



FIRST

VISIONS

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**Barry's
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*Pastor's
Report*



Your Connected In Christ team (CIC) is overwhelmed with the outstanding response to our Pentecost Sunday initiative! You may recall that on May 15th we wrestled with important issues during worship seeking to discern the core values God wills for His church -- both universally and our local congregation.

Over one hundred individuals participated, providing over 1,000 separate responses! Many replies, as you might guess, are similar in wording or content. Your responses also demonstrate great depth and spiritual insight. We are greatly encouraged in this step and will spend the days ahead analyzing and distilling your wisdom so that very soon we might report back to you.

For those of you who were unable to be with us on May 15th or for those who have additional thoughts to contribute, let me invite you to still participate in this vital process. Briefly, let me restate what this endeavor is all about.

When we study Scripture and look throughout history, we come to realize that in every great outpouring of God from Pentecost to the present there has existed within the believers of Christ's Church a foundation of core values which influence their behavior, inspire them into particular actions, and determine the distinctive nature of their ministries.

Knowing this, we here at FUMC are asking ourselves the fundamental questions:

- oWhat is the foundation of our existence?
- oWhat is our fundamental reason for being a United Methodist Church?
- oWhat are our core values which should determine and influence everything else we choose to do and not to do?

To help guide us through this process of discernment, we devised a simple reflection sheet. (The content of the original reflection form is adjacent to this article.) If you were unable to offer your insights on May 15th, please consider participating in this spiritual exercise of faith and prayer. If you've already participated but have further thoughts to contribute, please do so! You may return your reply by email <lafumc@lafumc.org> or by dropping it by the church office.

By the next issue of our "First Visions" newspaper, we anticipate celebrating with you what we've learned and where we believe God is directing us next in this exciting journey of being Connected In Christ! So stay tuned, and continue praying for clear discernment of our future!

Your servant,

Barry

Core Values

1 What do you think the Core Values of Jesus were?

Scriptures to meditate upon:

- Jesus Clears the Temple (John 2:13-17)
- Jesus weeping at the grave of Lazarus (John 11:32-35)
- Jesus praying in the garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:40-44)
- Jesus washes his disciple's feet (John 13:2-5)

In addition to the readings above, meditate upon other favorite Scriptures you know which reflect the Values and Core Purpose of Jesus.

Please write down whatever Core Values come to your mind using very short phrases or single words.



2 What do you think the Core Values of the early church were?

Scriptures to meditate upon:

- Peter & John can't help speaking of what they've seen & heard. (Acts 4:1-5, 18-19)
- Believers were one in heart and mind, sharing everything they had. (Acts 4:32-35)
- Paul stoned and left for dead (Acts 14:19-20)
- For Paul, to live is Christ and to die is gain. (Phil. 1:18-21)

In addition to the readings above, meditate upon other favorite Scriptures you know which reflect the values and core purpose of the the early church.

Please write down whatever Core Values come to your mind using very short phrases or single words.

3 As a United Methodist congregation founded in the principles of Scripture, holiness, and the Wesleyan Revival, what do you think the Core Values of our congregation should be?

Meditate upon these questions:

- Why do we exist as God's church?
- What is God calling us to be and do in this present age?
- What must our foundation be if we are to fulfill God's calling?
- What must our Core Values be?

Please write down whatever Core Values come to your mind using very short phrases or single words.

Outreach and Mission Moments Mission to Pinedale



Working on a ramp and the roof at the church at Pinedale

by Dennis Trumblee

The Pinedale Methodist Church--what a blessing it was for us to be involved in the Pinedale Navajo Mission project.

We held the auction in February and raised \$4500 to support the Pinedale Church in building a new roof and a basketball court. The auction was a success. Navajo tacos, the silent auction, and Jerry Beery's live auction were a lot of fun.

Most of us arrived at Pinedale on Friday, May 13. Jerry made it on Thursday and picked up most of the construction supplies we needed. We were met with very limited water supplies at the church because most sinks didn't work and the showers weren't working either. Pinedale sits towards the end of a potable water system. As a result, there is a lot of silt in the water which clogs up faucets and shower heads very rapidly. Saturday morning we repaired roof shingles, dug up water valve isolations, trenched a path out for a sidewalk between the

Youth Building and the Fellowship Hall, and leveled a location for a new utility shed.

