



FIRST

VISIONS

an edition of the United Methodist Reporter

Two Sections, Section A | 070665 | Vol. 156 | No. 65 | September 5, 2008

INSIDE
FIRST VISIONS

THE PASTOR
PONDER'S

VOLUNTEERS
GARDNERS' MARKET
MISSION LUNCH

1^A

SPECIAL SEPTEMBER
DAYS

INNERCONNECTIONS
SPIRITUAL RETREAT

BOTTLED WATER

UPCOMING EVENTS

8^A

THE PASTOR PONDER'S



"THE VALUE OF VOLUNTEERS"

As I write this column to you, I just returned to the church office after spending a portion of the day at Los Alamos National Laboratories. There, as part of their "Community Volunteer Appreciation Day," I was handed a check for \$900 by one of the "Lab's" assistant directors. This check was made possible by the volunteer efforts of five of our church's members - Joe Bubernak, Don Casperson, Crystal Densmore, Ben Gibson, and Jim Little. But they didn't volunteer their services to LANL. Rather, LANL honored them because of their volunteer efforts at First United Methodist Church. The "Lab" is thereby trying to encourage its workers, both active and retired, to involve themselves in community service - to churches, schools, charities, "helping" organizations of many kinds.

Long ago I discovered that "raising money" is by no means the hardest task a pastor faces. In fact, I would honestly say that, overall, in three decades of ministry I've rarely had a significant problem finding the "dollars" necessary to sustain and even advance the ministries of Jesus Christ in the churches I've served. The many United Methodists I've had the pleasure of knowing have been, by and large, generous with their money in the support of God's work. On the other hand, they've been much more miserly with their time.

Years ago in El Paso, Texas, I spoke to a group of eight women, one of the "circles" of United Methodist Women, in the church I was then serving. After I spoke and as we began to eat lunch, these ladies asked me, "What's the most immediate need in our church, right now?" I quickly replied, "We need someone to drive six youth to camp

at Sacramento this coming weekend." No one said another word. When lunch was over, I was quietly handed a stack of eight checks totaling a couple of hundred dollars. I suppose it was a nice gesture, but eight checks obviously can't drive six youth to camp.

Our church's budget for 2009 is in the process of being compiled. Alice Carter and her committee are gearing up for this fall's annual stewardship drive. Frankly, I don't anticipate any real problem with finding the necessary funds to underwrite our church's budget - present or future -- because I already know how generous the people of Los Alamos First United Methodist Church are with their money.

Today, however, my hat is off to Joe, Don, Crystal, Ben, and Jim. I don't know what sort of monetary giving they offer to God's work through First United Methodist Church. But I do know that they are among the minority who regularly offer their time. And because of its rarity, I consider that an even more precious gift to the Kingdom!

Dave Ring

VOLUNTEERS FROM LANL

All current employees and retirees should register now to log your volunteer hours for 2008. It is not too late. Detailed instructions are available through the LANL Community Programs Office (665-4400) and will also be available here at the church late next week. The system was set up for daily logging, but since few have the time to do this, you can enter a block of time; e.g., if you worked 40 hours this year, enter two blocks of 20 hours.

MONEY DONATIONS FROM LANL: During the United Way 2008 program time at LANL

(August 25 through October 3, 2008), current employees ONLY can give money to the church through your United Way donation. Donations must be through United Way of Northern New Mexico. Check the "Other" block on the donation form and then write in the name of the church, or the Ark. There is a 19% administrative cost/fee taken by United Way to do this, but the good news is that LANL matches 100% of the donation. Payments are then made to the church quarterly.

GARDNERS' MARKET

Bring your extra produce to church on September 7th. Trade with someone else for produce you don't have. Proceeds will benefit Missions projects.

MISSION LUNCH

September 14th
after Second Service

Purpose: To raise money for
Rwanda/Indonesia Mission trip
Talk about the trip to be presented by
Aaron Goldman



SPECIAL SEPTEMBER DAYS

Birthdays:		Anniversaries:	
Darryl Jackson	09/02	September 2	
Ben Gibson	09/03	Gail & Jim Little	
Opal Lee Gill	09/03	September 12	
Jan Frensdorf	09/03	Doris & Darryl Jackson	
John Zumbro	09/05	September 13	
Frances Hundley	09/06	Peggy & Aaron Goldman	
Valerie Collins	09/09	September 14	
Carol Mead	09/15	Eileen & Rod Doughlass	
Rachel Sheppard	09/16	September 23	
John Courtright	09/18	Marilyn & Jim Peek	
Dagne Sollid	09/22		
Bob Bryant	09/30		

BOTTLED WATER

The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. (Psalms 24:1)

THINK ABOUT IT---

- It takes 5 bottles of water to produce one plastic bottle of water.
 - It takes even more water to produce the plastic bottles, themselves.
 - Chemical contaminants from some plastic bottles can leach into the water, posing health hazards.
- Stay tuned for more "bottled water awareness-raising" from UMW!



