



FIRST

VISIONS

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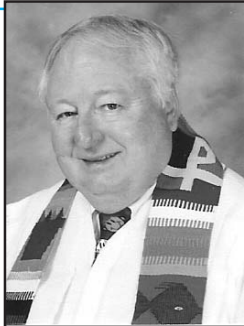
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## The Pastor Ponders



### "CHRISTIAN CONSISTENCY"

George, a member of one of my prior churches, claimed to be a literal, fundamental believer in the King James Version of the Holy Bible. With regularity he showed up at my office on Monday mornings to castigate me for something I'd said in the sermon the day before, something which didn't properly align with his personal theology. He would brandish his large black King James Bible in front of me and say, "Every page, every word, every letter of this book is God's Holy Word. If it was good enough for the apostle Paul, why isn't it good enough for you?"

Of course, I had explained long before to George that the King James Version of the Bible was written in 1611 A. D., so the apostle Paul couldn't possibly have had one. And, just as obviously, since the New Testament was originally written in Greek, any English language version of the Bible, be it King James or other, is merely a translation. But George regarded that sort of information as "liberal logic" designed only to try and confuse a true believer, like himself.

One Sunday I preached a message on tithing. Tithing is the Biblical concept by which God requires that 10% of His people's gross incomes be contributed to His temple and the support thereof. Tithing is taught throughout the Old Testament and repeatedly refer-

enced by Jesus and the apostles in the New.

The following day George showed up for his Monday morning critique of my message. But his approach that day was totally different from his normal routine. "Preacher, you shouldn't try to teach tithing to people today. It's an Old Testament concept, so it doesn't apply to Christians. And besides, the Church today isn't the equivalent of the temple back then. And furthermore, the 10% standard only made sense when we didn't have to pay such high taxes to support governmental social welfare programs."

On and on George went, deconstructing the Biblical standard of tithing so completely that he could have qualified for a professorship at the most liberal seminary in our land. From that day forward, I understood that George was only a fundamental literalist when it suited his purposes.

The Bible tells us that God, who has best revealed himself to us in Jesus Christ, is the same yesterday, today, and forever. You can count on God - He's always consistent, even if His people aren't.

Dave Ring

## So What Is This Thing Called Stewardship: A Personal Perspective

I guess I have always considered stewardship to be a very personal thing—a covenant between each of us and God. Through our stewardship, whether it is the giving of our money or ourselves, we derive enormous benefit, and, just incidentally, the Church is sustained here on earth. Pastor Dave has often suggested that we are to regard stewardship as an opportunity to acknowledge God's grace, and to build our relationship with God within the Body of Christ. Of course he is right. So I welcome this opportunity to share with you a few of my encounters with "stewardship" in the hope that they may prove helpful as you pursue your own stewardship.

One of my earliest and fondest memories of stewardship involved placing a quarter in the offering plate in Mrs. Johnson's first grade Sunday school. Mrs. Johnson was an absolute angel whose Sunday morning class made me feel just plain good in a number of ways. Somehow, though I did not completely understand why, contributing that quarter ranked right up there with singing my favorite song, "The Old Rugged Cross", as a way of experiencing a warm feeling of acceptance. Could there be something to this stewardship thing?

At a particularly low point in my peripatetic path through life God apparently felt it necessary to augment my usual helping of grace, and Susan appeared upon the scene. As you may suspect (if you know her),

Susan came fully equipped with a healthy supply of ideas, one of which involved giving. Unconstrained by the laws of physics, Susan firmly believes that the more you give the more you receive. Although I remain skeptical, this has a certain appeal to my sense of enlightened self-interest, but I did need to see some sort of proof. Obliging God provided a proof through Susan's parents, who shortly after I met them embarked on a course of unbridled giving. The result has been a long string of Habitat for Humanity houses, books for a religious library, many scholarships for disadvantaged youth, and an extremely healthy church in their hometown. To augment their relatively modest retirement stipend and to support their giving habit Susan's mother took up investing. This produced a veritable cornucopia, which challenged even their ability to give it away. The only downside, if there has to be one, has been the increased attention of the IRS, who, like me, struggles to fathom anyone's giving away such a high percentage of his or her income.

Faced with these and other examples, I am beginning to question my humble efforts in the stewardship arena. I hope you are taking advantage of your opportunities to acknowledge God's grace.

Thanks for listening, Mark



## Fall is in the Air

So the summer is gone and it's back to school once again. I'd like to take this opportunity to invite children and adults who don't attend a Sunday School Class to try us out.

