



FIRST

VISIONS

an edition of the United Methodist Reporter

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The Pastor Ponders



"My First 'State of the Church' Report to You"

Annually at Charge Conference, the pastor of a United Methodist Church is asked to report the "State of the Church" to the leadership of the congregation. The following is the report I submitted to the Charge Conference of Los Alamos First United Methodist Church on Sunday afternoon, October 29, 2006.

Having been on scene as your appointed pastor since June 13th, just a trifle more than four months as I write, I am still very much in the "courtship" phase of my ministry at Los Alamos First United Methodist Church. Assuming this is a more-or-less "normal" medium-large church, I will actually "become" your pastor - in reality -- about a year from now. It takes roughly a year and a half for a typical congregation to actually "own" a new pastor.

I came to Los Alamos primarily on the strength of the "five expectations" of a pastor which your Staff-Parish Relations Committee articulated, early in 2006, to the Bishop and Cabinet of the New Mexico Conference of the United Methodist Church. Those five components are as follows: "1. Strong personality with a thick skin, 2. Good preaching, 3. Work in partnership with laity, 4. Support Emmaus and Kairos, (and) 5. A heart for missions and community outreach." As I contemplated these as a "pastoral profile," I sensed a potential "fit" between the gifts and graces with which our Lord has endowed me and those for which your leadership was asking. Those are the five areas in which I plan to "major" over the next several years as your pastor; indeed, I am already involved in significant ways in all of them. (Example: The

very first day I was in Los Alamos, Alice Carter asked me to serve as "Spiritual Director" for the Cottonwood Emmaus Community.)

In order to do any of those five items well, however, there is an obvious presupposition: I have to know the people. More than two decades of prior pastoral experience have taught me that I will never be able to do that merely by leading worship on Sunday mornings and shaking people's hands in a long line as they leave. So I am committed, this first year among you, to visit, visit, visit with the precious people of this church. Getting to know you - one by one, two by two, household by household - over lunch, in your home, in my office, wherever and whenever works best for you - really is priority one for me at present. Thus far, I've experienced almost 100 such personal visits. And I've left messages of various kinds for more than 100 more of our members. I'll continue to pursue this until I'm satisfied that I've made a good faith effort to spend personal time with every resident member of LA-FUMC. Years from now, if one of our long-term members says, "No pastor has ever visited me," you'll be able to respond, "Well, it isn't because they didn't try."

My overall assessment of the "state of our church" at present is "OK, but needs improvement." Over the coming years, I hope to assist in that improvement - to the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ and the blessing of His people.

Dave Ring

REFRESHING

RENEWING

REJUVENATING

FALL 2006 REVIVAL

LOS ALAMOS FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

NOVEMBER 5-8, 2006

RECHARGING

REFILLING

REVITALIZING

REVIVAL! First UM Church, Los Alamos, is planning an exciting Fall 2006 Revival Nov. 5th-8th. The Rev. John Barrett will be our featured speaker for this life-changing series of events. John's theme is "Take Your Hand off the Cup" (and allow God to fill you!) An outline of the planned schedule is as follows:

- Nov. 4th, 6 PM - Pre-revival church leaders' potluck dinner and challenge from John
- Nov. 5th, Sunday morning 8 AM and 10:30 AM - John will preach
Sunday morning 9:15 AM - John will meet with the Sunday School children (grades K-6)
Sunday evening 6:30 PM - John will meet with children in grades K-6 in a Bible-learning experience called "B-L-T's"
7 PM - Revival praise and worship; John will preach
8:30 PM - Light refreshments served in Friendship Center
- Nov. 6th, Monday morning 6:30 AM - United Methodist Men will host a churchwide breakfast; John will speak
Monday evening 6:30 PM - John will meet with children in grades K-6 - "B-L-T's"
7 PM - Revival praise and worship; John will preach
8:30 PM - Light refreshments served in Friendship Center
- Nov. 7th, Tuesday Noon - United Methodist Women will host a churchwide luncheon; John will speak
Tuesday evening 6:30 PM - John will meet with children in grades K-6 - "B-L-T's"
7 PM - Revival praise and worship; John will preach
8:30 PM - Light refreshments served in Friendship Center
- Nov. 8th, Wednesday evening 6:30 PM - John will meet with children in grades K-6 - "B-L-T's"
7 PM - Revival praise and worship; John will preach; concluding with Holy Communion
8:30 PM - Light refreshments served in Friendship Center

Prayer Guide for Revival

Revival is an important activity in our church life, one that calls us to make the commitment to pray for its success and fruition. Please use the following guide to help you focus your prayers on our Revival.

