



FIRST

VISIONS

an edition of the United Methodist Reporter

Two Sections, Section A | 070665 | Vol. 155 | No. 38 | January 23, 2009

INSIDE
FIRST VISIONS

THE PASTOR
PONDER'S

NOTE FROM
MAURICE SHEPPARD

1^A

UMW JANUARY
STUDY

4^A

MISSION DROPLETS
FROM THE
TRUMBLEES

ICE

5^A

SPECIAL JANUARY
DAYS

SOUPER BOWL
SUNDAY

UPCOMING EVENTS

8^A

THE
PASTOR
PONDER'S



"THE 'HOLY' LAND"

I'm beginning to anticipate a potentially wonderful trip upcoming - a tour of the Holy Land on which I'm supposed to embark February 9th. Despite the fact that Israel and Hamas in Gaza are currently warring with one another, this trip appears to be pretty firmly set.

Actually, I've already been to the Holy Land once previously. In February 1993, just about 16 years ago, I was on an "Emmaus" tour of that special part of the world while the World Trade Center in New York was bombed (the first time). When that happened I recall that our Orthodox Jewish Israeli guide commented, "How can you Americans live in such a dangerous country?" At that point I realized that "safety and security" versus "risk and danger" are very much influenced by one's perspective.

Like most Americans I'm troubled by the seemingly ceaseless conflicts in this region of our world which has often been a special center of God's attention throughout much of human history. But unlike some, I've already realized how naïve I can be on this subject.

While I was in the Holy Land back in 1991, I asked a group of well-educated Jewish leaders this seemingly obvious question: "Why don't you and the Palestinians sit down together and negotiate peace?" These otherwise civil, cultured Jews responded with hate-filled anger thus: "You can't talk to Palestinians. They aren't human; they're dogs!" Several days later I was in a shop in Bethlehem and had struck up a lengthy conversation with the proprietor thereof, a Palestinian who spoke impeccable British English. So I posed the same question to him, "Why don't you and the Israeli's sit down together and negotiate peace?" His

instant, white-hot angry response was virtually identical: "You can't talk to Jews. They aren't human; they're dogs!" I was then I realized how really far apart these two cultures are. Neither acknowledges the basic humanity of the other. And if your "enemy" isn't other people, but merely animals, there are virtually no standards for even beginning to deal with one another on a rational basis.

Despite the ongoing conflicts there, I'm fearlessly heading to the Holy Land. And I'm hoping to learn more about this, the land of Abraham, Moses, and Jesus. I trust I'll be able to bring some new insights back with me to share with the people of Los Alamos First United Methodist Church.

Please continue, as the Bible entreats us, to "pray for the peace of Jerusalem" (Psalm 122:6). Blessings to all!

Dore King

Dear Family, Colleagues and Friends:

As most of you know by now, my daughter Rachel and I were involved in a serious motorcycle accident on Friday evening, December 19. I was airlifted directly from the accident site to UNM Hospital in Albuquerque. Rachel was taken by ambulance to Los Alamos Medical Center and later airlifted to UNM for surgery. The rapid and professional first-response by A-Shift personnel from the White Rock Fire and Rescue department saved my life. We are lucky to have such a competent and prepared fire department!

As a result of the accident, I lost my right leg about 4" above the knee, and my daughter suffered a broken femur, collarbone, and pelvis. Fortunately, neither of us suffered head or spine injuries. We are both home. Rachel is expected to make a full recovery, and I have a 25-pound head start on my new weight-loss plan.