Adults, you have lots of classes to choose from. Check out the list below.

Teens, there is both a mid-high and senior high class available.

Kids, we are trying out something new--it's called, *Live B.L.G.* and I hear it's lots of fun!

Adults meet in various locations throughout the church.

Teens meet in the senior and mid-high rooms. Kids begin in the sanctuary with a song fest. Sunday school begins at 9:15 am.

Yummy donuts are served every Sunday in the coffee corner.

### ADULT CLASSES

#### "Little" Class

Traditional Bible study class with insightful instruction and lively discussion. Each person shares his or her own experience and insight concerning the scripture verses we are looking at that day. Enough Bible history and Old Testament scripture is presented to set the stage for understanding how the people to whom the scripture was first presented understood (misunderstood) it. Discussion continues with questions germane to the contemporary Christian.

Leadership: Jim Little Room: #129 Library

#### Bible History Class

A discussion led, not "taught", class. We study the Bible & various current religious books.

Leadership: Dennis Gill is main leader Room: #138 Friendship Center

#### Following God Class:

This class consists of a series of books designed to provide an introspective look at the key characters and concepts found in the Bible. It emphasizes the importance of building a relationship with God and living a life totally surrendered to His leading. All books incorporate important scriptural points of interest into every lesson and focus on the characters and concepts studied from a historical perspective. In the past, we have used books that present various characters from the bible, including prophets, people of faith, and friends of Paul. We learned how they approached difficulties and grew in faith as a result.

Leadership: Louise Mendius, Nels Hoffman Room: #114

#### Women of Faith

Our class seeks to create friendships among women as we seek God's response to issues that are unique to Christian women. This class is very casual with time to discuss anything that comes up, whether or not it pertains to a planned lesson.

Leadership: Shelley Morris Room: #107

#### Inquirer's Class

Caring community of mid-life adults studying Christian spiritual growth books combined with spirited discussions.

Leadership: rotates among class volunteers Room: #116 Resource Room

#### Fellowship Class

No focus on study. Strictly for coffee, conversation and fellowship. Everyone is welcome.

Leadership: rotates Room: #B146, Prayer Chapel

#### Parents of Young Children Class

The Parents of Young Children group focuses on effective, Christian based parenting skills and is an outlet for discussing our children's behavior and socialization. Have your kids asked you questions about God? Did you feel like you know the answers? If not, then join the Parents of Young Children Sunday School Class. We will soon begin the book *When children Ask about God: A Guide for Parents Who Don't Always Have All the Answers* by Harold S. Kushner. Join the discussion and camaraderie! Questions about the class? Call Camille Wescott at 662-0905.

Organizer: Camille Wescott Room: #107 Asbury

## MYF: WHAT'S CHANGED AND WHAT'S HAPPENING

After taking the summer off MYF is back in full swing and there has been a couple of changes. First MYF will be meeting **EVERY SUNDAY** and second we will be meeting from 4:00-5:00 or 5:30. As always MYF will provide snacks and drinks.

### WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SEPTEMBER

9/16 Game Night  
9/23 Cave of the Winds Hike  
9/30 Movie Night

Cave of the Wind hike on Sunday September 23: Anyone

interested in going on the hike needs to have a signed permission slip, light jacket, flashlight, and a camera if you want to take pictures. We will meet at



the home of Aaron and Peggy Goldman located at 4723 Sandia at 3:00 pm. Parents please drop off and pick up your child at the Goldmans'. We will return at approximately 4:30ish.

### WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OCTOBER

10/13 An exciting and upcoming event in October will be Saturday October 13, 2007.

MYF is sponsoring another trip to Albuquerque and this time we will be going to the Maize Maze (Corn Maze) at the Los Poblanos Fields Open Space. Please contact any of the MYF Sponsors if you have questions or need more information. MYF Sponsors are Jeff & Crystal Densmore, Lance & Stacey Eaton and Mark & Rachel Ortiz.

## What Will You Do for the Lord?

We have often heard that God loves a cheerful giver. When we hear the call to serve, are we eager to jump in and help in any way, or do we reluctantly agree, just because no one else will do it? We often find that even half-hearted commitments can lead to a rewarding experience of service. Several years ago, I reluctantly agreed to help tutor teens who were on probation, just to help a friend who was desperate. I remember protesting, 'but I don't even have kids, let alone know how to relate to teenagers!' I spent several months spending an hour and a half a week doing homework with a small group of teens. Most of these kids had horrible grades, no interest in school, and major problems at home. I immediately thought they must be 'slow', as how else could you explain failing grades? Wrong, again.

