



FIRST

VISIONS

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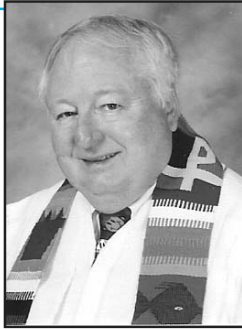
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## The Pastor Ponders



### "CREATIVE THINKING FOR GOD"

As we prepared to build a new educational building at the church I was then serving in El Paso, we needed to demolish a no-longer-used parsonage that was located on the site. Such demolition wasn't included in the winning contractor's bid; we'd somehow overlooked it. So we called a local company, the only one in El Paso offering to demolish houses, and had them come and look at the old place. It was a simple frame structure, sitting on blocks with no basement, about 1200 square feet in size. How much to tear it down and haul off the remains? Thirty-five hundred dollars: twenty six hundred to demolish, plus an extra nine hundred more to haul off the debris.

The church's Trustees felt that was a rather high bid, but were on the verge of accepting it when one of the members of the group spoke up. "I think we can get our own people to help us tear that house down, and make enough money in the process to pay for hauling off the remains." We all listened attentively. It was an intriguing plan.

So it was that my El Paso church promoted the opportunity to come and swing a sledgehammer at the old house, two Saturdays hence at \$10 per person. Nearly two hundred people showed up, many carrying their own sledges. Several dozen of them weren't even church members, just men and women from the surrounding community who wanted the opportunity to help demolish something.

I never realized the amount of aggression that some folks have pent up in them until I saw that mob begin to tear

down that house. Everybody had a great time contributing to its demise. The El Paso newspaper even sent a photographer to take a picture of half a dozen folks gleefully swinging their hammers. In less than two hours, the house was reduced to rubble. After paying to have the debris hauled off, the church had nearly \$1,000 left to put toward the construction of the new building.

One of the attributes of "wisdom" that the famous King Solomon of the Bible repeatedly demonstrated was an ability to offer creative options for solving seemingly impossible problems. Too often today I find that the Church of Jesus Christ asks folks to give God their hearts, which is good, but not their heads, which is utter folly. Thus, the kind of optional, creative thinking that saved my El Paso congregation several thousand dollars in unnecessary expenditures is rare in Christian circles. Remember, people of God, that He has given each of us both our hearts and our brains -- and He desires that we offer all that we are back to God and to the service of His Kingdom.

Please remember to regularly pray for our Volunteers in Mission Team during its time in Ecuador, August 1-10. Blessings to you all!

*Dave Ring*

## Dinner with Jesus

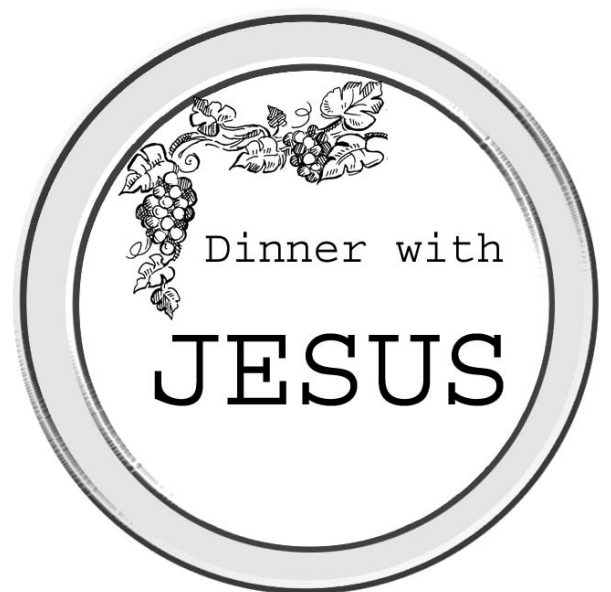
Starting **August 19**, the children of the church will have the opportunity to participate in a new mission program. Hunger is one of the three greatest issues of Northern New Mexico. To bring a greater awareness of this problem, each child will be given a dinner plate, designated for Jesus. (What you do for the least of your brothers you do for me.) Each family is asked to set the extra plate for Jesus at every meal and **pray for and remember** those who do not have a full plate. Then the family should set aside a portion of the money spent on the meal. The money collected each week will be collected during church in a clear container, so that the children can see how much they have collected over time. Our goal is for the children to collect \$500.00.

The program will run until

November 18, the Sunday before Thanksgiving. It will then be distributed to a local food distribution mission group.

We will devote the Children's Sermon on various Sundays during the program period to the hunger issue and the Sunday Schools will use part of this time to talk about what 'mission' is.

We hope all families will participate in this event and encourage their children to reach out in Christian love to others, not so fortunate as we. all church members may participate by giving a donation to any child to put into the collection.