Our revival begins this weekend. Please continue to pray in all the areas we have been praying. "Let me be Your servant, under Your command. I will no longer be my own. I will give up myself to Your will in all things. Lord, make me what You will. I put myself fully into Your hands: put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be employed for You, or laid aside for You. Let me be full; let me be empty. Let me have all things; let me have nothing. I freely and with a willing heart give all to Your pleasure and disposal."

John Wesley

Pray for Yourself . . .

Spiritual armor for the battle: Ephesians 6:11-18
Awareness of Satan's schemes: II Corinthians 2:11
Protection from the evil one: John 17:15
A return to our first Love: Revelation 2:4
Desire to grow in maturity: I Peter 2:2
Pray life with persistence: Luke 18:6-7
Not be led into temptation: Matthew 6:13

Pray for the Family . . .

Marital fidelity: Proverbs 5:18-20
End to divorce and broken homes: Malachi 2:15-16
Love to abound in families: I Corinthians 13:4-13
Teach youth to remember God: Ecclesiastes 12:1
Unity in the family: Psalm 133:1
Bible study in every family: Deuteronomy 6:7
Restore families to God's plan: Colossians 3:18-21

Pray for the Church . . .

To be a house of prayer: Matthew 21:1-13
To be in unity: Ephesians 4:3-6
For reconciliation and forgiveness: Matthew 5:23-24
To raise up tithers: Malachi 3:8-10
To see backsliders reformed: Jeremiah 2:13-19
An end to gossip: Proverbs 18:8
To have a true missionary spirit: Acts 13:1-3

Pray for Pastors/Lay Leaders . . .

They will walk with God: Genesis 6:9
To be devoted to study and prayer: Acts 6:4
To have a true vision from God: Habakkuk 2:2-4
To equip the saints for ministry: Ephesians 4:11-12
To follow God's heart and mind: I Samuel 2:35
To be obedient to God: Acts 5:29 & 40-42
To teach "teachable men": II Timothy 2:1-2

Pray for the Lost that They . . .

would be convicted of their sin: John 16:8-11
would be opened to truth: II Corinthians 4:4
Laborers would be sent to them: Matthew 9:38
Hearts softened to God's Word: Hebrews 3:12-13
would be protected from the enemy: John 17:15
would not rest until they find Christ: John 14:27
God would draw them to Himself: John 6:44

Pray Additional Requests . . .

For wisdom for government leaders: I Kings 3:12
For honesty in the business world: Leviticus 19:13
For incorruptible leaders: Daniel 6:4
For true justice in our courts: Deuteronomy 16:18-20
New reverence for the Sabbath: Isaiah 58:13-14
Obedience to God's commands: Exodus 20:1-17



Caution: Use of this guide will be harmful to Satan's Kingdom.

Pray the prayer of John Wesley for yourself each day. Pray each day in particular for the daily theme listed through the six weeks period. Add all that God lays on your heart. This is a STARTING point. This prayer guide comes from:

ON THE ROCK Ministries
John M Barrett - General Evangelist

Joyfully Sing

by Sarah Kelly

The Chancel Choir will be presenting a Christmas Cantata on Sunday, December 10th at the 10:30 am Worship Service. The cantata, a SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS, is arranged by John Leavitt and will be accompanied by a chamber orchestra.

This is a centuries old tradition of presenting the Christmas story in which scripture from the Old and New

Testament is read and is interspersed with Christmas carols. There are ten scripture readings and ten carols.

Rehearsals have already begun, but it isn't too late for singers to join the Chancel Choir, if they would like to participate in this presentation. We rehearse on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. For further information, please call Sarah Kelly at 662-4516.

Service of Lessons and Carols

arranged by John Leavitt

December 10, 2006

10:30 am

performed by

FUMC Chancel Choir
and Chamber Orchestra

Join the Chancel Choir for rehearsals on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm

Calling all children and youth! We need you for our Christmas Pageant!

There are many opportunities for spoken parts and solos, as well as non-speaking parts for all ages.

