



FIRST VISIONS

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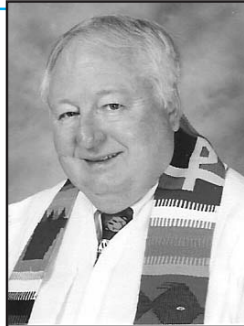
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The Pastor Ponders



"WILL YOU BE HERE WHEN 'JOHN' GETS HERE?"

As a United Methodist Christian, beyond the obvious desire to meet my Lord Jesus Christ face-to-face, the one human being I'd most like to meet and get to know personally is John Wesley. Wesley, who lived throughout most of the 18th century A. D., is the spiritual father of the largest segment of Protestant Christianity and the third largest portion of the Body of Christ worldwide. Between 70 and 100 million Christians on our earth today are the result, directly and/or indirectly, of John Wesley's renewal of the Christian faith some two and a half centuries ago.

I certainly don't claim to be a Wesleyan "scholar," but I have made learning about John Wesley a long-term personal hobby. He was an extremely interesting and multi-faceted individual. Western history often terms Francis Bacon, who lived through the latter half of the 16th and first quarter of the 17th centuries A. D., the "last practicing generalist." Since Bacon's time, the volume of information available in the world has been considered too great for any one person to "know it all." But John Wesley certainly came close. In addition to his singular contributions to religion and theology, most folks (including most Methodists) have no idea that Wesley was a pioneer in "electroscience" (what we'd today call electrical engineering), a "physic" (more-or-less a medical doctor), and a "barrister" (the British term for one variety of lawyer). For his day and time, Wesley spanned virtually

all the major branches of human knowledge.

Certainly John Wesley was not a perfect man. Much like the first-century Christian apostle Paul, he hadn't a clue as to how to relate to women. Two of the darkest chapters in Wesley's life were his aborted engagement to a young woman, Sophia Hopkey, while in the colony of Georgia, and his later disastrous marriage to a woman named Mary, to whom he remained formally married throughout the remainder of his life while the two lived completely separate lives - since Wesley refused to consider divorce.

I won't ever get the opportunity to meet John Wesley in this world, but I trust I'll make his acquaintance in the Kingdom of Heaven. However, Dr. Tom Fuller is coming to Los Alamos October 14-17, and he's bringing an interesting characterization of John Wesley to us. Tom will take us on a "John Wesley Adventure," attempting to better familiarize us with Wesley and his teachings. But it won't be simply an exercise in "history," for Tom's real purpose is to bring these Wesleyan roots into our 21st century A. D. attempts to be faithful to Jesus Christ.

If you possibly can, plan on taking part in the "John Wesley Adventure." I believe it has strong potential to invigorate your Christian discipleship. Blessings!

Dave Ring

➔What Can I Do?

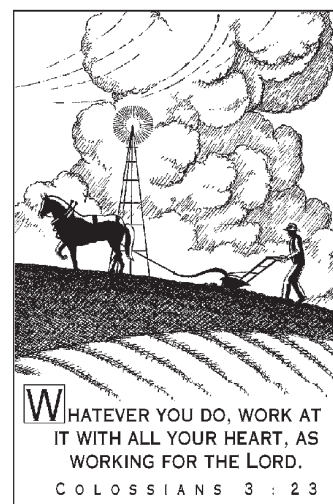
- ➔Vacation Bible School leader
- ➔Sending a card to a troubled friend
- ➔Mission work in our community and abroad
- ➔Kairos Prison Ministry
- ➔Taking a meal to a sick church member or neighbor
- ➔Serving as a MYF sponsor
- ➔Teaching an adult Bible study or children's Sunday School
- ➔Volunteering for a Trustee work day
- ➔Serving on a church committee
- ➔Placing banners on the front altar
- ➔Serving communion
- ➔Tending the flower beds at the church entrance,
- ➔Work with UMW and UMM
- ➔Singing in the choir
- ➔Christmas pageant adult volunteer
- ➔ARK Board member.

One particular church event this past year has reminded me of the many faithful servants at FUMC who answered God's call to service. When the Christian Education Ministry began to discuss plans for Vacation Bible School for the summer of 2007, I admit that I was somewhat hesitant about finding enough volunteers to support our curriculum choice, "Passport to the Holy Land." The curriculum was a five day exploration of what it might have been like to live when Jesus did. The children would have opportunities to experience the customs, foods, games, arts and crafts, and a marketplace in the Holy Land.

