



# FIRST VISIONS

an edition of the United Methodist Reporter

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## Barry's Corner

*Pastor's Report*



### Church Etiquette

It's April already! Where's the time going? Try as I might, I can't seem to keep up with how fast our remaining two months in Los Alamos are slipping away before the Dickens' move off to the Clovis District and the Rings arrive as your new pastoral family!

So before more time has vanished, let me share with you some commonly published church etiquette - simple common sense ideas which are frequently circulated in congregations when a transition of pastors is about to occur. I encourage you to take these to heart and exercise them with grace and love.

1.) God calls men and women to pastoral ministry, and moves them according to His time and His plan. Only recently have I begun to realize how our Bishop and District Superintendents pray and agonize every year to discern God's will for pastoral appointments. Every appointment is done with the desire for both the local church and the pastor to prosper and to glorify God.

2.) David Ring, your new pastor, deserves a brand new start with you. Don't compare him to me or any previous pastor. No one should have to live up to another's abilities or style of ministry. Nor should anyone have to be constantly reminded of another's mistakes or shortcomings. Every pastor will be unique. God has given each one gifts for ministry, different experiences and a personal call. Please do not even talk about how I preached, or taught, or did other things. Give David time to get adjusted without ghosts of the past in his face.

3.) You should not expect your new pastor to be perfect. Remember the Scriptures are clear, "All have sinned and have fallen short of the glory of God." This includes every pastor you've ever had or ever will have. I encourage you to be grace filled.

4.) David is assigned to First UMC-LA to preach. He is assigned to this community to teach. He is charged with the Word, Sacrament and Order of this Church. If you have any concerns or problems with him, come talk with him and not to someone else.

5.) When you have occasion to be around David for the next few months, offer your hand and your name. It's difficult to learn so many names.

6.) If you would like to develop a close relationship with David, take the initiative to meet him for lunch sometime or invite him and Fran to your home.

7.) Be generous with your new pastor. Come help David unload the moving van, shower him with love on holidays and relate to him out of love and grace as he will be trying to do with you.

If you do these things, you and David will bond quickly, enabling you to get down to the business of being the church together.

Your servant,

*Barry*

The *Mid-High Sunday School Class* recently visited Deer Trap Mesa to help illustrate Genesis 37, where Joseph is thrown into a pit by his brothers.



It looks like Mr. Sheppard got thrown into the pit first.

## Looking Ahead

### Children's Sunday School

- April 9 Spring Break - All grades (K-6) will be together in Fellowship Hall for a special celebration of music during Sunday School time. There will be no gathering in the sanctuary.
- April 9 Please plan to attend the Palm Sunday 10:30 am worship service. All children are invited to wave palms as they enter the sanctuary together.
- April 16 Easter Sunday - All children are invited to join in the Easter Egg Hunt to take place during Sunday School Time!
- April 23 Final Sunday of our Prayer Unit
- April 30 Begin Road to Emmaus Unit

If you are willing to help with the next unit, please contact Vicki Ricketts at 663-0102 or email Vicki at [encino@comcast.net](mailto:encino@comcast.net).

As always, please keep our Children's Sunday School Program and the children in your prayers.



## 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 April 2, 2006 was 140.

### Our Giving

Figures through April 2--

Ministry budget for 2006	\$475,000
Ministry gifts needed each week	9,134
Ministry gifts needed to date	127,876
Ministry gifts received to date	124,514
Special gifts received to date for ministries outside our budget	5,915

## Special April Days

### Birthdays:

Mark Hodgson	04/01
Linda Leschnitzer	04/02
Becky Chavez	04/03
Jan Taylor	04/03
Daniel Swart	04/08
Lee Weinland	04/08
Randy Parks	04/17
David Siebe	04/17
Don Casperson	04/19
David Hodgson	04/19
Michelle Cash	04/22
Kathy Siebe	04/23

Dick Warnes	04/23
David Janecky	04/24
Mary Courtright	04/25
Gregg Janecky	04/27
Emily Collom	04/29
Anja Blackadar	04/30

### Anniversaries:

April 8
Armond & Jeanie Standley
Don & Harriet Zickert
April 20
Randy & Anna Parks



## College Finals Approaching

**Calling all parents of college students!**

This year UMW will be sending treats to the college students from our church as they prepare for finals. Please call Jan Stong, 662-6277, or Marilyn Peek, 662-2615, with your student's correct address.

We will happily accept contribution from one and all toward the cost of postage.

The next edition of Visions will be dated April 21.

The deadline for articles is Wednesday, April 12.

**First United Methodist Church**

715 Diamond Drive  
Los Alamos, NM 87544  
Phone: 505-662-6277  
Fax: 505-663-0089

E-mail: [lafumc@lafumc.org](mailto:lafumc@lafumc.org)  
Website: [www.lafumc.org](http://www.lafumc.org)  
Pastor ~ Barry Dickens  
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

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

We extend a hearty round of applause to Gene Diedrichs for all the work he has done in recent weeks with the plumbing and lighting in the building.

