



FIRST

VISIONS

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INSIDE
FIRST VISIONS

The Pastor
Ponders
Spaghetti for
Gabby

African Art
Work Photos

1 A

We Witness

Special July
Days

Sermon
Topics

Our
Applause

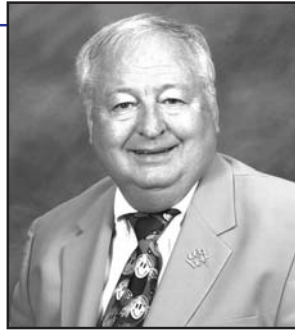
Upcoming
Events

New Sunday
School
Classes

Missions
Programs

8 A

The Pastor Ponders



"STANDING ON BROAD SHOULDERS"

During the reception held for me and my family on Sunday, June 18th (Thanks very much!) in this church's "Friendship Center," I noticed the wall of pictures of LA-FUMC's former pastors. I was surprised to note that, with the exception of the very first two, I have known every one of your pastors.

Dr. John Klassen, who served this church from 1961 to 1968, was one of the New Mexico Conference's greatest 20th century clergy. I have served three churches where John was previously pastor: Harwood in Albuquerque, Alpine in Texas, and now Los Alamos. He is revered and loved in all three of them. There are a number of United Methodist buildings scattered throughout west Texas and New Mexico named for him, most notably one at Sacramento Methodist Assembly. I knew John while he served, long after official retirement, as the pastor of Mountainside UM Church in Tijeras. A gentler "giant" among preachers was nowhere to be found.

Dr. David Shaw, who pastored Los Alamos from 1976 to 1983, is one of my mentors and elder brothers in the ministry. I well-remember reading his weekly newsletters while he was pastor here - and liberally borrowing the ideas found therein. David and Dawn are long retired and currently live in Kerrville, Texas, but we remain friends and in regular contact with one another.

Dr. Ed Williamson, who followed David, serving Los Alamos from 1983 to 1988, is one of my longest-term person-

al friends in the ministry. While I was still an engineer with Sandia National Laboratories, Ed and Mary Elaine moved into the same apartment complex as Fran and me in Albuquerque. Ed was a ministry intern at that time at Central UM Church. His influence helped me to clarify my call by God and ultimately make the decision to leave engineering and enter full-time Christian service.

I could go on, but the point is this: I come to you as a new pastor very much standing on the shoulders of many wise and wonderful prior preachers. From your Founding Pastor Clifton Sprouls to my immediate predecessor Dr. Barry Dickens, I am indebted to each and every one of them for the strong congregation now committed to my care. I gratefully stand upon all their shoulders, just as each and every one of us stands upon the broad shoulders of our Rock and Redeemer, Jesus the Christ.

Dave Ring

Spaghetti for Gabby

by Christy Gonzales

It has been a little over two months since our daughter, Gabriella (Gabby) has been diagnosed with Nephrotic Syndrome. Nephrotic Syndrome is a condition marked by very high levels of protein in the urine, low levels of protein in blood. Nephrotic Syndrome results from damage to the tiny blood vessels that filter waste and excess water from the blood and send them to the bladder as urine.

Gabby has started a new medicine, so now we just pray and wait patiently to see if Gabby will respond to this new medicine and put her in remission. This has been a very hard time for all of us. We have found comfort knowing how much wonderful people care about Gabby.

We would like to thank everyone for the Spaghetti Dinner. Thank you to everyone for the donations, thoughts, and prayers. Thank you for making the Spaghetti Dinner such a wonderful success.

Beverly and Bev Enrietta prepared all the food with home made spaghetti sauce. They worked a lot of late evenings on the sauce. The day of the dinner many ARK families brought in home made desserts and garlic bread. The ARK staff brought all the fixings for a delicious salad. A lot of people from the community came to donate money and join us for a delicious meal. Everyone worked very hard and made it such a wonderful success.

We still have a long road ahead of us and all the donations will be very helpful.



African Art
Work
displayed at
the May/June
Birthday
Potluck

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 for both services on Sunday, June 25th was 164.

Our Giving

Figures through June 25th--	
Ministry budget for 2006	\$475,000
Ministry gifts needed each week	9,134
Ministry gifts needed to date	237,510
Ministry gifts received to date	235,087
Special gifts received to date for ministries outside our budget	11,970
Shortfall	2,423

Special July Days

Birthdays:

Mark Ortiz	07/01
Thomas Collins	07/04
Megan Douglass	07/07
Marilyn Peek	07/07
Pat Mendius	07/09
Katie Weinland	07/10
Amethyst Collins	07/11
Shelley Courtright	07/11
Carli Chavez	07/15
Lynn Kluegal	07/17
Zach Parks	07/17
Sandy Larson	07/19
Kyle Parks	07/19
Chris Rousculp	07/21
Zach Armstrong	07/22
Amanda Courtright	07/27

