



FIRST VISIONS

an edition of the United Methodist Reporter

Two Sections, Section A | 070665 | Vol. 154 | No. 52 | May 16, 2008

INSIDE
FIRST VISIONS

THE PASTOR
PONDERS

BOOKREVIEW

1 ^A

SUMMER INTERN,
TRAVIS KNAPP
PHOTOS--CHURCH
ACTIVITIES

4-5 ^A

SPECIAL MAY DAYS

ADULT SUNDAY
SCHOOL

LANL EMPLOYEE
OPPORTUNITY

UPCOMING EVENTS

8 ^A

THE PASTOR PONDERS



"ALLERGIES"

Twice each year, spring and fall, I am plagued by allergies. Right now, with an abundance of blossoming fruit trees and flowers beautifying our land following a wetter-than-usual winter, plus the ever-present spring mountain winds, I am variously sneezing, honking, eye-watering, and otherwise enduring a moderate level of misery. (Please resist the temptation to recommend your favorite allergy therapy to me. I've tried dozens - both traditional medicines and homeopathic remedies. If I want to stay awake and functional, I simply have to "tough out" my allergies each season they occur.)



Spring

Actually, allergies are intended to be a "good thing" in the sense that they are part of the human body's built-in warning system. When someone has an allergic reaction to a particular substance, that's your body's way of telling you to "stay away" from that item. If you have a known allergic reaction to peanuts, then you'd best not spread peanut butter on your sandwich - or you're asking for trouble. Unfortunately, it's not possible for me to stop breathing the pollen-and-dust-filled-air that's all around me, so I just have to live with my allergies.

As a pastor I often wonder why God didn't include sins on the list of "allergens" that produce bodily symptoms. Yes, most of us have a built-in inner guide called conscience which warns us to avoid sin. Conscience is useful, but it would be far more effective if, for example, when we first began to think about stealing someone else's property we were seized by a violent sneezing fit. It would really promote truth-telling if whenever someone was lying their eyes began to water and their nose to run. Whenever a husband began to consider cheating on a wife, or a wife on a husband, if their sinuses filled up and their heads started to ache they might be less inclined to stray from the vows they'd made.

Unfortunately none of us is naturally allergic to sin. But the good news is that there's a ready cure for sin - and it's Jesus Christ. As the Bible says in I John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

I've been forgiven of my sins by Jesus Christ. And you can be, too. Just ask Him. Now if I could just get rid of these pesky allergies. Praise the Lord anyway!

Dore Ring



UMW BOOK REVIEW

TAUGHT BY AMERICA,
BY SARAH SENTILLES



Reviewed by Peggy Goldman

This is a book written by a young woman who takes a job with Teach America teaching at an inner-city school in Los Angeles. The story portrays her young students and her love and concern for them and of her teaching methods under very difficult circumstances. It is touching, enlightening and gripping. A good, quick read - hard to put down.

The above book is from the UMW Reading Program. It is available in the church library.

SUMMER INTERN



SUMMER, 2008

TRAVIS KNAPP

Greetings Los Alamos First United Methodist Church! My name is Travis Knapp, and I have been hired as the new Summer Intern Youth Director here at FUMC. I am thrilled to have the opportunity to fulfill this position, and I look forward to meeting many of you along the way as we follow Christ.

In order for you all to better understand who I am, here is a short autobiography about where I have come from and why I am here this summer. I was raised primarily in Amarillo, TX, although my family moved often because of my parents' service in the military. Being raised with basic values of our faith, I was baptized in the seventh grade. At age eight, I first got involved in music, which ended up leading me to major in it in college.

I graduated with a bachelor's degree in Music Performance from the University of Illinois on May 11 with percussion as my primary instrument. Music turned out to be one of the foremost channels which God used to draw me closer to Him. Starting my sophomore year of high school, I played in a praise band regularly at a Lutheran church, and I have been blessed with the honor of praising and worshipping Him musically in a church setting ever since. Through being a small part of leading worship with music, God has worked in

my life by providing great fellowship, accountability, and role models of what it means to live life as a Christ follower.

This very thing is something I am eager and humbled to have the opportunity to share in working with the youth this summer. I have just begun to contact the youth by phone in order to introduce myself and get to know them on a basic level - how old they are, what activities they like doing, what type of music they like, etc. This will assist me gaining a better idea of the age range we have as well as their interests and personalities. So please don't be surprised if you get a phone call from me soon! I am greatly looking forward to getting to know the youth and their families, as well as to become a more intimate part of the congregation at FUMC.

I am committed to seeking guidance from the staff and leadership at LAFUMC, including all of those who have volunteered with the youth in the past. The warmth and open community of this congregation has made an impression on me since I first set foot in First United Methodist, and I'm absolutely honored and thrilled to be spending time with the youth this summer! I look forward to serving His kingdom with you all!

Children's Sermon
on Feet Washing



Mothers' Day
May 11th





Pastor Ring and Jan Stong, Chairman of the Mission/Outreach Committee, presented Dennis and Susan Trumblee with a \$1000 last minute expenses check as they prepare to leave on their two year mission trip to Nicaragua with Living Water.



Jan, then, invited the congregation to join them in laying hands on Susan and Dennis. Together we prayed for the Lord's blessing on both the Trumblees, their mission, Living Water International, and on the people they will serve in Nicaragua. This consecration of their mission took place in both services. Susan and Dennis, thank you for all the work you have done with our church. God bless you and keep you as you leave for Nicaragua.



