



The United Methodist Review

First Visions

edition

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Barry's Corner

Pastor's Report



Please see back page

"A man can't just sit around!" by Barry Dickens

Larry Walters is among the relatively few who have actually turned their dreams into reality. His story is true, as hard as you may find it to believe...

Larry was a truck driver, but his lifelong dream was to fly. When he graduated from high school, he joined the Air Force in hopes of becoming a pilot. Unfortunately, poor eyesight disqualified him. So when he finally left the service, he had to satisfy himself with watching others fly the fighter jets that crisscrossed the skies over his backyard. As he sat there in his lawn chair, he dreamed about the magic of flying.

Then one day, Larry had an idea. He went down to the local Army-Navy surplus store and bought forty-five weather balloons, and several tanks of helium. These were not your brightly colored party balloons, these were heavy-duty spheres measuring more than four feet across when fully inflated. Back in his yard, Larry used straps to attach the balloons to his lawn chair, the kind you might have in your back yard. He anchored the chair to the bumper of his jeep, and inflated the balloons with helium. Then he packed a few sandwiches and drinks, and a loaded BB gun, figuring he could pop a few balloons when it was time to return to earth. His preparations complete, Larry sat in his chair and cut the anchoring cord. His plan was to lazily float into the sky, and eventually back to terra firma. But things didn't quite work out that way. When Larry cut the cord, he didn't float lazily up; he shot up as if fired from

a cannon! Nor did he go up a couple hundred feet. He climbed and climbed until he finally leveled off at eleven thousand feet! At that height, he could hardly risk deflating any of the balloons, lest he unbalance the load and really experience flying. So he stayed up there, sailing around for fourteen hours, totally at a loss about how to get down.

Eventually, Larry drifted into the approach corridor for Los Angeles International Airport. A Pan Am pilot radioed the tower about passing a guy in a lawn chair at eleven thousand feet, with a gun in his lap... now there's a conversation I would have given anything to have heard! LAX is right on the ocean, and you may know that at nightfall, the winds on the coast begin to change. So, as dusk fell, Larry began drifting out to sea. At that point, the Navy dispatched a helicopter to rescue him, but the rescue team had a hard time getting to him because the draft from their propeller kept pushing his homemade contraption farther and farther away. Eventually, they were able to hover above him and drop a rescue line, with which they gradually hauled him back to safety. As soon as Larry hit the ground, he was arrested. But as he was led away in handcuffs, a television reporter called out, "Sir, why'd you do it?" Larry stopped, eyed the man, then replied nonchalantly, "A man can't just sit around!"

Larry was pretty foolish, but at least he got one thing right, "A man can't just sit around!" No one can! At least not if they desire for their life to have any significant meaning and

Continued on back page

MYF Fundraiser

by Rachel Ortiz

The 1st United Methodist MYF youth group would like to send out a heart felt thank you to everyone who was able to come by on Sunday, April 17 and enjoy our meal. We were able to serve a few over 100 people and were even able to send home extra baked potatoes for those who wanted to take some.

who helped provide some entertainment during our meal. Entertainment was provided by

little over \$900.00. Funds will be distributed in a variety of ways. Part of it has been spent to send 5 youth group members to the God's Way mission with the Wednesday Night Mission Class and also allowed them to attend an Isotopes game Saturday evening after all of their hard work.



Please watch for the next MYF Fundraiser which will take place Sunday, May 8th. This will be our annual Mother's Day Brunch.

We would also like to say thank you to Nels Hoffman, Maureen Beery, Zach Armstrong, and Nels Hoffman. The fundraiser brought in a

God's Way Weekend Mission

by Zach Armstrong, MYF

The weekend of April 23rd and 24th warmed the hearts of many FUMC members as Christ Jesus touched their lives during the mission trip to God's Way Church in Albuquerque. Susan and Dennis Trumblee and the rest of the mission team

organized the all-day event Saturday which included roofing projects, painting, as well as, planting rose bushes and trees around the church.

About 20 people from FUMC and 25 from God's Way woke up early Saturday morning to minister to God's Way

through hard work. As we shared sweat and fellowship, all of us felt God flowing in our hearts. We fixed up the church and on Sunday morning we worshiped together with God's Way Church. The experience was memorable and life changing.



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

149 people attended worship on Sunday, May 1.

Special May Days



Birthdays:

Jana Beery 05/02
Fred DeVries 05/03
Jason Trimmer 5/04
Arduith Rupp 05/05
Tom Ricketts 05/06
Bob Malone 05/09
Rachel Taylor 05/11
Deborah Trimmer 05/11
Brent Collom 05/12
Shannon Grindstaff 05/12
Ron Jones 05/13
Anna Parks 05/19
Diane Miller 05/21
Barbara Croley 05/22

Susan Dickens 05/24
Rikki Reiss 05/25
Sharon Watson 05/25
Sarah Ricketts 05/26
Kyle Beery 05/27
Courtney Beebe 05/28
Angela Hodgson 05/30

Anniversaries:

May 21
Tom & Vicki Ricketts
May 23
Dale & Linda Leschnitzer
May 24
William & Carol Mead

New Arrivals

John Blackadar, Feb. 5, 2005

Lilly New, March 28, 2005

The next edition of Visions will be dated May 20.

