



FIRST

VISIONS

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Barry's Corner

Pastor's Report



Sold to Slavery, Freed by Grace

In his book, "The Habit of Happiness," Dr. Leslie Parrott, tells the amazing story of Jimmy, who when he was just a tiny boy was abandoned by his father. Jimmy remembers it clearly. One day his father put him in the truck, and drove him out to the country. When they saw a farmer out working in the fields, the father stopped the truck and called out to the farmer, offering his son as an extra worker on the farm. The farmer said that if the boy could work hard, he would keep him. So the father lifted his son over the fence, then turned around and left. He never looked back. Jimmy remembers that he just stood there screaming and stomping his little feet, terrified of being abandoned by his father.

Because he was too small to do substantial work, the farmer sent the little boy to an orphanage. He was the smallest child there, so he was picked on and bullied constantly. Jimmy became angry, and began acting out his anger. The people in charge of the orphanage labeled him a troublemaker. They cracked down hard to keep him in line. He was miserable, angry, and alone.

One day, someone came to the orphanage and announced that the next week a bus would come by and pick up any of the boys who wanted to go to Sunday school and church. Jimmy didn't know what church was, but he did want to get away from the orphanage, so the next week he hopped on the bus.

Church was one of the strangest experiences of his young life. People who were kind and caring towards one another. They spoke to one another, and even listened to one another. They respected one another. Jimmy had never seen people like this before.

After church, the experience became even stranger. A family took him home for Sunday dinner. He got to eat "good food", as much of it as he wanted. Happy children played

throughout the house. The parents spoke warmly and gently to one another, and to the children. This was different from anything he had ever known in his life.

For the next few years, Jimmy lived in the orphanage and went to church every Sunday. One day, near the end of his high school years, people in the church began talking to Jimmy about going to college. He knew it was impossible to even dream such a thing, but the people in the church insisted on raising the money and helping him to find a college that would accept him.

While getting his education Jimmy met a fine Christian lady whom he married. Jimmy also felt and responded to God's call to full time pastoral ministry at which he has served successfully for many years.

How could an abandoned child, eaten up with anger and bitterness, end up so healthy? God's grace. God extended grace through ordinary church people like you and me making such an extraordinary difference in Jimmy's life from the person who picked up Jimmy each week at the orphanage to his Sunday School teachers, to the families who took Jimmy home for Sunday dinner, to a host of others who we know nothing about.

Everyone of these people made a significant difference, and so can we. Our fall season is about to begin here at FUMC. You, your children, your grandchildren... and yes, your friends and their children will all experience God's Grace if you will do your part. There are many other Jimmy's out in our world today who need not remain in "spiritual orphanages".

Ask God where you might make a difference. Recruit others to help you if need be. Talk to me if you need ideas. God has called us to be His Church. So let's get busy.

Your servant,
Barry

Catching Up with Melissa

Dear First UMC,

I am thrilled to have been given the opportunity to touch base with my "home away from home" church family. I am currently gearing up for another year of Divinity School, this time with a wedding on the horizon, and have often found myself thinking back to a year ago when my time in Los Alamos was drawing to a close and when I was looking forward to the Divinity School experience with a great deal of mingled excitement and trepidation. Looking back, the anxiety was not grossly unwarranted. I have found Divinity School to be a vigorous and challenging undertaking, while simultaneously serving as a much-needed arena through which I have continued the journey of being stretched, molded, shaped, and formed into the Christian leader I am called to be. Duke has managed to tear down many barriers to my own spiritual growth, and has built up both my personal spiritual walk and my confidence and excitement for the future life of the church.

For that, I have to thank Duke. However, I would be remiss in my duties if I did not also pause to thank you as a congregation for the large part you played in priming me for this new experience. You gave me the opportunity to "be one of you" for a summer—a summer in which I was able to see and experience firsthand your triumphs and your falterings, your joys and your sorrows, your hopes and your fears, your tastes and your distastes. In other words, you served to reorient me and to show me what a healthy, thriving church bound by the human condition looks like. You helped to make my first year of seminary studies come to life, as even the most difficult and obscure teachings with which we students were met had a practical outlet: the church. On the

occasions that school became the most difficult, I must admit that I longed to be chasing the FUMC youth up and down the mountains or arguing theology with Michael. Thank you for giving me an experience that would keep my mind centered on the true purpose for these studies.

