



FIRST

VISIONS

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Barry's Corner

*Pastor's
Report*



As I've watched the TV news each evening, seeing the terrifying images of hurricane Katrina's physical destruction, the despairing rise of the death toll, and the plight of the survivors pleading helplessly for the most basic human needs, my heart has been crushed!

It's not surprising, I suppose, that while facing these powerful images I've also relived many of the same physical and emotional feelings which I felt during the Cerro Grande fire. You remember: the disbelief, the sensory overload, the numbness, the despair, the empathy for the victims losing their homes, the impatience for aid, the anger, and eventually the humbling surprise at the overwhelming compassion and help from total strangers.

One church member I talked to today said she too was reliving many of these same memories. Her specific stories were different from mine, but the feelings and power of these renewed memories remain intense to this day. I believe we need to remember. We need to recall God's grace which saw us through some of our most difficult days. Why? Because in remembering, we remain thankful and also find outlets to extend to others the grace which we have received.

Countless people did so many "little things" for us during the Cerro Grande fire that collectively, it was huge! We can do the same for the victims of hurricane Katrina. As United Methodists, one of the key components defining who we are is our compassion for the needy. UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) is our missional disaster relief agency which is always one of the first to arrive at a disaster

site and one of the very last to leave. (FYI, UMCOR gave over \$80,000 to Los Alamos fire recovery.) To assist UMCOR in the recovery from hurricane Katrina, we're seeking your help in the following ways:

o First, Pray! Pray for both victims and care givers.

o Secondly, make very generous financial contributions to First UMC specifically marking them for "Hurricane Katrina Relief".

o Thirdly, help us assemble the UMCOR Health Kits, and the Flood Buckets. By the time this goes to print we hope to have already assembled 250-500 Health Kits! Further project assembly times will be announced.

o Fourth, if your schedule permits, consider volunteering to help deliver these kits to UMCOR. It will be a life changing experience! The UMCOR Depot is in Baldwin, Louisiana.

This is the time for believers to step forward and put feet to our faith - an opportunity to pass on God's grace to others who so desperately need it. Please join in this important ministry.

"I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." Mtt. 25:40

Your servant,

Barry

Excitement for the Fall

It may seem like MYF took the summer off and that is just the case. Well, while youth were few and far between, MYF sponsors faithfully continued to plan for the upcoming school year. We have a lot of new and exciting activities planned.

Our first big event, Tie Dye, already completed, was a rousing success. People of many age groups joined together with us to have a great time dying tee-shirts while enjoying fellowship and good food.

For starters we are trying to come up with a NEW NAME for MYF. We are currently holding a contest for the renaming of MYF and all MYF aged

youths (7th grade & up) are encouraged to participate. The youth who successfully renames MYF which will be decided by a vote will win a movie coupon book to the REEL DEAL. If you or you know someone who is interested, there are ballots and an envelope located on our new MYF bulletin board which is located on the windows of Michael's office.

We will soon be starting an event titled BLOCKBUSTER MOVIE NIGHT and we will also be beginning a ministry project titled FRIENDSHIP FIRST...The #1 thing you can't live with out. So please watch our bulletin board for more information.



*Tie Dye
Fun*



KATRINA DISASTER RELIEF . . . KATRINA DISASTER RELIEF . . . KATRINA DISASTER RELIEF . . . KATRINA DISASTER RELIEF . . .

Hurricane Katrina Disaster

Have you ever experienced a disaster? Here in Los Alamos many of us vividly recall the chaos, fear, uncertainty and loss during the Cerra Grande fire of 2000. Yet in our despair, hands reached out to us by fellow Methodists and others to give assistance.

Today people in Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, and, especially, Louisiana find themselves fighting similar chaos and fear. As we hear about the terrible crisis these people are facing, we remember all that other people did for us. UMCOR (United Methodists Committee on Relief) came and helped us through our disaster. We now have an opportunity to help alleviate a bit of this much larger scale disaster through the work of UMCOR.

