



Barry's Corner

Pastor's Report

The Church Is On Fire!

John Middleton shares some inspirational thoughts on church revitalization which I'd like to share with you. He begins by telling the story of a fire which broke out in a rural church. The volunteer fire brigade raced to the church with sirens wailing. When they arrived, the pastor recognized a church member. "Hello there, Jim. I haven't seen you in church for a long time."

"Well, preacher," answered Jim, "there hasn't been a fire in this church for a long time either."

The story can be taken as a rebuke, directed either at people who miss worship, or at churches that are dull and uninspiring. I prefer to take the story more positively, as an invitation to dream God's dreams for the church and the world.

God dreams big dreams! From the moment Abraham responded by venturing to an unknown land, people of faith have shared God's dreams. They have been called into a future with no more guarantee than "I will be with you." John Howard Yoder put it this way: "Jesus always admitted that if we entrust our lives to him and his cause, we will never be proven right until beyond the end of the story and cannot count on being positively reinforced along all the way."

Neither the past nor the present gives energy and direction for the church - only a vision of the future that is big enough to match the dreams of God.

What are the marks of a church "on fire?" Consider the following:



- Genuine acceptance and hospitality toward all.
- Worship that evokes our praise, repentance, thanksgiving, and solidarity with others.
- Life-changing connections with Jesus Christ, nurtured by personal and corporate spiritual disciplines.
- Small groups for mutual encouragement, learning, and accountability.
- Servant ministry alongside the poor and outcast.
- Generous sharing of our resources.
- A clear witness against the idols and ideologies of our culture.
- An intentional mentoring of children, youth, and new disciples.
- An unwavering practice of forgiveness.
- The ongoing development of leaders who can articulate the vision and invite the congregation into ever-greater faithfulness.

I encourage you to meditate upon this list for a while. What would you add? What do you discern God's vision and purpose to be for our church in the decades ahead? Where are the sparks which the Holy Spirit can kindle into the flame of a church fully alive?

I believe those sparks are in you and me! Remember the old camp fire song? "It only takes a spark, to get a fire going..."

Your Servant,

Barry



Our Applause

by Barry Dickens

Frequently after attending a church function we may reflect on what a fine event it was. But what we may fail to consider are the many selfless servants who devoted their time and energy towards making the activity happen with the level of excellence we've grown so accustomed.

We're creating, therefore, an "Applause" column which we hope will become a regular. It's an opportunity for all of us here at FUMC to acknowledge these Christ-like servants who contribute so much to the Kingdom of God. Our applause is not only for these exceptional workers, but for God most of all who has enabled and empowered us all to be participants in His redemptive ministry.

Having recently enjoyed an outstanding series of Holy Week

worship services, we've chosen to begin this column by expressing our gratitude to the following:

- The *Chancel Choir, Orchestra members*, & director *Sarah Kelly*, for a very moving performance of Faure's Requiem on Palm Sunday.
- *Jeannie Stanley, Sara Hutto, Cathy Hinojosa*, and unknown others who set us the dinner preceding the Maundy Thursday service with *Ruth Rosen* from Jews for Jesus.
- *Lee Weinland* - for the countless hours he labored (including an all nighter) putting our video clips together for the Good Friday worship service.
- *Lance Eaton, Ryan Frost, Don Siebe, & Denny Armstrong* who set up and secured the 'rough' cross in the sanctuary.
- *Doris Jackson* who

carefully prepared each Easter lily and then arranged them all beautifully for Easter Sunday services.

- *Eileen Douglass, Kim Granzow, Susan Nava, Dennis Trumblee, & Louise Mendijs*, who covered the cross with live flowers at 6:00 AM Easter morning.
- *Geniece & Shelby Courtright, Cathy Siebe*, and our church youth group who helped hide eggs for the children's Easter Egg hunt.
- *Nels Hoffman, Mike Pope, Don Casperson, & Chris Rousculp*, who safely remove the 'rough' cross following Easter.
- *God*, who raised from the grave His own Son, *Jesus* our *Messiah, Savior, and Redeemer!* To Him be glory forever and ever!

Sacramento Assembly Sunday May 1



by Michael Ross

FUMC will be celebrating the joy of Christian camping experiences of many kinds through fond memories and through encouraging others to go to Camp this summer. Information and sign-up booths will be in the entranceway.

Camps are not "just" for kids,

but for all ages! Wouldn't you like to "get away from part of it all" this summer? Wouldn't you like for you kids to experience a joyful, safe, and uplifting week learning about how much God loves them? Open your minds and hearts, and think "outside the Hill" for this summer!

YOUTH CAMPS:

- Younger Persons (early elementary) June 10-12
- High School, June 13-17
- Backpacking (with Barry!), June 19-24

Mid-High, June 17-July 1
Elementary (4th — 6th),
July 11-15.

