



FIRST

VISIONS

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The Pastor Ponders



"INTERESTED IN THE JOHN WESLEY ACADEMY?"

When Dr. Tom Fuller was at LA-FUMC, October 14-17, to present the "John Wesley Adventure" to us, he offered the possibility of continuing farther and deeper into Wesleyan Christian studies. The "John Wesley Academy" is a three-module study of seven lessons each, for a total of 21, that can be pursued by a small, committed group of Methodist disciples of Christ. Pastor Ring has obtained the curriculum for this and, thus far, five persons have

indicated interest in pursuing it. Tentative proposed starting time is January 2008. If you are interested in the "John Wesley Adventure," please call the church office (662-6277) and get your name added to this list. Also, if you have a preference as to day and/or time for such a study to be offered, include that information.

Dave Ring

What Is Your Legacy?

In 2 Timothy 1:1-5, Paul tell Timothy, a young minister, "I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you." Timothy was the product of generations of faithful believers who shared their beliefs with him.

Do you come from generations of believers? Is there a tradition of church attendance and Christian belief in your family? Do you pass Christian beliefs on to your children and grandchildren? Our parents show us, by example, the importance of God, the church, Christian beliefs and behaviors. Do you teach your children to value each person they meet, regardless of economic status, color of skin, heritage, gender, education, job or other characteristics? Are your children taught to accept each person as a child of God?

Paul recognized that the faithful always have and always will have an influence on sub-

sequent generations. He might ask us today, "What legacy are you passing on to tomorrow's Christians?"

From Disciplines Magazine, 2007

"Believe on the LORD JESUS, and you will be saved, you and your household."



UMCOR in California

NEW YORK, Oct. 23, 2007—Wildfires fueled by the hot Santa Ana winds continue to consume large portions of Southern California, particularly heavily-populated areas surrounding San Diego and Los Angeles. The United Methodist Committee on Relief is in close contact with Bishop Mary Ann Swenson of the California-Pacific Annual Conference.

"In addition to an emergency grant to support the conference in its initial efforts, disaster response consultants are at the ready to provide the conference with their presence and guidance as needed," says the Rev. Tom Hazelwood, head of UMCOR's domestic disaster response.

LARGE NUMBERS EVACUATED

Safety concerns have spurred the largest evacuation since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005. Approximately 300,000 people have been warned to evacuate, some seeking shelter in the Qualcomm stadium in San Diego.

Pastors and congregations of five United Methodist Churches are among the evacuees, according to the San Diego District website. Several other United Methodist congregations

remain closely affected although no known United Methodist Churches have been damaged by the fires as of yet.

"As always UMCOR offers its prayers and support to those in need," says Sam Dixon, UMCOR's chief executive. "We ask for your generous donations to the domestic disaster response advance as recent emergencies have depleted the funds we use to provide relief and support in disasters such as these."

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Please uphold the people of Southern California in your prayers in the coming days as no relief from the Santa Ana winds is in sight.

Cash gifts will help provide for recovery. Checks can be put in the collection plate at church. Write "UMCOR Advance #901670, Domestic Disaster Response," on the memo line of your check. One hundred percent of every donation to any appeal, including appeals for California wildfires, goes to support the designated program.

Article taken from <http://new.gbgn-umc.org/umcor/>



Dr. Tom Fuller and the "John Wesley Adventure" October 14th through the 17th

SPRC & Stewardship

by Bill Sole, Chairman, SPRC

Every year at this time, churches conduct their Stewardship campaign.

Based on my experience, that means that the congregation will hear sermons on tithing and the Biblical basis for giving. You will also receive mailings and hear from Lay speakers about giving.

Most times the "Giving" philosophy of: Prayers, Presence, Gifts and Service is articulated exclusively as "Gifts" (read money). I don't want to give short shrift to Prayers, Presence and Service since they are just as important, and probably more so, than Gifts. Pastor Dave does a great job throughout the year encouraging our Prayers, Presence and Service, so please bear with me while I concentrate my remarks on Gifts. But I do want to give a different slant on what you normally hear.

I recently heard of a church which offers 'money back' guarantees for those who pledge and give 10%. In other words, if the member gives 10% and God doesn't give back to them what they feel is acceptable to them in return for their money, they can request and receive all their money back. That seems pretty lame to me. I don't see GIVING as a way to get something back - personally, I see it as my thanks for what God has already given me through His Grace. He didn't ask for anything of me; I didn't do anything to deserve His Love, Grace and Forgiveness - He just gave it to me and He has been very generous with me. But I digress. I am straying from the point of this article which is to speak of where the money goes.

