



FIRST

VISIONS

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Barry's Corner

*Pastor's
Report*



Building the Fort

A busy executive was the father of two children. He spent most of his time at work, on the road, or at meetings. He went to work early and came home late.

His son constantly sought his attention. Every weekend, he tried to get his dad to spend time with him, but usually to no avail. Feeling very guilty, the father promised the son, "Next weekend we will get up early on Saturday and go out in the woods in back of the house and take the leftover lumber and build a fort." This was all the boy needed to hear. He was very excited.

On Friday night when the father came home, his boy excitedly ran to his side, "Guess what tomorrow is, Dad?"

With a puzzled look, dad had to say "What?"

"It's the day we're going to build the fort, remember!"

As had so often happened in the past, the father had been asked by his boss to go to work the next day. He felt he had no choice, so he told the boy he couldn't do it this Saturday because of business, but "next Saturday will be different. We'll build the fort then." The boy disappointedly accepted the explanation and put off.

After two more Saturdays like that one, finally, the father said, "Look, son, I have to go to a meeting next Saturday, but I'll hurry and come on home so we can build the fort. Why don't you go ahead and get the wood together and start clearing off the spot for it?"

The boy was again disappointed but had some hope, so he went away thinking about the fort he and his dad were

going to build.

Before Saturday came, in front of the house, there was the sound of brakes, screeching tires and a scream. The boy had been run over by a car. Needless to say, the father had much more to overcome than just the bereavement over a lost son. He was burdened with guilt.

Often now that father speaks to other fathers. His repeated message to them is "Build the fort!" "Build the fort!"

Do you need to take some time away from your busy schedule and build a fort with your children or grandchildren? I'm certain I do! I find it so easy to allow the urgent to crowd out the important. For this reason, beginning Sunday, July 3rd, I'll be taking all four weeks of my annual vacation. We'll travel, hike, camp, work in the shop, read books, play cards... or whatever else strikes our fancy. And when I return, should I have splinters in my fingers, a sore thumb from where I accidentally hit it with a hammer, and a great big smile across my face - you'll know that in some form or another I must have built that fort too.

I'll see you in four weeks.

Your Servant,

Barry

Summer Days

On hot summer days, children at the Ark enjoy cooling off in the sprinklers.

Don't you wish you could join them some days?



Youth Back- packing



Look for more in the July 15 issue of First Visions.

Mission Service Award

Dennis and Susan Trumblee receive the Mission Service Award presented by Louise Mendius.



Goats in the Sanctuary

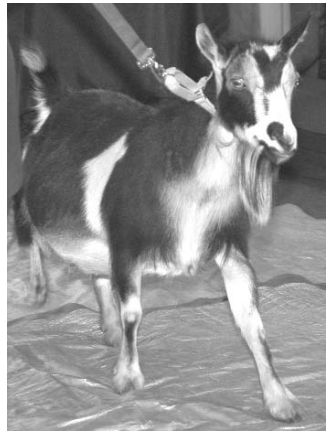
by Susan Nava

Was that a goat I saw in the Sanctuary?

On March 6, 2005 the Children's Church Congregation and their dedicated leaders set out on a mission to provide a third world family with livestock. We called this mission the "Circle of Hope;" you may know it by its more formal name, Heifer International.

Our generous, caring, and mission-minded children quickly donated enough money to buy either chickens or rabbits. Upon reaching this goal, FUMC was visited by BB Bunny and Feathers the Chicken.

It wasn't long after that they



had reached their next goal and two miniature goats, Stella and her Granddaughter Apple Door, stopped by for a visit.

The children's excitement and dedication has also encouraged the young at heart

to purchase additional animals for the cause.

Will a Llama or a Heifer be visiting FUMC? The children are working hard to make this happen. An offering will be taken each Sunday during Children's time through November at which time the Children will make their final decision on which animal or animals to donate to the Circle of Hope.

Special thanks to Carrie Shuman, Julie Wallin, and Debby Woods for taking the time to bring by their beloved pets for our children to see and learn about.

Missions are for everyone and everyone has something to offer for the Glory of our Lord.

