



FIRST VISIONS

an edition of the United Methodist Reporter

Two Sections, Section A | 070665 | Vol. 153 | No. 46 | April 6, 2007

INSIDE FIRST VISIONS

The Pastor Ponders Prayerwalk

1 A

Goliath Wars Coming Soon

4 A

Special April Days

Our Applause

Upcoming Events

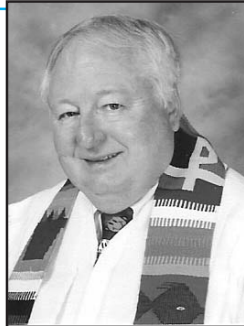
Passport to the Holy Land

Easter Weekend Schedule

5 A



The Pastor Ponders



"NOT WHAT YOU DO, BUT WHO YOU KNOW"

Twenty centuries have passed since the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, but most folks still haven't understood. Christianity isn't primarily concerned with what you do, it's centered about Who you know. If you know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, you're a Christian. If you don't know Jesus, all the good deeds in the universe won't make you one.

In olden times prior to Jesus, sincerely religious people (such as the Jews) tried their best to perform a "circus balancing act" with God. They imagined God holding scales of justice where good deeds piled up on one side and sins on the other. If they could just do a little more good than bad, if they could at least stay "balanced," then they might have a chance at Heaven. Like all balancing acts, it was a tough routine to maintain. Few, if any, were ever really satisfied with their performance.

When Jesus died on the Cross, He bore the burden of human sin -- all human sin. Sins past, present, and future. Big sins, little sins. Old sins, new sins. My sins, your sins, the sins of the world. If it's sin, Jesus has already atoned for it. And the "balancing act" model of religion has thereby been consigned to the scrap heap.

As a pastor, I'm always concerned when I go into a home after a death and family members start to regale me with tales of the deceased's love for his mother, his wife, his chil-

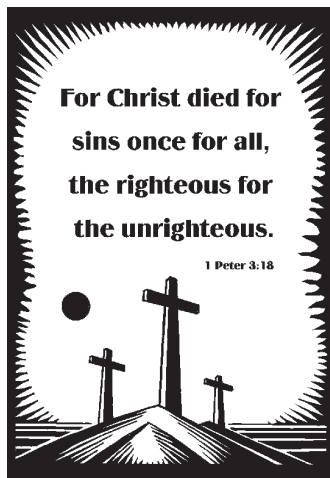
dren, and his dogs. When they finally wind down I ask, as gently as possible, the one question that is of real importance at such a time: Did he know Jesus Christ as his personal Savior?

Over the years, enough folks have told me that I'm a fairly good preacher that I've actually begun to believe it. But I also know this: I'll never be a good enough preacher to preach the dead into Heaven. There's no preacher on this earth who's that skilled.

Jesus Christ has risen from the dead! And Jesus Christ has promised to take with Him, into the Kingdom of Heaven, all who personally believe in Him. "I am the way and the truth and the life," says Jesus. "No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6, New International Version)

Yes, precious people, do all the good you possibly can. But don't expect that to get you into Heaven. Instead, trust Jesus, and Him only, to take you there!

Dave Ring



Prayer Walk

El Camino Real de la Tierra Adentro (Royal Road of the Interior)

April 9-14, 2007

Sponsored by the New Mexico Prayer Transformation Council (NMPTC)

INVITATION

If you would like to participate in a state-wide prayer initiative, you are invited to partner with intercessors across New Mexico in a way that is convenient and customized to fit your busy schedules. We will be praying in unity, harmony, and in Jesus' name.

BACKGROUND

The prayerwalk in groups, pairs, or alone (you may drive a portion, pray at a particular site along the route, or pray at home if you prefer) is scheduled for April 9-14, along the 1500-mile El Camino Real, a historic trail that runs from Mexico City to Ohkay Owingeh (San Juan Pueblo), with a branch to Taos. I am coordinating the Ohkay Owingeh to Espanola to Santa Fe segment. See www.caminorealheritage.org and www.nmptc.org for additional website information.

Historical and Contemporary Blessings: (oldest recorded civilization in USA) Spanish exploration; missionary endeavors; cultural diversity, peoples, and languages; immigration; trade and commerce; transmission of community property laws; land grant administration; water usage; mining claims; sovereignty of Native American land claims; scientific and medical research; education; recreation, farming, and fishing.

Goal: For a moving of God's spirit producing fruitfulness, increased faith, and conversions; that the Holy Spirit would be welcome; that justice, righteousness, and morality would prevail; that hidden things be exposed; and that death, destruction, poverty, and drought be broken.