None of the kids was 'slow'. They just had so many problems they couldn't concentrate on school work. When we took time to be with them, showing them we cared, all of their grades improved dramatically. It was a humbling and revealing experience for me. One young girl, who quietly sat through just one session, whose name I didn't even remember, wrote me a lovely thank-you note, for taking the time to talk to her. I had it framed and it sits in my office today, reminding me that I am an influence, whether I am conscious of it or not.

God of compassion, may we look at how we do things in a new light. May we be aware of our responsibilities and how we appear to others; may we go the extra mile in Your service. Amen

Inspired by readings in The Upper Room Disciplines, 2007.

## MOVIES WITH MISSIONS

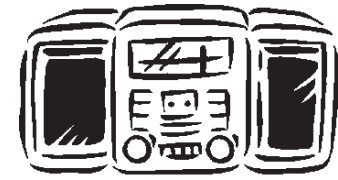
SEPTEMBER 24, 2007  
6:30 p.m.

Monday is Movies with Missions night at the Friendship Hall. The first feature of the Fall is 'The Last Sin Eater'. The story takes place in Appalachia in the 1850's, featuring a ten-year old girl searching for some one to take away her sin. After adventures, she finally finds the truth in Jesus. The Missions committee provides this free movie, popcorn and a beverage. Bring your family and friends and join the fun!

### 'The Last Sin Eater' Popcorn and beverage provided too!

**KKIM Christian Radio  
can now be heard in Los Alamos!**

**Dial your radio to 94.7 FM**



**Christian program that has been  
available in the Albuquerque area  
for over thirty years is now in  
Northern New Mexico.**

**Visit [www.kkimam1000.com](http://www.kkimam1000.com) for a  
complete programming guide.**

# What Stewardship means to me



The concept of Stewardship brings to my mind the word RESPONSE. It is in joyful response to all that God has done for me that I give back to Him. The church is His and this provides a vehicle through which I can respond with my prayers, my presence at services to worship Him, my service to His world and my monetary gifts.

This banner illustrates this concept. My husband, Glenn Carter, designed this banner and it was at an All Church Family Retreat at a Santa Clara Canyon campground in the 1980's that a number of folks helped fabricate the letters on the banner. It is a wonderful reminder of the vow taken by every person who joins any United Methodist Church. That is: To support God's church by giving: Giving of our prayers, our presence, our gifts and our service. Alice Carter



Grant Janecky and family at Grant's baptism and confirmation



# Mission Funtastic



*Come join in on the fun!*

September 30th following Second Service

*Enter the Salsa contest:*



*Categories: Spiciest and Most Unusual  
A prize for each categories will be given*

*A free will offering will be taken*



Heart Disease, Stroke, Aneurysm

**Are You At Risk?**



Cathedral Health Services is a faith based not-for-profit organization that conducts low cost cardio-vascular, thyroid and osteoporosis screenings throughout Arizona, New Mexico and Western Texas. The income generated from these screenings goes to support a number of outreach activities including a monthly free health clinic in Naco, Sonora, installation of water purification systems in rural Mexico, two orphanages in Mexico—one on the U.S.–Mexico border and another along the Mexico–Guatemala border. Cathedral Health Services will be here at Los Alamos Unitarian Church in Los Alamos conducting screenings on Tuesday, September 25 and at the White Rock Baptist Church in White Rock on Thursday, September 27. More information about the screenings and how to make an appointment is available on the literature tables in the back of the Church.

Heart, stroke, abdominal aortic aneurysm, peripheral arterial disease, thyroid, and bone density screenings will be offered on September 25th at the Unitarian Church of Los Alamos and on September 27th at the White Rock Baptist Church. For more information check out the hand out on the table in the narthex at the back of the church.