Vacation Break

Pastor Barry Dickens will be taking his four weeks of vacation during the month of July. His last day in the office was June 30, 2005 and he will return August 1. We hope that he and his family have a great

break from the routine for rest and relaxation. Please call the church office, 662-6277 or Geniece Courtright, 662-5430, with any concerns during the month of July.

FUMC Staff Parish Relations Committee
Geniece Courtright, Chair

Accreditation

by Carol Mead

The accreditation visit went quite well. The verifier was very pleased with the staff's interaction with the children. That's what is really important!

There are some things we'll need to work on. All of it will

be easy to fix (unless they won't accept pea gravel for our fall zones under the playground equipment).

Thanks for all you support and prayers. Now we play the waiting game--maybe for three months!

New Mexico Annual Conference 2005

The New Mexico Annual Conference is a mixture of varied settings and experiences. This year it was held June 1-4 at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Las Cruces, NM. It is a spiritual gathering of clergy and laity. All the ministers of the United Methodist Church and their spouses attend. Each church in New Mexico also sends one or two delegates. The conference is a fellowship--it is a connectional body--it is a political body with a moral conscience.

This year I was honored to be our Lay Delegate. Louise Mendius joined me as an alternate. As usual, the worship services and the music were just *awesome!* We were blessed by the African University Choir--all the way from Zimbabwe, Africa, and a huge bell choir and choir from the El Paso District. We heard various Praise bands and a dynamic brass quintet. We were entertained by a bluegrass band and barbershop quartet and we sang "The Old Rugged Cross" accompanied by a jazz quartet. The Commissioning Service was my highlight on Friday night and then we topped it all off with a stunning vocal performance by Louise

Mendius on Saturday during our Sending Forth Service.

The theme this year was "Connected by the Cross." Throughout the conference this was represented by a very large beautiful banner up in front of the sanctuary and other smaller ones along the sides. The graphics on all the programs were very impressive as were the various video presentations. Bishop Bill Hutchinson reminded us during the evening worship services to "make disciples for the transformation of the world." He was a very moving and inspirational speaker. He reminded us with the example of a beautiful crystal cut hanging cross, that we need a new perspective. We need to adopt a perspective of perseverance. We need to adopt a perspective of persistence. We need a new perspective of what God can do in and through us. We need to adopt a new perspective of abundance and possibilities. We have so much more than our fellow Christians in other countries have. This is Christ's church and we need a new perspective on how to do ministry and how to train our church leaders.

During the business sessions

we listened to and accepted many various reports from the Board of Pension and Health Benefits to the Board of Global Ministries and many, many more. I have a lot of these reports if anyone would like to see one. We voted on many resolutions and motions that all affect our church. I will not list them all here, but I have them if anyone is interested. Some of these are originally proposed at the General Conference which was last held in Philadelphia, PA. This is the national conference, rather than the state-wide conference.

The New Mexico Conference is divided into three districts. We are a part of the Albuquerque District. Our district office is in Albuquerque. There was some discussion on the naming of the districts before the motion passed. The New Mexico conference also includes a portion of Southwest Texas and a portion of Northeast Arizona in the Four Corners area. I have a map if anyone is interested. I spent some time in fellowship with our brothers and sisters from the Pinedale church, especially Andrew and Arlene Leslie. Annual Conference is a won-

derful opportunity for visiting with our brothers and sisters in Christ across the state of New Mexico. It is also a wonderful time of sharing with some of our previous ministers and their wives. I spent some time with Carl and Ruth Ann Crouch and saw pictures of all their newest grandchildren. They are thoroughly enjoying retirement! I also have a list of all the District Officers and Committees including phone numbers and addresses. Louise Mendius is now a member of the district-wide worship committee and will be planning the services for our next annual conference in Glorieta May 31-June 3, 2006.

We voted to adopt the first Tuesday of June of each year as National Hunger Awareness Day. We also voted to take a special offering each fourth Sunday of September to create an endowment fund for Hispanic ministries in the New Mexico Conference. We also voted to adopt a New Mexico Annual conference (NMAC) Safe Sanctuaries form for use at Charge/Church Conferences. This also included a policy statement regarding reducing the risks of child abuse in our church.