Prayer Points and Scriptures: Pray against bloodshed; witchcraft; religious spirits; poverty;

alcoholism, drug and child abuse; immorality, homosexual marriage, and pornography; DWI; rebellion; lawlessness; fire and drought. Pray for salvation and Holy Spirit infilling and empowerment; restoration of natural and spiritual inheritance; God-fearing leadership and righteousness in government/legislation, schools, businesses, media/arts; blessings for families and marriages; justice, integrity, morality, safety and protection; repentance and deliverance; as well as unity among churches. See Matt 16:18-19, 18:18-20; Ex 3:14, and Isa 22:22 for using the keys God has given us to establish His government on earth as it is in Heaven.

Suggested Activities: Worship, praise, songs, prayers, prophetic and/or symbolic acts, declarations, proclamations, repentance and forgiveness as led by the Holy Spirit are all appropriate.

ROUTE INFORMATION

Pojoaque to Santa Fe where 502 and 84/285 intersect

- MILE MARKERS AND LANDMARKS
- 180-178
- 177, Buffalo Thunder Road Exit
- 176, Cugamungie Exit
- 175, Camel Rock Exit, Tesuque
- 174, JR Clothing
- 173
- 172, Tesuque South Exit
- 171, Flea Market Road
- 170, 169
- 168, Tesuque Village/Opera Drive Exit
- 167
- 166, Santa Fe Relief Rt (Bypass) Santa Fe to Albq., I 25

Pojoaque to Espanola going north on 84/285

- MILE MARKERS AND LANDMARKS
- 180, Turnoff to Los Alamos
- 181, 182

Con't. on Page 3 Prayerwalk

Goliath Wars!



The Mid-high Sunday School class recreated Goliath on paper from dimensions found in I Samuel 17. At over 9 feet tall, he was a formidable opponent. Using homemade sling shots, the youth then shot Goliath with marshmallow ammo.

Shown in these photos are: Zeke Zumbro, Bill Kluegel, Clara Leschnitzer, Mr. Maurice Sheppard, and Zach Parks

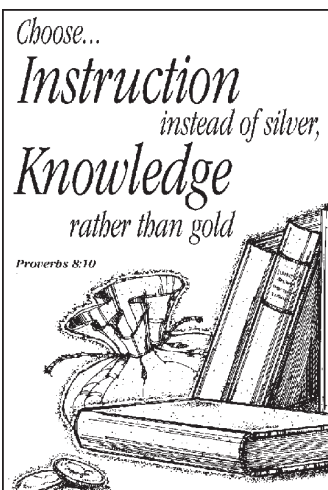


Coming Soon!

What: Curriculum Fair & Share Time Potluck
When: Sunday, April 22nd, after 2nd service
Who's invited: 1. Adults who currently do not attend our Sunday School & are curious about us
 2. Adult Sunday School teachers/leaders and class members

What is this!?

The Curriculum Fair & Share Time Potluck is an opportunity to find out what is happening in our adult Sunday School classes. It will also be an opportunity for our adult classes to enjoy browsing through 'new' materials provided by Cokesbury bookstore.



Check This Out!

Calling all adults who do not attend a Sunday School Class. Here is your opportunity to check us out, while enjoying some delicious food. Visit the Curriculum Fair & Share Time Potluck on April 22nd following the second service. This is also a time for classes to have fun looking at new materials graciously provided for by Cokesbury Bookstore.

Check This Out!

Special April Days

Birthdays:

Mark Hodgson 04/01
 Dave Ring 04/01
 Linda Leschnitzer 04/02
 Becky Chavez 04/03
 Jan Taylor 04/03
 Daniel Swart 04/08
 Lee Weinland 04/08
 Lizzie Shuman 04/13
 Randy Parks 04/17
 David Siebe 04/17
 Don Casperson 04/19
 David Hodgson 04/19
 Michelle Aslin 04/22
 Kathy Siebe 04/23
 David Janecky 04/25

Mary Courtright 04/25
 Abby Wescott 04/25
 Camille Wescott 04/25
 Gregg Janecky 04/27
 Emily Collom 04/29
 Anja Blackadar 04/30
 Rachel Ortiz 04/30

Anniversaries:

April 8
 Armond & Jeanie Standley
 April 8
 Don & Harriet Zickert
 April 20
 Randy & Anna Parks

Con't. from Page 1 **Prayerwalk**

183, Arroyo Seco
 184
 185, LaPuebla
 186
 187, Martinez Steakhouse
 188, Espanola
 Espanola north to Ohkay
 Owingeh, (San Juan Pueblo)
 190, N. Paseo do Onate,
 Chevrolet Dealership
 191, Ohkay Owingeh

BLESSINGS FOR PARTICIPATION

May the Lord grant you safety and protection as you team

up and join others in this exciting prayer initiative. May the Holy Spirit put His words in your hearts and on your lips as you partner with Him to bring the Lord's will on earth as it is in Heaven. May you and your families be richly blessed for your faithfulness in prayer.