The deadline for articles is May 13.

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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



Our Applause

We wish to especially thank the people who journeyed down to Albuquerque to work on the God's Way Weekend Mission trip. Thank you for sharing your time and 'sweat' to

make this project a success.

Thank you Nels Hoffman, Susan Nava, Dennis Trumblee, Rachel Ortiz, Mark Ortiz, Michael Ross, Don Enemark, Sheila Enemark, Don

Casperson, Maureen Beery, Zach Armstrong, Rachel Sheppard, Tyrone Clemens, Rich Beery, Jon Sollid, Susan Hodgson, Mark Hodgson, and Jim Little.

Dealing with Domestic Abuse

by Jim Little

Everyone knows someone who is being abused in their family situation: children, wives, husbands, and elderly may be victims. 1/3 of all women are victims of emotional abuse. Abuse in the family happens without regard to social, financial, or religious status. Because it happens behind closed doors the abuser often never suffers consequences for his/her actions. The abused is usually embarrassed and reluctant to talk about the situation and is afraid to leave because of financial concerns. Sometimes a friend, neighbor, relative will recognize and can rescue the

abused person from the abusive situation and perhaps save a live.

The Missions/Outreach Group of LAFUMC along with the Crisis Center of Northern New Mexico and LAPD is sponsoring a domestic abuse workshop to address the questions and problems that victims of domestic and emotional abuse encounter. The focus of the workshop is to help friends, neighbors, and relatives recognize the signs of abuse and to enable them to help the abused extricate themselves from the situation. The workshop will be held at 6 pm on May 18 in the second floor conference room

at the Los Alamos Library. Speakers from LAPD and the Crisis center will present subjects such as the "circle of violence", First Responders, and Los Alamos abuse statistics. Clips filmed and presented recently on national TV by Oprah will be used to initiate discussion. Please plan to attend to educate yourself in this very serious societal problem.

Friends, neighbors, and relatives of abused victims are invited and will be given information and suggestions pertinent to helping a victim escape the violence in her/his life. Handouts will be available to take home.

Barry's Corner, from front page

brought about three thousand believers that very first day, and many thousands more in the days immediately following. Here at First UMC, we're not just sitting around either! Nearly eighty worshippers have made covenants with God to join Him in deliberate focused prayer during the ten days between the Day of Ascension and Pentecost. What's more, on Pentecost Sunday (May 15th) we're planning two extraordinary worship services for which you'll want to be present! May 15th is going to be like a party! It's the birthday of Christ's church all around the world! We'll be enjoying sensational

purpose. In just a little over a week we'll be celebrating Pentecost Sunday. At first glance one might read the first chapter of Acts and get the idea that following the ascension of Jesus, those early believers were just sitting around. But that's not true. What were they doing? "They all joined together constantly in prayer..." (Acts 1:14) We need to remember that being constantly in prayer is being constantly at work! And when God sent His Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, they definitely weren't "just sitting around!" The explosive power of God's Holy Spirit

music as well as looking deeply into the makeup and values of the early church which made them so dynamic. Following our fabulous morning worship celebrations we'll be celebrating both individual birthdays of our church family and the birthday of the God's universal church with a potluck dinner and special program. So don't just sit around Sunday, May 15th, join your church family for this wonderful day of jubilation! See you there!

Your servant,

Barry

Prayer Covenants

FUMC-LA COVENANTS TO PRAY 185 HOURS DURING GLOBAL DAY OF PRAYER 10-DAY FOCUS

by Gail Diedrich

During Barry's inspiring sermon on prayer on April 24, seventy-three people from both services made personal covenants with God to pray daily during the 10-day prayer focus for Global Day of Prayer, which begins today, May 6, and culminates on Pentecost Sunday, May 15. Prayer covenants ranged from individuals committing to pray 5 minutes to 1 hour daily. As of April 24, FUMC's congregation covenanted to pray for 1,110 minutes daily or a total of 185 hours (77% of the 24-hour, 10-day event), an excellent

response. Fifty-five per cent of those present at both services chose to participate.



On May 15, the 200 million Christians who are expected to

join in united prayer for the transformation of their communities, state, nation, and world will be linked together for six hours of live broadcast, one hour from each continental area. The signal will be relayed by satellite, radio, and Internet.

Information and ideas for prayer are listed on a number of websites in Global Day of Prayer Guides that were distributed during church services on April 24. If you or someone you know did not receive a prayer guide and would like to participate, prayer guides can be obtained through the church office.