



FIRST

VISIONS

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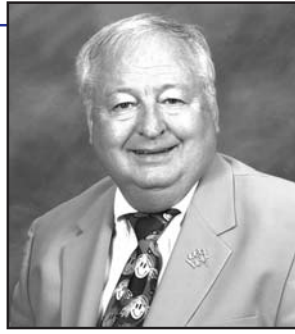
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The Pastor Ponders



"WOULD YOU PRAY FOR ME ON SUNDAY MORNINGS?"

While I was pastor at one of the earlier churches in my ministry career, I tried to make it a practice to go down to the front of the church and kneel at the chancel rail for a few minutes (five or less) just prior to each Sunday morning worship service, seeking God's anointing for the worship, and especially for the preaching, just ahead. I also did so, frankly, to set an example for the congregation. It was my hope that others might join me in such pre-worship prayers.

What happened instead was that, virtually every Sunday, someone would tap me on the shoulder while I knelt and say, "Preacher, can I talk to you for a minute?" Some of these interruptions to my attempted prayers were truly amazing: I recall one man who came up to say, "Since you aren't doing anything right now, you won't mind my telling you that the toilet in the men's bathroom won't flush." A lady interrupted my prayers to say, "My husband is having an affair with his secretary. So you be sure and preach directly to him this morning - he's out there in the third row, left side."

After about eight months of chronically foiled attempts at praying in the sanctuary prior to worship, I gave up the practice. Some of you might think, well, why didn't you just go back into your office and close the door - and pray there? Trust me: I've been a preacher long enough to have learned that there's no place for a pastor to find privacy in church on a Sunday morning. I can hang a big "Do Not Disturb" sign,

close the office door and lock it, but someone will inevitably bang on the door until it's opened. Besides, I really don't want to hide from my congregations. I want to be there for you and among you.

Recognizing that I'm not likely to get much personal praying done on Sunday mornings, I'm wondering if some of you would be willing to be prayer intercessors on my behalf. This doesn't have to be any sort of formal assignment - just your personal willingness to pray for your pastor for a few moments before the worship services begin on Sunday mornings. If you want to pray in the pew where you're sitting, that's fine. If you want to go up and kneel at the chancel rail, that's equally OK. If you want to get together with others and form a prayer circle around me as I get ready to enter the sanctuary, that's another possibility.

I'm a pretty competent preacher. That's not bragging; it's a simple recognition that God has gifted me in this area of ministry. But I can become a better preacher if I'm regularly prayed for on Sunday mornings before I preach. Would you be willing to serve as a prayer warrior on your pastor's behalf?

Dave Ring

Youth Happenings

Summer Events

College Night

After taking a break over the summer, MYF is getting back into gear. On August 11th, the Densmores hosted "College Night" for our college students headed back to school.

VH-Luv Weekend

On August 19-20, MYF traveled to Alamogordo for the VH-Luv Weekend retreat hosted by Grace United Methodist Church. We had a fantastic time and enjoyed great music by the Kyle Cantrell Band (kyle-

cantrell.net) and Wayne Kerr (waynekerrmusic.com). We were blessed by the messages provided by Chris Hubbard and Jachin Ford from El Paso and Kelley Kerr from Katy, TX. Overall, it was an amazing event for all of us and we are grateful for the support of FUMC.

Our participants are pictured below at VH-Luv in Alamogordo. The band which filled the event with music is pictured below them.



Fall Plans

For the school year, we have decided to change things up a bit for MYF. We will be moving MYF meetings back to SUNDAY from 4-6PM. We will be meeting every other Sunday starting with a "Welcome Back" game night on Sunday, September 10th from 4-6PM.

The MYF sponsors are also thrilled to announce our new

curriculum series for the fall. We will be embarking on the very popular youth version of the "Doing Life Together" series by Doug Fields and Brett Eastman. We will start the series on Sunday, September 24th. Please remember that MYF is open to grades 6 - 12. Yes, all you 6th graders are very welcome to attend.

S.W.I.F.T. Event!

WHO'S YOUR DADDY?... A WEEKEND RETREAT FOR YOUNG ADULTS

Join college students and young adults in our conference for the annual SWIFT Work and Spiritual Retreat September 15-17 at Sacramento Methodist Assembly. Planned for the weekend is three sessions with our guest speaker, Rev. Todd Seelau; lots of good hard work to help out the camp, time to meet new people, outstanding praise and worship led by the Wesley NMSU Praise Team, and

just a great time to get away! Cost is ONLY \$25! To sign up, contact Wesley at 522-6940 or email them at:

wesley@nmsu.edu <mailto:wesley@nmsu.edu> PS...if there are 75 or more who attend SWIFT, Jan Archey will dye her hair a wild color or colors!

(SWIFT stands for Students Walking In Faith Together...but you do not have to be a student to participate in SWIFT activities. SWIFT is partially funded by a Vitality Award)

Living Treasure

It was recently announced who the 2006 Living Treasures honorees will be. LAFUMC member Jim Little has achieved this recognition this year. No one in the Methodist community is surprised by this award. Jim Little is an outstanding member who has contributed to many noteworthy service activi-

ties in the church and the Los Alamos community as a whole.

