



FIRST VISIONS

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THE PASTOR PONDER'S



"A QUICK LESSON FROM THE OLD SWIMMING HOLE"

As a child growing up in rural South Mississippi I had a lot of cousins. In particular I remember two of my girl cousins, Pat and Marie, who used to go swimming with me. Every time we'd get to the bank of the river where we regularly swam, even on the hottest day Marie would dip her big toe into the water and jump back, exclaiming, "It's too cold!" But Pat would simply take a running start, dive in, and bob up shouting, "Come on in, the water's fine!" While Marie was still standing on the riverbank complaining, Pat was enjoying a refreshing swim.

I meet a lot of people these days who've had minimal, negative exposure to the Christian faith. They're not interested in coming to church because somewhere, sometime way back, someone offended them: an usher frowned at them on

a Sunday morning, a preacher said something they didn't like, a well-known church member was seen drunk in a bar -- so all Christians therefore must be hypocrites.

On the other hand, those who fully immerse themselves in the life-transforming "living water" of Jesus Christ find wonderful refreshment therein. Committed Christians discover answers to life's most difficult problems, obtain strength to cope with this world's most stressful challenges, and secure hope for abundant living -- today, tomorrow, and for eternity.

"Come on in, people of God, the water's fine!" Praise the Lord!

Dave Ring



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
INVITES CHILDREN TO
POWER LAB: DISCOVERING JESUS'

Miraculous Power!

"This year our church is a bubbling with excitement as we explore Power Lab," says Robyn Collom, VBS coordinator. "Power Lab provides fun, memorable Bible-learning activities for kids of all ages. Each day kids will sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, nibble Test Tube Treats, take on a Daily Challenge to share Jesus' amazing power in their lives, experience electrifying Bible adventures, collect Bible Memory Buddies to remind them of God's Word, and create Bible Point Crafts they'll take home and play with all summer long."

"Power Lab is an exciting way for kids to learn more about Jesus' power. "Kids will join nearly a million children in North America and take part in a hands-on missions project that will reach kids in South Africa. Each day concludes at Faith Fusion Finale-a celebration that gets everyone involved in living what they've learned. We hope Power Lab will get everyone fizzing with excitement about Jesus in our community."

Power Lab begins on July 28 and continues through August 1, from 9- 11:30 am.. For information, call the church office at 662-627.



YOUTH CORNER

Methodist Youth Fellowship is up and running with an active regular schedule, in addition to many events on our plate! We have had a variety of youth participate this summer in MYF youth group, Sunday school, and chime choir. We are excited for the rest of the events on our calendar, such as the Musical Revue, the Relay for Life, the Youth Work Auction, and our MYF meetings, which vary in activity and tone from week to week. On June 22, the youth took a "Mystery Trip" to the three-way crossroads at the 'Back Gate' and discussed the reality of the crossroads we face in deciding to following Jesus Christ.

This is a list of activities and information that MYF is taking on this summer. The Youth are participating in the Relay for Life and are taking on two fundraisers: the Youth Work Auction and the Chime Choir.



GET ON BOARD!

THE YOUTH WORK AUCTION FUNDRAISER

will take place on July 13. We ask you to think about jobs you need done around your home or any other place that are reasonable and safely doable by our youth. Our youth will offer specific services to the congregation, but in addition, the reality is that we'll be doing whatever work people need done! We'll be doing the work as a team or in small teams, depending on the job. This will build fellowship and increase safety. We'll be receiving donation by work per-hour, with the amount agreed upon by the person bidding making the donation. As we fundraise, checks are made payable to the American Cancer Society.

COLLEGE STUDENT

DINNER
College Students! On July 13 at 6:30 PM, First United Methodist Church will be hosting a College Student Dinner in the Friendship Center. All students are welcome. We are sure to have a delicious meal, as Peggy Goldman will be helping out with food! We'll also be taking into account if any of us are interested in forming a small group bible study, or maybe even something different. Come at 6:30 PM on July 13 for great food, fellowship, and discussion to connect with other college students!

CHIME CHOIR

The Chime Choir will perform at the July 19 Musical Revue. We are welcoming everyone interested, regardless of age or musical experience! We rehearse Sunday afternoons at 3 PM. Therefore, our last Sunday rehearsal before July 19 will be July 13! If you are interested, please commit quickly, and come glorify our Lord with beautiful sound!

SKIT
On July 20, the youth will perform a brief skit to advertise Vacation Bible School. If you have skit-writing or drama experience, we would greatly appreciate your help.

MEMORIAL LUMINARIAS

MYF is selling Memorial Luminarias for the Relay for Life on Sundays between services, as well as all other times of the week! \$10 buys one in memory of a person who died or is currently battling cancer. These can be decorated to whatever extent the donor wishes and will be placed on Sullivan Field that night.

HOW'S IT GOING WITH THE YOUTH?

As I speak with members of our church, I am often asked, "How is it

going with the Youth? Have you gotten many kids there?" The person often asks with a discouraged and sympathetic look on his/her face. I am writing to declare to our church that I am very pleased with our meetings. Even though our numbers are low, our quality of fellowship is very high! Not only is our activity and game time consistently fun, inclusive, and supportive, but our times of discussion of Christianity are real, honest, and rewarding! Praise the Lord for this!

