



FIRST VISIONS

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The Pastor Ponders



"FISHING LESSONS"

My father was a fisherman. Fishing wasn't how he made his living, but fishing was definitely one of the two great loves of his life, the other being hunting. He fished virtually every day of his life -- after work, on weekends, throughout every vacation he ever took. Lakes, streams, bays, oceans -- fresh water or salt -- if there were fish to be found therein, my dad caught them. He taught me much. I share his love of fishing, although I don't pursue it as ardently as he did.

catching fish. Rather, Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I'll teach you how to catch people -- for the Kingdom of God."

Over the next three years, Jesus slowly but surely taught his disciples how to do exactly that. It took time and effort on both his part and theirs. And after those years of training and practice for them, the ultimate results were excellent. The Bible records, in Acts 2, that one former fisherman, Peter, convinced 3,000 people to follow Jesus after just a single, well-focused speech.



Expert fishermen understand that a consistently good catch takes time and effort, patience and persistence on their part. And skilled disciples of Jesus likewise comprehend that there are no shallow shortcuts, no cookie-cutter methods for winning persons to Jesus Christ. Perhaps that's part of why Jesus chose fishermen to be his first disciples: the same sort of dedicated determination is required to successfully catch fish from the waters -- and people for the Kingdom.

Keep the faith, do the work, praise the Lord!

Dave Ring

When you're out fishing, folks who see you so doing will commonly ask, "Are you having any luck?" From my dad, I learned that fishing really wasn't so much a matter of luck as of skill. To become an expert fisherman takes practice and experience. My father was highly skilled at fishing. He put a lifetime of patient, persistent effort into becoming such. Thus, when those around him were catching some fish, he was catching many. And even if no one else was catching anything, he'd catch at least a few.

It's recorded in the Gospels of the Holy Bible that Jesus drew a significant number of his followers from the ranks of fishermen -- at least five of his inner circle of 12 disciples were fishermen, and possibly more. But he wasn't specifically interested in these men's skills at

FIRST STEPS

by Ann LePage

Since coming to FUMC in June, I have met many people, attended a few meetings and have started to learn names and who is on what committees. The energy and enthusiasm which I first saw, as a visitor, is even more evident today. This congregation is truly blessed with many people who want to use their time to support the church. I feel welcome and am happy to call this my new church family.

We are starting to work on a few projects which I would like to summarize here for you. The Library Committee met and discussed several changes which will make the library more user-friendly and more accessible to the congregation. We will be 'weeding' the shelves (a library term meaning to review the collection, and remove old outdated items) then offering books for sale to the congregation. This will allow more room on the shelves for the boxes of books we do not have room to display now. We will also move excess bibles into each Sunday school room for the convenience of the classes. We will begin a program of displaying new or recently read books to the congregation on a portable book cart before and after each Sunday service. Some time in the not too distant future, the Library Committee members will begin reviewing new books and we will include these reviews in the Newsletter. We welcome any book reviews from the congregation as well. This naturally leads to the question, "What new books?" Until we get a budget large enough to cover new acquisitions we will rely on the generosity of congregation members and a broad definition of 'new'. Please let any Committee member know what books you would like to see in the library. As always, when you talk about borrowing books from any library one must also mention returning them. Right now there are approximately 50 items out-

standing from the library. Please return them so that all may use them.

Library Committee: Doris Blackstock, Barbara De Marsh, June Pirtle and Ann Le Page. Others interested in joining this committee are welcome.

The Mission Committee has begun a new program for the children which will run through November 18. The program is called Dinner with Jesus. The program is designed to bring about awareness of hunger, a huge issue in Northern New Mexico and the world. This is also an opportunity to talk about what 'mission' is in our Sunday schools. A plate with 'Dinner with Jesus' on it has been given to each child so that an extra place can be set at the family table for Jesus. Families can pray for and remember those who are hungry and set aside money which would have been spent feeding an extra person. Each week during the worship service the money will be collected. This money will be donated to a local charity which collects food or feeds the hungry.

We hope that this will be the beginning of more mission events for children, pre-teens and teens. We would like to schedule local mission opportunities throughout the year to teach our children what mission is and develop hearts for mission. John Wesley believed it was not possible to be a good Christian without doing 'good works'. And of course, our Lord spent much of his ministry helping the sick, the poor, the hungry and the marginalized. Often the greatest gifts we receive are in the acts of giving to others.

FALL CLEANING

As we all know, space here at FUMC is at a premium. Most of our offices and classrooms are used for multiple reasons. Our closets and storage spaces are full in most cases and is it becoming increasingly more difficult to store new 'stuff'. Many of our classrooms are becoming repositories for things we can't fit elsewhere.

