



FIRST

VISIONS

an edition of the United Methodist Reporter

Three Sections, Section A | 070665 | Vol. 152 | No. 20 | October 7, 2005

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From the Editor's Desk

by Jan Stong

As many of you probably know, I am out of "town" for two weeks. My mom invited me to take a cruise with her through the Panama Canal. Well, I just could not refuse, although lately with all the tropical storms and hurricanes, I've been questioning my judgement!

This edition of the paper comes out during the two week period that I will be out on a ship. We decided to produce a very special edition of *First Visions* that I could edit before I left on my trip. Alice Carter and I consulted on the issue. She and I determined to do a 'retro' issue looking back over the fifty-something years of First UMC. The last sixty plus years in Los Alamos has been unlike most towns. Our church also has a colorful past well worth a remembering glance.

Alice Carter is uniquely qualified to find and/or remember all the important data from the past. She has been the church's historian for many years and a member of



the church many more years. All articles in this edition that do not have a by-line were written by Alice Carter. She worked for several months putting the data and pictures together and writing the articles before she left on a two week mission trip to Grenada with Peggy Goldman.

Obviously, a three page edition of *First Visions* cannot encompass all of the history or memories of those years. Please enjoy this brief look back. May God be with all of you during my brief respite and throughout the next fifty some years of FUMC's history to come.

Jan Stong

Church Historians

For over 30 years Glenn Carter was the church historian. After his death in 1994, I, Alice Carter, decided I'd better take his place as many church records were in our home and I knew I was the only one who could sort those out.

With a lot of help, in 2000 and 2001 we were able to get records organized and Howard Granzow built shelves in



the two history closets in the Asbury room making it much easier to find particular items.

Now I have a wonderful assistant, Jolene Hatler, who is very interested in the history of the church and is a marvelous help.

She grew up in this church so has memories that go back as well.

Alice Carter and Jolene Hatler are pictured to the left.

Faces from the past

by Jim Little

In a recent correspondence, Dave and Norma Bowersox, wrote from Bellingham, Washington, that they are enjoying the mountains and the oceans as well as their daughter who lives in the area. Their health is better. Shown below is a photo from the 1994 church directory.



We also received a note from Diane and Hugh Miller, pictured above, stating that they have found a new church home in OK and are getting settled. They are missing their friends at FUMC.

Mary Ann Ross writes that they are now living in a new home near Delores, CO. and are enjoying retirement. Both Nathan and Jennifer are married. Below is an image from the 1990 directory of John and Mary Ann Ross with Jennifer and Nathan.



Recently we had correspondence from Lisa (Beardon) Conley who now lives in Wentzville, MO. Included below is her photo when she served our church in 1986 as program director.



International Christian Youth Exchange

Our church participated in a student exchange program known as (ICYE) International Christian Youth Exchange for about 10 years. The first student was Ulf Henke who lived with the Zerwekhs in 1963. In 1967 Danielle Morel from France came to live with the Carol Kear family and in 1968 Paulo Arantes de Carvalho lived with the Bob Cowan family.

Barbel Grunwiller, from Germany came to live the Cleo Byers family

In 1970 and in 1972 Kyung-Hee Maing made her home with the Glenn Carter family.

All these students attended our high school and we learned much from them about their culture and it furthered international understanding and relationships.

Where Have We Worshipped?

In March 1951 a small band of Methodists met in the Recreation Hall (now the Los Alamos Little Theatre) in order to begin a church. In April of 1951 the church began meeting in the Home Economics room at the High School. (location 1)

A few months later on September 9, 1951 one hundred seventy-nine people met at the Civic Auditorium (now the Duane Smith Auditorium) to charter the First Methodist Church of Los Alamos.

Following that they worshipped in the auditorium of Central School. (location 2) Central School was torn down a long time ago

and the condominiums known as 2500 Central were built on that location.