ADULT CAMPS:

- Bird-watching, June 26-29
- UMW Mission (women only), July 8-11
- UMM (men only), Aug. 12-14
- Seasoned Citizens (Senior adults), Aug. 15-19
- College Students (Sept. 16-18).

Opportunities for Enrichment



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

Attendance for April 3 was 110, for April 10 was 149.

Special May Days



Birthdays:

Jana Beery	05/02	Barbara Croley	05/22
Fred DeVries	05/03	Susan Dickens	05/24
Jason Trimmer	5/04	Rikki Reiss	05/25
Ardith Rupp	05/05	Sharon Watson	05/25
Tom Ricketts	05/06	Sarah Ricketts	05/26
Bob Malone	05/09	Kyle Beery	05/27
Rachel Taylor	05/11	Courtney Beebe	05/28
Deborah Trimmer	05/11	Angela Hodgson	05/30
Brent Collom	05/12	Anniversaries:	
Shannon Grindstaff	05/12	May 21	
Ron Jones	05/13	Tom & Vicki Ricketts	
Anna Parks	05/19	May 23	
Garth Ramsey	05/20	Dale & Linda Leschnitzer	
Diane Miller	05/21	May 24	
		William & Carol Mead	



MOTHERS' DAY BRUNCH

—May 8, at 9:00 at FUMC Fellowship Hall!

Start the day off right with fellowship, memories, and a sweet-tooth-satisfying breakfast. Traditional hot breakfast is also being offered by members and sponsors of the MYF.

The next edition of Visions will be dated May 6, 2005.

The deadline for articles is April 29.

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Sunday Services & Activities

8:00 am Contemporary Worship
9:15 am Sunday School
10:30 am Traditional Worship

Wednesday Activities

Chancel Choir 7 pm

United Skates, Friday evenings

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

New Members--Welcome!



Carrie Shuman

In just the last month FUMC has welcomed two new families into our congregation.

Carrie Shuman joined our church on April 3. She has two daughters: Elizabeth, a senior, and Carla, a sophomore. They live at 25 Karen Circle. Their phone number is 672-1549.

Wes and Dolores Burke joined our church April 10. They live at 950 Capulin and their phone number is 661-9982.

Please welcome our new members into the FUMC family.



Wes & Dolores Burk

Eagle Scout Court of Honor

by Jan Stong

Troop 122 will be honoring Dan Wermer, a member of the troop since 1999, on Saturday, April 30. Ceremonies will be at 5 pm in the Sanctuary, followed by a reception in the Fellowship Hall. All members of FUMC are invited to attend.

The troop currently has 52



boys and 5 of those members attend FUMC--David Trimmer, Alex Lloyd, Bob Collum, David Siebe, and Craig Siebe. Troop 122 meets weekly in the Fellowship Hall to work on projects some of which have been of direct benefit to the church. Please join with us to celebrate our fine young men in Scouts.

City-Wide Worship and Prayer Celebrates its Second Anniversary May 8

by Gail Diedrich

James 5:13-16 (NIV)

The following invitation stands at the entrance to FUMC's Sanctuary on days City-Wide Worship and Prayer is offered (Thurs-days, 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. on a stop-and-go basis):

Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray.

Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise.

Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well. The Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

Once inside the Sanctuary and in preparation for worship, we take a few minutes to examine our hearts and silently confess or repent of any sins and burdens that could hinder the Holy Spirit from doing His work among us.

A special time of worship music follows led by Worship Leader Gloria Streit. Much of the music we sing is inspired by the Lord and written by Gloria based on scripture. Our worship focus is fellowship and intimacy with Christ. As we unite interdenominationally as yielded vessels, we come into the presence of the Lord and are blessed, filled with joy and thanksgiving, healed, delivered, empowered, equipped, and transformed.

Scripture reading, praise reports, testimonies, prayer requests and prayer follow as we lift individual, local, state, national, and global concerns to the Lord.

I continue to be amazed as I reflect back over the way the Lord communicated the vision,

blueprint, and timing for this ministry. Through it's conception and development, I have learned some valuable lessons: When the Lord calls you to do something, the important thing is to pray, pray, and pray. Then if confirmed, the next step is to be obedient to do what He has called you to do. Stepping out in faith is difficult and scary; but if we do our part, He will do His. And the Lord has faithfully sustained this ministry for two years.

Still small and intimate, we attract people for a number of different reasons; and we've been blessed to see how God answered our prayers and honors out unity, faithfulness, and perseverance. We've seen impressive healings, physical needs being met, signs and wonders manifested, visions seen and described, as well as individual and corporate prophecies given.

If you're open to something a little different, need a touch from the Lord and want to be blessed, please join us. We'd love to welcome you.

