



FIRST

VISIONS

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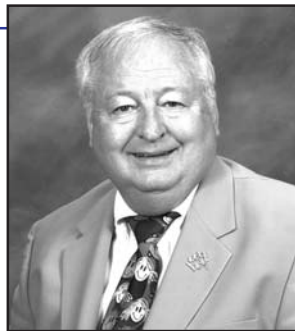
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The Pastor Ponders



"AS WE ENTER ADVENT, ARE WE IN REVIVAL?"

Many of the precious people of Los Alamos First United Methodist Church faithfully prayed and prepared for our 2006 Fall Revival Week. In due course it arrived, Nov. 4th - 8th. Our evangelist, the Rev. John Barrett, did a thoroughly magnificent job of presenting to us, some eight times over, messages on the theme, "Take Your Hand off the Cup and Allow God to Fill You".

Over my nearly three decades as a pastor, I've hosted quite a few evangelists and experienced an equal number of "revival weeks" in the local churches I've served. I've also personally preached a number of revival weeks in other churches which have invited me. Distinguished from all those, there was a unique element about this fall's revival week at LA-FUMC, a distinction which caught my attention: The attendance grew with each passing evening. Sunday night's attendance was least, Monday's was slightly larger, Tuesday's larger still, and Wednesday's the largest of all. Frankly, that's not the attendance pattern I've seen in other local church "revival weeks." Typically attendance is highest on Sunday night, then tapers off gradually toward the final night. But ours went the opposite direction. More people came to listen as the week progressed.

What does this mean? Could it possibly mean that, although our 2006 Fall Revival Week is now history, LA-FUMC really is experiencing revival? If we're really in revival, how will we recognize it?

I can't claim to be an expert as to what constitutes genuine revival, but there are some

interesting "signs" around here of late which could be indicators that revival is happening. One strong indicator of revival is when God's people are pre-occupied with prayer. Alice Carter, this church's prayer advocate, had to re-print the prayer cards for this church's VIM team to Ecuador a couple of weeks ago - because the entire first printing was taken by members covenanting to pray for those on the mission team. Then, most of the second printing was likewise taken. Obviously, the people of LA-FUMC are taking prayer more seriously. Could this be a sign of revival?

Another indicator of revival is when God's people begin to more diligently study His Holy Word. The past several weeks our Sunday School attendance has been "up" quite significantly. Our adult weekday Bible studies, especially the "God and Science" class taught by Nels Hoffman, are packed out. The people of LA-FUMC are taking Bible study more seriously. Could this be another sign of revival?

Attendance at worship, financial support for missions, participation in youth fellowship - these are three additional "indicators" which are currently pointing "up." I could go on, but the point is made. Could LA-FUMC be in the midst of a genuine revival?

The Christian season of Advent is almost here. "Advent" means "coming." Come, Lord Jesus! Come - revive your Church!

Dave Ring

SPECIAL EVENTS OF THE ADVENT SEASON AT LA-FUMC



MARK YOUR CALENDARS
AND TAKE PART IN AS
MANY AS POSSIBLE!



SUNDAY, DEC. 3RD

- 12:30 pm United Methodist Women's Holiday Salad Lunch at Gill Home, 2403 Club Rd.
- 6:00 pm "Beginning of Advent" Worship Celebration followed by Soup Dinner

FRIDAY, DEC. 8TH

- 6:30 am United Methodist Men's Breakfast

SUNDAY, DEC. 10TH

- 10:30 am Chancel Choir Christmas Cantata

SUNDAY, DEC. 17TH

- 10:30 am Intergenerational Christmas Drama "Christmas in Reverse"
- 11:30 am December Birthday Celebration and Snack Potluck Lunch
- 2:00 pm Parsonage Open House at the Ring Home, 226 Venado St.
- 4:45 pm Community Caroling To Nursing Homes and Shut-ins

TUESDAY, DEC. 19TH

- 5:00 pm ARK Children's Christmas Program
- 7:00 pm Healing Worship

SUNDAY, DEC. 24TH

- 9:00 am Contemporary Worship (NOTE SPECIAL TIME)
- 10:30 am Traditional Worship
- 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship (less formal)
- 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion

Decorate the tree with hats, boots and mittens!

Adults for Navajo Church in Pinedale

Kids for Women's Shelter in Española

for Christmas Boxes

Mission a Success

Team Members



Mel Lora, Fran Lora, Jim Little, Dave Ring, Dennis Trumblee (back), John Stong (forward), Jan Stong, Susan Nava, Sue Maier, and Aaron Goldman prepare to leave from the Albuquerque airport for Quito, Ecuador on November 9th.

by Jan Stong

I grew up in a church where missionary work was a good thing, but it wasn't something you did. When I started attending church at First United Methodist Church in Los Alamos, NM, I began to discover another world. I found a place where my Christianity grew into more than just something that I believed in. I found myself wanting to commit in a way I had never done before.