Many people are skeptical about giving 10% of their hard-earned money and wonder where the money goes. Since an accounting of the budget is rarely provided to normal church goers, I must admit that I have had some of those same thoughts myself. If your experiences are like mine, very little is said about justifying the giving other than "give more" because the Bible says so. In fact, until recently when Dennis Gill spoke of how your gifts are utilized in the Christian Education Ministries, I can't ever recall

hearing where the offerings actually go.

Since I am affiliated with the SPRC, Staff Parish Relations Committee, I want to let you know a little bit about where some of your money goes in this area.

The SPRC budget includes:

1. Staff salaries. Los Alamos First United Methodist Church is blessed with a wonderful staff: our Preacher, Choir Director, Accompanist, Nursery staff, Secretary, and Skates staff, just to mention a few. We also recently added the position of Discipleship Coordinator. All of these salaries take money. And, no, I didn't forget the ARK Director - the ARK Director's salary is paid for by the ARK budget.
2. The SPRC budget also includes: staff benefits, health care, retirement/pension, staff continuing education, pay/honorariums for guest pastors, substitutes for our secretary, etc. We also budget for the summer intern position.
3. Where else does the SPRC budget go?

As you probably know, the NM Conference and our Church have recently adopted a Safe Sanctuary policy to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our children/youth and vulnerable adults. As part of this program, we perform background checks on all the adults who work with these people. Part of the SPRC budget goes to pay for the background checks. Other SPRC budget items include:

- Pastor moving fund (since the conference only has a \$1250 allowance to cover moving expenses for an incoming pastor).
- We are also in the process of hiring a Worship Leader/Music Director for the Contemporary Service.
- If budget permits, we will

consider hiring a full time Youth Director/Youth Minister to focus on the children and youth programs which are so vital to the future of our church and the UMC in general.

All these things take money and we rely on the generosity of all of you to make these things possible.

Overall, the SPRC budget is ~ 45% of the overall church budget. Other interesting aspects of the SPRC budget: It is

- ~ 4x the budget for "Shared Ministries" (formerly known as Apportionments)
- ~ 4x our Missions and Outreach budget
- ~ 2x the Trustees budget (facilities, utilities, etc.)

As you know, the staffing of our Church is a critical element required for the success of our Church and accomplishing our Vision of **Seek God, Share Christ's Word, Serve His World.**

We rely heavily on our Lay staff and leaders, but we need full time staff to be able to accomplish all of our goals. Our staff is made possible by your generous gifts. YOU are the key to FUMCLA being able to fulfill our spiritual needs, as well as our outreach programs.

My point here is that when you hear words encouraging you to give and give generously, there is a strong and definite need for your gifts, as well as your prayers, presence and service. The leaders of this Church take their stewardship of your gifts seriously and will do their best to ensure that collectively we 'pay back' God for all the Blessings He has bestowed upon us and to do His will.

Thank you so much for your gifts which are so important to maintaining our quality staff, to ensuring the safety of our young people and all the other things which go into fulfilling the Vision of our Church.

Safe Sanctuaries & Skates

The 2007-2008 United Skates Friday evening youth roller skating program has resumed as of September 7th. Once again we offer two sessions - the first for youngsters up to third grade from 5:30 to 6:45 pm. Fourth graders and older are welcomed to the second session which runs from 7 to 9 pm. This year we have Sara Hutto as our official youth employee and we welcome her to the program.

In accordance with the Safe Sanctuaries practices which were presented to the congregation on September 25th, we are requesting some adult chaperone volunteers to donate an occasional Friday evening to the skate program. As required by our Conference



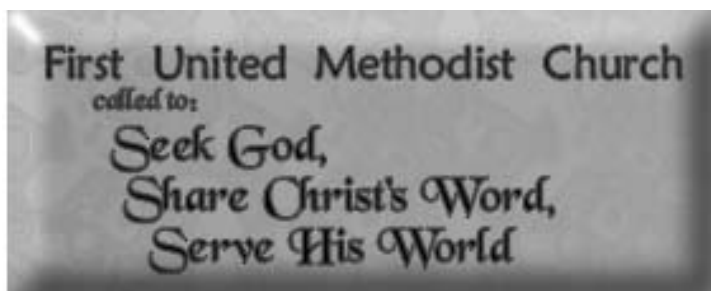
we now need at least two adults present for any of our youth activities in the church. Since most parents of youngsters stay for the entire first session of skates each Friday, we most likely will not need chaperones for that session; we primarily need one additional adult for each 7 to 9 pm second session. No previous experience with the skate program is necessary. Please call Don Casperson at 662-4335 if you are willing to donate a Friday evening of your time to this ministry of the church.

