



FIRST

VISIONS

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The Pastor Ponders



"MY TOP THREE PREACHER PEEVES"

At this point in my life I'm basically a positive person. Many years ago I used to major in negativity. I could easily and efficiently find fault with anything and anybody. But God gradually replaced that attitude, by His love, with joy and positivity. These days I pass out hundreds of "smiley stickers" daily -- because that's who God has made me to be.

Interestingly though, I've recently had more than one person to ask me this sort of question: Doesn't anything bother you? Don't you have some "pet peeves?" Be honest, preacher, what really bugs you?

I've thought it through at some length, and I have to admit - I do have some personal "preacher peeves." I share with you the "top three" thereof in hope that, this early in my relationship with many of you, you'll understand what they are and why they exist - and avoid them with me.

My number one "preacher peeve" is "Got a minute?" folks. These are people who breeze into my office, observe me busily at work on other tasks, and notwithstanding plunk themselves down for an hour or more - simply to "chew the fat." They don't have a compelling reason for talking with me; I'm simply a target of opportunity. There are dozens of "Got a minute?" folks in every church - and I've developed a simple method of dealing with them. When someone walks through my doorway with the "Got a minute?" query, I immediately say, "Sorry, no. I'm pretty busy right now. But

I'll be happy to schedule an hour to talk with you tomorrow." If they're seriously in need, they'll make the necessary appointment. Most of them simply walk away - because they really didn't have legitimate rationale for interrupting my work.

Preacher peeve number two is the folks who call me on the telephone on my regular weekly day off (it's Thursday) and begin the conversation with, "I know it's your day off, but..." Over the course of nearly three decades of ministry, I've fielded hundreds, maybe even thousands, of "I know it's your day off, but..." phone calls. And frankly, not 1% of such is a genuine emergency, e. g., a report of a member's serious illness. Most of them concern routine church administrative matters that could easily wait a day. The ones who demand that I immediately come down to the church to open a locked door during the lunch hour are especially bothersome. I've gotten to the point on this that I no longer answer the phone on my day off; I let the answering machine take all calls. If the message left indicates a genuine emergency, I'll return the call.

Number three is relatively new, as it's internet-related. It's the (well-meaning?) folks who "forward" anything and everything to their preacher. I easily average twenty-five "sappy" little stories forwarded to my e-mail inbox daily. I receive all the right-wing political pitches - and the left-wing ones as well, usually three or four times

Top Three con't. on P. 5

New Life in Christ

On Sunday, September 3rd, during the second service a young baby, Zachariah Angel Ortiz, received God's grace through baptism. Zachariah's family joyfully introduced their newest family member to the

congregation who welcomed Zachariah into the church family as well.

Praise be to God!

Welcome Zachariah!



A-B-C-D's

The A-B-C-D's of Christian Stewardship" - Pastor Ring will deliver four unique messages during October and November on Christian Stewardship -- as you've probably never imagined it. These messages are scheduled for four Sundays:

Oct. 8, 15, 29 and Nov. 19. Mark your calendar and plan to hear every one of them!



Revival

Revival is coming in November to First United Methodist Church!

- Revive: 1. to restore to consciousness or life
2. to restore from a depressed, inactive, or unused state
3. to renew in the mind or memory**

These definitions come from Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary printed in 1973. I doubt there has been much change in definition since then, but what does it mean to us? Write Jan Stong with what you think a revival will mean for this church. Her e-mail address is secretary@lafumc.org.

First, and foremost, the heart of ON THE ROCK Ministries is the local church and her ministry. God has called us to step along side your pastor and church for a short time (usually 5 or 6 days) and help in inspiring, renewing, and equipping members to be more effective in the outreach of your local congregation. We will come to your church for a week of refiring, renewing, and reviving.

In Him,



John Barrett

A SAMPLE SCHEDULE

The event for a local church begins on Saturday evening with a time for the leadership. The church-wide event would then begin on Sunday morning and go through at least Wednesday night. If you decide to go further, follow the outline for Wednesday for the remaining dates. This gives our evangelist more time to meet people individually. Our Youth/Music person does not travel with us to every event. When he is with us, he will meet with the youth each night at the same time the kids are meeting with the evangelist, i.e., 30 minutes prior to worship time each night.

DATE: November 4, Saturday evening

- Meet with the leadership of the congregation, including elected officials, staff, Bible Class and/or Sunday School teachers and all spouses. This should be a meal (whatever you choose). I will need about one hour during this time for a time of challenge to leaders. This is a time to discuss ways to enhance the outreach, mission, and ministry of your Church family.

DATE: November 5, Sunday

- Meet with pastor and some prayer partners for prayer time early
- Preach at regular morning praise and worship time(s)
- H.I.M. - Meet with children K-5/6 and coaches thirty minutes before evening praise & worship time. The kids will share in the evening worship times. All coaches should arrive TEN minutes before this time to receive the training which will be used during the week.
- Preach at evening praise & worship.
- Mission & Ministry Challenge with Jr. & Sr. Hi. youth for ten-fifteen minutes (maximum) following the close of prayer & ministry time. Light refreshments for everyone.

