



FIRST

VISIONS

an edition of the United Methodist Reporter

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I learned years ago that news often appears to travel faster than laws of physics should permit. Based on the phone calls and emails I've received this past week, I'm convinced it's true whether actual science bears it out or not.

Most of you, I'm assuming, are aware by now that Bishop Whitfield has chosen to move me this coming June from Los Alamos to a new appointment as the Clovis District Superintendent. If you're surprised, I assure you I am too! I find myself feeling excited and apprehensive at my changing future responsibilities, yet sorrowful at the thought of leaving you in just three short months. Los Alamos has been the most significant home my family has ever known. All three of our children were enrolled at Barranca Elementary school when we arrived, yet this fall both Kim and Rachel will be in college. I'm simply glad that our Methodist system provides both pastor and church families several months in which to grieve and prepare for the coming separation. We have time, and we will make the most of it.

The next question on everyone's heart is, "Who will be our next pastor?" At this writing, only God knows; but the decision and announcement could be made in the next couple of weeks.

Several people have asked me how appointments are made. Only Bishops have the authority to make appointments. To begin this process

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Bishop Whitfield assembles his 'Appointive Cabinet' made up of himself and all the District Superintendents from both the New Mexico and NW Texas Annual Conferences. (This includes in-coming DS's, which means I'll be part of this for the first time.)

Each District Superintendent brings with them very detailed evaluations composed by each church's Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC). These church self-evaluations describe their vision, mission, hopes, dreams, strengths and needs.

Equipped with this and other vital statistical information, the appointive cabinet begins a long and careful process which Bishop Whitfield describes saying,

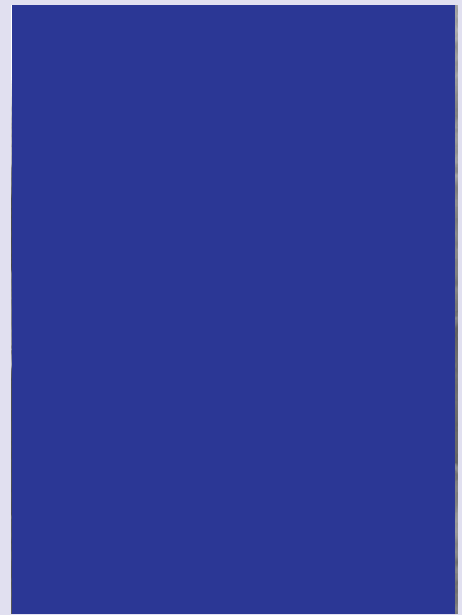
"We will review the ministry of each clergy person, assess the effectiveness of each congregation in making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, and decide whether a pastor needs to be appointed to a different congregation and if a congregation needs a different pastor. We spend more time in prayer around these issues than anything else we do."

Does this mean every appointment is a perfect match? Clearly not. Until this world has perfect pastors AND congregations filled with perfect members, that will never happen.

However, "my greatest consolation," continues Bishop Whitfield, "remains that the Holy Spirit continues to work in and through these mortal,

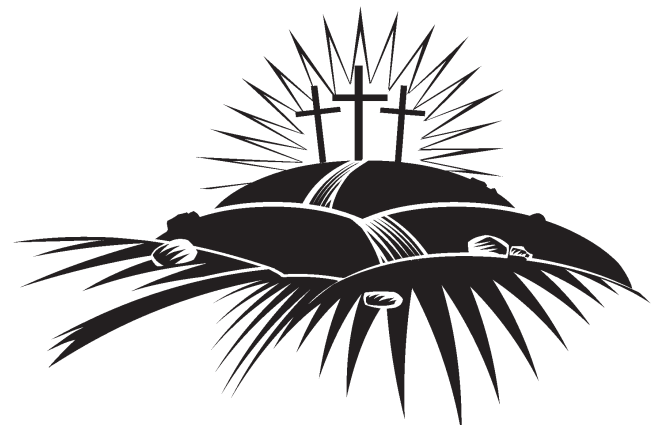
Wise and Wonderful Luncheon

Friday, March 31, 11:30 am



All FUMC senior citizens, retirees, etc. are invited to our annual 'Wise and Wonderful' luncheon in your honor on Friday March 31, 11:30 am. The Ark children be singing some of their 'chapel songs' for

us, and we will view a film on Volunteers In Mission work in Africa. The United Methodist Women will be the hosts and we hope you will come for a time of good food, fellowship and entertainment.