So what's happening with me now? Well, I am preparing to face a wide variety of new challenges. I am looking forward to another academic year, which will be filled to the brim with exciting new discoveries and with minor setbacks yet to be unearthed and overcome. I am preparing to be a big sister...again! We recently discovered that my mom is pregnant with twins, and as we gear up to welcome these two new lives into this world we are praying fervently for the health, safety, and sanity of the whole family. And last, but certainly not least, I am in the midst of planning a wedding that will take place on December 31 of this year, as a brilliant and perfectly splendid young man (a fellow musician and second-year Duke Divinity student) asked me to marry him. In short, life never ceases to be exciting. And although all of these life happenings are cause for joyous celebration, they will also undoubtedly each be met with trials and frustrations. I ask for your continued prayers in the months ahead as I continue to struggle, learn, grow, change, and be transformed into the person I am called to be.

Grace and Peace,
Melissa Bemis



Church Highlights



by Jan Stong

Summertime in the Jemez is a wonderful occasion to send praise up to the Lord. Music and laughter filled the air this month at FUMC. First Light led the first service congregation (above) joined by a new member, Zach Armstrong and a temporary member, Chelsea Forbrook on her last Sunday as

a staff member of the church. After the second service the church gathered together to send Chelsea a fond farewell and to extend best wishes to all August birthday holders (below, left).

During the month's Sundays other talented people joined to make truly worshipful services. Among them were Melanie Barefield, Andrew Steward,

Greg Janecky (below, right), and the chancel choir (bottom). The FUMC chancel choir is the only choir in Los Alamos that meets throughout the summer and sings every Sunday.

Thanks to all who participated this month--choirs, musicians, congregation--to make our summer worship a joyful 'noise' to the Lord!



Blow it out!



Church Photo Directory-- sign up here!



Another birthday-- happy or sad???



Singing by the Grand Piano

Praise to the Lord!



"Prelude in C"



"Lamb of God" "As the Deer"



"Leaning on the Everlasting Arms"

Kairos Prison Ministry

by Cydne Urbina

Kairos Prison Ministry addresses the spiritual needs of incarcerated men, women and children, their families and those who work in the prison environment. Its mission is to bring Christ's love and forgiveness to all incarcerated individuals and to assist in the transition of becoming a productive citizen.

A Kairos prison ministry weekend is scheduled September 8-11 at the New Mexico Women's Correctional Facility in Grants. Part of the Kairos ministry is to give a dozen home baked cookies for each inmate. the prison is currently at full capacity with 650 inmates, so that adds up to a lot of cookies!

You can participate in this ministry without being on the Kairos team by baking cookies for the incarcerated women. According to the Kairos guidelines cookies should be 2-2½ inches in diameter and no more than ½ inch thick. Please do not use frosting, sprinkles or other decorations. Fruit and nuts are allowed in cookies for the women's facility. When the cookies are completely cool, package them in quart size zipper-sealed bags, one dozen per bag. Label the bag "Kairos" and bring them to the church no later than Wednesday, September 7.

Are you not very handy in the kitchen but still want to help Kairos? Never fear! You can participate, too! The most important thing anyone can do is pray. The Kairos weekend is

covered by a 24-hour prayer vigil. Sign up with one of the team members to pray sometime during the weekend. You can also help with your financial gifts. Inmates attend the weekend free of charge, but the cost for the Kairos ministry is approximately \$135 per resident. Your donations can help defray this cost. Donations of any amount are welcome.

Cookie guidelines and sponsorship forms are available on the literature table in the narthex. For information about Kairos, or to offer you help with cookies, prayers, of financial gifts, contact one of our FUMC team members for Kairos #18: Emma Barefield, 672-9527, Cathy Hinojosa, 662-92240, and Cydne Urbina, 662-1569 (cdurbina@earthlink.net). The Kairos website, www.Kairosprisonministry.org, has lots of good information, too, including the cookie guidelines and recipes. Don't miss this opportunity to minister. "Lord, when did we see you hungry and fee you, or thirst and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?" The King will reply, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:37-40.



UMW Update

by Opal Lee Gill and Peggy Goldman

The First United Methodist Women have delivered some boxes of school supplies to Mountain School. The supplies will be used for children who cannot afford the materials that are required for students in the school. The materials cost approximately \$40 per student. UMW will be collecting money to support this project.

Two members of UMW, Alice Carter and Peggy

Goldman will be participating in a mission project to the island of Grenada in the southern Caribbean. The trip will be September 14 to 24 and they will be joining a group from Illinois headed by former FUMC members Chuck and Christy McPheeters. The team will be helping to repair roofs damaged last year by hurricane Ivan as well as to minister to Grenadian children. Donations of used calculators and other packable school supplies or gifts for children will be welcome. Prayers for a safe and effective trip and for no hurricanes in the area would also be appreciated.

