



FIRST

VISIONS

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THE PASTOR PONDERS



"SPIRITUAL INFLUENCE"

Los Alamos First United Methodist Church has a budding Christian writer in our midst in the person of Mrs. Robin Priestley. For the second time since I've been pastor here, Robin has a published devotional in the "Upper Room." That may not seem like a "big deal" until you consider that approximately 11 million persons, worldwide, employ the Upper Room as their daily devotional guide. So this coming Sunday, August 27th, Robin will be influencing the spiritual lives of many, many more persons than any preacher I know. Here is an "advance" copy of Robin's devotional:

Sunday, July 27, 2008 Honoring the Sabbath

Read Psalm 127:1-2 and Ezekiel 20:8-20

I gave them my sabbaths, as a sign between me and them, so that they might know that I the LORD sanctify them. - Ezekiel 20:12 (NRSV)

The Israelites had rebelled against everything God asked of them. They didn't listen to God, they didn't get rid of their idols, they didn't follow God's rules or laws, and they didn't honor the Sabbath.

Why is it so important to God that people honor the Sabbath? Ezekiel gives us a clue. In the Book of Ezekiel we read that God gave the Israelites the Sabbath as a sign, a sort of covenant, in order to help them remember that God called them to be holy. They were to observe the Sabbath by keeping a sacred day committed to God and by resting on that day. God wanted them to suspend their rushing around and postpone their tasks for one day to be blessed through resting.

How like the Israelites we are

today! We don't follow God's call to honor the Sabbath. God still calls us to take time out of our usual busy schedules to rest and pray, to worship with others, and to resist the lure always to be accomplishing something. When we observe the day set aside for rest, we show our trust that God will and does provide for us and acknowledge that God calls us to be holy.

Prayer: Lord God, as with the Israelites, you have called us to be holy. So often we forget! Help us to honor you by observing and yearning for time set apart to be with you. Amen.

Thought for the Day

How do I spend sabbath time with God?

Robin R. Priestley

(New Mexico)

Robin's devotional is certainly worth "pondering." Praise the Lord!

Dave King



This Coming Sunday,
July 27th

Join with all the people of
our church in a
**SUMMER
CELEBRATION**
at Urban Park
from 11:30 am to 3:00 pm

Church will bring meat,
buns, condiments, drinks,
plates, and silver ware.

Everyone brings a side dish
to share, as well as lawn
chairs.

METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP *Cool* UPDATE ON A HOT SUMMER

There are currently many things to praise God for in Methodist Youth Fellowship!

The **College Dinner** on July 13 was a greatly blessed time of fellowship! Eight college students attended. We enjoyed a delicious dinner from Peggy Goldman and dessert from Karen Knapp, and we had a pleasant time of discussion and relaxation. Many of those who grew up in this church reminisced about fun times as kids, and the whole group discussed college life, activities, ministry, and more. We also have plugged our interested students into an excellent college small group bible study out of Los Alamos First Baptist Church that meets Tuesdays at 7:00 PM. Be on the lookout for more college ministry announcements very soon, as we are planning to get together again before we start heading back to school!

Praise the Lord for a successful Youth Work Auction! On July 13, MYF auctioned off eight hours of work, and the work is well on its way to being done. We displaced dirt for Dennis Gill, cleaned up the church landscape grounds for Nels Hoffman, raked and weeded for Judy Opsahl, weeded for Linda Bequette, and washed and waxed cars for Martha Zumbro. Thank you very much to all who purchased work and participated! It has been a very rewarding experience serving members of our congregation together, getting fresh air, and raising money for a great cause!

Looking Ahead

One of our main goals before school starts is to solidify a plan of sustaining MYF through the fall. We are going about this in two ways. Firstly, we are seeking volunteers, as has been the tradition in the past several years. However, we are also now seeking a candidate to fulfill the role of Youth Leader as a paid position. It is strongly agreed upon by the Church Council that a young adult is necessary and ideal in leading our youth in what it means to be a disciple of Christ. After attending my first and only church council meeting this summer, I am well aware that our church is eager to put its resources toward our youth, and that now includes bringing in the right person to lead them, if we can find him or her.

Therefore, as I am seeking both volunteers and an available leader who is a passionate Christ follower, I would like to ask the congregation

here at FUMC to seek with me! Please keep your hearts and minds open and your spirits sensitive to listen for someone who could potentially be a great leader for our precious youth. In Phillipians 1:3-4, Paul writes, "Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all you with joy." May we love our youth in this way, holding great joy and love for every precious one. We would greatly appreciate your prayers in this time of seeking God's will for us post-summer. If you are interested to pray with us, please meet us to pray for our youth at the front of the lab Otowi building on Tuesdays at 11:00 AM. It has been energizing to seek God's direction in a pleasant, private place we found.