Shortly after the charter was initiated, a letter was sent to the AEC (Atomic Energy Commission) requesting a building site "south of the football field". In May of 1952 the church received a 5 year lease on that building site.

After much discussion the Official Board (equivalent of our Church Council) elected in November of 1952 to rent and remodel the Dormitory T236 on Trinity Drive. (location 3) across Trinity from 35th Street.

Dedication of the Dorm 236 as "House of God" and the new home of the First Methodist Church of Los Alamos occurred on December 7, 1952. This inaugurated nearly 5 years of work parties. Monday and Wednesday evenings as well as Saturdays were set aside as church work days.

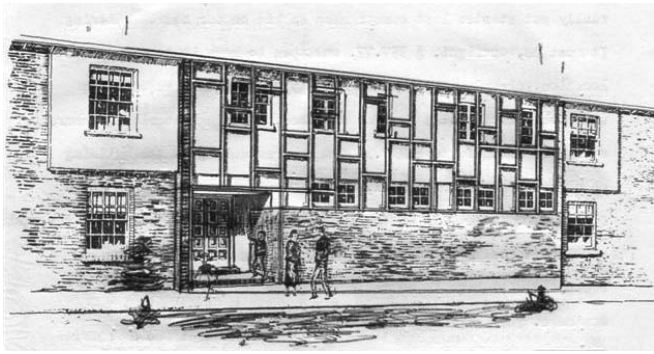
In March of 1954 the Fourth Quarterly Conference resolved to borrow no more than \$20,000 from the Board of Church Extension of the Methodist Episcopal Church South to cover the cost of buying, moving and remodeling the Dorm building and in August the church submitted the high bid of \$357.77 for the purchase of the Dorm building. In September the lowest bid for moving the building to the Diamond Drive site was twice the estimate so work days were reestablished.

In October worship services were held in the Recreation

Hall while the building was being moved. (location 4)

Services resumed in the "new building" in May of 1955. It was with pride that the congregation moved into their own church home after having met in four different locations in their four year history. (see picture).

Total cost for building pur-



chase, moving and restoring was \$30,480.57.

In May of 1957 the lease on the property was renewed for 50 years.

Because of cramped church school classes and the necessity of having 2 services in order to accommodate all church attendees, it was decided to build a new sanctuary and in January of 1960 the Cilleson Brothers Contractors were selected to build the new sanctuary for \$98,625 to be completed in July.

Believe it or not, on August



21st of 1960 the Sacred Opening Services were held in the new sanctuary. James Sprouls, our organizing pastor, returned to preside at the first service and Bishop Angie Smith preached at the second service.

At the Official Board meeting the next day, Wayne Douglas, the current pastor, remarked: "Although the people of Los Alamos have been commenting on the fact that we have the 'prettiest' church, this is not what we should be striving for. Our task is to build God's kingdom and our beautiful building is merely an avenue toward achieving this."

A year later in August, the church celebrated its 10th Anniversary and broke ground for the Fellowship Hall. By

December the hall was ready for a church wide Fellowship Dinner.

In May of 1967 we were able to purchase the church property from the Department of Housing and Urban Development for \$6000.

During 1974 the church set its sights on an education wing for the church. In February we were also able to retire the debt on the sanctuary and in April the service of dedication for the sanctuary was held.

At the April 28th meeting of the Charge Conference the working drawings for the new education building were approved

and the contract was let for \$257,048. Temporary partitions in the Fellowship Hall formed Sunday School rooms to be used while the new education building was in progress.

Roger Waterman began removing the old Dorm building in July.

Ground breaking for the new education building occurred on August 4, 1974 and on August 28th the Lockwood Company began construction. We moved into the new building in May, 1975.

Since then we've had no major construction projects but in 1996 a committee formed to plan a major remodel of the existing kitchen in the Fellowship Hall. This became a reality and served us very well during the FOCUS meals era. It was

also very helpful to feed fire survivors and fire clean-up workers after the Cerro Grande fire of 2000. It continues to serve us well as we prepare meals for many different occasions.