Any extra money collected by the UMW for the school supply project will be added to the Grenada project.



Peggy and Alice

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

One hundred twenty-two people attended on Aug. 21.

Special September Days



Birthdays:

Jackson, Darryl 9/2
 Gibson, Ben 9/3
 Gill, Opal Lee 9/3
 Weinland, Jan 9/3
 Zumbro, John 9/5
 Hundley, Frances 9/6
 Collins, Valerie 9/9
 Mead, Carol 9/15
 Sheppard, Rachel 9/16
 Courtright, John 9/18
 Sollid, Dagne 9/22
 Bryant, Bobi 9/30
 Dickens, Kim 9/30

Anniversaries:

Sept. 2
 Jim & Gail Little
 Sept. 12
 Darryl & Doris Jackson
 Sept. 13
 Aaron & Peggy Goldman
 Sept. 14
 Eileen & Rod Douglass
 Sept. 23
 James & Marilyn Peek
 Sept. 27
 Ron & Becky Chavez

Tarahumara Mission

by Aaron Goldman

Three FUMC members will be joining a team of 12 in a medical mission trip to visit the Tarahumara Indians in Huicorachi, Mexico from August 30 until September 6. Howard Granzow, Dr. Angela Bratton (Ophthalmologist), and Aaron Goldman will be making their second appearance in a village that has no running water, no electricity, no shower, no church, and an elementary school where we expect to serve 200 during a two day visit.

The mission is sponsored by Christian Hands in Action (CHIA) that has been carrying on medical and work missions in Mexico for 25 years.

Expect a more detailed report when we get back.



The next edition of Visions will be dated September 9.

The deadline for articles is Wednesday, August 31.

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.

United Skates, Friday evenings
 Begins September 9th
 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



Our Applause

Thank you to all those who went out of their way to enable Chelsea Forbrook, our Summer Youth Intern, in her work with us this summer. We want to give a special thank you to the Kruses, who let Chelsea use their vehicle throughout the summer; to Alice Carter, who provided a home for Chelsea;

and the Goldmans, who provided transportation to and from the Albuquerque airport at her arrival and departure. Thank you also to Chelsea for her work here.

We send kudos to Claire Harmon for her assistance in keeping the pews filled with prayer cards, etc.

Thank you, UMW, for pro-

viding snacks for the Ark staff's work day last week.

Bravo, to all the kitchen aficionados who prepared food for the Summer Student Fellowship this summer. This group includes the Sunday morning Bible History Class, the Little Class, Following God, Women of Faith Class, the Inquirers, and the Goldmans.

Promotion Sunday

Last Sunday, August 21, was the annual Promotion Sunday. This is the day that students advance into the next class level. Teachers are also commemorated into the classes that they will teach for the next year.

Teachers of adult classes for this upcoming year are: Dennis Gill, Terry

Armstrong, Dennis Armstrong, Alice Carter, Fred DeVries, Hazel DeVries, Jim Little, and Carol Mead.

Teachers of young people's

classes are: James Barefield, Don Siebe, Susan Keddy, Jana Beery, Maurice Sheppard, Martha Zumbro, Geniece Courtright, Emma Barefield, Susan Ramsey, Jian-Xin Zhu, Jon Blackadar, Cathy Grindstaff, Mada Jones, Joyce Rybarcyk, and Dewey Moede.



Responding to God's call



God bless these teachers and workers . . .



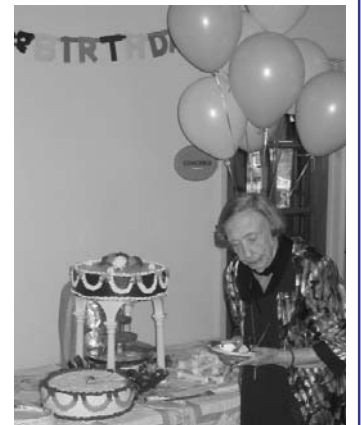
100th Birthday Celebration

by Charlotte McQuillan

Tressa Una Minshall McDaniel, a member of First United Methodist church in Los Alamos for 45 years, celebrated her 100th birthday on August 20th at the Aspen Ridge Lodge Retirement home. Her children, Mary Rankin and Fred Minshall, as well as many relatives and friends, were there to help her celebrate. She has seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Tressa has been active in the church through out her years here and, until about 3 years ago, she participated in most of the activities of the Martha Circle as a member of the United Methodist Women. She had meetings in her home, baked, and prepared food for church event.

Flowers on the altar last Sunday were given in her honor by the UMW.



Signing the guest book



Tressa talking with guests

Happy Birthday
 Tressa!