Music rehearsals (beginning November 12th) will be Sunday mornings during Children's Church time, and Wednesday evenings from 5:30 to 6:30 pm as needed. Other times will be required for drama/line rehearsal.

Take a look at the brochures in the Kiosk and at the back of the church for more information. Forms are available in the brochures. If you would like to participate, please fill out a form and turn it into the church office.

The full cast rehearsals will take place on Sunday afternoon, December 10th (after a quick lunch provided by the church) and Saturday, December 16th from 9 am to 1:30 pm (also with food provided).

We will perform
Sunday, December 17th
10:30 Service

Production team: Jan Stong, Valerie Collins, Robyn Collom, Sarah Kelly, and others to be named--let us know if you can help.

Christmas
in Reverse

What does SPRC stand for, anyway?

MEET YOUR SPRC

What is the SPRC?

The SPRC is the Staff Parish Relations Committee. The SPRC performs the basic functions of a Human Resources department, to include assuming responsibility for some legal and risk management issues.

What is the SPRC's Mission?

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) works with the Pastor, the Lay Leadership, the Church Staff and the members of the congregation to support the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ.

Who serves on the SPRC?

The SPRC is comprised of nine church members. Each member serves a three year term. Consequently, in any calendar year three are serving in their first year, three are serving in their second year and three are serving in their third year.

CORE MEMBERS (2006):

Bill Sole
Carla Breiner
Geniece Courtright
Mada Jones
Don Enemark
Linda Leschnitzer
Carrie Shuman
John Blackadar

CORE MEMBERS (2007):

Bill Sole
Carla Breiner
Don Enemark
Linda Leschnitzer
Carrie Shuman
Maurice Sheppard
John Blackadar
Rod Douglass
Kim Granzow

Other members of the SPRC are assigned due to their other church responsibilities. These include the Lay Leader (Nels Hoffman) and the Lay member to Annual Conference (Louise Mendius).

What are the SPRC's responsibilities?

1. Explain the nature and function of ministry to the staff and congregation.
2. Confer with the congregation and the pastor/staff about

ministry direction.

3. The SPRC conducts an annual Assessment of Clergy and Congregation for input to the District Superintendent.

4. Confer and consult with the district superintendent.

5. Support continuing education for all staff.

6. Develop, maintain and administer the church Personnel Policies. The SPRC oversees the hiring of full-time staff employees (Secretary, Choir Director, Organist and Nursery Staff).

7. Develop, maintain and oversee the implementation of the Child/Youth Protection Program. The SPRC oversees the administration of the background checks for those adults working with children and youth of the church.

8. The SPRC oversees pastor and staff salaries, as well as recommends annual salary increases.

What are the SPRC's goals?

1. Short-term SPRC ministry goals

a. Prepare Job Descriptions for employees on staff.

b. Establish institutional policy on Child/Youth Protection and background checks.

c. Prepare Job Description for Discipleship Director position.

d. Hire a Discipleship Director.

e. Revise, update and expand the Personnel Policy.

f. Complete the Conference Survey forms and submit them to the District Superintendent.

2. Long-term SPRC ministry goals

a. To fulfill the mission of the SPRC with care and compassion while focusing on the Vision of our Church: Seek God, Share Christ's Word, Serve His World

b. Work closely with: Pastor, all ordained leaders, lay staff, congrega-

tion (individually and corporately), the District Superintendent, the United Methodist New Mexico Conference and general church staff.

c. Establish long-range goals for the SPRC, as appropriate.

d. Establish yearly goals/objectives for the SPRC.

e. Review annually: SPRC Mission, Responsibilities, Goals / Objectives.

f. Evaluate the status of all areas of SPRC responsibility; utilize this evaluation to develop an action plan for fulfilling goals and making improvements. ("The way things are" vs. "the way we want things to be.") Develop realistic goals/objectives which are specific, measurable and attainable.

g. Perform the basic functions of a Human Resources department, to include assuming responsibility for some legal and risk management issues.

Some interesting work currently being performed by the SPRC:

Preparation of a job description for a Discipleship Coordinator. The SPRC has received approval to pursue the hiring of the Discipleship Coordinator.