Standing in front of a group of people holds little difficulty for me. Telling people what God has done in my life, how He's seen me through times of trial is a joy filled experience. At least it is when I speak the language. Sitting down with an eighty-year-old woman who has so much to share with me and with whom I understand virtually nothing, is another thing entirely.

I used my few words well. Solo Englese (may not even be Spanish--Spangish?); Beunos Dias; Gracias; no comprende. (Please forgive my spelling--the only thing worse than my Spanish is my spelling of Spanish.) I looked into this genteel lady's eyes and communicated. She and I shared love for one another and our Lord. I caught a word now and then. Jesus was predominant in her vocabulary (hazus not jesus).

That communication and the fact that I cared enough to sit with her and listen was more

important than standing in front of this woman and pronouncing a sermon in perfect Spanish. The gift God gave me to give to these gracious people and to receive from them was not the gift of tongues but the gift of love.

The question is asked: "Does it make good sense to spend money to go down to South America to do missions when there are needy at home in our own state who could use help. Jesus said that the poor are always with us. We help who we can and who we are called to serve. For some that service may be to those in our own backyard with programs such as Christmas boxes, Habitat for Humanity, and Campbell soup labels for McCurdy School. Others are called to give money or goods to causes both here and abroad. Still others are called to venture out onto foreign soil to aid people we have difficulty communicating with, but who understand the love we show in our presence and hard work. They see God's care through our caring enough to come and spend time working with them.

Our presence at Hogar Batania in Quito, Ecuador

inspired one group of young adults to come and work on the open garden area at Hogar with us. Together we worked up the soil, split up plants, and replanted them. They caught our enthusiasm and made it theirs. They are planning on returning on their own to do more with and for the residents here.

I see God's hand in the work of our missionaries who work full time in mission fields, in the hands of those who go out on Volunteers in Missions (VIM), in the acts of kindness in our own communities, and in the support of the congregations at home both in prayer and monetary gifts.

Thank you for enabling me and my mission team to take this opportunity to step outside ourselves and our own needs. You gave us the chance to reach out to another people living in a very different world from ours--to touch them with the love of Christ in service, to their needs, to care, and to share the love of Christ.



(Above) The whole community of Hogar Betania came out to welcome the Quito Mission Team as they arrived on Friday morning.



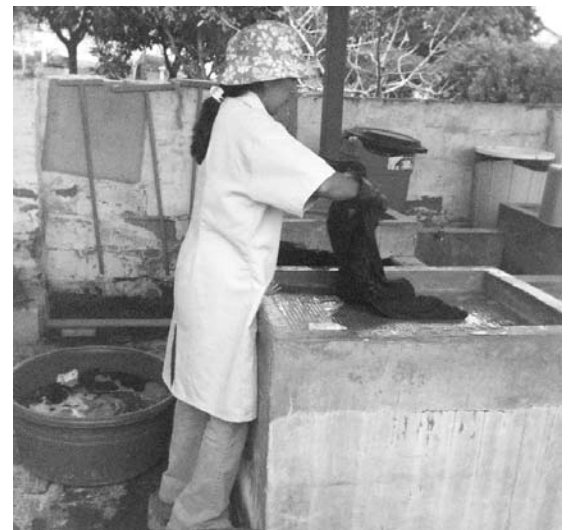
(Right) Mel Lora sings "How Great Thou Art" at church on Sunday morning.

(Below) The staff and Board of Directors for Hogar Betania hand out zipper necklaces with keys attached to the residents. The keys go with the new door knobs installed by our mission team. These new knobs will allow easy access and privacy. Many of the old locks did not allow residents to leave a room without assistance.



(Above) Mel Lora and Dennis Trumblee install a sprinkling system for the garden area newly renovated by the Lutheran Young Adults group and our mission team.

(Below) Because the washing machines are broken, all the sheets, blankets, and clothing have to be washed by hand. Thanks to the efforts of the people of LAFUMC and the Los Alamos community, Hogar Betania will be receiving a new commercial washing machine and will be able to keep up with the laundry needs.



Special December Days

Birthdays:

Kelly White 12/03
Bill Mead 12/06
Nancee Beebe 12/08
Zeke Zumbro 12/10
Chelsea Pearson 12/13
Rod Douglass 12/14
Hazel DeVries 12/17
Joey Grindstaff 12/25
Maurice Sheppard 12/25

Lucy Malone 12/26
Loui Janecky 12/27

Anniversaries:

December 19
Brent & Robin Collom
December 20
David & Loui Janecky
December 28
Harold & Peggy Kruse

PNO at Christmas Time

Don't forget about Parents Night Out (PNO), a FUMC Outreach ministry that focuses on our families with young children. Parents Night Out offers free child care at the church every 3rd FRIDAY of the month from 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm on a drop in basis. We offer three (3) age groups Infant - 3 years, 4 - 6 years, and 7 - 10+ years. There will be one adult per age group.