We had contacted two cement finishing companies to give us an estimate on the concrete work and we were pleasantly surprised at the costs. Our volunteer crew wasn't quite as large as we hoped, but we were able to contract the cement work.

Saturday afternoon some of the volunteers took a hike up the Mesa to visit the cross from the first church located in this area. This allowed time for a quick trip to Gallup to pick-up plumbing supplies. With one kitchen faucet, two bathroom faucets, two shower heads, and one new toilet the water was flowing at the Pinedale Church again.

First Methodist Church of Los Alamos made the following contributions to the Pinedale Church. A concrete half court basketball court, a portable regulation size basketball hoop, approximately 30 feet of sidewalk, a utility shed, repairs to the roof of the church, and

water repairs to the Fellowship Hall and Youth Building. Not bad for a Friday through Sunday mission trip. We also attended church services on Sunday morning. It stretched the Pastor a bit to do the service in Navaho and English, but it was a great service.

The United Methodist Church from Clovis will be at Pinedale for a VBS over the Memorial Weekend and the following week. They will stripe the basketball court and assemble the basketball hoop for us.

The participants for the Pinedale Mission were: Jerry Beery, Aaron Goldman, Peggy Goldman, Michael Ross, Rachel Sheppard, Tyrone Clement, Susan Nava, and Dennis Trumblee. Also we wish to give thanks to the congregation at Pinedale, especially Andrew and Arlene Leslie for all of their support and help.



Getting down and dirty could tire you out.



Think there's gold down there?

Domestic Abuse Seminar A Success!

by Jim Little

The Domestic Abuse seminar organized by FUMC Missions/Outreach work area and presented on May 18th by the Los Alamos Police Dept. and the Crisis Center of Northern New Mexico was well attended by over forty interested persons. The presentations included information and video examples of emotional abuse in the family. Several of the speakers emphasized that emotional abuse is at least as damaging to the victims as is physical abuse. In fact some victims admit to pushing the abuser toward physical abuse in order to escape the emotional abuse.

Social agencies from this area were represented and were available to confer with

attendees following the seminar.

Domestic abuse is a serious problem in every community, in every church, in every business, in every neighborhood. It happens in every race, in every financial bracket, and in every occupation.

There are brochures in the FUMC narthex for distribution. If you know someone who is being abused or if you are an abuse victim there is help available in Los Alamos. Please pickup one of the brochures, review the statistics, the symptoms, and the help available sections and take appropriate action. Perhaps your neighbor, a relative, or a friend should receive a brochure. You may save a life by becoming involved now.

Ark Accreditation

Every three years the Ark goes through the renewal of our National Early Childhood Program Accreditation. Accreditation is a measure of excellence in the field of child care that we share with only one other center in Los Alamos. The requirements are above and beyond our state

licensing. During the past year a tremendous amount of effort went into preparation, both in creating paper work and in making sure our center is up to standards. On June 13, a verifier will spend the day assessing all we have done. Please keep us in your prayers during this time.

Ms. Gretchen sent this student out through the window into the waiting arms of Mrs. Beebe during a recent fire drill. The Ark's continuing efforts to make sure each student is safe contribute to the reasons they qualify for accreditation.



Summer Youth Intern

THE INTERN HAS COME! THE INTERN HAS COME! Chelsea Forbrook, our Summer Youth Intern for 2005, arrived in town June 2nd, and most likely will be at worship with us June 5th. Please feel free to stop by and visit with her. Chelsea is from Minnesota, going to college in Iowa. The Good News is, Chelsea does a Bible study with

troubled teenagers at a youth home, is an avid outdoors-person, plays guitar, and is thinking of a career in youth ministry or social work. The Questionable News is, she is a Lutheran. There is no bad news! Come and say hello to her this coming Sunday!

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

Our attendance on Sunday, May 22, rose to 195 people in church. 95 adults and children attended Sunday School.

