



# FIRST VISIONS

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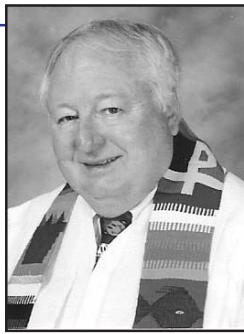
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## The Pastor Ponders



### "PREPARED"

I had been asked to serve as a chaplain on the "disaster response team" for an area hospital. I and the other team members subsequently attended several meetings in which we were provided training regarding our responsibilities should a disaster occur. Then a number of months passed quietly.

One night about 10:30 pm just as I was thinking about retiring for the evening, the telephone rang. It was the hospital. "Chaplain Ring, there's been a major disaster. A plane crashed at the airport, and they're just beginning to bring the casualties in. Get here as fast as you can." I jumped into my car, sped the five miles to the hospital, running at least three red lights along the route, and careened into the chaplain's parking spot. I rushed through the hospital's back door. There stood a woman with a stopwatch, which she clicked as she saw me. "Eleven minutes. Not bad," she said as she did so. "You can go home now. This was only a drill."

I understand the need for disaster drills, and I also understand the need to make them as real as possible. Had I known it was only a drill, I probably would have responded more slowly than I did. But I don't think I fell asleep that night until well after 3 am, when all the adrenaline I'd churned up finally subsided. On the other hand, I'm most certainly glad there was no disaster. And I'm pretty sure that, as a result of the drill, I and others on the response team were better pre-

pared to handle the real thing, should it ever have occurred.

Jesus often admonished his followers to be prepared. Be prepared to give account of your faith in Him, before God, when you are called before the throne of Heaven to do so. When that time comes, there will no longer be opportunity for drills or practice sessions to help you get ready. You'll have just one chance to prove your faith.

But you can become better prepared for that singular occasion by conducting your own practice sessions now, while still on earth. That, for a Christian believer, simply means sharing your faith with someone else. Each time you share your faith in Jesus with another precious human being, such sharing aids and strengthens your personal testimony. Christians -- share Christ with your neighbors on earth; it will prepare you to meet God in Heaven above.

*Dave Ring*



## Ark Sunday

This coming Sunday, January 28th, Ark Sunday will be observed at the 10:30 am service. The staff and children of the Ark invite you to join them in this special worship service. Ark children will sing Chapel songs they have learned throughout the year. The dedication of Ark teachers will also be performed. A slide presentation of the Ark program will be shared with the congregation and parents.

Come see our Ark ministry in action!



\* \* \* \* \*

## Armstrong Reception

Please join us to send-off the Armstrong family as they leave Los Alamos for their new home. We will gather in the Fellowship Hall after second service this Sunday, January 28th, to wish them well. For more details contact Susan Hodgson or Hazel DeVries.

Please bring cards with special memories.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Shalom, Salaam, Peace

This study will be led by Margaret Gibson and will discuss understandings of peace in Jewish, Muslim & Christian traditions and interreligious peacemaking.

Times: 10:30 am-12:30 pm on Monday, February 5th, 12th, and Tuesday, February 20th in the Friendship Center followed by a soup luncheon with many delicious soups.

Everyone is invited. Come even if you can only spare enough time for lunch!

\* \* \* \* \*

**MOVIE NIGHT THIS MONDAY!**  
JANUARY 29TH AT 6:30 PM  
SHOWING:  
**BROTHER SUN, SISTER MOON**  
POPCORN & DRINKS PROVIDED!

## Special February Days

### Birthdays:

Doris Blackstock 02/01  
Bob Collom 02/05  
Aaron Goldman 02/08  
Stacey Eaton 02/12  
Frances Naffziger 02/15  
Sarah Kelly 02/18  
Lance Eaton 02/20

### Anniversaries:

February 17  
Cathy & Darin Westley

## LA Cares Dinner

LA Cares is sponsoring a dinner for clients and volunteers of LA Cares at 5:00 pm on Saturday, February 10th in the Fellowship Hall. Meat loaf or a vegetarian dish will be the main course offerings with mashed potatoes and vegetables.

Aaron Goldman, the president of LA Cares and a member of FUMC, is requesting members of the church to volunteer to provide desserts for the event. LA Cares expects about 100 client participants so they need enough desserts for at least that many people. If you can send desserts, please contact Aaron Goldman at 662-9599.

LA Cares, an active caring organization in our community, is presently feeding approximately seventy families per month. They have also recently been given a grant from the Lab to help people with dental problems.

