



Barry's Corner

Pastor's Report



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Planting a New Future

by Barry Dickens

Spring is in the air! (Those of us with allergies know this only too well.) And with the advent of spring, people begin to spruce up their lawns and prepare their gardens for planting.

At the Dickens', this has not only taken on the form of watering the lawn and preparing new flower beds, but often has included the planting of new trees. Trees are an absolute wonder. They provide shade from the summer heat, homes for the birds and squirrels, and a nice place to sit beneath and drink iced tea during the warm summer days.

Over the past several years, as the relatively short lived fruit trees have died away, we've taken particular joy in replacing them with new young saplings. Thus far we planted four new trees at the parsonage, and with permission, planted a young maple tree on the front lawn of the high school in memory of our son David. I can remember one of our children asking years ago why we always plant trees everywhere we live when we know that as a Methodist pastor's family that we'll never live in one place long enough to enjoy the tree when it's fully grown. I responded with one of my favorite stories about an old man in east Tennessee.

It seems that thirty years ago there was an old man who had an unusual morning ritual. He would fill a shoulder sack with acorns and take up a wooden stick with a sharpened spike on

the end of it. Then he would set out walking over a large burned out forest area in the mountains. Here and there he stopped, poked a hole in the ground, dropped in an acorn, and kicked dirt over it with his boot. When a friend asked him why he did this every day, he said, "Someone has to think of the future." Today, there is the most beautiful forest where that man walked.

This is why we plant trees - because "Someone has to think of the future." Here at First Church we're planting trees too. No, not real trees (although if someone wanted to get approval from the Trustees to plant a real tree it would probably be greatly appreciated.) But the planting we're presently engaged in has to do with future goals and direction. As a congregation we have engaged in a conference initiative called "Connected In Christ." "C.I.C." as we call it, is not a program per se, but rather a connection with other United Methodist congregations who like ourselves are seeking the tools and skills with which to discern God's calling and purpose for His church. This last Sunday evening we began a dialog with the Church Council through a very simple exercise entitled "Readiness Assessment For Transformational Ministry." The entire Council was very excited about their discussions and strongly encouraged us to offer it to every small group within our church. This we plan to do very soon.

This, however, is just our first step in what I know is going to be an exciting and productive

ARK Hopathon

by Carol Mead

Last Thursday, March 7, during chapel, the Ark children learned a little about disabilities and participated in a Muscular Dystrophy Hopathon. Our goal was to hop for two minutes without stopping. We didn't realize how long two minutes could be until we tried to hop that long without a break! Ark students hopped well and our hopping raised \$82 to help Jerry's Kids.



Special April Birthday/Lunch Celebration

by Staff Writers

This month's birthday get-together will be sponsored by our Methodist Youth. Set aside April 17 after the 10:30 church service for an enjoyable lunch and fellowship. No pot-luck dishes required! The entire meal will be provided! A free-will donation basket will be on the serving table to help support Youth Missions.

Donations will be designated for two goals: first, as part of the Missions Trip to God's Way Church in Albuquerque (April 22-24), and second, to sponsor Sacramento Assembly camps for youth from FUMC, from the Pinedale and Rough Side of the Mountain Communities, and from God's Way Church.

MUSIC! The big show for the Luncheon will be "home-

grown" music and entertainment from groups such as First Light, a barbershop quartet, and the InterStately famous "FUMC Ski Retreat Six," with possible guest sets by the Cajun 3 and a Half, the Singing Waiters' Guild of Los Alamos —featuring Maniac Zach— and the Who Knows Who Else. So, come sing along as you chew and have a great time!



Early risers: Louise Mendius, Dennis Trumblee, Susan Nava, Eileen Douglass, and Kim Granzow prepare the cross for Easter Sunday services

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.

Our Presence

Average attendance for March was 105.25.

