



FIRST

VISIONS

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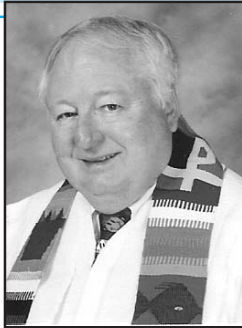
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The
Pastor
Ponders



"Slow Down, It's Lent"

"Be still - and know that I am God." -- Psalm 46:10a. It might be different for you, but personally I have great difficulty with stillness. I'm a man who genuinely enjoys being busy, occupied, working. I've been blessed with a high energy level and, although many have long said to me, "You'll slow down as you get older," such hasn't happened yet, at least not to any significant degree.

Los Alamos is proving to be a "good fit" for me in that most folks here, like me, are "type A" personalities. High energy, highly demanding, frenetic-paced work is simply "business as usual" for those who labor for the "Lab" and its all-pervasive "culture."

Elijah, one of God's greatest prophets of old, was for many years a hard worker for the Lord. Again and again he represented God's cause before strong opponents, including generals and kings. Eventually though, Elijah "ran out of gas," hiding in a cave to escape the pursuing soldiers of the wicked King Ahaz. It was there, in the

enforced silence of that isolation, that Elijah was ultimately able to hear the gentle, loving whisper of God's voice - assuring him that he was far from alone in his devotion to the Lord.

Even though I delight in "busyness," I also recognize that there is an appropriate time and place for stillness. Lent is an annual six-week opportunity for Christians to "slow down" and to look beyond ourselves and see the "big picture." The vast panorama of the great works of God is worthy of awe - and stillness - before Him.

Join with me and other believers this 2007 Lenten Season as we consider what it might mean to slow down, at least for a little while, and behold the wonders of our God.

Dave Ring

Bishop to Visit
with Laity

BISHOP WHITFIELD TO VISIT WITH ALBUQUERQUE DISTRICT LAITY APRIL 15TH

From 4 pm to 6 pm on Sunday afternoon, April 15, 2007, Bishop Max Whitfield has scheduled his annual Albuquerque District "visit with the laity" at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 9500 Constitution, N. E., in Albuquerque. It would be

good for Los Alamos First United Methodist Church to be well-represented at this meeting, especially by any and all who are currently serving as leaders in the congregation. Car pooling is a possibility; call the church office to indicate that you are either willing to provide a ride or need a ride.

Campout at Pinedale

MAY 4-6 CAMPOUT AT PINEDALE UMC (NEAR GALLUP)

Pinedale Methodist Church is located in a beautiful secluded area of sandstone bluffs and hoodoos - great for walking, hiking and meditation. Quiet and peaceful (no tv, one phone in the community, cells have minimal coverage). This is a very small congregation of shy but friendly people whom some of us have gotten to know and love over the past few years as

grams and needs of the area. Sunday we will worship with the Pinedale congregation in a service conducted both in Navajo and English. They will then provide a meal for us before we depart.

Facilities include three quite modern buildings (sanctuary, fellowship hall and youth building). In the two buildings which would be used for sleeping (dorm style- bring sleeping gear) there are bathrooms and showers (minimal water pres-



Peggy Goldman and two children at Pinedale

they have visited us and we have visited them and helped with various building projects (plus basketball court, used skates, etc). Here is an opportunity to further that bond and to include more of our members is the experience while helping them with fund raising.

It is about a 4 hour drive and we can go either Friday afternoon or Saturday. We will arrange community meals for Sat. evening and Sunday morning. Others will be on your own or potluck.. The program for the weekend is pretty loose - up to the individual. Saturday can include hiking, games, crafts, visiting, music, food, etc. We are hoping that Paul West, the 4-corners area coordinator for the Methodist church, will be able to join us and help us to understand more about the pro-

sure). There is also plenty of space for tents and campers, however no hookups. The kitchen is well equipped and will be used for preparing group meals.

We will be compensating Pinedale for the use of their facility and are suggestion a donation of \$20 per person or \$50 per family for participants. The Pinedale ladies are working on some crafts to have on sale for us and there will probably be opportunities for fixups and repairs for those industrious types.

We know this is a busy time of year, and many will have time conflicts, but if you can manage to get away you will most likely find it to be a very rewarding, renewing time. Mark your calendars now for May 4-6 in Pinedale.

Living Water El Salvador Well Drilling Mission

March 24 thru March 31, 2007

A team made up of primarily Los Alamos individuals is traveling to the western coast of El Salvador to drill a water well at a school. This team will drill, teach hygiene, and share the gospel with children and the local villagers.

The individuals from First United Methodist or Los Alamos are: Nelson Hoffman, Susan Hodgson, Mel Lora, Peggy and Aaron Goldman, Susan Nava Trumblee and Dennis Trumblee. David Hobart will be joining them as well. Other individuals from other states include: Don Parker - Team Leader, Dan Weber and Billy Pierce - Drillers, and Katie Shields - Hygiene.