They are an independent, 100% volunteer-based organization, supported solely through donations. They serve any needy person or family living in Los Alamos, including those homeless within the County. They have no eligibility requirements, evaluating each situation, assessing the need and

determining how they can best help. Their assistance is available in both temporary and long-term situations. Relief is provided to allow a client time and respite to halt a downward spiral, or to allow other, more formal programs, such as Veteran's benefits or SSI, to be initiated. They are a stop-gap, not a cure-all. LA Cares can provide limited assistance with rent, utilities, and medical needs.

They also offer food boxes available to anyone who needs them - without having to prove eligibility. The food distribution is the 2nd Friday of each month.

FUMC is actively involved with LA Cares in a number of ways. LA Cares has their monthly meeting in our Library on the third Monday of the month at 6:30 pm. Groceries are gathered before and after services on the first Sunday of the month. The MYF Youth Group is working on a special project this month. (See related article, "Souper or Super Bowl," on this page.)

Some information in this article was gathered from LA Cares website: <http://www.los-alamos.org/homeless/> This is also a good place to find out how you can participate.

First United Methodist Church  
called to:

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

The next edition of Visions will be dated February 9.  
The deadline for articles is Friday, February 2.

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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 5:00-6:45 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 extend thanks to all the people who served on boards and committees throughout 2006. There are at least fourteen committees that meet regularly. Thank you to all who made and met the commitment to keep our church func-

tioning and on target with our goals.

An extra thanks goes to all the people who were on committees last year and are returning to old or new posts for 2007. Thanks also to all the new members of committees who are joining the team this year.

Kudos especially go to Louise Mendius who is the ongoing chairperson of the Church Council and to Nels Hoffman who is the ongoing Lay Leader of the congregation.

Thank you all!

## Upcoming Events Highlights

### Sermon Titles

January 28: Ark Sunday  
"Kingdom Greatness"  
Matthew 18:1-5

February 4: Communion  
"How's the Fishing?"  
Luke 5:1-11



### Ark Sunday

January 28, 11:45 am in the Fellowship Hall

### Reception for the Armstrongs

January 28, 11:45 am in the Fellowship Hall

### MF

January 28, 4 pm in the Senior High Room

### Mission Movie

January 29, 6:30 pm in the Friendship Center--"Brother, Sun, Sister, Moon"

### Create & Discover

February 1, 7:15 pm at the home of Harriet Zickert

### The Way

February 3, 7 am in the Friendship Center

### Worship Committee

February 4, 6 pm in the Library

### Church Council

February 4, 7 pm in the Friendship Center

### Shalom, Salaam, Peace

February 5, 10:30 am--study will be in the Friendship Center

### Emmaus Community

February 5, 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall

### Spiritual Formation Workshop

February 6-8 in Glorieta--informational brochures in the kiosk

### Sister to Sister

February 6, 12 noon in the Friendship Center

### Trustees

February 6, 7 pm in the Library

### McCurdy School Gala

February 9, 6 pm in Espanola

### LA Cares Missions Dinner

February 10, 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall

### LA Crafts

February 11, 4 pm in the Friendship Center

### PNO (Parents' Night Out)

February 16, at 6:30 pm

## Save the Date - May 4-6

Plan to join our friends at Pinedale Navajo Methodist Church (near Gallup) for a weekend of fun, food and fellowship. Look for more detailed information to follow. For questions or suggestions contact Peggy Goldman.

## Souper or Super Bowl?

It's the Souper Bowl of Caring...

Our youth will hold soup pots at church doors on Super Bowl Sunday. They will join young people in churches all across the country to collect money for those who are hungry and hurting.

In 2006, eleven thousand groups in all fifty states and outside the United States participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring generating over \$5 million. All of the money collected is donated to a charity selected by the participant. None of the money is sent to Souper Bowl headquarters. Since the Souper Bowl of Caring became a national



grassroots event in 1993, more than \$33 million has gone to help those in need.

On February 4th one-hundred-forty million people all over the world will tune in to the Super Bowl football game. There will be parties with abundant food, friendship, and fellowship.

At the same time, there will be people worrying about staying warm, finding shelter and a

warm meal. Please join young people around the United States as they demonstrate God's love by loving their neighbors through the Souper Bowl of Caring. It's a simple, yet significant act of caring for others.

Drop \$1 in the soup pots as you leave worship on February 4th or leave a food donation. Our church will donate the Souper Bowl collection to LA Cares. (See related article, "LA Cares Dinner," on this page.)

Those who need help may not know that you cared, but God will. And our young people are developing hearts for giving that can last a lifetime. Please support their efforts.