



FIRST

VISIONS

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INSIDE
FIRST VISIONS

Come Lord Jesus, Quickly Come

Grenada Mission Trip
1 A

We Witness

Special November Days

Our Applause

Council Meeting Highlights

Finance Committee Report

Navaho Crafts

8 A

Come Lord Jesus, Quickly Come

Tidings of great joy to you and all people! The time of remembrance for one of the most momentous occasions that ever took place on the earth is at hand. We in our church prepare to welcome our Savior as did the first shepherds and wisemen over 2000 years ago.

Many activities will take place between now and the commemoration date of December 25, the date we have chosen to celebrate Christ's birth. It is fitting that we anticipate His birthday in this way. For thousands of years before the birth of Christ men eagerly searched the skies for the sign that He had come. They listened to the

news passed from person to person waiting for word of His appearance. They watched and hoped for the promised Messiah. "Will it be this year? Lord, quickly come!" they prayed.

Today, we remember back to the day our Lord did come and begin His work among us. We wait with anticipation for Christmas Day and His second coming among us saying, "Lord, quickly come!"

Below is a list of the activities we will partake in during this season of joy, remembrance, and expectation. Please join with us in as many activities as you can in celebration of our Savior's birth.

Happy Birthday, Jesus!

Messiah Rehearsals	Wednesday, 7:45 pm, November 23; Wednesday, 7-9 pm, November 30; Saturday, 9-12 noon, December 3
Christmas Pageant Rehearsals	Sundays during Children's Church--music Sundays during Sunday School--drama and music, November 20, 27, December 4, 11, 18 Sunday, 12 noon, December 11
Advent Service	Sunday, 5 pm, November 27
Advent Soup Supper	Sunday, 6 pm, November 27
Chrismon Decorating	Monday, 11 am, December 5
Messiah Performance	Sunday, 10:30 am, December 4
Parsonage Open House	Sunday, 4-6 pm, December 11
Christmas Pageant Performance	Sunday, 10:30 am, December 18
UMW Christmas Party	Sunday, 12 noon, December 18
ARK Christmas	Tuesday, 5 pm, December 20
Christmas Eve Traditional Candlelight Service	Saturday, 7 pm, December 24
Christmas Eve Candlelight/Communion Service	Saturday, 9 pm, December 24
Christmas Combined Communion Service	Sunday, 10:30 am, December 25
ARK/offices closed	December 26-30, January 2
New Year's Day Lessons in Carols Combined Service	Sunday, 10:30, January 1

Grenada Mission Trip

by Peggy Goldman

September 16-26, 2005

Alice Carter and Peggy Goldman recently visited the southern Caribbean island of Grenada as part of a team of 11 volunteers going to assist the Raise Praise Ministries in their effort to help rebuild houses destroyed by recent hurricanes. In September 2004 and again in July 2005 this mountainous island of 92,000 inhabitants with an area of 12x21miles (about the size of Albuquerque) was hit by hurricanes Ivan and Emily destroying or damaging 90% of the homes there. Out of the usual path of hurricanes, Grenada was last hit in 1955 by Janet. In fact many of the houses destroyed this time were know as 'Janet houses' having been built at that time.

The group painted the 10'x15' house recently built for 80 year old Tellie who had been in a Janet house until it lost its roof to Emily. She had no electricity or plumbing but was thrilled with her new house. A roof was built on another house where Diane and her 3 children were living in a makeshift lean-to under the pillared foundation of her destroyed home. She was very proud to have a job as custodian at a church school.

The unemployment rate in Grenada is 50%. The basic, no frills way of life of the people we came in contact with made us aware of how much we have that we take for granted.

In the beautiful tropical setting of this island the people have a slow paced, basic

subsistence lifestyle. The older people seem content with this simple life while the younger people have the usual issues of education, unemployment and drugs.

It is these issues that our hosts, Charlie and Sally Carpenter are addressing. They moved to the island from Kentucky 16 years ago to help where they can. Charlie says it sometimes seems like it's full time construction, but their main concern is the children. They have built a high school to provide the opportunity for students who can't go to public school to get an education. Grenada provides only enough high schools for the top half of its students. The Carpenters also have after school programs in several schools addressing social issues such as teenage pregnancy and drugs. Our group visited several schools and worked with village children in church school programs. We also attended services at 3 different churches and participated in the music at each one.

The trip was all in all a wonderful experience which we hope others will want to participate in in the future. A slide presentation and talk on the Grenada experience will be the program for this month's potluck, November 13, right after second service. Come to learn more and perhaps even get interested in going next time.



Peggy Goldman and other crew members painting Tellie's house



Alice Carter working with a Sunday School class

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

Church attendance for November 6 was 158.