CELEBRATION SUNDAY COMING NOVEMBER 11TH!

Please join us in celebrating our Stewardship as we present our Response to God's Grace cards.



Mid-High Sunday School Class presents Christian theme wall hangings for the Ark to Lorri White, the Ark Director



Special November Days

Birthdays:

Louise Mendius 11/04
 Jeanie Standley 11/11
 Miriam Balog 11/12
 Val Hundley 11/12
 Armond Standley 11/12
 Irene Bubernak 11/14
 Harriet Zickert 11/17
 Margaret Gibson 11/22
 Mada Jones 11/25
 Bob Kelly 11/26

Anniversaries:

November 4
 Walt & Martha Lou Ellis
 November 23
 Ron & Mada Jones
 November 24
 Stanley & Roberta Yasuda
 November 25
 Court & Mary Courtright
 November 26
 Dick & Judy Opsahl
 Ray & Debbie Trimmer
 November 27
 Larry & Bobi Bryant



First United Methodist Church
 called to:

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

The next edition of Visions will be dated November 16
 The deadline for articles is Wednesday, November 7.

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 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

8:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
 11 a.m. Traditional Worship

Wednesday Activities
 Chancel Choir 7 p.m.



Our Applause

THANKS!

Pastor Ring and Fran would like to express thanks to all who have worked on the new backyard fence for the parsonage at 226 Venado

during early October. John Courtright has served as "chief engineer" on the project. Workers include Brad Wescott, Ed Payne, Ann LePage, Kim Granzow, Ben Gibson, Don

Siebe, James Barefield, Armond Standley, Bob Malone, and Lee Weinland. Thanks, too, to Mary Keller who provided lunch on Oct. 6th.

Upcoming Events Highlights



Sermon Titles

November 4 All Saints Day Holy Communion 2007 Fall Stewardship Series continues: "Stewardship Is Lordship" Pastor Ring's Message #3 of 4: "Why Is Lordship Necessary (Part 2)?"

November 11 "Celebration Sunday" 2007 Fall Stewardship Series concludes: "Stewardship Is Lordship" Pastor Ring's Message #4 of 4: "A Sensible Steward"

November 18 Thanksgiving Sunday Pastor Ring's Message "A 2007 Thanksgiving Prayer" Psalm 149: 1-5

Peru Mission Trip

October 30- November 10

Daylight Savings Ends

November 3, 12 midnight



Daylight Saving Time Ends

Special Important Time Changes!!!

Effective November 4th

1ST SERVICE CHURCH BEGINS
 AT 8:30 AM

2ND SERVICE CHURCH BEGINS
 AT 11:00 AM



Children & Youth Teacher Meeting

November 4, 8:30 am in the Library

Food Drive

November 4, both services

MF Youth

November 4, 4 pm,
 Cookout at the Rings

Church Council

November 4, 7 pm in the Friendship Center

Emmaus Community

November 5, 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Trustees

November 6, 6 pm in the Library

Disciple 9

November 6, 6:30 pm in the Friendship Center

Newspaper Articles Due

November 7

Staff Meeting

November 9, 9 am in the Library

LAF Crafts

November 11, 4 pm in the Friendship Center

MF

November 11, 4 pm in the Senior High Room

Veterans Day

November 12, Offices Closed

Disciple 9

November 12, 6:30 pm in Friendship Center

Outreach/Missions

November 12, 7 pm in the Library

Christian Education

November 13, 6 pm in the Library

SPRC

November 13, 7 pm in the Asbury Room

Staff Meeting

November 16, 9 am in the Library

Crop Walk

November 18

MF Youth

November 18, 4:30 pm in the Senior High Room

Thanksgiving Dinner

November 18, 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Church Conference

November 18, 7 pm in the Sanctuary

Other Important Dates

Sunday, November 18th -- Annual Church Conference of FUMC will be held at 7 pm. The United Methodist Women will be hosting a Mission Thanksgiving dinner at 5:30 pm that evening in the Fellowship Hall. We hope that all will plan to attend this time of fellowship and enjoy a delicious meal. All contribution will be donated to missions.

Saturday, December 9th -- Attention Women of the Church -- A Christmas luncheon will be held at the home of Opal Lee Gill. Mark your calendars now for this festive occasion.