



FIRST

VISIONS

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**Barry's
Corner**
*Pastor's
Report*



As most everyone likely knows, I took a vacation this summer - a long vacation, the entire month of July. Among the many activities I engaged in was a spiritual retreat at a remote cabin near the Capitan mountains. I met with a group of Methodist clergy to whom I've been accountable and have bore my soul to for over 15 years. God has often spoken to me through these men when my own soul seemed lost in a fog. It's a cleansing experience which is often filled both with tears as well as laughter.

Over the years I've also discovered that during these moments of retreat I sometimes experience God in surprising and unexpected ways. Such was the case this time. There were not enough beds at the cabin so I chose to sleep outside on the deck. It was cool and quiet there, the sky filled with stars that night proclaiming the majesty and wonder of God. Throughout the night numerous deer wandered up near where I was to enjoy the corn feed we'd put out for them. The responsibilities and commitments of my usual routine seemed to fade away into oblivion as I simply rested in God's presence.

About 5:00 a.m. I awoke to see an unexpected site. Although the sky above was still black, in the east, the first hints of the new day were busily painting the clouds above it in radiant crimson. From the warm comfort of my sleeping bag I watched as glorious color steadily spread with every passing second. Clearly, this was going to be an extraordinary sunrise. I slipped out of my bag, grabbed my camera, and ran up to the highest lookout

point I could find.

For forty minutes I witnessed God unfold His new day. A simple thing which He does 365 times a year, yet today He'd done it with magnificent style. I'm not entirely certain why, but I found myself with tears flowing down my cheeks. Was it because of the spectacular colors of the morning sky? Perhaps, but I believe it was due more to the realization of God's constant and renewing gift - the gift of new beginnings - the gift of Himself through Christ Jesus which makes every new day a brand new start.

Do you need a new beginning? Then reclaim those familiar words from Lamentations 3:22-23 "Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness."

Your servant,

Barry

P.S. You can see the sunrise I spoke of on the poster board just outside my office.

Hymn Sing Sunday

by Chelsea Forbrook

The fifth Sunday of July was a special one at First United Methodist Church. All the other July services were "abnormal" with Pastor Barry being gone, so why not the last one as well?

This service was filled with music, music... and more music! With one favorite hymn sung after another (and with all the standing up and sitting down) it makes it hard for a person to get too distracted or sleepy during the service.

The hymns sung were, "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"; "Stand up, Stand Up for Jesus"; "For All the Saints"; "Softly and Tenderly," sung by the choir with a solo by Jerry Beery; "Amazing Grace" and "Kum Ba Ya" which were accompanied by Michael Ross, Chelsea Forbrook, Mada Jones and Ron Jones; "On Eagle's Wings," sung by Deborah Trimmer and Michael Ross; "Have Thine Own Way, Lord"; "Here I Am, Lord"; "Spirit

Song"; and "God Be With You Till We Meet Again" for the benediction. Each hymn was introduced by a different member of the congregation where they gave the history of the song's composer and the original story behind the song. The tradition of the Hymn Sing gives the congregation the unique opportunity to praise the Lord solely through the gift of music. Music has a mysterious way of lifting our souls and bringing us closer to The Composer of all life: God.



PROMOTION SUNDAY

August 21

by Michael Ross

Promotion Sunday is a day for celebrating with young people as they move upward in their journey of Christian Education. It is also a day for

honoring the work, dedication, and sacrifice that the teachers have made.

Promotion Sunday is day for remembering when we, ourselves, were being "promoted". It is a day for seeing the written Word received by young hands and minds barely able and yet so eager to read it for themselves, and enter into that new and awesome part of the journey of faith. It is a day for harvest and new planting in the Spirit.

Come and join, lift up the Song of Jesus, and be caught up into that joy once again!



Charge Conference

October 2, 2005

Please turn in all reports by September 6!

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

Average attendance for the month of July was 138. Total attendance for July was 690.

Special August Days



Birthdays:

Charles Mader 08/08
Tiffany Rockage 08/08
Virginia Starke 08/09
Mary Sue Wooten 08/10
Lynne Casb 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

New Arrival

Tommy & Shelly Morris returned from China on July 29 with their new baby, Molly Anne. Molly turned one year old on Sunday, August 7. Congratulations, Mom and Dad! Welcome Molly Anne! We are looking forward to meeting you.

The next edition of Visions will be dated August 26.

The deadline for articles is Friday, August 19.

First United Methodist Church

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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

Thank you, Rachel Sheppard, Zach Armstrong, and Maureen Beery for presenting a skit for the church service early in July. You did a great job!

Welcome to Zach Armstrong, the newest member of 1st Light. Thank you to all the members of 1st Light who provide beautiful worship music for first service every Sunday.

Kudos go out to Jana Beery,

our 'wedding planner,' who helped make our July wedding such an enjoyable experience.

Doris Blackstock, thank you for straightening and restocking the pew cards every week. Your thoughtfulness has contributed to complete worship experience.

Thank you to all the people who contributed to our July 31 Hymn Sing service by introduc-

ing a song, singing, or playing an instrument. Especially we thank Sheila Enemark, Sarah Kelly, Carol Mead, Fred DeVries, Charlotte McQuillan, Chelsea Forbrook, Mada Jones, Ron Jones, Michael Ross, Deborah Trimmer, Don Casperson, Jerry Beery, Frances Naffziger, and the Chancel Choir.

A Cinderella Birthday for Sandy Larson

by Jackie Petersen

On Saturday, July 23, Sandra Larson celebrated her 49th birthday in our Fellowship Hall with a splendid party. Many of the members of our congregation attended, as well as, many of Sandra's friends and family from the community. Sandra was able to catch up with old neighbors and lifelong friends.

The party had a Cinderella theme, since Sandra was able to actually meet Cinderella at Disneyland last December. She chose this theme for her birth-

day party because meeting Cinderella was a lifelong dream. Sandra was overwhelmed by the number of people who attended, and all the warm wishes that were extended.

Sandra is a life-long member of FUMC. She is also an assistant in the church office once a week where her work is greatly appreciated. Sandra was celebrating her forty-ninth birthday this year. Those attended expressed their joy for Sandy and their appreciation of her party and being able to share it with her.



The Importance of Self Help, Inc.

by Chelsea Forbrook

Self Help, Inc. has been an important source of emergency aid in Los Alamos for several years. Their office is located in Bethlehem Lutheran Church on North Road, and their executive director is Ellen Morris who has been serving in that position for six years. This non-profit organization gives one-time help to families who are in financial crisis. Many people from all over the northern part of the state call in to Self Help asking for assistance with utility bills, water, propane, rent, help with job searches, medical bills, and various other emergency needs. Many times these crises

are brought upon a person by a streak of bad luck: an injury or sickness that causes them to lose their job, a car that breaks down, or complicated family issues (just to name a few examples.) Luckily, Self Help is a flexible organization and can help these families in most cases.

Right now Self Help is collecting, sorting, and distributing mass amounts of school supplies to all the schools in the surrounding counties. These supplies can be picked up confidentially by needy families, removing a portion of their financial burden. Another project Self Help is involved in is giving Seed Money Grants to

individuals or groups who are starting small businesses. These grants can also be given to individuals to further their educational development or to receive job training.

As you can see, this organization is vital to the health of this community and our surrounding communities. Self Help, Inc. is run primarily on the support of volunteer workers, so if you are willing and available to give a couple hours of your week, I'm sure they could find a time slot to fit you in. If you would like to volunteer or give a financial donation to support this cause, please call the office at 662-4666.