We are asking each committee to review their closet/storage space and pitch all those things you have not used in over a year, all those things you 'might' need 'someday', all those broken or outdated items, especially any



computers or computer related items and batteries, as Los Alamos is having a Special Waste Day on September 8! This is our opportunity to dispose of our toxic waste in a responsible manner.

As was written in the latest United Methodist Reporter, are we teaching our kids and others to hoard? Should we not teach faith instead? Can we not trust in God for continued provision?

Please make your storage review a priority, and ask your most organized person to supervise. Let's all contribute to a new uncluttered look for our church.



HOW DO YOU REACT TO STRESS?



Dr. Hans Selye, renowned Canadian physician, is known as the father of stress. He related the following story. Two boys were raised by an alcoholic

father. As they grew older they moved away from that dysfunctional home, each going his own way. Years later they were interviewed separately by a psychologist analyzing the effects of drunkenness on children. One brother was a clean-living teetotaler; the other one a hopeless alcoholic like his father. The psychologist asked each of them why he had turned out the way he did. Each gave the identical answer, "What else would you expect when you have a father like mine?"

According to R.H.Schuler, it

is how you react to circumstances that determine the results in your life, not the circumstances themselves that determine your fate. Every person in the same situation has different possibilities of choosing how he will react, positively or negatively.

Dear Lord, help us to be people who live worthy lives. Strengthen and empower us; give us the tools we need that we may heed your call to trust and rely on your wisdom for our daily living. Give us a vision of what you want for us, a vision so compelling that we willingly leave behind all that weighs us down on the journey toward a better life. Amen.*

* The Upper Room Disciplines 2005



SAFE SANCTUARY TRAINING

SEPTEMBER 25, 2007

The New Mexico Conference adopted a resolution during the 2007 Annual Conference regarding a 'Safe Sanctuary' Policy. The resolution mandates that all churches in the Conference will adopt a Safe Sanctuary Policy for their congregations by the end of 2007. The policies will require that all persons who teach, care for, counsel or otherwise come into contact with children, from infants to age 18, will take the training. The training is to reduce the risk of child abuse and abuse of vulnerable adults. It is not only for the safety of our children and adults, but for the protection of all of our volunteers and employed workers.

Training for First United Methodist Church will take place September 25, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Attendance is mandatory and credit for Continuing Education will be given. We look forward to seeing you then.

SAFE Sanctuaries
Reducing the Risk of Abuse in the Church

for Children and Youth



SENIOR ADULTS' RETREAT

MOUNT SEQUOYAH CONFERENCE & RETREAT CENTER, FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS



We have been notified by the Conference Office that all senior adults are invited to the annual retreat, Leaves of Gold. There are two different sessions which give the opportunity for worship, learning, spiritual renewal, fellowship and fun. There are workshops on environmental issues, ministry opportunities, hobbies, music, recreation and aging issues. They also offer off-campus out-

ings of a train ride and a historic house tour.

Session 1: October 15-18

Session 2: October 22-25

For more information and a registration form, please check the website: www.mountsequoyah.org or call 800-760-8126.

UMW Bake Sale
Next Sunday, August 26th
to benefit
Almandra & Angel Hernandez

These children are US citizens of Mexican parents. The whole family has been returned to live in Juarez, Mexico because the parents were in the US illegally. The children do not have the right to schooling in Mexico as they are not Mexican citizens. We are working to provide scholarships of \$3,500 for each of the children to send them to the Methodist Church's Lydia Patterson School in El Paso. Please help us help these children get a good education by purchasing baked goods next Sunday.



Council's Corner

By Louise Mendius, Council Chair

Greetings to all from the Church Council. We are inaugurating a new section in the paper this time. Council's Corner will be the place to let you know what the Council is doing and will give you contact information to bring your concerns to the Council.

Your Council has been pretty busy over the last year. We are looking at what is happening in the church, what needs to be fixed, and what needs to be left alone. But we need your help as well. We cannot do the work of the Church in a vacuum. If you have concerns, please forward them to the Chair at lmendisu@hotmail.com.

This past meeting, we worked on a survey for possibly changing the Sunday morning schedule of events by pushing everything back ½ hour. This would move the First Service to 8:30, Sunday School to 9:45, and the Second Service to 11. The reason for the change is to promote the growth of the Church because several people in the community would like to come to service but find the our times harder for them and other churches service times easier. We put the survey in the bulletin this past Sunday (August 12) and will be having it again this coming Sunday (August 19). If you would like a voice in the matter, please contact me at the above email address and I will send you the survey. So far, the survey is coming out for no change.

Our Trustees asked that we approve two new members to replace two members that had to resign. The Council approved these new members and wish them well in their endeavors. The new members are Don Siebe (no stranger to the work of the Trustees) and John Courtright. I personally thank both of these gentlemen for coming up and serving on the Trustees. It is not an easy

position, but it is a rewarding and necessary one.