Bill Hutchinson, Bishop of the Louisiana Episcopal Area, recently wrote, *"This is an overwhelming task that is in front of us. It is heartbreaking as to what is happening. So far we have identified (contacted) most of our clergy, but still have to hear from some. We cannot get into much of the area and don't know how long it will be before we do. . ."*

"We have been in conversation with UMCOR and all will begin to shape up. Health Kits seem to be the greatest immediate need. The flooding is so extensive and the results so devastating that it is very difficult to know where to even start. We will keep you posted. Please keep us in your prayers as we attempt to respond to this uncanny disaster."

UMCOR Begins Three-Stage Response to Hurricane Katrina

In these early days after a disaster of this magnitude, there remains a state of emergency. Communication with the affected areas is difficult and details continue to be uncertain about persons and places connected with the United Methodist Church. But even as the official rescue efforts are occurring, UMCOR is engaged in the planning and strategizing for long-term recovery.

UMCOR Disaster Response is a three phase process. The emergency stage is the present stage and is anticipated to last for up to 10 days. During this

time rescue efforts and infrastructure repair are carried out by official agencies.

In the second phase, the relief phase, assistance is provided to home owners who need to "muck out," assess damage, receive emotional and spiritual care, and begin their long road to recovery. During this time the local churches are very active, acting as shelters and support areas for the community.

The third phase, long-term recovery, involves a holistic approach to people who have suffered losses, covering everything from seeking them out in their neighborhood to providing information and advocacy about their federal and state assistance rights. In coordination with other religious bodies and community service agencies, UMCOR will participate in repairing and rebuilding of homes, and assistance with living expenses.

"This is an anxious time for all of us because we are awaiting word from those we care about," said UMCOR executive Kristin Sachen. "But we wait with hope in our hearts and with our hands and minds engaged in preparation for the right time for us to act on the scene." UMCOR is committed to the most vulnerable people affected by this hurricane. "We will bring our years of experience, our capable volunteers and our creativity to the rebuilding of these communities," said Sachen.

There is an urgent need for both health kits and flood buckets. These collections of everyday items help families recover during the early days after a major disaster. The health kits contain items such as a toothbrush, wash cloth, and soap. The flood buckets contain items like gloves, household cleaners, and bleach to help people clean their homes to make them livable again.

Kits to Assist in Recovery from Disasters

The following resources are used in places where people may have suffered losses due to natural or human made disasters. Please follow the directions exactly. Include all items; do not add items. Extra gifts, though given with the best of intentions, render a kit unusable and must be removed. Note: All items sent must be new!

(See related material on P. 5)

Urgent Need: Health Kits and Flood Buckets

#1 HEALTH KIT

Health kits provide basic necessities to people who have been forced to leave their homes because of human conflict or natural disaster. Health kits are also used as learning tools in personal hygiene, literacy, nutrition and cooking classes. When people gain the knowledge and materials to maintain personal hygiene, their overall health improves.

- 1 hand towel (15" x 25" up to 17" x 27", No kitchen towels)
 - 1 washcloth
 - 1 comb (large and sturdy, not pocket-sized)
 - 1 nail file or fingernail clippers (no emery boards or toenail clippers)
 - 1 bath-size bar of soap (3 oz. and up)
 - 1 toothbrush (single brushes only in original wrapper, No child-size brushes)
 - 1 large tube of toothpaste (expiration date must be 6 months or longer in advance of the date of shipment to UMCOR Sager Brown)
 - 6 adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages
- Place these items inside a sealed one-gallon plastic bag.

Value: \$12 per kit.

In a separate envelope, please send a check written to UMCOR Sager Brown for at least \$1.00 for each kit to help with the costs of processing and shipping kits.

2 FLOOD BUCKET

These supplies help people begin the overwhelming cleanup job after a flood or storm.