LENT

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

Attendance at church on Sunday, February 26, totaled 194.

Our Giving

Ministry budget for 2006	\$475,000
Ministry gifts needed each week	9,134
Ministry gifts needed to date	82,206
Ministry gifts received to date	72,935
Special gifts received to date for ministries outside our budget	1,839

Special March Days

Birthdays:

Tim Armstrong	03/05
Ruby Meaders	03/05
Larry Bryant	03/09
Cleo Byers	03/10
Don Siebe	03/10
Claire Harmon	03/12
Thomas Beery	03/18
Emma Barefield	03/19
Vicki Ricketts	03/20
Charlotte McQuillan	03/21

Susan Sasser	03/22
Rachel Granzow	03/23
Herald Kruse	03/25
Martha Lou Ellis	03/26
Bob Phillips	03/25
Pam Hundley	03/27

Anniversaries:

March 31
Don & Kathy Siebe

Barry's Corner continued from front page

sinful, broken vessels to bring God's Kingdom here upon this earth, as it is in heaven. God takes our feeble efforts, uses them, and transforms them to accomplish God's mission in our midst.

I hope that every pastor and every congregation will lift the appointive cabinet and me in prayer as we seek to be God's instruments in making disciples of Jesus Christ."

I too echo our Bishop's request. Please begin diligent prayer. Pray for the cabinet as we begin meeting March 7th.

Pray for the in-coming pastor to FUMC Los Alamos. Pray for every pastor and congregation throughout our Annual Conference. And pray for pastors and congregations throughout our nation and the world.

Your servant,

Barry

The next edition of Visions will be dated June 3.

The deadline for articles is Friday, May 25.

First United Methodist Church

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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
MYF Youth 6 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



Our Applause

This week we would especially like to thank the members of the Ark Board who give of their time and efforts to improve the Ark mission of our church.

Thank you Marten Zumbro, Diana Decker, Mada Jones, Cheryl Host, Aaron menfee, Mike Pope, Abbie Burk, Hazel DeVries, and Randy Parks.

Editor's Report

by Jan Stong

Publishing a newspaper every other week can be a daunting task. Finding authors for the articles is in itself quite difficult some weeks. Collecting all the individual pieces of information, articles, and pictures and piecing the jigsaw puzzle together in a pleasing whole is a time consuming process.

Just about a year ago, March 25, I took over the publishing of First Visions. I was overwhelmed by the task at first, but it is a job that I have grown to love.

In that time many changes have been made. The United Methodist Reporter changed format for the paper only a month and a half after I began editing the paper. So the whole look of the paper received a face lift.

We changed the header of our paper adding a picture of our church with the Methodist cross in front. We were also able to add a splash of color.

This February I had the opportunity to spruce up my editing skills as well by attending the 2006 Editors' Conference in Dallas hosted by the United Methodist Reporter (UMR). We looked at ways we can enable our own papers and the UMR staff to work more efficiently and professionally. The Editors' Conference also reaffirmed my purpose in producing a church newspaper.

The members of the staff of UMR are united with all the editors of local church newspaper editions in the goal of bringing up-to-date information to their churches. We are all working to

spread the news of the work we are doing in the United Methodist Church and the work in the fields that our members are participating in.

Christ, the center of all we do and say, guides us and gives us purpose was readily visible in every meeting, lecture, and meal that we shared during the conference.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to present the news of FUMC for you and the friends of our church. Any time you would like to contribute an article, share happenings in your life, or give a suggestion please contact me at FUMC 662-6277 or at my e-mail address secretary@lafumc.org.



UMR staff members share their knowledge.



Taking notes



Thursday morning devotions