Then in 2004 the trustees recognized the need for replacing our roof which was nearly 50 years old. A bond issue was proposed and accepted to finance the new roof.

Due to the passing years and the ongoing inflation rate, the replacement of the roof cost approximately 3 times the cost of the original building built in 1960.

We hope the new roof will serve us well for another 50 years.

Charter Members

Not many of the 179 members who joined the church on September 9, 1951 are still around. Our first pastor, Rev. James Clifton Sprouls (affectionately known as Cliff), remembers those early days well.

Today he is living in a Methodist retirement home in Oklahoma City. In a recent conversation with him, I learned that before coming to Los Alamos in 1951 he had been sent to Socorro, which was a mission, to establish a church there. Then a year before he came here, he was told by his bishop that he would be moving to Los Alamos but that he must keep it a secret except from his wife. The bishop told him he would have to have a "Q" clearance and that would take almost a year.

He remembers some of the people who were a part of that 179 and he remembers the places where worship was held. He also remembers me. When he asked me if I was still riding my bicycle, I couldn't think for a moment what he was referring to. But then it came to me that he was remembering when I fell from a bicycle on Palm Sunday, 1957, and sustained quite a lot of injuries. I was in the hospital for several days, but when Easter came, I insisted on going to church in my pitiful state.

What a memory that man has!

A Few Charter Members

One of the most active couples was the Zerwekhs. They moved to Poncha Springs, Colorado in the winter of 1998. They were the originators of the skate program which is still a vital ministry to our community.

Edith Potter, another charter member, still lives here but spends about half the year at her home in Arkansas. She remembers what a small, intimate group they had and how each person was so valued. She has been our memorials chairman for many years.

Leah Peterson is still living here but suffers from macular degeneration so doesn't get out much. A recent visit with her informed me that she had been the first organist of our church back in 1951 and had directed a children's choir in those early years as well. She also taught Sunday School through the years.

Barry recently had a conversation with Stan Ljosdal from Escondido, CA., another charter member. He had many memories to share with Barry as well. Stan spoke of the first Church and Sunday School which he said were held in the Los Alamos High School. Central School became the church's location after he left.

Chancel Choir



First United Methodist has had a wonderful choir throughout its history. There were years when it was much larger than it is right now but it has always had dedicated members who came to practice year round - unlike many churches who disband their choir in the summer months.

In addition to preparing music to enhance the wor-

ship services each Sunday, the choir has given special presentations at Christmas time and at Lent and Easter. They have given Handel's Messiah many times and have plans to give the Christmas section of the Messiah again this year. They would invite any and all persons who would like to sing this with them to come to rehearsals each Wednesday evening at 7:00.

At one time in their history they prepared pop concerts and special presentations from Gilbert and Sullivan's writings. The picture shows Pat Mendius and Glenn Carter portraying two characters from the Mikado. When these presentations were given for the public they were benefits for some particular project in our community.

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.

Special October Days



Birthdays:

<i>Mader, Emma Jean</i>	10/01	<i>Hodgson, Susan</i>	10/20
<i>Sollid, Jon</i>	10/01	<i>Trimmer, Ray</i>	10/20
<i>Hundley, Michael</i>	10/02	<i>Leschnitzer, Ella</i>	10/22
<i>Jackson, Doris</i>	10/02	<i>Trimmer, David</i>	10/25
<i>Ricketts, Matthew</i>	10/02	<i>Blackadar, John</i>	10/26
<i>Hoffman, Nels</i>	10/04	<i>Sheppard, Daniel</i>	10/26
<i>Carter, Alice</i>	10/05	<i>Sheppard, Diana</i>	10/26
<i>Courtright, Geniece</i>	10/08	<i>Potter, Edith</i>	10/27
<i>Balog, George</i>	10/12	<i>Ramsey, Herman</i>	10/28
<i>Rousculp, Susannah</i>	10/12	<i>Scudder, Dave</i>	10/29
<i>Goldman, Peggy</i>	10/13	<i>Wooten, John</i>	10/29
<i>Hoffman, Sarah</i>	10/14	<i>Knapp, Charles</i>	10/30
<i>Zickert, Don</i>	10/14		
<i>Barefield, James</i>	10/15	Anniversaries:	
<i>Collom, Gerald</i>	10/18	October 8	
<i>Lloyd, Jane</i>	10/18	Fred & Hazel DeVries,	
		October 10	
		Lee & Jan Weinland	

