



FIRST

VISIONS

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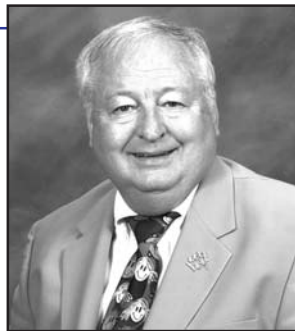
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The Pastor Ponders



"Visitation"

I'm a pastor who enjoys visiting people. Decades ago, when I was being examined for fitness for the ordained ministry in the United Methodist Church, the question was asked of me, "Will you visit from house to house?" I enthusiastically responded, "Yes!"

During my initial three/four weeks as pastor of Los Alamos First United Methodist Church, I've had the privilege of being welcomed into the homes of nearly 30 members and/or member families. These initial visits are, purely and simply, "get acquainted" calls. I want to know you, the precious people of this congregation, and I trust you want to know me.

As time goes on, I hope to visit in the homes of many, many more of our members. In my initial month of visiting, I've encountered some repeated "issues" regarding such that can be answered publicly via this column.

The first pastoral visitation issue I would address is this: While I do love to visit, I don't wish to impose. So it's OK to say, "No." If you don't want a personal visit from me, that's fine; I'm not offended. I'll still gladly serve as your pastor.

The second visitation issue is one of practicality. Those of you who are retired and "stay at home" are obviously easier to visit than those who have complex work schedules and/or travel a lot. Within reason, I'm very willing to try to accommodate your schedule. (But if you tell me you can only be visited from 3 to 4 AM on February 29th, please don't inform all your friends in the congregation, "The preacher visited everybody else, but he never

came to see me.") Over the course of my first year among you, I pledge to you that I'll try to get around to see everyone who is open to a pastoral visit. For some it will be sooner, for others later.

The third such issue is affinity. My primary assignment is to pastor the people of Los Alamos First United Methodist Church. Yes, I'll also visit prospective members and regular attendees. But I've already discovered that some of you expect me to visit your entire kinship and/or friendship network, most of whom are not members of this congregation. I wish I could say, as did Methodist founder John Wesley, "The world is my parish." But one man, no matter how willing, can't possibly visit everyone in Los Alamos County.

Fourth and finally, pastoral visitation isn't "tag." Many inactive church members, when visited, will respond by coming to church - once. Then they wait at home until the next visit from the pastor. If the pastor doesn't come back, they don't either. But since there is one of me and hundreds of you, there's no way I can sustain that sort of relationship. (Sorry!)

I'm really enjoying the process of getting to know the people of LA-FUMC via these "get acquainted" visits. If you want to move to the "head of the line," call me. Let's set a time to get together and begin to know one another as fellow members of the Body of Christ.

Dave Ring

Seasoned Citizens Retreat

The 2006 Seasoned Citizens' retreat will be held August 14-18 at Sacramento Methodist Assembly. This is a great opportunity for a week in the mountains which is spirit filled. We will share fellowship, fun and love. This retreat is open to all adults 50 to 90+.

This year we will again have great preaching, Bible study, crafts and fellowship. The seniors are welcome to participate in any or as few of the activities as they wish.

The new Forest Lodge is open for our use. The rooms are equipped with private baths. We will also be using Ayers dorm. Assignment will be

based on need, but will try to fulfill requests.

As added service to the seniors we have a 4-passenger golf cart which will be in constant use and the driver will make as many trips as necessary to get anyone needing assistance going from building to building throughout the day. All facilities are handicap accessible.

We also have a full time nurse on campus. She has been with us several years and shares the full line of activities with us.

Copies of the registration form are available in the church office. If you have any questions, contact Ellen Trout, Dean at 432-362-7570.

Schedule for

"All God's Creatures~Great & Small"

"O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. Yonder is the sea, great and wide, creeping things innumerable are there, living things both small and great." Psalm 104:24-25

Seasoned Citizens' Retreat

Sacramento Methodist Assembly

August 14-18, 2006

Monday

4:00 Registration/Skipper Hall
5:30 Dinner
6:30 Chapel
7:45 Introductions Story Time/Ayers
8:30 Games

Tuesday

7:30 Devotional/Exercise Skipper Hall
8:00 Breakfast
9:00 Bible Study/Skipper Hall
10:30 Crafts/Skipper Hall Horseshoe Tourney
12:00 Lunch
1:00 Free Time
3:00 Snack Bar
4:00 Sing-along/Ayers
5:30 Dinner
6:30 Chapel
7:45 Snack Bar
8:00 Story Time/ Aryers
8:30 Games

Wednesday

7:30 Devotional/Exercise Skipper Hall
8:00 Breakfast
9:00 Bible Study/Skipper Hall
10:30 Crafts/Skipper Hall

Horseshoe Tourney

12:00 Lunch
1:00 Free Time
3:00 Snack Bar
4:00 Sing-along/Ayers
5:30 Dinner
6:30 Chapel
7:45 Snack Bar
8:00 Story Time/ Aryers
8:30 Games

Thursday

7:30 Devotional/Exercise Skipper Hall
8:00 Breakfast
9:00 Bible Study/Skipper Hall
10:30 Crafts/Skipper Hall Horseshoe Tourney
12:00 Landsun Cookout
1:00 Free Time
3:00 Snack Bar
5:30 Dinner
6:30 Chapel/Memorial Service
7:45 Talent Show/Skipper Hall
8:30 Games

Friday

7:30 Point of Silence Worship
8:00 Breakfast
9:00 Goodbyes

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 on July 2nd for both services was 157.

Our Giving

Figures through July 2-- Ministry budget for 2006	\$475,000
Ministry gifts needed each week	9,134
Ministry gifts needed to date	246,618
Ministry gifts received to date	250,592
Overage	3,974
Special gifts received to date for ministries outside our budget	11,970

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 Zhu	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

First United Methodist Church
called to:

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

The next edition of Visions will be dated July 28.

The deadline for articles is Friday, July 21.

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Carol Mead, Director
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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!
The Trustees would like to express their sincere appreciation to the members of the FUMC community who gave their time and energy on June 9 and 10 to refresh the

parsonage and grounds. Those who took vacation on Friday to participate deserve special kudos.

I would like to thank Michael Pope and David Miller, who served as project leaders

on Friday and Saturday, respectively, as well as John Courtright for his leadership in the electrical aspects of our effort.

Ben Gibson,
Trustee President

Upcoming Events Highlights

Sermon Titles

July 16: "Blessings? It All Depends...", Matthew 5:1-12

July 23: "Ruth: God Keeps His Promises", Ruth 1-4.

Both sermons will be presented by Dr. Dave Ring, pastor at LAFUMC.

Church Council Picnic

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

WOMen's Breakfast

July 21st, 6:30 am Friday, - Program by Pastor Ring regarding his missionary service in Guatemala

Parents Night Out

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

Emmaus Community Gathering

July 22, Las Vegas, NM For more information contact Jan Stong at the church office, 662-6277.

Healing Worship

7 pm Wednesday, July 19th in LA-FUMC Sanctuary

In response to a number of requests since his arrival, Pastor



Ring will conduct a Healing Worship Service on Wednesday evening, July 19th, beginning at 7 PM. (There is no Choir Practice that evening.) If you yourself would seek God's healing, if you would like to stand in proxy on behalf of a loved

one who needs healing, or if you would simply like to seek God in prayer for the healing of others, please come! (Yes, there really is an "official" United Methodist liturgy for this specific kind of worship.)



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