



FIRST

VISIONS

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Like our own congregation, churches from all over the northern reaches of our Annual Conference have been mobilizing to assemble health kits for the innumerable victims of hurricane Katrina and arranging for their delivery to the UMCOR Sager Brown Depot where they will be distributed directly to the needy.

Although I hadn't anticipated going to Baldwin Louisiana last week, (certainly not as a result of Dennis Trumblee's unfortunate illness) nonetheless, I'm delighted I did!

It's my understanding that we were the first delivery to be made from the New Mexico Annual Conference in response to Katrina! Please know this, the credit goes to you! You don't drive 2,500 miles round trip unless you've got a full load, and you are the ones who made this possible!

It began Sunday, September 4th (Labor Day weekend) when during worship I made a plea for sacrificial second mile giving. No one knew I was going to make this appeal, but you heard God speaking and in faith you responded resoundingly! On a holiday weekend while many were away, you dug deeply and generously and con-

tributed over \$14,500! What's more, that same afternoon many of you began scouring the stores both near and far to purchase the necessary items needed for the UMCOR health kits. This was additional generosity in both time and money!

But having materials for kits is not the same as having assembled products ready for distribution. We, therefore, solicited volunteers for both Sunday and Wednesday evenings. Again, our church family demonstrated unparalleled compassion with over fifty volunteers -- adults, youth, and children -- lending eager hands to make a difference in people's lives whom we do not know nor are likely to ever meet.

Why are we responding in this manner? One word, "Christ." To be a disciple of Jesus Christ is to understand that all that we are, all that we have, all we possess, and all that we are capable of doing, belongs to Him.

Charles Sheldon put it another way when he wrote in his popular book, *In His Steps*, saying that we are called to continually ask ourselves, "What would Jesus do?"

I look into your faces on Sundays and throughout the



Relief Packages



Working the assembly line in the Fellowship Hall

by Jan Stong
as printed in LA Monitor 09/09/05

The disaster on the Gulf Coast is not far from any of our thoughts. Conversation always turns toward Louisiana and Mississippi. Los Alamos First United Methodist Church (LAFUMC) is not just thinking about it. They are making things happen, giving people of Los Alamos the opportunity to contribute to the relief effort. Over \$14,000 has been sent to United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) from Sunday's collection for the hurricane victims.

Money is not enough. We have to do something. Members of LAFUMC combed the stores from Los Alamos to Espanola to Albuquerque searching for the materials to make health kits and flood buckets. Five hundred toothbrushes were donated by Ellen Ballard, DDS. Together with other members of the community, LAFUMC assembled the kits on Sunday, September 4.

It was not enough. They

scoured the area for more materials and returned to their assembly line Wednesday evening.

Thursday, September 8, Pastor Barry Dickens and John Stong set out for UMCOR's Sager Brown Depot in Baldwin, Louisiana. They stopped in Albuquerque and Tucumcari to pick up kits put together by other New Mexico Methodist churches to take with them to aid the hurricane victims.

It is still not enough. Plans are underway for more assembly lines and more trips to take essential materials to those in need.

Money is not always one of our families' big commodities, but we can put together health kits to send to UMCOR in Louisiana. Actually putting hands to use assembling these kits is a wonderful way to help. The people at UMCOR are busy sending the kits out to those most in need and we are preparing them.

Health kits stacked and ready to be delivered to those in need at UMCOR's Sager-Brown Depot



Toothbrushes, toothpaste, washcloths, etc.

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Council Meeting Notes September 4, 2005

by Jim Little

1) The low country boil has been rescheduled to next May. The committee found that meeting the county regulations was taking more time than expected and thus the event had to be rescheduled.

2) Adults to teach in the children's Sunday School program are needed. A new teaching modality is being developed which will require less time commitment on the part of the adults who teach but

will require more individuals to participate.

Potential teachers will be contacted and training will be provided. The talents of teachers will be matched to the curriculum. Those who have an interest in digital videography and movie making will be asked to help the children produce a movie dramatizing a Bible story. If you are interested in helping in this program let Vicki Ricketts know.

3) The second mile giving for the victims of the flooding

resulting from Katrina totaled \$14,400 as of 9/4/05. It is expected that more donations will be received.

4) Supplies for the flood relief kits were purchased and sorted into kits Sunday afternoon. Many hands made quick work of the project but there will be another workparty on Wed Sept 7 to continue the effort. A total of -----kits have been sent to the UMCOR Sager Brown Depot in Baldwin, Louisiana.

Pre-Church Conference Enchilada Dinner

by Peggy Goldman

UMW will be serving their famous enchilada dinner after church and before charge conference on Sun., Oct. 2. Menu includes enchilada casserole (with and without green chile) or hot dogs and the fixings

with pumpkin cake for dessert. Donations will be taken to raise funds for UMW mission projects. Don't miss this opportunity to fellowship, visit with district superintendent, Jim Hawk and get a special meal while supporting our missions programs.