Miscellaneous Factoids:

The SPRC provides a person to serve as the Nursery Coordinator. The SPRC also provides a representative to the Ark (Mada Jones) and has a representative to the Finance Committee (Louise Mendius). Additionally, an SPRC member serves on the Church Council Joint Team (Mada Jones). The Church Council Joint Team is composed of representatives from the SPRC, the Ark and the Finance Committee.

Crop Walk Nears

by Aaron Goldman

Church World Service is a cooperative ministry of 36 Protestant, Orthodox, and Anglican denominations working to eradicate hunger and poverty--providing sustainable self-help and development, disaster relief (for example CWS helped in the Los Alamos Fire in 2000), and refugee assistance in some 80 countries. CWS is supported by over 3000 CROP walks held throughout the USA including a 2.57 mile walk in Los Alamos on Sunday, November 19 at 2 pm at the Sheriff's Posse Shack.

FUMC members are invited to participate in any one or all of three ways. You may sign up

to walk by either contacting the church secretary or Aaron Goldman, local CROP Director, or filling out a form available at the Church entryway during Sunday Services. You can contribute money to your favorite walker. So far we have eight signed up to walk including Rev. David Ring. Or you may pray for the walkers and for Church World Service.

Three-fourths of the collection will go to CWS and the remainder will go to LA Cares, a local organization that provides food, dental care, and other help to needy Los Alamos families.

If you have questions, please contact Aaron at 662-5959.

Scholarship Opportunity

News Release:

The McMurry University Honors Program offers a number of full-tuition scholarships to outstanding high school seniors. Applicants must be admitted to McMurry by February 1, 2007, and com-

plete an honors application by that date. For more information, please contact Dr. Philip LeMasters, Director of the Honors Program, at plemasters@mcm.edu <mailto:plemasters@mcm.edu> or (325) 793-3898.

Congo Calendars

Hopefully most of you are aware that our conference has a covenant relationship with the South Congo Conference of The United Methodist Church. The conference had one VIM Team, which included Bishop Whitfield, go the mission station at Mulungwishi and another team will go there in the Spring of '07. In addition, four of the personnel at the Mulungwishi station and seminary itinerated in our conference a year ago.

Here is another way you can support our brothers and sisters at Mulungwishi. Dr. David and Lori Persons, missionaries at the station have developed a 2007 wall or desk calendar that pictures many of the children, youth and adults in the village of Mulungwishi. These calendars would be excellent Christmas gifts, practical for

your office or home study, gifts for your local Mission Chair or Committee, etc. Rev. Terry Anderson has 48 of these calendars left that he would like to sell by Thanksgiving. There is not a set price, a \$10 donation is suggested, but whatever you can afford will work. Terry will ship the calendar(s) to you with a money back guarantee if you are not satisfied. You can write Terry at andy0103@msn.com; or 12008 Tivoli NE, Albuquerque, NM 87111, or call 505-463-2662. Thanks for your consideration of this request.

If you choose to help out in donations for the Congo Calendars...please make checks out to New Mexico Annual Conference with the notation 'Congo Calendars'.

Celebrating Heaven

by Opal Lee Gill

The 34th conference-wide annual meeting of United Methodist Women convened at St. John's Church in Albuquerque October 20 - 21. Six women from Los Alamos attended: Charlotte McQuillan, Marilyn Peek, Harriett Zickert, Peggy Goldman, Barb Trautlein, and Opal Lee Gill.

The theme for the event was Celebrating Heaven, a Place at the Table. We had a worship-communion service led by Rev. David Edwards of St. John's.

New Mexico U.M.W. makes an annual pledge to missions of \$105,000. Our unit was hon-

ored for participation in the reading program and two mission studies, Children of the Bible, and the geographical study, India and Pakistan. We were a 5-star unit for our financial gifts to mission and a silver Mission Today unit for the range of service and outreach in our programming.

The cost of running the mission outreach of the United Methodist Church is \$34.88 per minute. Through extra-mile giving, the conference burned the mission candle symbolizing our contributions for 91 extra minutes of mission support.

Women clergy were honored

on the 50th anniversary of their being ordained as ministers in full connection. There were 30 first-time attendees. At the conference banquet, Los Alamos shared duties for table decorations with Trinity and St. Andrews churches in Albuquerque. We enjoyed the wonderful dinner prepared by the St. John's chef, the music of the St. John's bluegrass band, and the message from Marissa Villarreal, the Secretary of Mission Education for United Methodist Women who urged us always to be lifting "the least of these" before God and in their place on this earth.

