



FIRST

VISIONS

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What is "Connected in Christ"?

by Barry Dickens

"Connected in Christ" (typically referred to as "CIC") is a movement of God within the United Methodist Church to release the transforming power of the gospel through renewed spiritual emphasis, leadership development, clergy / laity partnerships, and the development of a shared vision and customized strategic ministry planning. The key questions guiding this process for churches are, "What is God calling us to be and do, in this "present age?" and "How are we going to get there?"

The CIC process involves a series of four clergy retreats to work on the aspects of ministry planning, develop supportive relationships and worship together. A series of team training events for clergy and lay leadership teams explore spiritual formation, team building, ministry planning, evangelism and stewardship. The Connected in Christ movement is not about being in a "program," where a "one-size-fits-all".

Rather, it is a process, with many resources to help congregations experience God's transforming power in a new way, for a new day.

Here at First United Methodist Church, we appointed a CIC team-consisting of five members: Pastor Barry Dickens, Mark Hodgson, David Miller, Sharon Sole and Geniece Courtright.



CIC Team Facilitates Ministry Assessment

In April, the Connected in Christ team led a transformational readiness assessment exercise with approximately 70 of our church members. The assessment asked participants their thoughts and feelings about seven key foundational components of ministry planning. These key areas are: vision, mission, values, passion, leadership, organization and church context. After completing the assessment, church members briefly shared their responses in small group discussions which was then followed by a large group sharing session. This provided valuable insight of our present ministries and ideas where transformation might be productive in the future. Last Sunday, May 15, the congregation was led

through another transformational exercise by exploring the core values of our congregation. The key questions each person was asked to wrestle with were: "What do you think the core values of Jesus were as seen in His earthly ministry? What do you think the core values of the early church were? As a Methodist congregation founded in the principles of Scripture and the Wesleyan Revival, what do you think the core values of our congregation are/should be? If you were unable to be present on Pentecost Sunday, May 15th, this information is still available for your contemplation and input. Call the church office or see the next issue of the Methodist Reporter for full details.

Outreach and Mission Moments Mission to Where?

by Dennis Trumblee

What are the greatest needs in our community, in our state, and in our world? If you asked 10 people you would probably get 10 different answers.

From the Methodist Church website our motto is the "World is our Parish." We each need to find what the Holy Spirit has in mind for us outside of the church.

It has been so comfortable sitting inside our four walls, away from the strife and poverty in our world. But the Lord commands us to go outside of our walls.

The author of First John tells us that "We know love by this, he laid down his life for us and we ought to lay down our lives for others. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother in need and yet refuses to help? Little children, let us love, not in words or speech, but in truth and action." (1 John 3:16-18)

What will our response be? How can we get out into the world, and where will we serve?

All missions do not have to

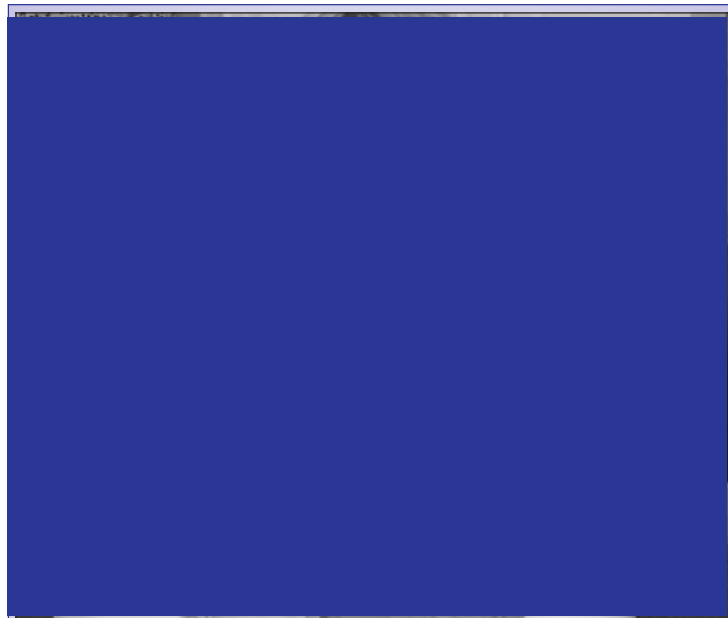
be outside of our country. Poverty and hunger are beating down our door. The Española Valley and the surrounding communities live with these conditions every day.

What are your hopes and dreams for our world? The FUMC of Los Alamos is looking for people with open minds and open hearts to be the servants of Christ. We need to be His hands and feet and go forth into our neighborhoods and our world to spread the Good News through word, acts and deeds.

The Outreach / Mission Committee is looking for your support. Please join the Committee or join us in mission, either here or abroad. Let this church be known for its truth and action! Please watch for future opportunities in this column and on the Outreach/Mission bulletin board.

So what is on your heart?

To join the Committee or volunteer your time, please contact the church office at 662-6277 or contact Dennis Trumblee at 455-3559 or email at trumblee@earthlink.net.



All the Ark classes received special new Bibles this month. These two students are eagerly listening to stories about Jesus as Miss Karen reads from their new *Baby's First Bible*.

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

Last Sunday, Pentecost Sunday, had an attendance of 148.

Special May Days



Birthdays:

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

IMPORTANT UP-COMING EVENTS

SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATIONS are now available for:
 "Younger Children" (grades 2-4, June 10-12)
 High School (9th -12th, June 13-17)
 Mid-high (7th-9th, June 27-July 1)
 Elementary Camp (July 11-15)

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL will be June 27-30.

Notice Our New Look?

What do you think?

Comments and suggestions would be appreciated!

The next edition of Visions will be dated June 3.

The deadline for articles is Wednesday, May 25.

First United Methodist Church

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 First Visions Editor ~ Jan Stong

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

Chancel Choir 7 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

As you notice, each week the First Visions newspaper is filled with excellent photography. Much of that photography is provided by Jim Little. Thank you so much for your hard work.

We also wish to thank Linda

Bequette for all the skating parties she has directed. She makes sure that they come off great as an outreach of the church.

Global Day of Prayer's ten day prayer vigil culminated this past Pentecost Sunday. Special

thanks to Gail Diedrich and Alice Carter for all the time and effort they contributed to enable our church's participation in this event. Thanks also to all the 'pray-ers' who took part in the ten days of prayer.

Mother's Day Celebration at First Methodist



Chancel Choir
 Rachael Sheppard and Daniel Stong, soloists

Children's Church



Mothers and families lining up for MYF sponsored brunch



MYF preparing brunch in honor of Mothers



Vacation Bible School

is coming soon!

Ranch House Kids
 at the Circle G Ranch

Where God is at the Center
 and the Love Never Ends

June 27-July 1

9:00-11:30