First Light

Our praise band originated in late 1999 or early 2000. In addition to providing praise music for the 8:00 services, a notice appeared in February 2000 that they were leading an all church praise service to be held on the third Saturday evening of each month. They have continued faithfully to lead the early church goes in praise and worship each Sunday



morning.

First Light also gets called on to perform at other church functions such as the Church Cookout on Sunday, September 18 pictured below.

The next edition of Visions will be dated October 21

The deadline for articles is Friday, October 14.

First United Methodist Church

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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

Youth Fellowship 6:30 pm

Chancel Choir 7 p.m.

United Skates, Friday evenings

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

What's a Multigraph?

Before the advent of Xerox machines or even of mimeograph machines, there were multigraph machines. The most fashionable method of communicating one hundred years ago was by typewriter. The Addressograph Company designed a simple printing machine that initially was designed to use typewriter fonts and even printed using a wide ribbon which made the eventual product appear to have been typed on a typewriter. The Multigraph used small type elements which were selected from a font master using what was referred to as a composing fork.

Our third pastor, John Klassen, owned one of these machines and used it to print out newsletters, bulletins and



whatever printing needs he had. When he retired from this church in 1968, he left the machine at our church. Glenn Carter didn't want the machine to be destroyed so he moved it with all its components to his garage. (My garage).

After Glenn died I decided to ask the New Mexico archives director if I could bring the machine to her offices which

are on the 3rd floor of the University Heights United Methodist Church. She agreed. So with the help of Mark and David Hodgson, I loaded the machine and a few boxes of components into my CRV and took them to Albuquerque.

Recently, she called me and informed me that the archives would be moving to a new location and the machine would need a new home. After making several inquiries I was directed to the museum at the Palace of the Governors in Santa Fe. The man in charge of the printing shop there agreed to look at it and thankfully he agreed to add it to his collection. You can see the Multigraph if you visit the Museum.

Clowns for Christ

In January of 1982 an innovative program was started called Clowns for Christ. Judy Jones, our program director at the time, organized this program. An introductory workshop was held.

Part of their purpose stated that clowning gives them a wonderful feeling to know that they may have helped to make one person's day a little bit brighter and happier by temporarily helping them to forget their problems.

By 1983 there was a flurry

of activity in this organization. They selected several charitable projects to promote.



In 1984 they took their ministry to Sombrillo nursing home and in 1986 they won 1st place in the fair parade.

In 1989 they attended a clown vocational and ministry workshop in Albuquerque.

This was a significant ministry for our former members, Bill and Gloria Putman. When she died a few weeks ago, I immediately thought of all the joy she brought through this ministry. She was one of the most enthusiastic clowns.

Banners

We have a number of talented artists in our congregation and through the years they have helped beautify our church building with their loving work. A group of women who called themselves the Friendship Knots Circle worked to produce the beautiful hanging in the Friendship Center.

They were headed by Doris Jackson. They also created the hanging in the chapel.

Another artist is Jensina Sheppard who created the beautiful white paraments which cover the podium, lecturn, and altar during the Easter season as well as some other seasons. Some of our banners were made by her as well. The Create and Discover circle has also created many of the banners.

To Bradley keeps track of all the church seasons is who faithfully changes banners and paraments for the appropriate church season.