Letter from Jim Hawk

10-23-06

David:

Please express my deep appreciation to your board and congregation for full payment of "Shared Ministry" asking for 2006.

First Los Alamos joins four other churches in the district of setting a wonderful example for others.

Thank you so much.

May God continue to bless 1st Church and your ministry.

Jim Hawk

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 during the month of October averaged 160 for both services combined.

Our Giving

Figures through October 22--
Ministry budget for 2006 \$475,000
Ministry gifts needed each week 9,134
Ministry gifts needed to date 392,762
Ministry gifts received to date 373,402
Short of our budget by 19,360
Special gifts received to date for ministries outside our budget 35,269

Special November Days

Birthdays:

Louise Mendius 11/04
Jeanie Standley 11/11
Miriam Balog 11/12
Val Hundley 11/12
Armond Standley 11/12
Irene Bubernak 11/14
Harriet Zickert 11/17
Margaret Gibson 11/22
Mada Jones 11/25
Bob Kelly 11/26

Anniversaries:

November 4
Walt & Martha Lou Ellis
November 23
Ron & Mada Jones
November 24
Stanley & Roberta Yasuda
November 25
Court & Mary Courtright
November 26
Dick & Judy Opsahl
November 27
Larry & Bobi Bryant



Jim Hawk visits with Louise Mendius and Dr. Ring as they prepare for the Charge Conference meeting on Sunday, October 29th.

First United Methodist Church
called to:

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

The next edition of Visions will be dated November 17.
The deadline for articles is Monday, November 6.

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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

Wednesday Activities
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

Accolades go out to Don Siebe, David Siebe, James Barefield, and Gene Diedrich for re-striping the entire church parking lot on Saturday, October 28th. The lot looks great. Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who put in time and effort to complete this year's Annual Charge Conference. Thank you to everyone who stepped forward to take on a leadership role in the next year

and especially to those who served in leadership roles in 2006. Your efforts keep our church on the right track and enable us to do God's work.

Upcoming Events Highlights

Sermon Titles

November 5: Revival Sunday/All Saints' Day
The Rev. John Barrett will preach (Holy Communion will not be observed.) "The Fullness of God" Ephesians 3:14-21

November 12: Tom Trautlein, certified lay speaker, will give the sermon

November 19: "D Is for Donation" Luke 6:20-38

This sermon will be presented by Dr. Dave Ring, pastor at LAFUMC.

The Way

November 4, 7 am in the Friendship Center for breakfast, 7:45--go out in service to the community

Revival Pre-meeting

November 4, 6 pm in the Friendship Center; pot-luck dinner

MF Youth Group

November 5, 4 pm in the Senior High Room

Revival Begins

November 5-8, see Revival article on Page 1 for more information about the events on each day

Quito Mission

November 9th through the 16th

Offices Closed

November 10 for Veterans' Day

LAF Crafts

November 12, 4 pm in the Friendship Center

Emmaus Community

November 13, 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall and Friendship Center

Trustees

November 14, 6 pm in the Library

SPRC

November 14, 7:30 pm in the Asbury Room

Youth Mentoring

November 15, 6:30 pm in the Library

Parents' Night Out

November 17, 5:30 pm in the nursery, Friendship Center, and Mid-High room

Crop Walk

November 19, 2 pm in the Friendship Center

MF Youth Group

November 19, 4 pm in the Senior High Room

Church Council

November 19, at 7 pm in the Friendship Center



Even Further Ahead . . .

Christmas Drama Practice

Sundays during Children's Church in the Friendship Center

CAC

November 20, 5:30 pm in the Friendship Center

LACares

November 20, 6:30 am in

the Library

Outreach/Missions

November 20, 6:30 am in the Friendship Center

Christmas Cantata

December 10, 10:30 am in Sanctuary

Full Cast Rehearsal

December 10, at 12 noon in

the Sanctuary

Full Cast Rehearsal

December 16, at 9 am in the Sanctuary

Christmas Drama Presented

December 17, at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary

Confirmed

October 29, 2006

Zachary Randolph Parks
Kyle Logan Parks
Tyler Jacob Westley

Welcome fellow members to the First United Methodist Church