DATE: November 6, Monday

- Lead breakfast or noon study time if the church desires for the week. Visit in nursing homes, jails, civic clubs, etc., as speaker if desired.
- H.I.M. - Meet with children K-5/6 and coaches thirty minutes before worship time. They will share in the evening worship time.
- Preach evening praise & worship time.
- Mission & Ministry Challenge with women for ten minutes following the close of prayer & ministry time. Light refreshments.

DATE: November 7, Tuesday

- H.I.M. - meet with children K-5/6 and coaches thirty minutes before worship time. They will share in the evening worship time.
- Preach evening praise & worship time.
- Mission & Ministry Challenge with men for ten minutes following close of prayer & ministry time. Light refreshments for everyone.

DATE: November 8, Wednesday

- H.I.M. - meet with chil-

dren K-5/6 and coaches thirty minutes before worship time. They will share in the evening worship time.

- Preach evening praise & worship time.
- Fellowship time with everyone following close of prayer & ministry time. Make these refreshments real good ones.

A SAMPLE WORSHIP TIME

- Thirty minutes prior to beginning of worship, our evangelist will meet with all children K-5/6 grades each night. If our Youth/Music person is with us, he will meet with the Jr Hi and Sr Hi youth during this same time and at others times as may be scheduled.
- Welcome & opening prayer
- Praise time one (whatever your church is used to doing). Praise is extremely important.
- Don't cut it short. (Keep it up tempo.)
- H.I.M. kids should be allowed to tell their story in the first 15 minutes.
- Personal witness (5 minutes)
- Special music (if more than one singing special)
- Prayer of pastor/lay person
- Mission love offering (some special type music could be shared here)
- Praise time two
- Special music (if only one singing special, have it here)
- Message
- Invitation to Christ & His Church
- Music for prayer, ministry, and commitment
- Juice, coffee, and cook-
ie time

MYF Is Back!

First Meeting

MYF is back and in full swing. We completed our first meeting on Sunday, September 10, 2006 and the kids are all very excited about being back. At our first meeting we discussed our new lesson for the fall, started setting some goals for MYF and began planning our first fundraiser.

Study Materials

Doug Fields and Brett Eastman title our new study for the fall "Life Together". The "Life Together" series is the beginning of a relational journey, from being a member of a group to being a vital part of an unbelievable spiritual community, which will continue on from where our Friendship First series left off this past spring. This study is a series of 6-week short lessons, with six books to complete the lessons.

The first book "Starting to Go Where God Wants You to Be", is the foundational and get-acquainted volume of this exciting series. It lays everything out for our youth--how they will experience the rewarding excitement of God's will and building a community. Please feel free to stop in at one of our upcoming meetings to find out more about our new fall lesson.

Youth Goals

The youth who attended Sunday's meeting have set themselves a goal of earning \$1,000 to help purchase some new electronics equipment for the room and also to help fund any extra activities that we decide to do. The electronics the youth are looking into purchasing are a TV, a VCR/DVD player, a new CD players, some movies and cds and maybe even a game system. We are also looking into attending the Acquire the Fire retreat in Albuquerque in November, as well as, other one-day trips.

First Fundraiser

MYF Soup and Potato Bar has returned. We had such a wonderful turn-out last year that we decided to do it again. The first MYF Fundraiser will be Sunday, October 15 following 2nd service in the Fellowship Hall. MYF will prepare and provide all potatoes and potato fixing, but we would like to ask for some help with the soup and desserts. If you would like to donate a pot of your favorite soup or your favorite dessert, please let us know and as always thank you for your continued support of MYF.

Meeting Dates

Please mark your calendars with the following dates, all of

which are Sundays:

- September 24, 2006
- October 8, 2006
- October 22, 2006
- November 5, 2006
- November 19, 2006
- December 3, 2006
- December 17, 2006

Meetings are from 4-6 pm in the Senior High Room and there are always plenty of snacks. Also remember that all youth 6th grade and above are invited to attend all MYF meetings, help with any and all MYF Fundraisers, and attend all trips planned for MYF.

Acquire the Fire

Why is it that every time we turn around it seems like we are hearing news about MySpace growing exponentially...one million new members every month? Or see ratings for popular shows like American Idol skyrocketing beyond everyone's expectations or beliefs? Why are teenagers more willing to give their friends their MySpace address, yet less willing to tell their friends about the saving love of Jesus Christ? Why are millions of them willing to text in their vote for their favorite idol yet unwilling to take a stand for what is right? Why do we never hear headlines like this, "Church youth groups growing all over the country," or "Hundreds pack our local church to hear youth leader speak," or even "Teen shares message of God's love with friends, movement starts and spreads to thousands"?

Our teenagers need to be as excited to tell their friends about Jesus Christ as they are about MySpace. They need to talk about Him more than they talk about their favorite idol. They need to be the influencers of culture rather than influenced by culture.