## Proposed Disciple I Calendar September, 2007 to May, 2008

0	August 27th	Monday Orientation Session	16	Jan. 8th	Tuesday, 16 <sup>th</sup> Session
1	Sept. 4th	Tuesday, 1 <sup>st</sup> Session	17	Jan. 14th	Monday, 17 <sup>th</sup> Session
2	Sept. 10 <sup>th</sup>	Monday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Session	18	Jan. 21 <sup>st</sup>	Monday, 18 <sup>th</sup> Session
3	Sept. 17 <sup>th</sup>	Monday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Session	19	Jan. 28 <sup>th</sup>	Monday, 19 <sup>th</sup> Session
4	Sept. 24 <sup>th</sup>	Monday, 4 <sup>th</sup> Session	20	Feb. 5 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday, 20 <sup>th</sup> Session
5	Oct. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Tuesday, 5 <sup>th</sup> Session	21	Feb. 11 <sup>th</sup>	Monday, 21 <sup>st</sup> Session
6	Oct. 8 <sup>th</sup>	Monday, 6 <sup>th</sup> Session	22	Feb. 18 <sup>th</sup>	Monday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> Session
	Oct. 15 <sup>th</sup>	NO CLASS Revival	23	Feb 25 <sup>th</sup>	Monday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> Session
7	Oct. 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Monday, 7 <sup>th</sup> Session	24	March 4 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday, 24 <sup>th</sup> Session
8	Oct. 29 <sup>th</sup>	Monday, 8 <sup>th</sup> Session	25	March 10 <sup>th</sup>	Monday, 25 <sup>th</sup> Session
9	Nov. 6 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday, 9 <sup>th</sup> Session	26	March 17 <sup>th</sup>	Monday, 26 <sup>th</sup> Session
10	Nov. 12 <sup>th</sup>	Monday, 10 <sup>th</sup> Session	27	March 24 <sup>th</sup>	Monday, 27 <sup>th</sup> Session
11	Nov. 19 <sup>th</sup>	Monday, 11 <sup>th</sup> Session		March 31 <sup>st</sup>	NO CLASS Spring Break
12	Nov. 26 <sup>th</sup>	Monday, 12 <sup>th</sup> Session	28	April 8 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday, 28 <sup>th</sup> Session
13	Dec. 4 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday, 13 <sup>th</sup> Session	29	April 14 <sup>th</sup>	Monday, 29 <sup>th</sup> Session
14	Dec. 10 <sup>th</sup>	Monday, 14 <sup>th</sup> Session	30	April 21 <sup>st</sup>	Monday, 30 <sup>th</sup> Session
15	Dec. 17 <sup>th</sup>	Monday, 15 <sup>th</sup> Session	31	April 28 <sup>th</sup>	Monday, 31 <sup>st</sup> Session
	Dec. 24 <sup>th</sup>	NO CLASS	32	May 6 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday, 32 <sup>nd</sup> Session
	Dec. 31 <sup>st</sup>	NO CLASS	33	May 12 <sup>th</sup>	Monday, 33 <sup>rd</sup> Session
			34	May 19 <sup>th</sup>	Monday, 34 <sup>th</sup> Session

## DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDY TO RESTART AT LA-FUMC

"Disciple: Becoming Disciples through Bible Study," an excellent in-depth survey of the entire Bible over a 34-week period, is planned to restart at Los Alamos First UM Church this fall. This, the first of several "Disciple" courses, has been offered several times in the past at LA-FUMC, so there are a number of folks here who can testify as to its value. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, red "Disciple" brochures are available in the church office during the week and in the narthex on Sunday mornings. The course will be regularly offered on Monday evenings (except that it will shift to Tuesday evenings each "first Monday" of the month in deference to our area Emmaus gatherings) from 6:45 to 9:15 PM, with an initial orientation session held on Monday, August 27th from 6:45 to 8:15 PM. Pastor Dave Ring will be the organizer, initial convener, and back-up teacher of the class; Brent Collom will be the primary teacher.

If you're ready to "sign up" for Disciple I, please fill out the information below and return this slip to the church office. The cost of \$35 per enrollee is for course materials. The class will definitely be offered if a minimum of 10 persons enroll.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Materials Fee (\$35/pp): \_\_\_ included \_\_\_ will pay later

## Report on "Watch of the Lord"

Report on "Watch of the Lord" (an all-night prayer vigil leading into "The Call Nashville, 07/07/07") Friday night, July 6, 6:00 p.m. to Saturday morning, July 7, 6:00 a.m.