Kathy Burton Lewis Missionary to Japan

by Peggy Goldman

In 2003 we enjoyed the visit of Kathy Burton Lewis, missionary to Japan. On Oct. 11-12 UMW will be hosting her return visit to Los Alamos. There will be 2 opportunities to for us to meet with her. On Tues., Oct. 11, we will take her to de Colores Restaurant for dinner at 6 pm. If you would like to join us please let the church office know so we can make reservations. On Wed., Oct. 12, UMW will provide an all church soup supper at 5:30

in the Friendship Center. Please join us to meet Kathy and hear about her interesting life and experiences as a missionary in Japan.



Outreach/Mission Report

by Susan Nava

In October your Mission's committee will begin a year long food drive to benefit the local areas food banks. These food banks are experiencing a shortage of food due to both the increase in demand and a decline in donations. Hunger is a horrible disease, and it is happening right outside our doors. Did you know that the nation's highest population of homeless and people living in poverty is right here in New Mexico? We as working members of the body of Christ must raise together to meet the needs of our brothers.

On Sunday, October 2nd, following our aid drive for

African Nation of Sudan we will be accepting food donations. Every first Sunday of the month, Communion Sunday as you come to partake of the Lord's table that he so freely offers considering bring a can of food or a box of cereal for each member of your family as we attempt to feed God's sheep. Just drop your donation in the narthex in box labeled Hunger stops here. Your donations will be redelivered to those in need for immediate use. Or if you would rather make a special monetary donation please write food banks in the memo section of your check or on the offering envelopes found in the pews and we will ensure that is

delivered in a timely fashion. Our Lord tells us that any time we do for the least of our brothers we do so unto him, join us in stopping hunger in New Mexico for the glory of God.

Anyone wishing to help in this effort with their service or in any other missions opportunity please contact any member of your missions team; Jim Little, Aaron and Peggy Goldman, Al Blackstock, Mark and Rachel Ortiz (Youth Representatives), Louise Mendius, Tom Stockton, Angie Bratton, Dennis Trumblee, Susan Nava, Eileen Douglass, and Linda Leschnitzer. Together we serve.

Butter Braids on Sale

Do you remember those wonderful Butter Braids that the Ark sold last year? You'll have a chance to buy them again this fall for only \$9 a braid. We'll be taking orders Monday, October 3-Sunday, October 16.

See Carol Mead in the entryway after church or stop by the Ark office during the week. Delivery will be Friday, October 28. Don't miss out on these tasty treats. Proceeds will go to the Ark scholarship fund.

Mexico Chia Trip

by Aaron Goldman

Three members of FUMC recently took part in a Christian Hands in Action (CHIA) medical work trip to the Mexican village of Basaseachi (Cascades). We left on August 30 and returned on September 5. Dr. Angela Bratton served as an Ophthalmologist and was helped by Howard Granzow, who organized the trip. Aaron Goldman helped take blood pressure and pulse measurements as well as assisted in the pharmacy. Three of Dr. Bratton's friends from Denver, a CHIA dentist and her husband,

two CHIA officials, an interpreter from El Paso, a medical doctor from Chihuahua, and a nurse from Santa Fe completed the work party. The mission was originally scheduled for Huicorachi, a Tarahumara village, but that destination was changed because monsoon rains made roads impassable.

The MD examined over 100 patients, Dr. Bratton screened nearly 70 with eye problems, and the dentist saw almost 50 in need of dental care. We distributed over 50 pairs of glasses, many, many sunglasses, 250 neckerchiefs, 100 fountain pens, and 50 balloons but the demand far exceeded the supply. Many thanks to our FUMC members for their contributions.

There were some challenges, notably Dr. Bratton collaborated with the dentist, Dr. Minnie Soriano in removing a piece of steel from a patient's eye. (Minnie had the tools and



Angela had the know-how.

We stayed two nights in a motel in Basaseachi that was more comfortable than a tent and had convenient running water and indoor plumbing.

We visited a Methodist Medical Clinic in Picorreal, near Creel, Mexico. The clinic was set up by members of the Methodist Church in Claremont, OK with financing by the Claremont Rotary Club. The director of the clinic is Rev. Oped Abal, a Mexican Methodist Minister who serves two churches and expects to build a third in Picorreal and directs a CHIA orphanage in Santa Elena. We spent the night in the clinic, which had modern

conveniences.

We also visited the CHIA orphanage/school in Santa Elena, where several work parties from FUMC had helped construct. There are about 20 children staying there.

We will probably try to visit Huicorachi next year and hope to have more volunteers from FUMC.

The mission was supported by the Outreach Committee.

The pictures were taken by Paul Drda.



(Above) Aaron Goldman takes blood pressure

(Below) Waiting in line for health assistance

(Far left) Minor eye surgery



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

152 people were in attendance on September 18th.