We wanted to include the ARK with our VBS program, so we decided to provide one program during the morning and one in the evening--two sets of volunteers at two different times of day. It would require many volunteers to make it happen. Oh ye of little faith. My feelings of anxiety were calmed when Opal Lee Gill began to call upon our church members to help with the two time slots. Mid-high and senior high aged youth, college age young adults, and many adults agreed to take time out of their busy summer schedules to make the week long VBS a success. The presence of the Lord was truly felt in our church during that week. Not only was it a fun, educational experience for our children, but a great opportunity for fellowship, laughter and Christian growth for the many youth and adults who answered the call to service.

"You can tell what they are by what they do." Matthew 7:16 What are you doing to proclaim the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ?

Geniece Courtright



Wow!! What a list of ways to serve and yet the list isn't even complete. I'm sure you could think of a number of other ways to serve in our church, in our community and throughout our world.

Remember the vows you recited when joining the Methodist church? --To support the church through your prayers, your presence, your gifts and your service? How have you been called during the past year to serve your Lord?

I'm Packed, How About You?

Dave and I just got back from a wonderful vacation. We just cruised the Alaskan inland passage. What a great adventure! I am glad I packed for the journey. We had some sunshine, but we also had winds and rain and some down-right cold weather, but I was ready! I had light long-sleeved shirts (for mild weather), heavy sweaters, long johns (cuddle duds), winter pants, a winter coat, a woolen cap Dave got me from Peru, and several rain ponchos. And guess what? I used it all! Dave sometimes teases me about how I pack, but I want to be prepared for any kind of weather life might throw at me, which brings me to how to pack for a spiritual journey.

only if it is convenient, they pray if they find themselves in a crisis, Sunday School is thought to be only for children, and serious in-depth Bible study, well, it just doesn't fit into their busy schedules. Their spiritual journey is fine while the sun is shining, but when bad weather strikes, the cold wind blows and the rain falls on their heads, they have nothing to pull from their spiritual suitcase that will give comfort, encouragement or the 'peace that passes understanding.

I've got my spiritual suitcase packed. How about you? Are you ready for any kind of weather? If not--start packing!

God Bless,

Fran Ring

PS: If you check the church's calendar, you'll find plenty of opportunities to pack items into your spiritual suitcases.

It always amazes me that the same folks who pack so well for making 'earthly' trips, pack nothing or next to next to nothing in their 'spiritual' suitcases. They go to Sunday worship



FIESTA FUND RAISER A SUCCESS!!!

Many people stayed after church on September 30th to enjoy the Taco Bar and Salsa Contest. \$880 was raised to promote mission projects of the church.



Mission Trip to Peru

by Alice Carter

I've been contributing to **JONI AND FRIENDS** for many years out of an admiration for how Joni Eareckson Tada, after she became a quadriplegic at age 17, chose to give her life to Christ and how God has used her these 40 years in His ministry. The organization, **JONI AND FRIENDS**, has reached many, many needy persons throughout the world with wheel chairs through a program called **Wheels for the World**.

She has also begun a ministry for families of the disabled called **Family Retreats** which give these families a little reprieve from their burdensome lives and a chance to meet "like" families and establish relationships.

I sometimes thought I might like to volunteer with that arm of Joni's ministries but had never dreamed I'd have an opportunity to volunteer with the **Wheels for the World** ministry. However,

that opportunity has come - basically through my daughter and son-in-law who were on the prayer team for the wheels team last year and this year pursued going as volunteers themselves. They encouraged me and their friends, who are the New Mexico coordinators for the wheels program, also encouraged me.

I'll be taking the adventure to Lima, Peru on November 1st through the 10th. I would appreciate your prayers for



this team and for me. And I would like to give you the opportunity to add your support to **JONI AND FRIENDS** for efforts like this. If you would like to make a tax deductible contribution to **JONI AND FRIENDS**, you can make a check out to them: **JONI AND FRIENDS** and in the memo space write my name and "Peru". Then you can give me the check and I'll mail it to the proper person or you can mail it to:

JONI AND FRIENDS, P.O. Box 3333, Agoura Hills, CA, 91376 and in the lower left corner of the envelope write Attn: WFTW Bill Wood. I have placed some information on the table in the narthex if you would like to know more about the ministry. The September newsletter was particularly interesting about how they gather used, broken down wheel chairs, get them repaired by incarcerated men and ship them to the countries where they're needed.