Make plans now to join our community in honoring Jim and the other two honorees, Thelma Hahn and John Buchen, on Sunday, September 17th at 2 pm at the Betty Ehart Senior Center.

Senior of the Month

Taken from Equitable Insurance publication EQUILINE
RUBY MEADERS

Serving lunch once a week at the Senior Center in Los Alamos is only one way that Ruby Meaders has been keeping busy since her retirement. She began by delivering meals to shut-ins, then began driving for the Lion's Club, taking people to appointments for dialysis, radiation and doctor's appointments. She helps with the Bloodmobile and the local library calls her to help when they do a user count or to fold flyers, or help with other services as they are needed.

Her favorite volunteer job, though, is providing foster home care and training to puppies for the local animal shelter. House-training, leash training, teaching them to socialize, and "washing a lot of rugs", are among her duties

In her spare time she does puzzles, reads, walks, and crochets. She has crocheted over 140 afghans that she has given away as gifts. She also stays active in church, where she takes classes.

Staying active and taking care of herself is her mantra for remaining healthy. She has regular visits to the doctor, especially since her husband died of a heart attack at the age of 64. "You've got to take care of yourself", Ruby says. She doesn't want to be a burden on her 5 children, 10 grandchildren or 4 great-grand children and is

doing all she can to avoid that.

Ruby met her husband Jim while she was living in South Bend, Indiana. During World War Two, Notre Dame had a program for apprentice seamen on Friday and Saturday nights to provide entertainment for them and Ruby was helping there when they met. They dated for a while, and he went to Midshipman School in Chicago. Just before he left, they became engaged and in 1942, after Jim had been in Chicago a few months, they were married. The years passed and their first son was born. Jim was discharged and the moved to McCook, Nebraska, where two sons and a daughter were born. they moved on to Greeley, Colorado when Jim got a National Science grant to go to school. After he got his Masters, Jim was hired to teach math and physics in Los Alamos, New Mexico. This is where their last son was born, and where Ruby has lived ever since.

Ruby has lived at the same address in Los Alamos since 1952, however, she cannot say that she has lived in the same house.

On April 10, 1957 something occurred to change the dwelling. Learn what happened in our next edition

UM VIM Out-of-Country Mission

Quito, Ecuador--November 2006

Reprinted from last week--spaces on this mission trip are still available

The FUMC Outreach/Mission team is sponsoring a mission trip to Quito, Ecuador to make repairs and possibly start working on a laundry facility at an ecumenical low-income assisted living center just outside of Quito. This facility houses approximately 50 individuals and is supported by the residents and local churches in the area. There are issues with their current laundry and they have additional needs as well.

Who: All interested Christians (FUMC members have excellent scholarship opportunities)

When: November 9 - 16, 2006

Where: Quito, Ecuador (Elevation approximately 9300 ft)

Cost: approximately \$1500.00 (depending on cost of materials). All expenses covered with the exception of souvenirs. A \$100.00 non-refundable deposit per person is required by September 15, 2006 and submittal of VIM volunteers paperwork by September 30th.

Lodging: Three to Four nights at a Nazarene Seminary and two (1 or 2) nights in Quito and possibly one (1) night in Otavalo.

Skills: Just be willing to get your hands dirty, two local construction individuals will be available to provide guidance. Also electrical, brick and mortar, or light carpentry skills are desirable. They also have needs with people just spending time with residents of the facility.

Translators: Pastor Dave, Susan Nava, and at least one local, it would be a great opportunity to practice your Spanish as well.

Contact: Pastor Dave, Jim Little, or Dennis or Susan (Nava) Trumblee. See Peggy Goldman for details on Quito.

Requirements:

US Passport -current U. S. passport, with at least six months left on it beyond November 16th before the expiration date, if not you should apply for one right away; go to the Los Alamos Post Office for forms and details.

Immunizations - None REQUIRED

You may however, wish to consider HEP A, HEP B, Typhoid, and have a current tetanus See <http://www.cdc.gov/travel/tropsam.htm> and http://www.vivecuador.com/html2/eng/trip_planning.htm

If you can not participate but would like to be part of team your prayers and sponsorship are most welcome.



by
Paul Tegros
www.ecuador-pictures.org

Photos
of the
Ecuadoran Highlands



New Studies

New classes will be started this fall. Please give prayerful thought to attending one of them or the continuing class on Thursday evenings--Eleven Foundations.

Living the Extraordinary Life By: Charles F. Stanley

A life that's anchored in obedience to God's Word is simply extraordinary! While the world says that success comes from making it on your own,

Christians are given a compass for life-the Holy Scriptures. In his new teaching series and book, Living the Extraordinary Life, Dr. Stanley shares the foundational principles that inspired his life and guided his ministry. Is your heart pointed toward God, or are you influenced by the world's definition of achievement? Dr. Stanley's passionate message teaches that the result of following biblical truth is enjoying God's blessings. When you allow the light of

God's Word to direct your path, you'll be rewarded with a life of purpose, peace, and provision. Join us Tuesday evenings at 7 pm in the Friendship Center and discover for yourself how to live the extraordinary life.