- 5-gallon bucket with resealable lid
- Bleach--two 1-quart or one 82 oz. bottle (Do not include bleach of you are shipping the bucket through the US Postal Service, UPS or FedEx)
- 5 scouring pads
- 7 pack sponges
- 1 scrub brush
- 18 cleaning towels (reusable wipes)
- Liquid laundry detergent (two 25 oz. or one 50 oz. bottle)
- 1 household cleaner, 12-16 oz. bottle
- Disinfectant dish soap, 16-28 oz. bottle
- 50 clothes pins
- Clothes line (two 50 ft. or one 100 ft.)
- 5 dust masks
- 2 pair latex gloves
- 1 pair work gloves
- 24-bag roll of heavy-duty trash bags, 33-45 gallon (remove roll from box before placing in bucket)
- 1 Insect repellent spray, 6-14 oz. can (If aerosol, cans must have protective caps. See special requirements below.*)
- 1 Air freshener, 8 or 9 oz. can (If aerosol, cans must have protective caps. See special requirements below.*)



* Special requirements: Put all items in the plastic bucket and seal lid. Please ensure that all cleansing agents are liquids (not powder) and in plastic bottles. All aerosols or flammables: If aerosols are included, do not send the bucket by US mail or DHL/Airborne freight. Ship by UPS ground, FedEx ground, or truck. Pack inside the bucket or strong outer boxes. Put the ORM-D mark on the outside of any buckets or boxes containing these items. Get different sizes of the ORM-D mark at <<http://gbgm-umc.org/umcor/print/kits/orm-d.cfm>>. Copy and tape on each bucket or box. Boxes cannot exceed 66 lbs. each.

Value: \$45 per bucket.

In a separate envelope, please send a check for at least \$1.50 for each flood bucket to help UMCOR Sager Brown with the costs of processing and shipping.

#3 BEDDING PAK

- 2 flat double-bed sheets
- 2 pillowcases
- 2 pillows

Value: \$50 per pak.

In a separate envelope, please send a check for at least \$1 for each kit to help UMCOR Sager Brown with the costs of processing and shipping kits.

IMPORTANT: PLEASE DO NOT INCLUDE ANY RELIGIOUS, POLITICAL OR PATRIOTIC NOTES OR EMBLEMS IN ANY OF THE KITS.

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

Throughout the month of August 599 people attend church.

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

Ark News

Each year the consecration of Sunday school teachers is a meaningful part of our Promotion Day worship service. We also want to dedicate the teachers at the Ark for their ministry of working with children every week day. Knowing that they have an entire church supporting their

work brings a special blessing to the Ark. Please join us on Tuesday, September 13, at 5:30 p.m. in the Friendship Center for about 15 minutes. If you would like a phone call or an email that afternoon as a reminder, give the Ark office a call at 662-4822.

The next edition of Visions will be dated September 23.
 The deadline for articles is Wednesday, September 16.

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
 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.

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

Peggy Goldman has been devoting time and effort to follow up on our Sacramento project with Pinedale. Many thanks, Peggy.

Don Casperson, we appreciate your extra work to set-up the video for Barry's special video segment during his sermon on August 28.

Kudos go out to all the people who made the MYF Tie Dyed Party such a success including the UMW, who providing cookies; Mark Ortiz and Jim Little, who took pictures;; the MYF sponsors; and all the participants.

Thank you to everyone who is working on the Photo

Directory shoot this weekend, especially Susan Dickens and the Photo Directory Committee.

We offer a special thank you to Genience Courtright, Don Siebe, Susan Dickens, Barry Dickens and Carol Mead who did emergency cleaning throughout the facility on Saturday, August 27.

Hurricane Relief



To donate money toward purchasing the items in these kits write your check out to First UMC, put UMCOR Advance #091440 in the memo line of your check, and place it in the offering plate.

Volunteers will be needed to help in Hurricane Katrina recovery. To find out how you can help with hurricane cleanup, contact your United Methodist Volunteers in Mission jurisdictional and annual conference coordinators. A list of these coordinators is available

on the web at <http://gbgm-umc.org/vim/vimcoords.htm> or write Mission Volunteers at voluntrs@gbgm-umc.org for contact information. They will provide details on creating and training a team as well as scheduling details. For information on what disaster sites are currently scheduling volunteers, call the Volunteer Hotline at 800-918-3100.

Annual Conferences, districts, and congregations are urged to take the supplies in

trucks or vans to the center--if possible. The roads are open in the area. Money can also be donated to UMCOR for the kits. If delivery is made, Sager Brown will have personnel on hand for unloading any day or hour.

Persons who may need overnight accommodations should call or e-mail the director of voluntary services at 337-923-2027, ext. 202, e-mail: volunteers@sagerbrown.org.

(See related material on P. 4)



Happy
 Birthday
 Michael!