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

MYF:Tie Dye Party & More

by Rachel Ortiz

We want to thank you all of you who supported our 1st annual MYF Tie Dye Party. We all had a great time and some really cool t-shirts were made.

NEW, EXCITING STUFF COMING UP

MYF has officially moved to Wednesday nights from 6:30-8:00 pm. We have started a brand new ministry called "Friendship First: The One" "Friendship First" is a flexible, friendly, and engaging 13 week series of small group interaction that compare our friendships with each other and our friendship with Jesus. The purpose of this ministry is to: 1) meet new friends 2) learn how friendships form 3) practice friendship building skills and 4) discover & grow a friendship with Jesus. In a

world filled with unknowns, tragedies, and scary stuff wouldn't it be great for all youth to know that they have friends and a lifetime friend in Jesus?

Also coming will be our monthly Blockbuster Movie Night night where youth can come watch either a newer movie or one many may never have heard of and then see how normal everyday life can relate to the Bible.

And on the Horizon is a Cleaning and Reviving the Youth Group Room Lock-In. We will clean the youth group room up and possibly paint the youth group room to make it more inviting.

Be sure to watch the bulletin board for more information on all upcoming events.

First United Methodist Church

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Youth and Education ~ Michael Ross
Choir Director ~ Sarah Kelly
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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

The people in our congregation have put considerable time, effort, and money into aiding the victims of Hurricane Katrina. We would especially like to thank all who gave financially, shopped, supplied materials, assembled kits (approximately 50 people each day), Dennis & Susan Trumblee who are overseeing the project, Steve Wallin (a member of our Emmaus Community) who drove his truck to Albuquerque loaded

with our kits, and Barry Dickens & John Stong who drove to Sager Brown in Louisiana with John from First UMC Albuquerque delivering kits from all over New Mexico.

Many thanks to the numerous persons who helped everyone fill out the correct paperwork and make the directory shoot with Olan Mills last week a huge success! Thank you Bobi Bryant, Edward and Lia Brodnax, Martha Lou Ellis, Opal

Lee Gill, Claire Harmon, Jan Hilty, Aaron Goldman, Gail Little, Charlotte McQuillan, Jeanie Standley, and Bob Visel.

Kudos to all who have baked goods for September's UMCOR drive for the Sudan and those who have sold the goods on Sundays.

Many thanks to Gene Diedrich and Mary Keller who are diligently working on the church duct work.

Visitors from the Congo

Excerpts from

Bishop Whitfield's e-mail

All life experiences shape and form us. Max's experience with the other nine members of the VIM Team to the Democratic Republic of the Congo during the first three weeks in August were not only formative, they were transformative. None of them returned as the same person who left for a time of work and learning in the Congo. The United Methodist Churches are growing and ministering to the needs of people. Young people are hearing and responding to God's call to enter Ordained Ministry. The Theological School could add several additional students if they had the finances and faculty to support the expansion. The District and Conference are establishing new congregations and many new church buildings are under construction.

The needs exceeded expectation and imagination. The United Methodist Church in the Congo is providing excellent

ministry with limited resources. The VIM team toured two orphanages in Lubumbashi provided by the Church. The girls' orphanage, constructed by the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference, has excellent facilities and a tremendous program of care and education. The boys' orphanage was a dramatic contrast. The boys reside in facilities purchased by a local church intended for other purposes, but adapted to meet an immediate need. An immediate need is for money to operate the orphanage. The North Katanga Conference is unable to provide the necessary funds and the children have serious needs.

The VIM Team contributed the offering taken at the New Mexico Conference for the Congo for the operation of the boys' orphanage. Presently, there are 20 boys in the orphanage and it costs approximately \$250 per year to care for each of the children. Money can be sent to either of the Conference Treasurers or to

Max, and marked for the Boys' Orphanage.

Churches in the New Mexico Conference have an opportunity to learn more about our partnership and hear directly from missionaries and leaders in the Congo. Dr. David and Lori Persons, United Methodist missionaries in the Congo, and two faculty members from the Theological Seminary will iterate to congregations beginning on September 17. These people will tell of the tremendous growth of the Church and the ways congregations can be directly involved.

The Congolese visitors will be at our church this coming Sunday, September 25. These people, who live and work in the Congo, are actively involved in mission work in their native country. They will be speaking during both services and giving a presentation during the Sunday School hour in the Friendship Center.

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John Stong,
Barry Dickens,
and
John Barslund
unload health
kits at Sager-
Brown Depot



week and I see our church family doing what Jesus would do. Why? Because He's living within our hearts. This is what it means to be the body of Christ. It is surrendering ourselves wholly to His Holy Spirit within so that others might see our good works and glorify God who is within you.

Remember Jesus' words when he said, "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden.

"Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.

In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." (Matt. 5:14-16)

Many praise have and will be lifted up because of what God is doing through you.

Your servant,

Barry