For all of those interested in helping to secure plans for the youth program's future, MYF will hold a Future Sustaining meeting on Thursday, August 7th, at 6:30 PM. Whether you would like to volunteer to spend time with the youth this fall or would like to understand what direction the youth is going in and/or to give input, you are all welcome. I will be briefing those in attendance on what we have been doing this summer, the curriculum and activities we have done, where we grew spiritually, and areas in which we still have a ways to grow. My last day is August 17, so through that date, I will be working diligently to serve God in securing His plan for the youth this fall.

I want to thank the congregation and the church council's generous support of MYF. It has been a privilege to receive such warmth and fervent support and love for our youth. If anyone would ever like to speak with me about our youth program or anything else, I would be obliged to meet with you. You can reach me at (505) 920-3426 or Travispercussion@yahoo.com. May we seek the Lord's guidance and blessing on our youth program as a united body of Christ!



RELAY FOR LIFE DINNER & MUSICAL FUND RAISER





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		
Patricia Mendius	07/09		
Katie Weinland	07/10		
Amethyst Collins	07/11		
Shelby Courtright	07/11		
Carli Chavez	07/15		
Lynn Kluegal	07/17		
Zachary Parks	07/17		
Sam Wescott	07/18		
Sandra Larson	07/19		
Kyle Parks	07/19		
Chris Rousculp	07/21		
Amanda Courtright	07/27		

Anniversaries:

July 1	Dennis & Opal Lee Gill
July 2	James & Emma Barefield
July 3	
July 6	Larry & Valerie Collins
July 6	Jon & Dagne Sollid
July 17	
July 17	Dave & Fran Ring
July 20	
Ben & Margaret Gibson	

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Fred & I want to thank you all for you kindness to us once again. Your prayers held us up through the really tough time of the terrible pain. Your cards, calls & visits cheered us to keep on going day by day. Thank you for the wonderful meals that were brought in. They blessed us more than you can know. We pray for you that our Lord will bless your time always.

Love & Prayer,

Hazel & Fred

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.

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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.

RELAY FOR LIFE AUGUST 1-2, 2008 SULLIVAN FIELD

Attention all Relay participants! Don't forget to come to the Relay on either Friday the first, or Saturday the second. There is a sign-up sheet if you would like to walk at a particular time.

The Survivors Dinner will be held at Sullivan Field at 4:30 p.m. If you are a survivor you should have received an invitation to the Dinner by now. If you haven't, please let me know. The Survivor Lap follows the Dinner, but all can participate in that.

Several church members will be spending the night at the field. The Youth will be manning our booth during the wee hours, and there are special activities for them during that time. Parents, they will be well chaperoned, but we will need a signed permission slip.

More details will follow after the last team captain meeting on July 24. We should get the tee-shirts at that meeting.



Vacation Bible School
July 28 - Aug. 1, 2008
9:00- 11:30 A.M.



Join us for Vacation Bible School the last week of July!

Open to children age 4 to fifth grade.

UPCOMING EVENTS Highlights

Sermon Titles

July 27 - (Reading of a special "Upper Room" devotional written by LA-FUMC member Robin Priestley) "First-Person Dramatic Monologue OT Scripture Text Jonah 1:1-10
August 3 - Holy Communion Pastor Ring's Meditation: "Given for God's Use" Gospel Scripture Text: John 12:1-8
August 10 - Pastor Ring's Sermon: "For God So Loved the World" (John 3:16 Sermon Series 1 of 3) Gospel Scripture Text: John 3:16

Church Picnic

July 27, after second service at Urban Park

MF

July 27, 4 pm in the Senior High Room

Vacation Bible School

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

Mission Movie Cancelled

July 28, Cancelled

Relay for Life

August 1, 6pm through August 2 at 1 pm

MF

August 3, 4 pm in the Senior High Room

Staff

August 5, 10 am in the Library

Sister to Sister

August 5, noon in the Friendship Center

Trustees

August 5, 6 pm in the Library

Ark Parents' Meeting

August 7, 6 pm in the Mid-High Room

IAF Crafts

August 10, 4 pm in the Friendship Center

Outreach/Missions

August 11, 6 pm in the Library

Staff

August 12, 10 am in the Library

Christian Education

August 12, 6 pm in the Library

SPRC

August 12, in the Asbury Room if needed

Newspaper Articles Due

August 13

Sister to Sister

August 18, noon in the Friendship Center

Ark Board

August 19, 6 pm in the Mid-High Room

Finance

August 19, 6:30 pm in the Library