MYF Outing: Cave of the Winds

by Ann LePage

An intrepid band of hikers met at the Aaron Goldmans' on Sunday, September 23. In spite of the nasty weather, Clara Leschnitzer, Sara Hutto, Jeff Densmore, Ann Le Page (with faithful companion little Lulu) and our esteemed leader, Aaron Goldman, set out into the rain. We hiked through wind and wet up the rocky path through burned

out trees. At the top of the grade our efforts were rewarded with a cave excursion for those brave enough to crawl through the small opening. 'Awesome!' was the response of those brave women, Clara and Sara. The return trip was less wet as we came down on the nature trail, tired, wet and exultant from an adventure in Nature's kingdom.



Special October Days

Birthdays:		<i>James Barefield</i>	10/15
<i>Jon Sollid</i>	10/01	<i>Gerald Collom</i>	10/18
<i>Emma Jean Mader</i>	10/01	<i>Susan Hodgson</i>	10/20
<i>Michael Hundley</i>	10/02	<i>Ray Trimmer</i>	10/20
<i>Doris Jackson</i>	10/02	<i>Ella Leschnitzer</i>	10/22
<i>Matthew Ricketts</i>	10/02	<i>Edith Potter</i>	10/27
<i>Nels Hoffman</i>	10/04	<i>Dave Scudder</i>	10/29
<i>Alice Carter</i>	10/05	<i>Charles Knapp</i>	10/30
<i>Geniece Courtright</i>	10/08	Anniversaries:	
<i>George Balog</i>	10/12	October 8	
<i>Susannah Rousculp</i>	10/12	<i>Fred & Hazel DeVries</i>	
<i>Peggy Goldman</i>	10/13	October 10	
<i>Don Zickert</i>	10/14	<i>Lee & Jan Weinland</i>	



Our Applause

Many thanks to all the people who attended the Safe Sanctuary Seminar on Tuesday, September 25th. The well-attended seminar was led by Dara Shipp, the conference

Director of Youth Ministries.

Safe Sanctuary is a program requirement for anyone working with children or youth within the church. It is designed to keep us continual-

ly aware of risk behaviors on the part of adults that adversely affect our children and youth. This training is a part of our love for one another.

Upcoming Events Highlights



Sermon Titles

October 7 World Communion Sunday Dr. Dave Ring "The Feast of the King" Gospel Scripture Text: Matthew 22:1-14

October 14 "The John Wesley Adventure" begins. 20th Sunday after Pentecost Rev. Dr. Tom Fuller "If Not Here, Where? If Not Now, When?" Gospel Scripture Text: Matthew 14:13-21

October 14 pm, 10/14 thru Wed. pm 10/17 - 7 pm "John Wesley Adventure" continues

October 21 2007 Fall Stewardship Sermon Series continues: "Stewardship Is Lordship" Dr. Dave Ring "Why Is Lordship Necessary (Part 1)?" Gospel Scripture Text: Luke 9:57-62

MF Youth

October 7, 4 to 5:30 pm in the Senior High Room

Church Council

October 7, 7 pm in the Friendship Center

Columbus Day

October 8, Offices Closed

Disciple I

October 8, 6:30 pm in the Mid-High Room

Outreach/Missions

October 8, 7 pm in the Library

Christian Education

October 9, 6 pm in the Library

SPRC

October 9, 7 pm in the Asbury Room

Newspaper Articles Due

October 10

Staff Meeting

October 12, 9 am in the Library

MF Corn Maze

October 13

Church Potluck

October 14, 12 noon in the Fellowship Hall

John Wesley Adventure

October 14-17, 7 pm in the Sanctuary

LAF Crafts

October 14, 4 pm in the Friendship Center

LACares

October 15, 6:30 pm in the Library

Sister to Sister

October 16, 12 noon in the Friendship Center

Women's Emmaus Walk

October 18-21

Guatemala Living Water Mission Trip

October 20-27

Staff Meeting

October 19, 9 am in the Library

Parents' Night Out

October 19, 6 - 9:30 pm



First United Methodist Church
called to:

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

The next edition of Visions will be dated October 19.
The deadline for articles is Wednesday, October 10.

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

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.

Kids, You are Invited!

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

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