversaries:

April 8  
 Armond & Jeanie Standley  
 Don & Harriett Zickert  
 April 20  
 Randy & Anna Parks



The Ojedas and church members fill their plates at the March Birthday/Potluck.

# Ojedas Honored

Cesar and Annamarie Ojeda were honored for their 16 years of faithful service as custodians in our church at the March birthday potluck on Sunday March 6. A large and appreciative crowd heard testimonies to their commitment to their work in areas of the Ark, the FOCUS ministry and general church cleaning which is a very large daily job. Following the kind words, the Ojeda family entertained us with their band, using mainly music composed by Cesar. The band included son CJ and daughters Cecilia and Mariana. Their second daughter Aracelli and husband Adam Trujillo attended as well as the family ward, John C'deBaca. The church family contributed a love offering in excess of \$650. Cesar and Annamarie, we really thank you for all of your good work on our behalf!



Ojedas Praised by Opal Lee Gill and Mada Jones



Ojedas entertained with their music.

## Methodist Youth Fellowship

Scavenger Hunt!

YOUTH EASTER HUNT

Join

MYF youth as they search all across Los Alamos for Biblical clues to answer the puzzle posed by the Hunt Masters. The team with the best time, least used hints, and best evaluation wins movie passes! The date is this Saturday, March 26, from 6 to 8 pm.



The next edition of Visions will be dated April 8.

The deadline for articles is March 31.

## First United Methodist Church

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Website: [www.lafumc.org](http://www.lafumc.org)

Pastor ~ Barry Dickens

Youth and Education ~ Michael Ross

Choir Director ~ Sarah Kelly

### Ark Child Development Center

Carol Mead, Director  
 (505) 662-4822

### Sunday Services & Activities

8:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship  
 9:15 a.m. Sunday School  
 10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship

### Wednesday Activities

Youth Bible Study 7:00 p.m.  
 Chancel Choir 7:15 p.m.

### United Skates, Friday evenings

First Session 5:00-6:45 p.m. for children third grade and younger, \$2.00 includes skate rental  
 Second Session for third grade and up, \$2.50 includes skate rental