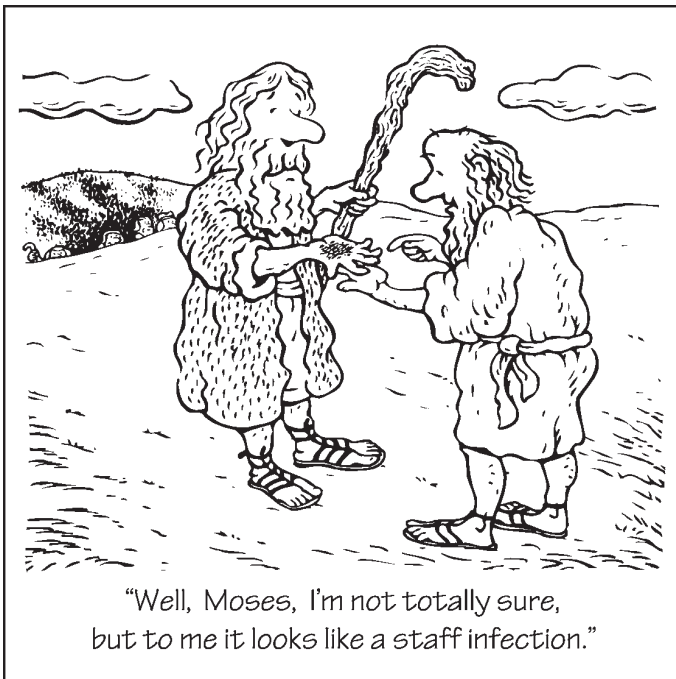
## Special September Days

### Birthdays:

Darryl Jackson 09/02  
Ben Gibson 09/03  
Opal Lee Gill 09/03  
Jan Frensdorf 09/03  
John Zumbro 09/05  
Frances Hundley 09/06  
Valerie Collins 09/09  
Carol Mead 09/15  
Rachel Sheppard 09/16  
John Courtright 09/18  
Dagne Sollid 09/22  
Bob Bryant 09/30

### Anniversaries:

September 2  
Gail & Jim Little  
September 12  
Doris & Darryl Jackson  
September 13  
Peggy & Aaron Goldman  
September 14  
Eileen & Rod Douglass  
September 23  
Marilyn & Jim Peek



"Well, Moses, I'm not totally sure,  
but to me it looks like a staff infection."



### Sermon Titles

September 23 17th Sunday  
after Pentecost Dr. Dave  
Ring "What Is Lordship?"  
Gospel Scripture text  
Matthew 25:14-30  
September 30 18th Sunday  
after Pentecost  
October 7 World  
Communion Sunday

### Parents' Night Out

September 21, 6 to 9:30 pm

### MF Youth

September 23, 4 to 5:30 pm  
in the Senior High Room

Thanks to  
Susan Nava  
who led our church services on  
September 16th



## Upcoming Events Highlights

### Disciple 9

September 24, 6:30 pm in  
the Mid-High Room

### Outreach Movie

September 24, 6:30 pm in  
the Friendship Center, "The  
Last Sin Eater"

### Martha Circle

September 25, at the home  
of Charlotte McQuillan,  
4015 Trinity Drive

### Safe Sanctuaries

September 25, 6:30 pm in  
the Sanctuary--all adults  
should attend

### Newspaper Articles Due

September 28

### Staff Meeting

September 28, 9 am in the  
Library

### Mission Fiesta

September 30, 11:30 pm in  
the Fellowship Hall (See  
announcement on Page 5)

### MF Youth

September 30, 4 to 5:30 pm  
in the Senior High Room

### Emmaus Community

October 1, 6 pm in the  
Fellowship Hall

### Sister to Sister

October 2, 12 noon in the  
Friendship Center

### Ark Policy Meeting

October 2, 5:30 pm in the  
Mid-High Room

### Trustees

October 2, 6 pm in the  
Library

### Disciple 9

October 2, 6:30 pm in the  
Friendship Center

### Staff Meeting

October 5, 9 am in the  
Library

### The Way

October 6, 7 am in the  
Friendship Center

### Church Council

October 7, 7 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 October 5.  
The deadline for articles is Wednesday, September 26.

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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  
Lorri White, Director  
(505) 662-4822

### United Skates

First Session:  
3rd graders & younger  
5:30 pm - 6:45 pm  
Admission \$2.00  
Second Session:  
4th graders & older  
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm  
Admission \$2.50

### 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.

### Important Dates

**Sunday, October 7th** --ballots will be handed out in order for children to vote on parts they would like to have

**Sunday, December 9th** --rehearsal after 2nd service, lunch will be provided

**Saturday, December 15th** --dress rehearsal, 10 am-2 pm, lunch will be provided, we will also have a fun craft time

**Sunday, December 16th** --Performance at both morning worship services, 8:30 am and 11 am with a snack in-between

## Kids, You are Invited!

- What:** Practices for the Christmas pageant, A Christmas Story  
**When:** After the Children's Sermon at both services, beginning Sunday, September 15th  
**Who:** All children from pre-school age through 12th grade  
**Where:** In the Friendship Center