Natalie Jones	07/28
Robert Zbu	07/30
Maureen Beery	07/31

Anniversaries:

July 1	Dennis & Opal Lee Gill
July 2	James & Emma Barefield
July 3	Larry & Valerie Collins
July 6	Jon & Dagne Sollid
July 17	Dave & Fran Ring
July 20	Ben & Margaret Gibson
	Chris & Susannah Rousculp

Sermon Topics

July 2--
"Independent, But Not of God"
Judges 17:1-6

July 9--
"Nine From the Vine"
Galatians 5:16-26

First United Methodist Church
called to:

Seek God,
Share Christ's Word,
Serve His World

The next edition of Visions will be dated July 14.
The deadline for articles is Friday, July 7.

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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
Chancel Choir 7 p.m.



Our Applause

Thank you, Judy Opsahl, for your presentation this past Friday at the Methodist Men meeting on Central America.

Also thanks to Aaron Armstrong for his presentation at our May/June Birthday Potluck this past Sunday on your trip to Kenya and Uganda. MANY, MANY THANKS!

Dave and Fran Ring and the rest of the "five Ring circus" wish to thank everyone at this church for their warm and cordial welcome to us. We've been overwhelmed by your kindness! Also, a very special thanks is due to those individuals who helped unload our trailer truck on Sunday, June 11th. (Unfortunately, we

didn't retain all of your names, but you know who you are!) And extra-special thanks to three particular individuals: Bill Sole, Dave Janecky, and Louise Mendius, who have helped answer the 1,001 questions that have arisen during the transition. Blessings to you all!

Upcoming Events Highlights

Sermon Titles:

July 2: "Independent, But Not of God", Judges 17:1-6

July 9: "Nine From the Vine", Gal. 5:16-26. Both sermons will be presented by Dr. Dave Ring, pastor at LAFUMC.

The Way Outreach:

July 1, 7:45 am - 12 Noon

Emmaus Gathering

July 3, 6 pm, potluck in the Fellowship Hall followed by community gathering at 7 pm in the Friendship Center

Church/ARK Offices

July 4, closed

Parents Night Out

July 21, 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm

LAF Crafts:

July 9, 4 pm in the Friendship Center

Church Council Picnic:

July 16, 6 pm at the home of Chairperson Louise Mendius, 124 Rover Blvd. in White Rock

New Sunday School Classes

At the beginning of summer many new Sunday School Classes are also beginning.

"Paul's Companions" is the new topic of the Following God class taught by Dennis Armstrong in Room 114. This class will look at Paul's ministry in light of the overall ministry of the early Church.

Dennis Gill's Bible History class which meets in the Friendship Center has started a new book entitled, God Was

Here and I Was Out to Lunch by James W Moore. The class will look at how we miss seeing God's presence in our lives.

"Lost Christianities" is the 2nd video series by Bart Ehrman that the Inquirers has studied. "The early Christian Church was a chaos of contending beliefs. Some groups claimed that there was not one God, but 2 or 12 or 30. Certain sects maintained that Jesus was human but not divine, while

others said he was divine but not human. Dr. Ehrman offers a fascinating look at these early forms of Christianity and shows how they came to be suppressed, reformed, or forgotten. The Inquirers meet in the Resource Room and is a no fragrance class.

Another new study is beginning in Terry Armstrong's Women of Faith class.

New Missions/Outreach Programs

The Way



THE WAY is a new outreach ministry that will begin tomorrow, July 1st. This ministry will be an outreach to our community serving those in need (Elderly, Disabled, Single Parents, etc.). In need of what? That will depend on the family or individual to be served. It may include things like painting, minor home repairs, etc.

Every 1st Saturday of the month from 7:45 am - 12 Noon, a volunteer group of men, women,

and youth will gather at the church for a short time of prayer and then enter the community to a pre-determined site to serve others. The work party will return to the Church by Noon. Breakfast will be served for these extra special volunteers from 7 am to 7:45 am. Please pray for this new ministry and consider volunteering your time once a month to be the hands and feet of those in need.

Parents Night Out

Parents Night Out (PNO) is a new FUMC Outreach ministry that focuses on our families with young children. It can be very difficult to find time to enjoy some quiet time alone. Parents Night Out will offer free child care at the church every 3rd FRIDAY of the month from 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm beginning in

JULY on a drop in basis. We will begin with three (3) age groups Infant - 3 years, 4 - 6 years, and 7 -10+ years. There will be one adult per age group and we will make changes as necessary.

So how does it work? Pick a nice place for you and your spouse to have dinner or a good movie to

see, sign your child/children into PNO and bring them a dinner or a snack, go enjoy yourselves, and promptly pick up your children by 9:30 p.m.

Care Givers: Cathy Grindstaff - Infants, Judy Keen, and Susan Fulton (ARK instructors) will work with the 4 - 10 age groups.