First United Methodist Church, Los Alamos, New Mexico sponsored by City-Wide Worship and Prayer, Los Alamos "....Blow the trumpet in Zion, consecrate a fast, call a sacred assembly, gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children...Joel 2:12-32

Elders, pastors, spouses, church leaders, intercessors, mothers, fathers, and others from more than 10 denominations participated in the prayer vigil, which began and ended with Israel and Jesus as the Alpha and Omega. Watches were introduced by the ringing of a bell, except when participants were surprised by cock-crowing, which transitioned us into the Breaking of a Day or Cockcrowing Watch (Mark 13:35).

Worship, praise, dancing, fasting, prayer, repentance, watching, waiting, soaking, meditating, listening, impartation, and times of refreshing were part of the four three-hour watches. Prayers for Israel; ourselves, spouses, marriages, children, pastors, churches, Los Alamos and its surrounding communities; New Mexico; and America, respectively, were incorporated into the watches.

The Lord's glory and presence were manifested to us in powerful ways, one of which was as "The Word." The impor-

tance given to Scripture assured us we were worshipping in Spirit and in Truth, and we are grateful that He watches over His word to perform it. Another nature of Jesus, that of Uniter, was confirmed as we functioned in unity and order, as one magnificent, harmonious concert, each in tune, playing his/her own part led by the Holy Spirit. Other natures of Jesus that we experienced included Fountain, Fire, Foundation, Glory of Israel, Habitation, Husband, Angel of His Presence, Intercessor, Inheritance, King of the Jews, Lamb of God, Answer, Light, Leader, Lord of the Sabbath, Messenger of the Covenant, Ointment, Prophet, Priest, Pleasure of God, Prize, Lion of Judah, Purifier, Quickener, Repairer, Refuge, Reconciliation, Refresher, Author of our Faith, Rewarder, Restorer, Rod, Rivers of Living Water, Rabbi, Spring Rain, Sanctification, Atonement, Standard, Son of David, Living Stone, Sacrifice, Spring of Water, Shekinah, Sign, New Song, Sanctuary, Bridegroom, Treasure, Beloved, Unleavened Bread, Voice of God, Heavenly Vision, New Wine, Brightness of God's Glory, Candlestick, Comforter, Commander, and Jehovah Nissi.

Flags symbolizing the Twelve Tribes of Israel, were positioned in the east, south, west, and north sides of the Sanctuary according to Numbers 2:3, 10-14. Beautiful banners were waved as standards according to biblical tradition (John 12:32, Isa 62:10-12, Ex

17:15, Num 2:2, Ps 20:5) The Communion Table was adorned with not only the Bread and Juice, but also a Jewish Menorah, a Shofar, and a tear bottle from Israel (Ps 56:8)

Alms for the Poor (LA Cares) were donated.

Things we experienced in the natural had prophetic implications: In order for lamps to burn brightly, they must be filled with oil and have trimmed wicks (We must be ready and waiting for the Bridegroom, Parable of the Ten Virgins, Math 25:1-13); I was delighted when my husband showed up unexpected (but of that day or hour no one knows...., Mark 13:32-37); the Menorah burned brightly for a short while and then burned out (Lives are like a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away, James 4:14); when I could not turn the Sanctuary lights out at the end of the watch, it reminded me how our light cannot be extinguished after being in the presence of the Lord; we were a picture of Jews and Gentiles worshipping together (as one and equal heirs in Christ, Eph 2:11-22, 1 Cor 12:13, Eph 3:4-6); our worship was spontaneous, celebratory, intimate, and representative of being wooed by our Beloved, but our prayers seemed to be dull and lacking passion until we stood in the gap for America-then the Holy Spirit wept through us, seemingly grieved over the condition of the USA. After repenting for the sins of our nation (2 Chron 7:14, Deut 9, Ex 19, Jer 9), our tears reminded us of cleansing and

restoration to righteousness.

Beautiful new songs of the Lord, "Overshadow Me" and "Here am I" were sung by Worship Leader Gloria Streit as we stood under the banner/canopy (Ex 17:15, S of S 2:4, Isa 54, Isa 4), took communion, and renewed our covenant vows with the Lord (Hos 2:14-23).

The Voice of the Lord was heard (as a trumpet) by the blowing of the Shofar during times of refreshing, alert, enthronement, and celebration.

Before, during, and after the watch, not only did we perform symbolic acts (Luke 10:17-20), but we also received several visions and many words that blessed us, enabled us to proceed in faith, and assured us that we accomplished the Lord's purposes during this solemn assembly. The visions reminded us of those seen in the book of Revelation.

Many people contributed to making this prayer vigil the exciting, dynamic experience that it was. Some of those who "watched" all night said they felt refreshed and blessed by the experience; it was an awesome and powerful time of intimacy and fellowship with the Lord and the Body of Christ; and they thought we should do it more often.