First United Methodist Church
called to:

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

The next edition of *Visions* will be dated September 19.
The deadline for articles is Wednesday, September 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 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.
Friday Roller Skating
First Session
5:30 p.m. to 6:45 pm
3rd graders & younger
Second Session
7 pm to 9 pm
4th graders & older

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE INNERCONNECTIONS SPIRITUAL RETREAT FOR WOMEN

OCTOBER 31-NOVEMBER 1, 2008
AT THE HUMMINGBIRD MUSIC CAMP
JEMEZ MOUNTAINS, NEW MEXICO
LOOKING FOR A GETAWAY WEEKEND?

A CHANCE TO RELAX WITH FRIENDS AND OTHER CHRISTIANS?

AN OPPORTUNITY TO ENRICH YOUR SPIRITUAL LIFE?
JOIN US OCTOBER 31 IN THE JEMEZ MOUNTAINS!
WE WILL LEAVE THE CHURCH AT 10:00 A.M. ON OCT. 31ST AND ENJOY FRIDAY AND SATURDAY MORNING AT THE HUMMINGBIRD MUSIC CAMP.

YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO SPEND THE NIGHT, BUT YOU CAN CHOOSE TO GO HOME FOR THE NIGHT AND COME BACK FOR THE REST OF THE RETREAT SATURDAY MORNING.

OUR SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR IS PASTOR CECELIA LORENZEN, FROM THE SANTA CRUZ UNITED METHODIST CHURCH.

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED BEFORE OCTOBER 15, 2008. THE ENTIRE COST OF THE WEEKEND IS \$50.00.

YES! I want to participate in the Inner Connections Spiritual Retreat for Women, Oct. 31-Nov. 1, 2009 at Hummingbird Music Camp.

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Check for \$50.00 enclosed (payable to FUMC)

UPCOMING EVENTS Highlights

Sermon Titles

Sunday, September 7, 2008 -
Holy Communion will be
observed. Pastor Ring's
Meditation: "It's Not Fair,
Lord!" Gospel Scripture Text:
Matthew 26:36-46

Sunday, September 14, 2008 -
Pastor Ring's Sermon: "Aunt
Gracie and the Old-Time
Religion" Dual Gospel
Scripture Texts: Luke 5:36-39
and Matthew 13:52

Sunday, September 21, 2008 -
Pastor Ring's Sermon:
"Number One" Gospel
Scripture Text: Mark 10:35-45
(Stewardship Moment)

Church Council

September 7, 7 pm in the
Friendship Center

Outreach/Missions

September 8, 6 pm in the
Library

Disciple II

September 8, 6:30 pm in the
Friendship Center

Staff

September 9, 10 am in the
Library

UMW Exec.

September 9, 1 pm in the
Library

Christian Ed

September 9, 6 pm in the
Library

SPRC

September 9, 7 pm in the
Asbury Room

Choir

September 10, 7 pm in the
Sanctuary

City-Wide Worship & Prayer

September 11, 11:30 am in the
Sanctuary

Wesley Class--last one

September 11, 6:30 pm in the
Friendship Center

Boy Scouts

September 11, 7 pm in the
Fellowship Hall

1st Light

September 11, 7 pm in the
Sanctuary

Mission Lunch

September 14, noon in the
Fellowship Hall

IAF Crafts

September 14, 4 pm in the
Friendship Center

Disciple III

September 15, 6:30 pm in the
Friendship Center

Staff

September 16, 10 am in the
Library

Sister to Sister

September 16, noon in the
Friendship Center

Finance

September 16, 6:30 pm in the
Library

Choir

September 17, 7 pm in the
Sanctuary

City-Wide Worship & Prayer

September 18, 11:30 am in the
Sanctuary

Boy Scouts

September 18, 7 pm in the
Fellowship Hall

1st Light

September 18, 7 pm in the
Sanctuary