I INVITE YOU TO PRAY WITH US FOR OUR YOUTH

For all those interested in our youth program, whether you are a parent, grandparent, single, or married, I invite you pray with us for our youth. On Tuesday, July 1, at 11:00 AM, I, Pastor Dave, Rod Douglass, Louise Mendius, and Nels Hoffman gathered to pray at the Otawi for our youth. What a blessing this was to call upon God's guidance for our youth program and to align our hearts with Him in supportive, unit-

ed prayer! We are planning to make this prayer meeting a regular occurrence, so please inform me if you are interested in any way helping, donating your time or resources, or praying for our youth. As the summer continues, my time here as a youth intern will draw to a close on August 17. We are planning to have a meeting during the month of July about the continuation of MYF into the fall. If you have any interest and would like to give your input, please call me at (505) 920-3426 or email me at Travispercussion@yahoo.com.



I'll keep you all posted on our journey this summer as God leads us toward living like His Son. Stay tuned, and Blessings from Methodist Youth Fellowship! Travis Knapp

SPECIAL JULY DAYS

Birthdays:		Cathy Grindstaff	07/28
Mark Ortiz	07/01	Natalie Jones	07/28
Thomas Collins	07/04	Robert Zhu	07/30
Sheila Enemark	07/06	Maureen Beery	07/31
Megan Douglass	07/07		
Marilyn Peek	07/07	Anniversaries:	
Patricia Mendius	07/09	July 1	
Katie Weinland	07/10	Dennis & Opal Lee Gill	
Amethyst Collins	07/11	July 2	
Shelby Courtright	07/11	James & Emma Barefield	
Carli Chavez	07/15	July 3	
Lynn Kluegal	07/17	Larry & Valerie Collins	
Zachary Parks	07/17	July 6	
Sam Wescott	07/18	Jon & Dagne Sollid	
Sandra Larson	07/19	July 17	
Kyle Parks	07/19	Dave & Fran Ring	
Chris Rousculp	07/21	July 20	
Amanda Courtright	07/27	Ben & Margaret Gibson	

Relay for Life Event Dinner and Musical Review July 19, 2008 5:30 pm

Enjoy dinner and our own talented musical church family on Saturday, July 19th in the Fellowship Hall.

Many individuals and groups are sharing their talents to benefit the Relay for Life (on August 1st).

Come and join us in this fun evening and contribute to a very worthy cause!



First United Methodist Church called to:

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

The next edition of Visions will be dated July 25.
The deadline for articles is Wednesday, July 16.

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

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.

INNER CONNECTIONS A SPIRITUAL RETREAT FOR WOMEN



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS,
PREPARE YOUR HEARS,
ALLOW YOURSELF A SOUL REFRESHING EXPERIENCE
MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW**

RELAY FOR LIFE

AUGUST 1 AT 6:00 P.M. THROUGH AUGUST 2 AT 12:00 P.M.

Thanks to all who signed up to be on the church's Relay team. Our name is the Atomic City Circuit Riders.

It is not too late to sign up for those who still want to participate.

Don't forget to purchase your luminarias for only \$10 each. Checks should be made payable to the American Cancer Society. The name of the survivor or person remembered should be written in large black letters on the outside of the bag, otherwise the names are difficult to read when people walk

by them. They will be displayed all around the track on Sullivan Field. There is a special Luminaria Lap after dark and a service of remembrance.

Are you wondering where exactly your money will go? It goes for grants for cancer research, assistance to those currently battling cancer and for educational programs.

Don't forget our Youth Work Auction on July 13 and the Dinner and Musical Revue on July 19 to raise money for our team!



UPCOMING EVENTS Highlights

Sermon Titles

Sunday, July 13 - The Rev. Jim Beinke will preach.

(Pastor Ring will be at the United Methodist Historical Society Convention in South Dakota.)

Sunday, July 20 - Pastor Ring's Sermon Message: TBA

Sunday, July 27 - (Special Upper Room devotional written by LA-FUMC member Robin Priestley) Pastor Ring's Sermon Message: TBA

Work Youth Auction

July 13 after both church services

Chime Rehearsal

July 13, 3 pm

MF

July 13, 4 pm in the Senior High Room

IAF Crafts

July 13, 4 pm in the Friendship Center

College Dinner

July 13, 6:30 pm in the Friendship Center

Outreach/Missions

July 14, 6 pm in the Library

Sister to Sister

July 15, noon in the Friendship Center

Ark Board

July 15, 6 pm in the Mid-High Room

Finance

July 15, 6:30 pm in the Library

Newspaper Articles Due

July 16

Dinner & Musical Review

July 19, 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall

Wesley Covenant Service

July 20, 6 pm in the Sanctuary

Church Council

July 20, 7 pm in the Friendship Center

Christian Youth Mentoring

July 21, 7 pm in the Friendship Center

Staff Meeting

July 22, 10 am in the Library

Christian Youth Mentoring

July 22, 7 pm in the Friendship Center

Church Picnic

July 27, after second service at Urban Park

Vacation Bible School

July 28-August 1, 9-11:30 am

Relay for Life

August 1-2