Bishop Max Whitfield ran the business sessions very well with all the conference structure, procedures and policies firmly in place. We followed Robert's Rules of Order and I appreciate our bishop's leadership and humor. Oh! I almost failed to mention our previous minister, Jim Hawk, is our *new* District Superintendent. His wife, Jean Hawk, is feeling much, much better and is very grateful for all our cards, letters, phone calls, and prayers.

In conclusion, let me quote Paul in his second letter to Timothy, "I thank God when I serve with a clear conscience, as did my fathers, when I remember you constantly in my prayers . . . I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother (Lois) and your mother (Eunice) and now, I am sure, dwells in you. Hence I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you . . . for God did not give us a spirit of timidity but a spirit of power and love and self-control. II Timothy 1:3-7

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathy Hinojosa
June 7, 2005

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 for church on June 19, 2005 was 165. Ninety-one people attended Sunday School.

Special July Days



Birthdays:

Thomas Collins 07/04
Sheila Enemark 07/06
Megan Douglass 07/07
Marilyn Peek 07/07
Lacey McCormick 07/07
Pat Mendius 07/09
Ed Kellum 07/09
Katie Weinland 07/10
Amethyst Collins 07/11
Shelby Courtright 07/11
Lynn Kluegel 07/17
Randy Parks 07/17
Zachary Parks 07/17
Kyle Parks 07/19
Sandra Larson 07/19
Rachel Dickens 07/20
Christopher Rousculp 07/21
Zachary Armstrong 07/22
Roberta Yasuda 07/25

Debbie Reiss 07/26
Craig Pearson 07/26
Amanda Courtright 07/27
Cathy Grindstaff 07/28
Natalie Jones 07/28
Maureen Beery 07/31

Anniversaries

July 1
Dennis & Opal Lee Gill
July 2
James & Emma Barefield
July 3
Larry & Valerie Collins
July 18
Barry & Susan Dickens
July 20
Ben & Margaret Gibson
Christopher & Susannah Rousculp

New Members

Father and son, Darrell and Tyrone Clemons, joined our church on Fathers' Day, June

19th. Welcome! May the Lord richly bless you here.



The next edition of Visions will be dated July 15.

The deadline for articles is Friday, July 8.

First United Methodist Church

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Pastor ~ Barry Dickens

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.



Our Applause

Once again Don Siebe has stepped in to rescue the ARK and office with much needed assistance with the cooling system, which is once again running at peak efficiency. Thank you for your help in time of need.

We also wish to applaud our volunteers, Charlotte McQuillan, Sheila Enemark, Opal Lee Gill, Cathy Hinojosa, and Virginia Sowder who came into the office to answer phones while Jan Stong, our secretary, was at New

Beginnings in Texas attending a Walk to Emmaus. We appreciate your time and effort to keep our communications up and running.

John Breiner, Lance Eaton, and David Miller cooked for the Fathers' Day/MYF softball cookout on June 19th. Thank you for that fine cooking!

Applause also goes to Susan Dickens and Carol Mead for making Fathers' Day memorable by making special treats for the occasion.

Accreditation has moved to

the next stage thanks to the time and elbow grease of Carol Mead. Wow! We are impressed. Thank you.

Thanks to everyone who has put time and effort into helping the Pinedale and God's Way people get to Sacramento Methodist Camp this summer. A number of young people have been able to attend thanks to you.

Thank you to all who assisted in making the June Potluck/Birthday Celebration a success on June 12.



Workmen repairing

the front Church lawn



Note from

Methodist Children's Home . . .

Dear Friends at FUMC-Los Alamos,

Your congregation is making a difference in the lives of at-risk young people. Your recent gift was received through the Conference and is in the process of helping Methodist children's Home do more than just talk about God's love.

Most of the children and youth in our care are not orphans in the old-fashioned sense, but many are orphans emotionally. Recently, we celebrated Mother's Day. For some of our 500 boys and girls, the love of a mother is a strange concept. Secretary of State Colin Powell once said: "When parents need help or are absent, it's up to us to step in."

Thank you for stepping in and helping us express God's love to every young person at our Waco campus, Boys Ranch and in our seven outreach offices. Since the Home receives no monies from church apportionments and does not contract for state or federal funds, we depend on you. You help the Home be a place that is doing more than just talking to our residents about God's love - you help us put His love into action!

For God's Children,

Trey Oakley