We are grateful for all the support, encouragement, participation, intercession, flags, banners, church building use, gatekeepers, and others who contributed in any way. We were privileged to fast, pray, and offer ourselves as living sacrifices for His glory and purposes.

"The Call-Nashville 07/07/07" was aired live on God TV by direct satellite. My friend who watched it reported that the stadium was full of young people who were an inspiration by their abandoned worship unto the Lord. Founder and leader Lou Engle has scheduled additional Calls across America this year and next.

Report written by Gail Diedrich, Facilitator of the "Watch" and Founder and leader of City-Wide Worship and Prayer, Los Alamos, New Mexico



## Special August Days

### Birthdays:

Jan Stong 08/06  
Charles Mader 08/08  
Lynne Cash 08/13  
Jim Terrell 08/15  
Don Enemark 08/16  
Dean Taylor 08/18  
Tressa McDaniel 08/20  
Mark Anthony Ortiz 08/21  
Riley Courtright 08/23  
Marion Keene 08/24  
Walt Ellis 08/25  
Carla Shuman 08/27  
Peggy Kruse 08/28  
Grant Janecky 08/31

### Anniversaries:

August 6  
John & June Pirtle  
August 15  
John & Anja Blackadar  
August 17  
Mark & Susan Hodgson  
August 23  
Don & Sheila Enemark  
August 27  
Joe & Irene bubernak



## Our Applause

Thank you to all the people who found joy in our roughing-it service last Sunday. Also thank you to everyone who helped set up the service and

put things back away.

A special thanks is offered to Tom Beery for extra work he did in helping other projects in the church.

## Upcoming Events Highlights



### Sermon Titles

July 29 9h Sunday after Pentecost Hymn Sing  
August 5 10th Sunday after Pentecost  
Pastor Ring will likely be on a Mission Trip to Ecuador. The Rev. Dan Adams will be in charge.  
August 12 11th Sunday after Pentecost  
Dr. Dave Ring "Why Do We Keep Making These Strange Mission Trips?"  
New Testament Scripture  
Text Acts 1:6-8  
August 19 Sunday School  
Promotion Sunday

### Healing Worship Service

July 29, 7 pm in the Sanctuary

### Youth Mentoring

July 30, 7 pm, in the Library

### Quito Mission Trip

Aug. 1-10

### Newspaper Articles Due

August 2

### Methodist Men's Breakfast

August 3, 6:30 am in the Friendship Center

### Church Council

August 5, 7 pm in the Friendship Center

### Emmaus Community

August 6, 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall

### Trustees

August 7, 6 pm in the Library

### LAF

August 12, 4 pm in the Friendship Center

### Outreach/Missions

August 13, 7 pm in the Library

### Christian Education

August 13, 7 pm, Friendship Center

### SPRC

August 14, 7 pm in the Asbury Room

### Parents' Night Out

August 17, 6:30 to 9:30 pm

9 July 2007

Dear First Church Family,

As we continue to settle into our new place, we wanted to take time out and give thanks to everyone who came to or was involved in our send-off reception. We love and miss you all, and realize how blessed we are to have been part of such a loving, caring congregation. (You may still see John from time to time throughout the summer.) May the peace of Christ guard your hearts and bless you always.

Fondly,

John, Anja, John Martin & Baby

## The Poetry of Life Methodist Men's Breakfast

Dan Adams will give a presentation titled "The Poetry of Life" to the Methodist Mens breakfast on Friday, August 3. Dan is a retired minister from Tom Green County, Texas, who spends the summer volunteering at

Bandelier National Monument. His talk will explore aspects of the essence of life. Please join us at 6:30 a.m. for Aaron's traditional breakfast of pancakes, eggs, bacon, coffee and orange juice followed by the program

at 7:00. All are welcome!

First United Methodist Church  
called to:

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

The next edition of Visions will be dated August 10.  
The deadline for articles is Friday, August 3.

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Pastor ~ Dr. Dave Ring  
Discipleship Coordinator ~  
Ann Le Page

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.

## Library News

During the next few months, the church library will be undergoing some changes. The Library Committee of Doris Blackstock, Barbara DeMarsh, June Pirtle and Ann Le Page will be working on reorganizing the shelves, moving Bibles into each Sunday School room, finding outstanding books and videos, and planning for new books and media.

Please do not contribute any books to the library during this time of reorganization. We need to make room for new books. Also please return any books or videos you may have borrowed. We currently have over 50 items which have been borrowed, but not returned.

The Committee would like to encourage church members to submit suggestions for reading/viewing materials, so that when we get our New Book program in process we can order the materials you would like to read/view. We hope to begin a monthly Book Review which will be part of the Newsletter. church members may submit a review also.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact one of the Library Committee members.