The Trustees hope to recarpet the Friendship Center within the next two months with the same color and carpet that is in the Sanctuary now. We are looking forward to having a spruced up area for the church.

Trustees also ask that if you have knowledge of something that needs to be done in the church, please give them the project name, dollar cost estimate, and priority. These requests will then be given to the Finance Committee to put into the budget for next year.

The signage at the Church needs help. Our Church is hard to find for people new to the area. The sign in the grass at the front is not easy to read. We are working on changing that to make a "better impression" for visitors and make us easier to find. Those of us who have lived here a long time or grew up here can find the Church with no problem. We are also considering an additional sign near the front door that would show our hours and any special events that are going on.

We are also looking into replacing the sound system and having a movable project screen in the Sanctuary. We will let you know how this turns out!

As far as the Ark/Church relationship discussion that is ongoing at this time, we are considering placing the Ark under the Education Committee to have more a better frame of reference for our Ark education ministry. We have a series of recommendations that were brought to the Council by an ad hoc committee that we are in the process of discussing and implementing. The Ark is an education ministry of the Church and the Church needs to take more responsibility for our ministry. We hope to have everything in place by the end of the year.

That's all for now. We will have more information next time. God Bless.

Sunday School Highlights



Earlier this summer the Mid-High Sunday School class worked on Solomon's Temple. They also had a visit from the Queen of Sheba, who had heard of the great wisdom of Solomon.



**Church
Council News**

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 Ark staff and to the Ark Board who made this summer's session at the Ark such a success. Thank you also to everyone in the church who assisted in so many ways!



Stewardship Moment

WHAT IS STEWARDSHIP?

"Stewardship isn't just an opportunity to enter into God's service, but an opportunity for God to enter into you."^{*}

The word steward means "to be entrusted with something." Biblically the word tells us that God has entrusted us with a mission to spread the love of Christ throughout the world.

Paul said "Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy." I Cor. 4:1-2 NRSV

Peter said "Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." I Peter 4:10 NRSV

This is our challenge as Christians. We are called to be good stewards. We have been entrusted with the gospel and the mission to share this good news with the world. We have also been entrusted to care for the church where the gospel is passed on from one generation to the next and where we are able to grow in faith and love.

Taken from CIC Training on Stewardship by Dr. Michael Roberts

* Beginning quote by Herb Miller



Sermon Titles

August 26 13th Sunday after Pentecost Dr. Dave Ring "God or Egypt?" Old Testament Scripture Text Isaiah 31:1-3

September 2 LABOR SUNDAY Communion Sunday Dr. Dave Ring "Labor for the Lord" Epistle Scripture Text: I Corinthians 15:58

September 9 15th Sunday after Pentecost Dr. Dave Ring "Get Involved!" Gospel Scripture Text: Luke 10:1-11, 16-21

Roundup in Lubbock, TX

August 25

Youth at Isotopes

August 25

Bake Sale

August 25, 9 am to 12 noon, at the church

Church Picnic

August 25, 11 am to 3 pm, at Urban Park

Missions Movie--

Amazing Grace

August 27, 6:30 pm, in the Friendship Center

Disciple I Orientation

August 27, 6:45 pm, in the Library

Lay Leadership

August 28, 7 pm in the Friendship Center

Choir Picnic

August 29, 6 pm at the home of Sarah Kelly

Newspaper Articles Due

August 31

The Way

September 1, 7 am, Friendship Center

Church Council

September 2, 7 pm in the Friendship Center

Labor Day

September 3 Offices Closed

Emmaus Community

September 3, 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Trustees

September 4, 6 pm in the Library

CIC/Stewardship

September 6, 5:30 pm in the Friendship Center

United Skates Restarts

September 7, 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Special Waste Day

September 8, in the parking lot next door

Christian Educators

Recognition Sunday

September 9, both services

IAF Crafts

September 9, 4 pm in the Friendship Center

First United Methodist Church

called to:

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

The next edition of Visions will be dated September 7.
The deadline for articles is Friday, August 31.

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
Discipleship Coordinator ~ Ann Le Page
Choir Director ~ Sarah Kelly
First Visions Editor ~ Jan Stong

Ark Child Development Center
Carol Mead, Director
Lorri White, 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.

WANTED VOLUNTEERS !

CAN YOU OFFER THE CHURCH A FEW HOURS OF YOUR TIME?

The Finance Committee needs two volunteers:

--One person to input weekly offering amounts after second service on Sundays, generate bi-annual tax statements, review the Counters, perform record keeping and provide a monthly report to the Finance Committee (approx. one and a half hours per week)

--One person to input accounts payable information to generate checks to vendors and other payees, verify that bills have been paid, verify vouchers and generate reports for the Finance Committee (approx. two and a half hours per week)