So how does it work? Decide where you want to shop or what movie you'd like 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.

Book of Romans Sunday School Class

The truth of Paul's letter is just as relevant today as the day it was written. Its central message of justification by faith is needed just as much and its impact has not faded over the generations. Each week's lesson digs deeply into this treasure trove of spiritual jewels. As you walk verse by verse through its chapters and wealth, you will learn how God's plan of salvation is open for every corner of the

globe. No matter where you are in your Christian walk, you will receive new insights into age-old foundational doctrines regarding sin, repentance, justification and just how all-encompassing God's grace truly is. Through this study you will see how the ageless message of Romans should be lived out today. Join the Following God Sunday School class for an exciting study.

Hygiene Kits for incarcerated women

If you would like to bless an incarcerated woman or women this Christmas, consider supplying materials for hygiene kits.

The 5 items that will be included are: toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, hand soap OR

body wash, hand lotion OR body lotion.

Please leave the items in the KAIROS box in the narthex by December 8th. The ladies will be so grateful. God Bless!

First United Methodist Church
called to:

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

The next edition of Visions will be dated December 15.
The deadline for articles is Friday, December 8.

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First Visions Editor ~ Jan Stong

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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

All the members of the Quito Mission Team would like to thank all of you who kept them in your prayers during the week long mission to Ecuador during the middle of this month. Especially thanks to Alice Carter who organized the praying

campaign. Thanks also for the gifts which enabled them to participate in this mission.

Kudos to the Christmas Decorations Committee who worked hard to supply us with a lovely display for our Christmas season celebration:

Jana Beery, Tom Beery, Kyle Beery, Jerry Beery, Geniece Courtright, Mada Jones, Ron Jones, Susan Hodgson, Mark Hodgson, Doris Jackson, Darryl Jackson Herald Kruse, Peggy Kruse, Erlene Seay, Glenn Seay, and Tyrone Clemons.

Upcoming Events Highlights

Sermon Titles

December 3: No Communion, Sermon: "What in the World is Advent?", Galatians 3:23-4:7

December 10: Lessons and Carols, second service

December 17: Christmas in Reverse Drama, second service

December 24: Christmas Eve Services--

9 am, First Service--**NOTE**

TIME CHANGE

10:30 am, Second Service
4 pm, Candlelight Worship, less formal

7 pm, Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion

Christmas Drama Practice

Sundays during Children's Church in the Friendship Center

The Way

December 1, 7 am in the Friendship Center for breakfast, 7:45--go out in service to the community

UMW Holiday Salad Luncheon

December 3, 12:30 pm at the home of Opal Lee Gill, 2403 Club Rd.

MF Youth Group

December 3, 4 pm in the Senior High Room

Advent Service/Soup Supper

December 3, 6 pm in the Sanctuary followed by a soup supper in the Friendship Center

Trustees

December 5, 6 pm (subject to change), Friendship Center

Choir Full Rehearsal

December 6, 6 pm, Sanctuary

Methodist Men's Breakfast

December 8, 6 am in the Friendship Center

Choir Full Rehearsal

December 9, 9 am, Sanctuary

Drama Full Rehearsal

December 10, 12 noon, Sanctuary

IAF Crafts

December 10, 4 pm in the Friendship Center

Outreach/Missions

December 11, 6:30 pm in the Library

SPRC

December 12, 7 pm in the Asbury Room

Parents' Night Out

December 15, 5:30 pm in the nursery, Friendship Center, and Mid-High room

Drama Full Rehearsal

December 16, 9 am, Sanctuary

Church Council Party

December 16, at 7 pm at home of Louise Mendius



Even Further Ahead . . .

Open House at the Parsonage

December 17, 2 - 4 pm

MF Youth Group

December 17, 4 pm in the Senior High Room

Christmas Caroling

December 17, 4:45 pm

ARK Christmas Program

December 19, at 5 pm in the Sanctuary

Finance

December 19, 6:30 pm in the Library

Healing Service

December 19, at 7 pm in the Sanctuary



Christmas Caroling We are scheduled to sing at:

Meet at 4:45 pm
Sombrillo
Aspen Ridge
Los Alamos Hospital
Refreshments follow caroling
Sunday, Dec. 17

If you know of anyone else we should visit, please contact Alice Carter at 672-3584 or the church at 662-6277.