SO WHAT'S A WELL DRILLING MISSION?

Here are some of the rules and trip scenarios.

First, no shorts or tank tops are allowed in village (Ladies - Capri's are okay when you are at the school, you may wish for long pants when visiting village). (Men - hard hats, long pants, t-shirt or long sleeved shirt, and work boots when drilling)

A TYPICAL DRILL WEEK:

Saturday - Fly to El Salvador - wear LWI t-shirt and long pants, go through customs, and stay in San Salvador.

Sunday - Load the truck & travel to the coast. Church in the afternoon - comfortable clothing (ladies - dress or nice slacks for church)

Monday - Work clothes, plan on getting dirty, wet & muddy, and possibly greasy (drill) (long pants, shirts or t-shirts, work boots) (Hygiene team visit village).

Tuesday - Work clothes, plan on getting dirty, wet & muddy, and possibly greasy (drill) (long pants, shirts or t-shirts, work boots) (Hygiene team - work with children and ladies from the village - probably at school).

Wednesday - Work clothes, plan on getting dirty, wet & muddy, and possibly greasy (install pump casing & develop well) (long pants, shirts or t-shirts, work boots) (Hygiene team - work with children and ladies from the village - probably at school).

Thursday - Work clothes, plan on getting dirty (install pump & dedicate well, load all tools, etc) (long pants, shirts or t-shirts, work boots). Back to

San Salvador on Thursday evening, unless we have problems with well.

Friday - hopefully sight-see (maybe a little shopping) we could go back to well, if we have issues. Evening (Stay in San Salvador)

Saturday - Get to airport around 4:45AM, then Fly home

Additional info: Plan on it being hot and humid, wear appropriate lightweight clothing for conditions and bring a brimmed hat and large handkerchiefs, drink lots of water when in-country. Everyone working at the drill site will be required to wear a hardhat for safety. (Ladies - when you are working hygiene - No hard hats - the kids will laugh at you) (Ladies - If you hang out with the drillers, expect to wear a hard hat and get your feet muddy). Once you get your feet muddy, make sure you have a clean pair of shoes to wear back to the condo, no muddy boots in the cars. Get a 1 liter container to put water in, water at the drill site will probably be in a 5 gal container. Bring sunscreen, hand sanitizer, and those little cute pack-able toilet paper containers; you might want to keep these items in a small fanny pack that you can keep with you (with your camera). Remember - Any baño is a good baño, no matter how bad they smell.

FUTURE OUT-OF-COUNTRY MISSIONS: (from our church)

AUGUST, 2007 - VIM mission to **Hogar Betania, Quito, Ecuador** - repairs at Christian ecumenical assisted living center. Lots of spots open for volunteers

OCTOBER 20 -27, 2007 - **Living Water International, Guatemala** - Well drilling on the coast, few spots are still open, contact Dennis Trumblee to lock in a place on this mission.

MORE MISSIONS PLANNED THROUGHOUT OUR AREA (see the next column)



Water well training in Nicaragua

June 11-15. Morning Star UMC, Las Cruces to Juarez for Operacion Hogar construction. Jon Moore, nmbiblemoth@yahoo.com <mailto:nmbiblemoth@yahoo.com> .

OTHER AREA 2007 UPCOMING VIM TRIPS

March 11-16. St. Luke's UMC and Asbury UMC, Odessa to Juarez for construction. Courtney Johnson, 432-366-8866.

April 13-29. NM and NW TX Conferences to Mulungwishi, Congo for construction and medical. Rev. John Schwarting,mailto:john@trinity-first.org .

April 13-May 5. Grace UMC, Alamogordo to Lake Arthur, LA for construction and repair. Participants can stay the whole time or a shorter period of time. Shirley Foster, 505-434-6951.

April 26-28. April 26-28. St. John's UMC, Albuquerque to Kitsillie for Roofs for the Reservation Project. Stan Sager, <mailto:sagerabq@comcast.net> .



The Empty Bowls Project is Coming!

Saturday, March 17, 11 am to 2 pm
at the Betty Erhart Senior Center
Food, Fun, and Fellowship

All proceeds from the project are donated to Self-Help, Inc.

Sign up for any or all below. Check the area(s) you can help and return to the church office or Donna Richardson. Questions on donating food for the event or working in the kitchen, contact Donna Richardson, 662-6972.

Other questions about the event or donations? Contact Joyce Nickols, 662-2810.