Science in the Bible

This class will be offered on Monday evenings. For more information contact Nels Hoffman.

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 August 27, 2006 was 155.

Our Giving

Figures through August 27th-- Ministry budget for 2006	\$475,000
Ministry gifts needed each week	9,134
Ministry gifts needed to date	319,690
Ministry gifts received to date	306,460
Shortage	13,230
Special gifts received to date for ministries outside our budget	14,308

Special September Days

Birthdays:

Darryl Jackson	09/02
Ben Gibson	09/03
Opal Lee Gill	09/03
Jan Weinland	09/03
John Zumbro	09/05
Frances Hundley	09/06
Valerie Collins	09/09
Carol Mead	09/15
Rachel Sheppard	09/16
John Courtright	09/18
Dagne Sollid	09/22
Bobi Bryant	09/30

Anniversaries:

September 2	Jim & Gail Little
September 12	Darryl & Doris Jackson
September 13	Aaron & Peggy Goldman
September 14	Rod & Eileen Douglass
September 23	Jim & Marilyn Peek

Special Happy Birthday

Tressa McDaniel!

Tressa celebrated her 101st birthday at an Aspen Ridge Party on August 18th

Congratulations, Tressa

First United Methodist Church
called to:

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

The next edition of Visions will be dated September 22.
The deadline for articles is Friday, September 15.

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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.

United Skates, Friday evenings
First Session 5:30-6:45 pm for children third grade and younger, \$2.00 includes skate rental
Second Session 7-9 pm for fourth grade and up, \$2.50 includes skate rental

Effort Pays Off!

The Mid-High Sunday School Class has devoted much of their free time over the last two years to completing a project that has come to mean a great deal to everyone who helped bring the project to fruition.

A couple of Sundays ago on August 27th the Mid-High Sunday School Class dedicated its 2005-2006 project to the Church and the Ark. The ARK needed a sign attached to the building to meet accreditation requirements.

The students, several of whom attended the Ark when they were small, decided to do something about it. They designed the sign, transposed it to a large scale, traced animals from books, transferred them to 1/4" plywood, cut them out on a scroll saw, and painted the animals for the deck area. Wow!

A beautiful ark, displayed on the outside wall of the



Kyle Beery
Frances Hundley
Jesse Knight



Megan Breiner
Sara Hutto
Kyle Parks
Lynne Cash
Clara Leschnitzer
David Siebe
Amethyst Collins
Joe Keffer
Zeke Zumbro
Shelby Courtright
Bill Kuegel
Zach Parks

Education Wing of the church, was the result of their efforts. Its presence speaks volumes about the dedication our young people and their teachers have to doing their Father's work, diligently, over a long period of time, following it through to its completion.

This project was long enough, as most of the work was done away from the church, that four years of students helped create it. The students who designed and helped build the sign are:

Thank you to all the young people who helped with this project. You did a great job!

Kudos to Jana Beery who led the students, kept them on task, and painted. This project's design and craft are so well done in large part due to her time and care. Thank you also to Maurice Sheppard, Martha Zumbro and Maureen Beery who helped with the project.

Special thanks to Tom Beery who built the "Ark" over many months and did the epoxy to weather proof the sign.



Upcoming Events Highlights

Sermon Titles

September 10: "A Mission from God", Acts 1:1-11
September 17: "What's Your Excuse?", Acts 1:1-11
These sermons will be presented by Dr. Dave Ring, pastor at LAFUMC.
September 24: This sermon will be given by Lay Minister candidate Susan Nava Trumblee.

United Skates Starts

Starts up for the fall!
September 8, 5:30-6:45 pm for 3rd graders and younger; 7-9 pm for 4th graders and older in the Fellowship Hall

Relay for Life

September 8-9, Ashley

Pond, 6 pm-12 noon sponsored by American Cancer Society

Promotion Sunday

September 10

Confirmation Class Starts

September 10, 9:15 am in the Mid-High Room

LAF Crafts

September 10, 4 pm in the Friendship Center

Awad Mission Dinner

September 10, 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Outreach/Missions

September 11, 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Lay Leadership

September 11, 7 pm in the Friendship Center

SPRC

September 12, 7 pm in the Asbury Room

Women's Emmaus Walk

at Hesperus begins 9/14

PNO

September 15, 5:30 pm in the Nursery and Mid-High

Church Council

September 17, 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Healing Worship Service

September 19, 7 pm in the Sanctuary

Create & Discover

September 21, 6:30 pm--moved to Thursday--at Opal Lee Gill's home, 2403 Club Road

Even Further Ahead . . .

Stewardship Workshop

September 28--Important note to all stewardship work area members and any other interested church

leaders. All-day stewardship workshop will be held at St. John's UMC, Albuquerque, Thursday, September 28th. Please mark your calendars; further details to come.

Annual Church Conference

October 29--in the afternoon, more details will follow