Our youth groups need to be growing at a pace that makes the world's head spin, especially right here at home in Los Alamos. We are looking to take a group of youth to an event entitled: **Acquire the Fire: Branded By God**. This weekend event is being held in Albuquerque November 17-18, 2006. This year's event is all about making our teens into real warriors. It is about having their lives radically impacted by God's love so they have something so exciting that they want to tell their friends about it, and

MYF con't. on P. 5

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 September 10th was 184.

Our Giving

Figures through September 10-Ministry budget for 2006 \$475,000
 Ministry gifts needed each week 9,134
 Ministry gifts needed to date 337,958
 Ministry gifts received to date 332,747

Shortage 5,211

Special gifts received to date for ministries outside our budget 15,433

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

MYF con't. from P. 4

then giving them an exciting way to do it. This year's speakers are Ron Luce and Mike Guzzardo. The bands are Pillar, KJ52, and The Autumn Ashley Band.

Registration for this event will be Sunday, September 24, 2006 and will end on October 15, 2006 so we can

make sure we get good seats and make all hotel reservations. So if you are an interested youth or the interested parent of a youth you think would enjoy this event, please watch for the registration booth. If you have questions, please talk with an MYF Sponsor or visit www.battlecry.com for more information.

First United Methodist Church called to:

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

The next edition of Visions will be dated October 6.
 The deadline for articles is Friday, September 29.

715 Diamond Drive
 Los Alamos, NM 87544
 Phone: 505-662-6277
 Fax: 505-663-0089
 E-mail: lafumc@lafumc.org
 Website: www.lafumc.org
 Pastor ~ Dr. Dave Ring
 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
 4 pm MYF 1st & 3rd Sunday
Wednesday Activity
 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 would like to give a special thank you to everyone who helped make the visit of the Awad missionaries here last week a success. Thank you especially to Kathy Siebe, Mary Keller, Geniece Courtright, Opal Lee Gill, Terri Armstrong, and Denny Armstrong.

Our Children's Sermons and

Children's Church during second service on Sunday mornings have been extremely meaningful. Thank you to everyone involved in making Sunday morning church services significant to our children. Thank you especially to Mada Jones who has kept the program an organized and functioning part of our church.

Thank you also to Joyce Rybarcyk, Aaron Goldman, Jerry Beery, Susan Nava, Carol Mead and Dr. Dave Ring who have presented Children's Sermons recently.

Thank you to Geniece Courtright and Vicki Ricketts for their behind the scenes work on the Children's Sunday School set up for this fall season.

Upcoming Events Highlights

Sermon Titles

September 24: This sermon will be given by Lay Minister candidate Susan Nava Trumblee.

October 1: World Communion Sunday

October 8: Stewardship Emphasis #1 "The A-B-C-D's of Christian Stewardship--'A' is for Attitude"

October 15: Stewardship Emphasis #1 "The A-B-C-D's of Christian Stewardship--'B' is for Blessings"

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

MYF Youth Group

September 24, 4 pm in the Senior High Room

Missions/Outreach

October 25, 6:30 pm rescheduled to this date

Lay Leadership

October 25, 7 pm in the Library

Martha Circle

September 26, 1:15 pm at the home of Peggy Goldman

Ark Board

September 26, 5:45 pm in the Mid-High Room

Worship Committee

September 27, 6 pm in the Library

Stewardship Workshop

September 28, all day at St. John's UMC, Albuquerque

Methodist Men

September 29, 6:30 am breakfast meeting when Charles Mader will present "The Shroud and the

Sudarium" about how the studies of the Sudarium support the validity of the shroud and tell us more about the crucifixion.

Church Council

October 1, 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Emmaus Community

October 2, 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall for potluck dinner, 7 pm in the Friendship Center for a gathering

Sister to Sister

October 4, 12 noon in the Friendship Center

Trustees

October 3, 6:30 pm in the Library

The Way

October 7, 7 am in the Friendship Center for breakfast, 7:45--go out in service to the community

LAF Crafts

October 8, 4 pm in the Friendship Center



Even Further Ahead . . .

MYF Potato Bar Lunch

October 15--Fundraiser for the Methodist Youth Fellowship. The Youth will cook lunch for everyone after second service in the Fellowship Hall.

Church Council

October 15--7 pm in the Friendship Center

Set Clocks Back

October 29--just after midnight on Saturday night

Annual Church Conference

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

Revival Begins

November 5--Children's

Time at 6:30 pm in the Friendship Center; Revival at 7 pm in the Sanctuary. The Revival continues Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings at the same times.

Quito Mission

November 9th through the 16th

Top Three con't. from P. 1

each. Especially bothersome are the "Christian chain letter" messages with the veiled threats: "If you don't forward this to eight of your friends within the next five minutes then you obviously hate your friends, your country, and God - and you deserve to go to hell." I probably waste half-an-hour daily hitting the "delete" key on the literally hundreds of "for-

wards" I receive. If you're one of those who forwards everything you read on the internet to your preacher, please consider saving yourself the trouble. If you want me to read something that you've personally written I'll gladly do so. But I routinely delete "forwards," even from friends and church members.

Well, there you have them. My top three preacher peeves.

And now that I've gotten those off my chest, it's time to pass out some more smiley stickers. I'm much more comfortable doing that. Praise the Lord!

Dave Ring