Special November Days



Birthdays:

Louise Mendius 11/04
Jeanie Standlee 11/11
Balog, Miriam 11/12
Irene Bubernak 11/14
Harriet Zickert 11/17
Margaret Gibson 11/22
Mada Jones 11/25
Bob Kelly 11/26

Anniversaries:

November 4
Walt & Martha Lou Ellis
November 23
Ron & Mada Jones
November 25
Court & Mary Courtright
November 26
Ray & Debbie Trimmer
November 27
Larry & Bobi Bryant

Navaho Crafts



Our Navajo friends from Pinedale Methodist Church will be visiting again on Saturday, November 19. They will put on a Navajo taco lunch and crafts fair from 11 am-2 pm in the Fellowship Hall as a fund

raiser for their building needs and for children's camp funds. Come and bring your friends for this cultural experience particularly appropriate as we enter the Thanksgiving season.

The next edition of Visions will be dated December 2.

The deadline for articles is Tuesday, November 29.

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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

Methodist Youth Fellowship 6:30 pm
YFChancel Choir 7 p.m.
Messiah Practice 7:45 pm.

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



Our Applause

Every Sunday when we go to church, we are welcomed as we enter by dedicated greeters. Thank you to all of you who take part in this important outreach of our church. It is much

appreciated by both other members and visitors of our church who recognize through you how much we care about them.

We extend thank yous to all who contributed to the success

of the Festival Birthday/Potluck we enjoyed this past Sunday including food, participation, and presentation by Alice Carter and Peggy Goldman.

Council Meeting Highlights

by Jim Little

--November 6, 2005,
presided by: Chairperson
Louise Mendius

2006 budget bottom line was approved at \$475,000. See letter from Finance Chair David Janecky.

The NM Conference of the Methodist Church now requires each church to develop a sexual abuse policy and to provide background checks on all adults working with children. Carol Meade, ARK director, reported on progress in finding organizations to do the background checks and will present

a recommendation at the Dec Council meeting.

A lengthy discussion revolved about writing job descriptions for all volunteer positions in the church organization. It was decided to ask all work area chair persons to write their own job description as well as for those serving in their work areas. Job opportunities in each work area will be included in the material published with the financial campaign.

Council voted to authorize a \$25 honorarium for guest soloist and orchestra members for large choral works present-

ed by the choir.

Barry reported on plans to report to the congregation the progress made by the Connected in Christ (CIC) committee. The plans include a presentation during SS hour on Sunday, 13 Nov. The congregation is encouraged to participate and provide input to the CIC process.

Barry reported on plans to provide another hall way bulletin board for photos of church activities.

Next council meeting will be on Dec 4th at 6 pm.

Finance Committee Report

by David Janecky, Chair

--November 6, 2005

The Finance Committee has continued to monitor income and spending closely for 2005, has begun planning for the 2006 budget, and is participating in a Stewardship campaign for 2006 pledges. Income has continued steadily over the year, with total projected contributions for on-Budget spending of approximately \$424,000. Special giving for Katrina Hurricane victims amounted to over \$25,000, within a total contribution amount for benevolences of approximately \$57,000 through September. Spending on budgeted accounts has also been steady. Through September, we have spent \$304,500, which is slight-

ly lower than income and projects to total spending of \$44,000 below the budget of \$468,900. The amount of under spending relative to the budget is primarily due to very careful use of resources and funds by the Trustees. We have paid 80% of our Apportionments to the Conference, and expect to fully pay the total Apportionments and all our other obligations by the end of the year. These figures are summarized in the graphs below.

For 2006, the Finance Committee has recommended to Church Council a budget of \$475,000. This is an increase of only 1.3%, a much smaller increase than we have been able to recommend during the past several years (average of

10%). Over the next two months, the Finance Committee will be working with Work Area and Committee leaders to define the details of the 2006 budget. Consistent with our targets of past years, we will work to balance our budget among the general areas of Work Areas plus Apportionments, Staff plus Office support, and Facility support at approximately 26%, 50% and 24%, respectively. The Finance Committee has confidence that the congregation will respond to a Stewardship Campaign for pledges for 2006, so that we can continue to support these basic operations of Los Alamos First United Methodist Church.



Mr. and Mrs. Tom Bemis
Mr. Dave Tallman and Ms. Bobbie Hall
Request the honor of your presence
at the marriage of their daughter

MELISSA LAURA BEMIS
TO
DAVID PATRICK MADARA

Saturday, the thirty-first of December
two thousand and five
three o'clock in the afternoon
First United Methodist Church
Carlsbad, New Mexico