



FIRST

VISIONS

an edition of the United Methodist Reporter

Two Sections, Section A | 070665 | Vol. 152 | No. 11 | July 29, 2005

INSIDE

Guest Preachers for the month of July

1 A

We Witness

Special August Days

August Farewell and Birthday/Potluck

Our Applause

School of Christian Mission

Rockage Shower

Guest Preachers (con't.)

2 A

Guest Preachers for the Month of July



Children's Sermon

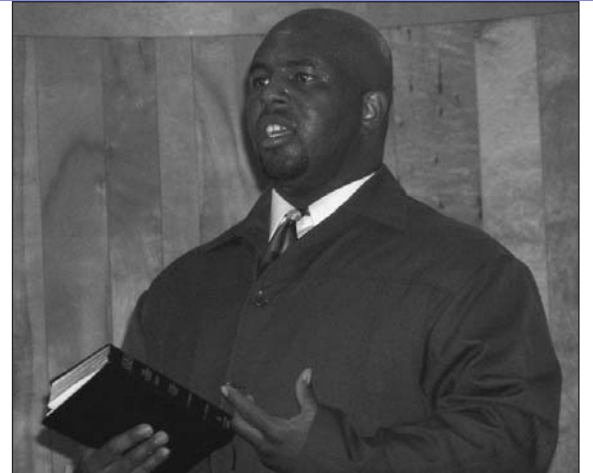
by Chelsea Forbrook

If you think that things seem a little different around First United Methodist Church lately, you are right. Pastor Barry Dickens is taking the month of July as vacation, and we've had a diverse group of guest preachers filling in on Sunday mornings.

Rev. Michael Ross, FUMC's Youth Pastor and Program Director, gave the sermon on July 3rd. He began his sermon, "The Easiest of Yokes and Lightest of Burdens," with a visual during the children's time. He dragged up a "heavy" bag full of burdens such as shame, fears, anger, and worries and demonstrated how these burdens can be made light when they are handed over to God. We are often not willing to let God take control

of these burdens in our lives, but as soon as we do, we experience the freedom and peace that can only come from Christ.

On July 10th it was a special treat to have Corley Ayers, of God's Way Church in Albuquerque, come share the message with us. Corley compared physical fitness to spiritual fitness. He explained that it is important to keep the body in shape, but it is even more important to keep the soul in shape through prayer and reading of scriptures. Just as a personal fitness trainer gives their client a very specific workout plan, God also leaves us with specific instructions in the Bible. We should be examining our spiritual health and always striving to improve our walk with the Lord. Corley's talk was wonderfully complimented by his mother, Josie Williams,



Corley Ayers of God's Way Church

Music presented by Josie Williams, Corley Ayers' mother



singing a solo and playing piano, as well as the FUMC Choir singing a couple songs in the gospel/spiritual style.

Chelsea Forbrook, the summer youth intern at FUMC, gave the sermon on the 17th. The message began with the skit, "Jesus is coming to Dinner!" performed by Rachel Sheppard, Maureen Beery, and Zach Armstrong. In the skit, Rachel turned away three people in

need of her help, only to find out later that all of those people were Jesus in disguise. Chelsea related this to Matthew 25:31-46, and then went on to explain that we are all called to serve others; no Christian is exempt from this responsibility. There are many excuses out there that may seem valid, but

(continued on P. 8)



Jesus Is Coming to Dinner Skit



Sunel Page speaks for Hope Pregnancy Center



Reading Matthew 25:31-46

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

124 people attended church on July 17.

Special August Days



Birthdays:

Charles Mader 08/08
 Tiffany Rockage 08/08
 Virginia Starke 08/09
 Mary Sue Wooten 08/10
 Lynne Cash 08/13
 Jim Terrell 08/15
 Don Enemark 08/16
 Alex Lloyd 08/18
 Dean Taylor 08/18
 Tressa McDaniel 08/20
 Jean Moses 08/22
 Riley Courtright 08/23
 Walt Ellis 08/25
 Caroline Scudder 08/28
 Peggy Kruse 08/28
 Jeff Lloyd 08/28
 Brandtley Matthews 08/29
 Tyler Beebe 08/30
 Grant Janecky 08/31

Anniversaries:

August 5
 Dennis & Ardie Rupp
 August 6
 John & June Pirtle
 August 12
 Jeff & Jane Lloyd
 August 15
 John & Anja Blackadar
 August 16
 James & Vera Gallagher
 August 17
 Mark & Susan Hodgson
 August 23
 Don & Sheila Enemark
 August 27
 Joe & Irene Bubernak

August Farewell and Birthday/Potluck



August 7, immediately after 10:30 worship

Please help us bid farewell to our summer Youth Intern, Chelsea Forbrook, and honor our FUMC members with August birthdays.

The next edition of Visions will be dated August 12.
 The deadline for articles is Friday, August 5.
First United Methodist Church

715 Diamond Drive
 Los Alamos, NM 87544
 Phone: 505-662-6277
 Fax: 505-663-0089
 E-mail: lafumc@lafumc.org
 Website: www.lafumc.org
 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

Thanks to Opal Lee Gill, Cathy Hinojosa, Claire Harmon, Janna Berry, and Jensina Sheppard for their lov-

ing efforts that made Tiffany Rockage's shower a success.

Applause to the Wootens who donated aprons for the

kitchen.

Kudos to Bobi Bryant for working in the front garden area by the church entrance.

School of Christian Mission

by Opal Lee Gill

Two weeks ago 91 women, youth and children gathered at Sacramento Methodist Assembly to study our faith and our mission to spread Christ throughout the world. Opal Lee

Gill drove Ruth Dunn from Valley View UMC and Margaret Robinson from Santa Cruz UMC to the School of Christian Mission. Topics discussed were "Children of the Bible" and Christianity in the multi-faith nations of India and Pakistan.

The new lodge at Sacramento has been completed. It is motel-style and very comfortable. The food was great; the fellowship was special and the Spirit of the Lord was present among us.

Tiffany Rockage Shower

by Pam Hundley



Many guests from both our church and friends of the family from town joined to make a wonderful wedding shower for Tiffany Rockage. Two bridesmaids, Rebecca Hammon and Frances Hundley, along with Tiffany's candle lighters Maureen Berry and Rachael Dickens, and Tiffany's future little sister-in-law & flower girl Mary Elizabeth, all made bouquets from the present ribbons for the rehearsal. Tiffany's future Mother-in-law, Mary, made the trip from Moriarty to attend the shower and had a chance to meet some of our church family. God has truly blessed Tiffany with a promise of a wonderful future.



Guest Preachers

(con't. from P. 1)

to Christ that is all they are: excuses. The beauty of this task is that helping our neighbors brings us joy and fulfillment as well, thanks to God's grace.

The guest pastor on July 24 was Dr. Terry Anderson who is a retired pastor from FUMC of Albuquerque. Dr. Anderson's message was titled, "The Best

Bridge Ever Built." He spoke of the age-old human questions: "How do we connect with our Creator? How can we ever make ourselves right with God?" We often strive to build bridges to God by many means, but none of them will work. The answer to these questions is found in John 3:14-17. Jesus is the answer! He is the bridge that connects us to our Creator. Dr. Anderson also discussed Romans Chapter 8, which tells

us that nothing can separate us from the love of God. That promise makes us "more than conquerors" over all the hardships that we face in life. Whatever comes our way, we will never be eternally defeated if we stay rooted in Christ. We often take for granted what a great and perfect gift this is, and it is high time we Christians got excited once again about the promise of love and forgiveness that we receive through Jesus,



July Birthday/Potluck enjoyed by all!