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
Sarab 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
EganMcCormick 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 & Harriet Zickert
April 20
Randy & Anna Parks

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process. I ask everyone to please be in prayer as we begin this new initiative. Pray also for our entire church family as we begin to talk about and examine the most critical aspects of our church. In a way we're planting new trees - missional saplings which in planting today will determine the quality of ministry tomorrow. The future is in our hands. I

invite you to put on your gardening gloves and help us plant a new future which will be beautiful in the sight of God!

Your Servant,

Barry

The next edition of Visions will be dated April 22.

The deadline for articles is April 15.

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(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
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

Resurrection Bible Study

WELCOME TO THE RESURRECTION OF US ALL!

—New Daytime Class Forming
April 13

by Michael Ross

The Resurrection of Jesus changes everything! The laws of the physical universe, the laws of psychological emotionality, the laws of how things are "supposed to be..."!

Though Jesus died for our sins, it is in his Rising that we receive New Life.

Without the resurrection -- Jesus returning from beyond the Tomb to bless us, who follow him-- there would be no church, no Christians, no redemption... for on the night in which he was arrested, everyone who had been with him deserted him. They ran off because they did not believe him. They loved him, yes, and had seen him give of himself over and over, miracle upon miracle. But even though he had told them many times that he would be arrested, condemned, and killed, and after three days rise

again... they did not believe him. On the morning of the first day, they sent the women-folk to prepare the body for permanent burial, as was their custom. They did not believe.

But the resurrection changes everything! He did come back to them, and none of those who

saw the Lord, Risen, changed them forever.

And so with us, too, the more we are drawn by the Holy Spirit into experiencing the resurrection, and trusting our present lives to the Risen Lord, the more we too are transformed. We believe, already, yes... Yet there is no limit to how joyously we can come to believe... no limit to the transformation of heart and nature that we can experience... no limit to the forgiveness and reconciliation we can live in.

For this Easter season, an interactive, discussion-based study will be happening on Wednesday mornings at 10, starting April 13, here at FUMC. Led by Michael Ross. The subject will be us, ourselves, in the Light of the Risen Lord. The texts will be the accounts of the Rising of Jesus in the gospels.

If you want to experience more joy, more courage, more peace, come and see yourself more fully caught up in the Joyous Mystery of all time.

He is Risen indeed! And because he is risen, we too are lifted up and our lives are transformed.



had followed him ever denied him again. Many of those people were also later arrested, and tortured, some even to death, yet they never deserted him again. The overwhelming joy they experienced when they

Ark Registration

The Summer and Fall Sessions registration for the Ark will be open to the Church and the community beginning Monday, April 11. Ark classes include children as young as six weeks up through after-school care for 6th graders. If you would like your child to be a part of our Christian ministry, stop in for a tour. We would love to have your family be an Ark family.

This year's summer session starts June 6 and the fall session begins August 17.

For more information take a look at our new website at lafumc.org/ark or contact Carol Mead at (505) 662-4822.

Camp Fire Kids Spring Carnival

by Ruth Graham

The Los Alamos Camp Fire Kids Clubs will sponsor a Spring Carnival here at FUMC. The Carnival will be on Saturday, April 16 from 10 am to 1 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Come enjoy food, fun, games, and crafts as you explore the five Camp Fire USA Trails. Also, there will be opportunities for young people to learn about and join existing Camp Fire USA clubs in Los Alamos or to form new clubs that can start at any time. Come join us for this fun-filled way to learn more about this new opportunity for Los Alamos kids.

Camp Fire USA is one of the

nation's leading not-for-profit youth development organizations, currently serving nearly 750,000 children and youth annually. Founded in 1910, Camp Fire provides all-inclusive, coeducational programs in hundreds of communities across the United States. By design, Camp Fire's programs, including small-group experiences, after-school programs, camping and environmental education, child care and service learning, build confidence in younger children and provide hands-on, youth-driven leadership experiences for older youth. For more information contact Ruth Graham at 672-0916 or visit www.coampfireusa.org.