Gail Diedrich, Area Coordinator, NMPTC Member, and Founder and leader of City-Wide Worship and Prayer, Los Alamos

Mark your calendars for:

Passport to the Holy Land

Vacation Bible School

June 17-21, 5:30 to 8 pm with snack supper
 Adult Classes included

June 18-22, 9 to 11:30 am for the Ark

Plan to join us for the journey!

First United Methodist Church
 called to:

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

The next edition of Visions will be dated April 20.
 The deadline for articles is Friday, April 13.

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

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 thank all the people who have helped with "The Last Supper--A Living Picture". Thank you: Marthe Sims and Louise Mendius, directors; Sarah Kelly, choir director; Frances Naffziger, organist; Valerie Collins, flute solo; Joyce Beery, Alice Carter, Valerie Collins, Opal Lee Gill, Sheila Enemark, Claudia Hilko, Sue Kinkead, Gail Little, Peggy Jo Kruse, Carol Mead, Patricia

Mendius, Fran Ring, Deborah Trimmer, Ruth Watkins, Katie Weinland, Michael Beauchamp, Jerry Beery, Herald Kruse, Dave Ring, Mark Hodgson, David Sims, Mel Lora, and Bob Visel, choir members; Melanie Barefield and Mary Keller; stage prompters; Fred DeVries, John Stong, and Lee Weinland, lighting technicians; Lee Weinland, light plot Designer; Don Casperson,

sound technician; Louise Mendius, make-up. Special thanks to: Alice Carter, Don Casperson, Susan Chastain, Sheila Enemark, Dennis Gill, Opal Lee Gill, Mary Ann Kelley, Sarah Kelly, Louise Mendius, Patricia Mendius, Dave Ring, Erlene Seay, Don Siebe, David Sims, Jan Stong, and Lee Weinland.

Upcoming Events Highlights



Sermon Titles

April 8: Easter "We Have Hope!"
 Luke 24:1-11
 April 15: First Sunday after Easter "'The Best Is Yet to Come!'"
 John 2:1-11
 April 22: Gideon Sunday
 "Eternally Grateful"
 Romans 8:18-25, 28-31
 April 29: UMW Sunday
 Children's Sabbath

Trustees

April 10, 6 pm in the Library

SPRC

April 10, 7 pm in the Asbury Room

Emmaus Sendoff

April 11, 6 pm in the Friendship Center

Emmaus Women's Walk

April 12-15

Create & Discover

April 12, 7:15 pm at the home of Mary Keller, 4 La Rosa Court

Newspaper Articles Due

April 13

Bishop Visits with Laity

April 15, in Albuquerque

LA Cares

April 16, 6:30 pm in the Library

Sister to Sister

April 17, 12 noon in the Friendship Center

Martha Circle

April 17, 7 pm at the home of Marilyn Peek, 45 Puye

Ark Board

April 17, 6 pm in the Mid-High Room

Finance

April 17, 6:30 pm in the Library

Parents' Night Out (PNO)

April 20, 6:30 pm

Curriculum Fair/Potluck Luncheon

April 22, 11:45 am

MF

April 22, 4 pm in the Senior High Room

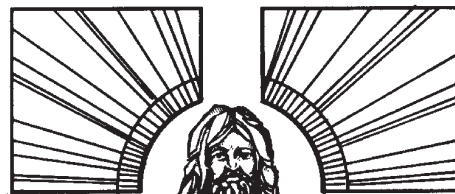
Church Council

April 22, 7 pm in the

Easter Weekend Services

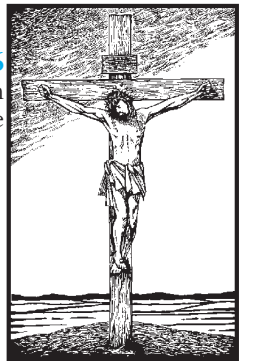
GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE APRIL 6

12 noon to 3 pm Good Friday Service at St. Francis Episcopal Church
 7:00 pm Tenabrae Service



"Why do you look for the living among the dead?
 He is not here but has risen."

Luke 24:5



EASTER MORNING SERVICES APRIL 8

6:00 am Sunrise Service at Ashley Pond
 8:00 am Contemporary Service
 10:30 am Traditional Service