Children's Church has been fabulously led by Mada Jones. Thank you, Mada, and thanks also to your able assistants Joyce Rybarcyk, Aaron Goldman, Linda Bequette, and Susan Nava Trumblee. Our children and the rest of the congregation, too, look forward to the

Children's Message each week.

Our MYF group is also moving forward under the leadership of Mark & Rachel Ortiz, Lance & Stacey Eaton, and Jeff & Crystal Densmore. Our youth are a very important part of our church and we appreciate all of your hard work to provide a quality program for them.

Our Rotational Sunday School program is off to a great start. Thank you, Vicki Ricketts, for organizing this new pro-

gram. Thank you also to all the people who have worked to make this program a success.

Kudos go out to Don Casperson, who year after year has ably directed our Skating Program outreach.

Cheers are raised to the CIC team, Mark Hodson, Geneice Courtright, David Miller, and Sharon Sole, for their efforts to bring us a new visions statement.

## Getting to Know Dave Ring

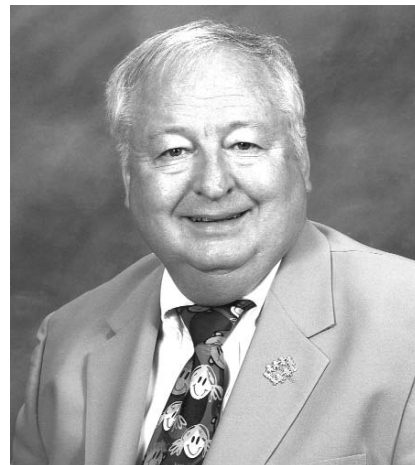
Hi! I'm Dave Ring, and I'm about to become the new pastor of First United Methodist Church of Los Alamos. Knowing that congregations are always curious about the background of their pastors, and in response to a specific request from your current pastor, my friend Barry Dickens, I've written the following autobiographical statement which will appear in two successive installments in this and the next issue of the twice-monthly "First Visions" edition of the United Methodist Review.

The obviously most significant event of any person's early life is birth. Mine occurred on April 1, 1947 in Reno, Nevada. With an April 1st birthday, I quickly learned what "April Fool's" meant, and believe that has contributed to my sense of humor and my lifelong penchant for jokes (and even a few minor pranks). It's also given me a "thicker skin" than many. Further, having been born in Nevada, the gambling capital of the world, I've always been more of a risk taker than the average person. Far too many folks, I personally believe, opt for security rather than excitement in life.

In early childhood, my parents relocated me to a somewhat itinerant existence, with twin homes in Long Beach, Mississippi (my mother's home base) and Baltimore, Maryland (my father's.) We continuously, it seemed, ping-ponged back and forth between those two locations while I was young. It was in Mississippi that I

received the only early religious training I can claim, through my maternal grandmother who occasionally took me to church with her. Other than that, my upbringing was completely secular.

When I was in the seventh grade in school, I shattered my left femur in a snow sledding accident. For the next two and a half years I walked with crutches and, because my parents did not wish to care for an invalid



child, was sent to live with my Great Aunt Bessie, who was a retired nurse. This stopped me from continuously shuttling back and forth between Maryland and Mississippi and allowed me to remain in a single location. My grades in school improved and I was placed in "gifted" classes. Later, when I returned to living with my parents, they ceased, of their own volition, the frequent gyrations between two homes separated by more than a thousand miles, allowing me to complete high school in Baltimore.

As a result of my high school academic record I was named a "National Merit Scholar" and offered a variety of scholarships by universities across the nation. I chose Michigan State University (MSU), studying electrical engineering there. It was during my second year at MSU that a roommate, Ron Knapp, really introduced me to the Christian faith. Ron's influence led to my personal decision to follow Jesus Christ and, although he is Roman Catholic and I am United Methodist, we remain very close friends to this day.

After completing both bachelor's and master's degrees in electrical engineering at MSU, I was hired as a "member of technical staff" at Sandia National Laboratories, LANL's "cousin" in Albuquerque. While at Sandia, I joined with a number of young men in forming a "flying missionary society," the "St. Jude Express," to help take relief supplies into remote areas of northern Mexico.

Through this organization for several years thereafter I regularly participated in mission "runs" into Tarahumara territory in the Sierra Madre of Mexico. During the same period, I was increasingly becoming an active layman at St. Andrew's United Methodist Church in Albuquerque. The more I did mission work and the more I got involved in church activities, the more I felt God leading me to devote all my time, not just my "spare" time, to Him. (to be continued in the next issue)

## Ark Registration

The Ark is now registering children for summer and fall. Children of church members who are on our wait list have priority right after the families already enrolled. If you would

like to have your child in our Christian child care center, come on by for a tour of our nationally accredited facility and to get on the wait list.