UMW Tea & Silent Auction
April 20th



SPECIAL MAY DAYS

Birthdays:	Anna Parks	05/19	
Jana Beery	05/02	Sarah Ricketts	05/26
Fred DeVries	05/03	Kyle Beery	05/27
Hunter Eaton	05/03	Walker Eaton	05/29
Jason Trimmer	05/04	Angela Hodgson	05/30
Tom Ricketts	05/06		
Bob Malone	05/09	Anniversaries:	
Rachel Taylor	05/11	May 21	
Debbie Trimmer	05/11	Tom & Vicki Ricketts	
Brent Collom	05/12	May 23	
Brad Wescott	05/12	Dale & Linda Leschnitzer	
Ron Jones	05/13	May 24	
Judy Keen	05/15	Bill & Carol Mead	

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 9:15 AM SUNDAY MORNINGS

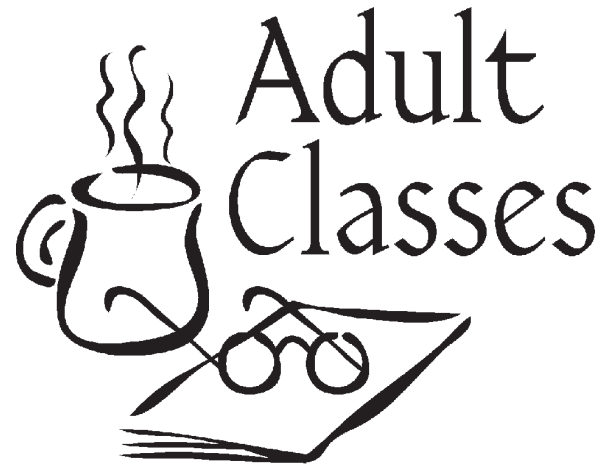
The Little Class	Library	Ephesians
Bible History Class	Friendship Center	Journey Through the Bible: Romans
Women of Faith	Room 110	Practice of the Presence of God (Brother Lawrence)
Following God	Room 114	Following God Through the Bible: Ephesians
Parents of Young Children	Asbury	Parenting with Scriptures
Inquirers	Resource Room	From Age-ing to Sage-ing (NEW!)

ATTENTION LA-FUMC MEMBERS

WHO ARE ALSO LANL EMPLOYEES

LANS is offering "Volunteer Recognition" to LANL employees - and retired LANL employees --who do volunteer work in various non-profit organizations, of which our church is one. In addition to the service you already provide to our church through your volunteer efforts, LANS will contribute cash money to our church in proportion to your volunteer hours. Pastor Ring has checked with the coordinator of this program (Debbie Wersonick, 665-4400) and found that LA-FUMC is definitely eligible. Your volunteer hours have to be "logged in" through www.lanl.volunteermatch.org prior to May 30th. (And yes, they'll "take your word" for whatever number of hours you log, up to 500 per individual.) According to the coordinator, several churches in our city have already qualified to receive multiple thousands of dollars because their members have logged in many thousands of hours. LA-FUMC has many faithful volunteers, quite a few of whom are LANL employees, active or retired. Help your church receive a portion of what LANS is willing to contribute - log your volunteer hours through LANL's "volunteer match" website.

P. S. Did you know that you can also double your giving to LA-FUMC by contributing through LANL's participation in United Way? If you, as an employee or retiree at LANL, designate, for example, \$100 per month to go to LA-FUMC through United Way, LANS will match your contribution and LA-FUMC will ultimately receive \$200.



UPCOMING EVENTS Highlights

Sermon Titles

May 18 The Rev. David Sims will preach. Peace with Justice Offering

May 25 Memorial Sunday Pastor Ring's meditation "Remember" Gospel Scripture Text: Matthew 1:1-17

June 1 Communion Sunday Pastor Ring's meditation "Filled and Satisfied"

Photo Directory Pictures

May 16, 3 to 9:20 pm

Parents' Night Out

May 16, 6 pm

Photo Directory Pictures

May 17, 10 am through 5 pm

League of Women Voters

May 17, 10 am in the Friendship Center

Senior Brunch

May 18, 9:30 am in the Friendship Center

MF Party

May 18, 4:30 pm--Welcome for summer intern Travis Knapp and farewell to the Ortiz family

Youth Mentoring

May 19, 5:30 pm in the Library

Disciple I

May 19, 6:30 pm in the Friendship Center

Newspaper Articles Due

May 20

Sister to Sister

May 20, noon in the Friendship Center

Ark Board

May 20, 6 pm in the Mid-High Room

Finance

May 20, 6:30 in the Library

Ark Staff

May 22, 5:30 pm in the Mid-High Room

Wesley Class

May 22, 6:30 pm in the Friendship Center

Staff Meeting

May 23, 9 am in the Library

Los Alamos High School Graduation

May 24, 9 am at LAHS

Skating for LAHS Graduates

May 24, 11 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Memorial Day

May 26, Offices Closed

Staff Meeting

May 30, 9 am in the Library

Alzheimer's Sale

May 31, 8 am to 2 pm in the Fellowship Hall

First United Methodist Church
called to:

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

The next edition of Visions will be dated May 30.

The deadline for articles is Tuesday, May 20.

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 LePage Page
Choir Director ~ Sarah Kelly
First Visions Editor ~ Jan Stong
Ark Child Development Center
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.

ALZHEIMER'S SALE

TO BENEFIT THE ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

MAY 31ST

8 AM to 2 PM

FELLOWSHIP HALL