



FIRST

VISIONS

an edition of the United Methodist Reporter

Two Sections, Section A | 070665 | Vol. 152 | No. 09 | July 15, 2005

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Backpacking--Two Perspectives

'Over'-view--

by Chelsea Forbrook

Early in the morning on June 20th, 13 senior high students set out with five adult leaders to head into the Pecos wilderness for five days of backpacking. Out of the students, there were eight girls and five boys, with one young person who came all the way from Cloudcroft and two girls from Los

Alamos who do not attend FUMC.

For at least four of the students, this would be a completely new experience and it was a challenge for many of them, even the experienced ones. They faced many obstacles, but learned how to survive through them with teamwork and perseverance.

The group bonded throughout the week, and had daily devotionals and discussions about their relationship with God around the campfire at night. Being so isolated from the rest of the world out in the middle of God's beautiful creation, it was a good opportunity for everyone on the trip to reflect on

God's power and role in their lives. It also made everyone realize just how much we have to be thankful for in our everyday lives: microwaves, showers, TV, and, of course, Wendy's frosty shakes (which was our first stop after the trip)!



From a young man's point of view--

by Daniel Stong

You know, the best stories always start with "so" . . .

So on this backpacking trip a billion and one cool things went down--to name a few, a rock, a counselor, and many waist lines. But, of course, there were more things than just Andrew Fabery jumping into a creek; these things included spiritual growth, togetherness, and fun and games (So I lied about the whole jumping into a creek thing. I hope you don't want to [jump in] after all those bad jokes!).

Spiritual time involved meditating upon the things we were doing and saying. We also found time to pray and learn how to keep praying in "the real world" and to keep a Christ-centered life. Such devotions were a key part in making the trip "totally wicked" and worth while. When these times came for personal study, I chose a rock that jutted out

over the base of the water fall making the whole seen appear larger than life. Sitting out upon that rock with the roar of the waterfall all around it made it possible to close your eyes and truly be with God in prayer and spirit.

Togetherness was awesome! The crazy fast boys who sped ahead of all the rest took the time to create a bridge for all the beautiful young ladies across the river. One strapping young lad even helped them across with the sacrifice of his feet which were soaked and frozen from the river water, this person asked to remain unnamed within this article. Everyone gathered fire wood, even when it was an 12 ft tall fallen aspen. Even during the much anticipated capture the flag match the four "French" offensive players gave the one poor "British-man" a chance to give his flag a hug goodbye and fight them off.

From a young lady's point of view--

by Rachel Sheppard

The wilderness that this article relates to is that of the Pecos in the Sangre de Cristos, a very beautiful area captured in my memory forever. Being out of the wilderness now, I can speak of the wonders and touching moments without the smallest regret. Each trek was a new adventure, each step brought us closer to our goal of enlightenment. . . . But then there must creep into this article the truth.

The adventures we found included those of bewilderment and dodging the presents

horses left behind. The goal of enlightenment was partly the joy of lightening our packs by consuming food.

A wonderful experience resulted even when you threw in the mosquitoes and the rain. I would not have changed the events of the trip even a little bit. Everything brought beauty and understanding. Each extra mile was surely worth it. I only wish that trips like this came along more often than once a year.



The United Methodist Reporter (USPS 954-500) is published weekly by UMR Communications, 2400 Lone Star Drive, Dallas, TX 75212-6309. Periodicals Postage Paid at Dallas, Texas and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to The United Methodist Reporter, PO Box 660275, Dallas, TX 75266-0275.

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

Church attendance for July 3 was 174. On July 10, 136 people attended services.

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 Mendijs 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



A Royal Celebration Birthday Party

Sandra Larson, a life-long member of our congregation and now a member of our church staff, is planning the Biggest Birthday Party Ever! Sandra will turn 49 on July 19, and she and Jackie are hosting her birthday party in our Fellowship Hall on Saturday, July 23, from 11:30 am - 1:30 pm. Sandra extends a heartfelt invitation to everyone in the congregation to join her at the birthday party. Come for lunch and lots of fellowship, and wish Sandra a very Happy Birthday while she's still in her 40's. Your presence will be your gifts.

The next edition of Visions will be dated July 29.

The deadline for articles is Friday, July 22.

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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 p.m.



Our Applause

Those of us who work in the office would like to laud the extensive and time consuming efforts of Gene Diedrich and John Courtright, as well as, Don Siebe and Howard Granzow. We have had continuing problems with the cooling system in the church office. It is our prayer that soon their efforts

will bear fruit and the system will be up and running properly once again.

The area around the front of the church continues to look wonderful thanks to the work of Dennis and Opal Lee Gill. We thank Kristi Linn for volunteering to take on this task.

Applause go out to Rob

Kelsey who has once again successfully planned the Thursday evening Summer Student Fellowship. He has given these young adults an opportunity for Christian fellowship. Thank you to all of you who have prepared food for this continuing summer event.



UMW's June meeting was held at June Purtle's cabin in Eagle Nest, NM with a picnic by the lake.



The Ark celebrated the 4th of July with a parade. Following the parade families enjoyed a traditional hot dog and watermelon picnic in the back yard.

Sacramento Blessings

by Michael Ross

The God's Way kids and Pinedale kids report having had wonderful experiences at the Sacramento Methodist Assembly, experiences which YOU made possible by your generosity and your willingness to sponsor our "cousins" from sister churches. All together, about "two sets of disciples" worth of kids have gone to the combination of four camps.

In particular, the mid-high

aged kids from God's Way got a chance to do one of their "step routines" and it was a huge hit - the camp administration even asked them to repeat it later on. The kids themselves had a deeply meaningful "rededication" experience. When they retold their story at their own church the following Sunday, as Sister Suzanne Teasley reports, "there wasn't a dry eye in the house."

So, thanks again for the very wonderful Christian develop-

ment "faith-walk" that you have made possible!



The Church of Today

by Chelsea Forbrook



On June 27th, nine junior high students from God's Way Community Church in Albuquerque arrived at Sacramento Methodist Assembly not knowing what to expect. For most of them, this was their first time at Bible Camp, their first time out of the big city, and

their first time being the only black kids among 150 other students.

Needless to say, some of them had trouble dealing with the culture shock at first. The music was foreign, the sermons were preached differently, and some of the games and activities seemed very strange to them. After the initial shock of their immersion into white culture, the kids loosened up and started branching out. They began to enjoy the worships and actively participate in Bible studies and discussions. Many of them discovered the forgiveness and peace that only Christ can offer, and they rededicated their lives to Him.

The theme verse for the week was 1 Timothy 4:12, "Let no one despise your youth, but

set an example for the believers in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity." Workshops and discussions were held on each of these categories, teaching and encouraging the youth to be leaders in each of these areas. All of the youth at camp realized that they are not just "the church of tomorrow," but are in fact a large part of the church of today.

At the very end of the week, some of the white girls at camp expressed their excitement about having the opportunity to become friends with black people, something they had never done before. They felt like the students from God's Way had taught them a lot about God's extended and all-inclusive family.