

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - August 24, 2009

The Pastor's Pen

Many of you may remember "The Lawrence Welk Show" that for years was a staple on Saturday night television. Those shows can still be seen on Saturday nights on NPT. One of the many singers who appeared on that show was Norma Zimmer. From her biography, Norma, comes this story. I found it to be an interesting story and a story from which I think we can draw inspiration and direction in our own lives.

Norma's parents were a source of great pain to her during her teenage years. Her parents drank a lot, and Norma sought escape from that. She found that escape in singing. She began to attend church, and during her senior year she was asked to be the featured soloist one Sunday in worship. Her parents found out that she was singing and decided to attend church that morning.

Norma says that as the choir processed she looked for her parents but did not see them anywhere. About the time the choir was being seated, however, she saw them. They were late, they had been drinking, and here they came weaving down the aisle and finding a pew, crawled over some people all but stepping on those people as they entered the pew. Norma was so embarrassed.

The time came for her to sing, and she says that as she stood to sing her solo seemed interminably long. She tried not to look at her parents but just concentrate on her song. When she sat down, she said that her heart was pounding and her cheeks felt like they were on fire. At first she couldn't listen to the minister as he began to preach. She was so absorbed in her own troubles and embarrassment. But then she heard the minister say, "God is our refuge and strength, a tested help in time of trouble." Norma Zimmer says that after hearing that she recommitted her life to Christ. She not only asked Christ to come into her life, but she asked him to be for her daily strength and direction.

In this past Sunday's sermon I talked about disciples seeking a personal relationship with Christ, and I talked about being a companion of Christ's along the road of life. But not only are we a companion to Christ, Christ is our companion as well. In times of difficulty Jesus is indeed "our refuge and strength." He can be and will be a "tested help in time of trouble." Like Norma Zimmer there are times for all of us when we need Jesus to be "our refuge and strength," "a tested help in time of trouble."

If you've never asked Jesus to be your daily companion for strength and direction, I would invite you to do so. Remember the risen Christ came and walked with the two travelers on the Emmaus Road, and remember that he promised in his resurrection to meet the disciples in Galilee. I think that promise holds good for you and me as well. He'll walk with us on our Emmaus Roads. He'll meet us in the Galilees of our lives, that is, the place where we daily live, and move, and have our being. Just something to think about.

Until next time, Bro. Jim



## **FAMILY MINISTRIES**

First United Methodist Church is committed to families. Kicking off our focus on Family ministries will begin with Promotion Sunday on Sunday September 30<sup>th</sup>. We will celebrate students that attend Sunday school, especially those students changing classes and our Third graders who will be receiving Bibles, and perfect attendance for the 2008/09 school year. We will also recognize our Sunday school teachers as well. On Sunday September 6<sup>th</sup>, a new extension to Sunday school will begin. Students, teachers and parents are invited to room 108 from 9:15am-9:30am for Round Up. We will sing songs, celebrate Birthdays and have a short devotion, before sending our students to their classes. Round Up will not occur on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month, because of Christian's Connect.

Sunday school classes offered are: Nursery 0-5 years room 104, Elementary Kindergarten -3<sup>rd</sup> grades room 206, 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grades room 219, Youth 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades youth room in the Christian Life Center.

First United Methodist likes to encourage our students to attend Sunday school. PASS ministry or Perfect Attendance at Sunday school, rewards students with near perfect attendance for a quarter, by inviting them to attend the PASS trip for that quarter.

In addition to Sunday school, First United Methodist church will begin offering Children's church on Sunday September 13<sup>th</sup> during the 10:30am service. Children will be invited to come forward for Children's moments, then dismissed to Children's church. Children are invited to bring a quarter, for the quarter jar. The children are raising money to purchase school supplies for the children in our Sister church in Nicaragua. Children will be taken to Room 107 in the Education Building, across from the Nursery for a Bible story, and activity. Parents must pick up their children from room 107 after worship. Children's church is for ages 3-2<sup>nd</sup> grade. On the first Sunday of the month, children will be brought back into the Sanctuary during the offering to join their parents for Communion.

Another new extension to our Wednesday night ministries will be a Children's club. Be watching the newsletter for more details. We will begin this new ministry when Wednesday night supper resume in September.

In addition to our weekly offerings mentioned above, First United Methodist Church has many other offerings throughout the year for families; movie night, Halloween party, A Night in Bethlehem and many others.

## **BE PART OF SOMETHING GOOD**

The Youth will be selling Coffee, Chai Tea and Hot Chocolate for the next month. They are raising funds for their next youth event, Warmth in Winter in January. The coffee and other items come from the company, Ugly Mug coffee. Portions of their sales goes back to the local coffee growers to provide a better life. They are involved in an ongoing effort to fund water wells in remote Peruvian villages. The coffee is available whole bean or ground. To place an order see any youth or contact Alecia at [Youth911@hotmail.com](mailto:Youth911@hotmail.com). The church office also has an order form.

## **FIFTH SUNDAY SINGING - THIS SUNDAY EVENING AT 6 P.M.**

**This Sunday night** is the Fifth Sunday singing. New Prospect will be hosting this event and it will begin at **6 P.M.** Everyone is invited to come out and hear church choirs as well as individuals perform their musical talents. A time of fellowship will follow the program.



**NEWSLETTERS**

If you have a college student who has returned to school and would like to receive a church newsletter, please contact the church office and leave their new address and we will be happy to send them one.

If anyone would like to receive their weekly newsletter by email, please call the church office, or contact Teresa Glover (who does the church website). Teresa's email address is [terrijogATyahooDOTcom](mailto:terrijog@yahoo.com), and she will be glad to put you on the newsletter by email list.