Special June Days



Birthdays:

Robert Visel 06/01
Denise Urbina 06/03
Barbara DeMarsh 06/04
Jane Starke 06/04
Clarence Courtright 06/07
Joe Bubernak 06/09
Tyler McCormick 06/10
Barry Dickens 06/12
Terri Morris 06/12
Cindy Little 06/13
Gail Little 06/14
Terri Armstrong 06/15
James Gallagher 06/17
Bill Kluegel 06/18
Marla Matthews 06/21
Vera Gallagher 06/26
Denny Armstrong 06/27
Marie Matthews 06/27
June Pirtle 06/27
Lora Belle Cole 06/28

Anniversaries:

June 3
Al & Doris Blackstock
June 5
Rick & Debbie Reiss
June 6
Bob & Sarah Kelly
June 7
George & Miriam Balog
June 9
Jim & Betty Terrell
June 19
John & Geniece Courtright
June 20
Charles & Emma Jean Mader
June 21
Dennis & Terri Armstrong
June 22
Mike & Pam Hundley
June 24
Maurice & Jensina Sheppard
June 26
Craig & Carolyn Pearson



Vacation Bible School

is coming
June 27-July 1
9:00-11:30

The next edition of Visions will be dated June 17.

The deadline for articles is Friday, June 10.

First United Methodist Church

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Youth and Education ~ Michael Ross
Youth Intern ~ Chelsea Forbrook
Choir Director ~ Sarah Kelly
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

SMA SUNDAY CELEBRATED

Guided Warriors Committed to Christ

by Michael Ross

"GUIDED WARRIORS COMMITTED TO CHRIST" were part of a wonderful Sunday worship on May 22 dedicated to Sacramento Methodist Assembly Camps and camps of all kinds. The GWCC kids, who were our guests from God's Way Church, worshiped the Lord with "Step Routines" and "Praise Dances," as well as a thrilling spirit of courage and grace. Eight of them are asking to be sponsored to attend SMA camps this summer. A wonderfully gracious out-

pouring from the hearts of people here at FUMC has already guaranteed that all the kids asking to go will be able to.

Other highlights of the worship service included the four courageous witnesses about camp experiences, by Zach Armstrong, Crystal Densmore, Rachel Dickens, and Cathy Hinojosa, and delightful special music by the choir with special musicians like Grant Janecky and others.

If you would like to sponsor a child to SMA camp, in whole or in part, there is still plenty of

opportunity, as FUMC is also guaranteeing the participation at SMA of youth from our sister congregation at Pinedale in the 4 Corners area. Thirteen youth and a sponsor want to attend camps. Some have sponsors signed up already, but some do not. If the Spirit moves you to join in, either contact Michael or sign up on the sheet taped just inside the front door.

Now, whether at Camp or in some other way, let's ALL go out into God's Nature to enjoy the glorious world God has created for us all!



GWCC kids participating in worship



Enjoying lunch together after worship



Our Applause

We would like to extend special thanks to the decorators of the sanctuary and fellowship hall for Pentecost--Jeanne Standley, Geniece Courtright, and Rachel Dickens. The balloon crew, Zach Armstrong, Peter Dickens, Cydne Urbina, Eileen Douglass, and Rob Kelsey blew with zeal.

Our Audio / Visual ministry has been blessed by Don Casperson's diligence. He is always on top of all our AV

needs! Thanks Don!

Jesus and the Gospel has completed its course. Many thanks to Dennis Gill and Brent Collum for leading this great class.

We give applause to the UMW, who once again have provided for the recognition of our graduating seniors in last Sunday's Senior Brunch.

We express gratitude to Jim Little, Hazel DeVries, and Fred DeVries for their diligent work

on writing a LANL Foundation Grant proposal for the Ark.

Praise is also given to Mada Jones, Linda Leschnitzer, Peggy Goldman, and Zach Armstrong who hosted lunch for the God's Way participants after our Pentecost service.

Much appreciated also are the efforts of Jim Little to bring the Domestic Abuse seminar to fruition.

Thank you all for your labors for Christ!