Provide a pot of soup

Provide a dessert

Provide bread

Work in the kitchen the

day of the event (circle time preference below)

9:30 am to 12:00 pm OR 12:00 pm to 2:30 pm

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Special March Days

Birthdays:		<i>Susan Sasser</i>	03/22
<i>Ruby Meaders</i>	03/05	<i>Rachel Granzow</i>	03/23
<i>Larry Bryant</i>	03/09	<i>Harold Kruse</i>	03/25
<i>Fran Ring</i>	03/09	<i>Martha Lou Ellis</i>	03/26
<i>Cleo Byers</i>	03/10	<i>Bob Phillips</i>	03/26
<i>Don Siebe</i>	03/10	<i>Pam Hundley</i>	03/27
<i>Claire Harmon</i>	03/12		
<i>Thomas Beery</i>	03/18	Anniversaries:	
<i>Emma Barefield</i>	03/19	March 31	
<i>Vicki Ricketts</i>	03/20	Don & Kathy Siebe	
<i>Charlotte McQuillan</i>	03/21		

Please Keep in Prayer

Men's Emmaus Walk

March 15-18 Please pray for pilgrims and team members, especially those from our church: pilgrims--Ken Ashley, David DeSimone, and Tom Trautlein; team members--Dave Ring, Mark Hodgson, Rod Douglass, and Mel Lora

Living Last Supper

Rehearsals continue. Please pray for our cast and crew.

Living Waters Mission Trip

Mission begins on March 23. This trip is to El Salvador. Please pray for the mission and especially for our participants:

UMC.org Prayer Chain

Your schedule may be busier than ever, but with the new UMC.org, you can access spiritual support from the people of The United Methodist Church 24 hours-a-day, seven days-a-week. Through UMC.org, you can privately and conveniently submit a prayer request to the Upper Room Living Prayer Center and their Covenant Prayer Groups.

Your prayer concern will be forwarded to one of 300 Upper Room Covenant Prayer Groups located all over the world, who will pray for your request for an additional 30 days. More than 30,000 prayer requests are received each month. To protect the privacy of those requesting prayer, each request is edited to remove any information that would identify the person or situation needing prayer.

UMC.org Prayer Request feature also provides visitors with spiritual resources, including daily devotionals and information about different methods of prayer.

To visit the Prayer Request feature, just click the "Pray" button on www.UMC.org. You can also submit a prayer request over the phone to the Upper Room Living Prayer Center by calling 1-800-251-2468.

First United Methodist Church called to:

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

The next edition of Visions will be dated March 23.
The deadline for articles is Friday, March 16.

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Carol Mead, Director
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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

Thank you Mada Jones and Margaret Gibson for stepping up and taking on the role of

secretary for a couple of days during the week of February 19th while our secretary and First Visions editor, Jan

Stong, was in Dallas attending the United Methodist Reporter editors' conference.

Upcoming Events Highlights



Sermon Titles

March 11: Third Sunday in Lent "John's Story - A First Person Dramatic Monologue" Mark 1:1-8

March 18: Fourth Sunday in Lent Lay Speaker Brent Collom will speak. Pastor Ring will be working the Men's Emmaus Walk at Manzano Camp.

March 25: Fifth Sunday in Lent "Opposition Grows" John 7:14-26

MF Skiing

March 9

Clocks Spring Forward

March 10 at midnight

MF

March 11, 4 pm in the Senior High Room

LAF Crafts

March 11, 4 pm in the Friendship Center

SPRC

March 13, 7 pm in the Asbury Room

Emmaus Send Off

March 14th, 6 pm in the Friendship Center

Newspaper Articles Due

March 16

Parents' Night Out

March 16, 6:30 pm

LACares

March 19, 6:30 pm, Library

Sister to Sister

March 20, 12 noon in the Friendship Center

Ark Board

March 20, 6 pm in the Mid-High Room

Finance

March 20, 6:30 pm in the Library

Living Water Mission

March 23, leaves for El Salvador

MF

March 25, 4 pm in the Senior High Room

Church Council

March 25, 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall



Worship Schedule for Holy Week

PALM SUNDAY SERVICES

8:00 am Contemporary Service

10:30 am Traditional Service with Palm Branches

7:00 pm Living Last Supper

HOLY THURSDAY SERVICE

7:00 pm Living Last Supper

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

7:00 pm Tenabrae Service

EASTER MORNING SERVICES

6:00 am Sunrise Service at the Pond

8:00 am Contemporary Service

10:30 am Traditional Service

LIVING LAST SUPPER will be presented April 1st and 5th. Fourteen men from our congregation (twelve disciples, Jesus, and the painter/narrator), plus the Chancel Choir, are busily preparing to present the "Living Last Supper" on Palm Sunday and Holy Thursday evenings, April 1 and 5, 2007, with each per-

formance to commence at 7 pm. This will be a dramatic enactment of the Last Supper as painted by Leonardo da Vinci. The artist's attempt is to capture the moment described by Luke 22:21-23 and John 13:21-26 in which Jesus predicts his betrayal, arrest, and crucifixion. Mark your calendars and plan to be present for one or both performances.

Kindergarten Readiness

March 22, 7 pm in the Friendship Center
Sharon Allen and Jennifer Hopkins, kindergarten teachers
sponsored by the Ark