We have been overwhelmed, in an awesome sense, by the outpouring of care and concern in the form of cards, flowers, calls, food, and visits. You have my sincere appreciation for your individual and collective thoughtfulness. My family has come in to support us during the holiday season, but your kind offers of help will not be forgotten. It is still too early to predict a timescale for my return to normal activities, but return, I will. I will work, walk, drive, sing, fly, teach and laugh again. In the mean time, I'd like to share just a few reflections:

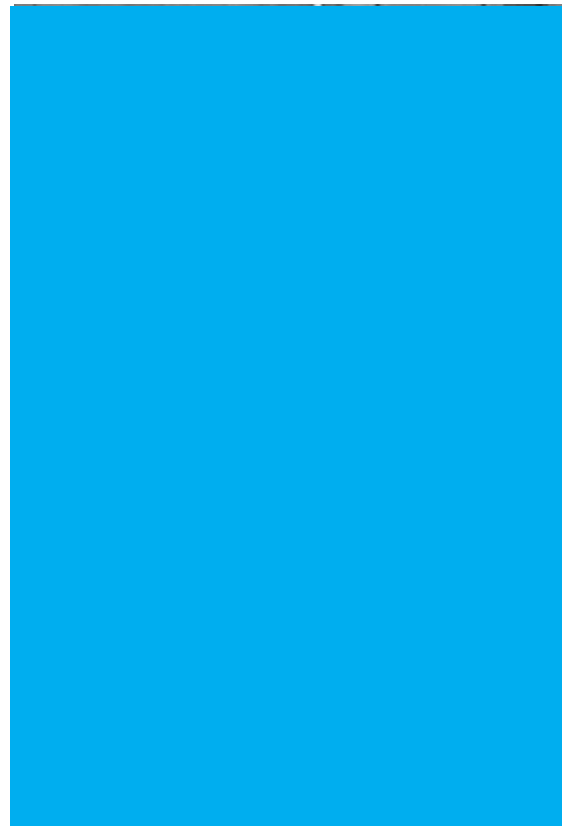
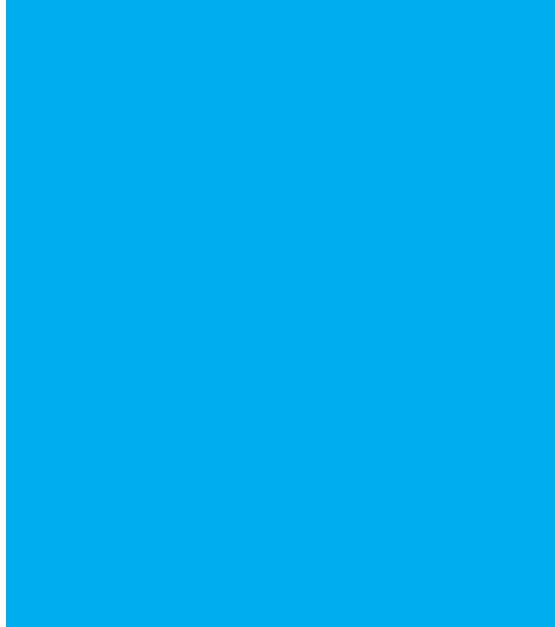
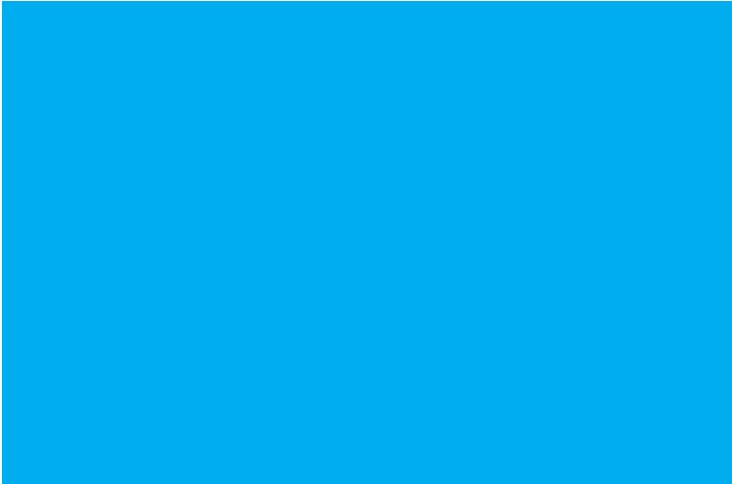
- * I have realized again that friends and family are to be cherished!
- * I know there is more for me to contribute in this life, and I intend honor that opportunity and responsibility.
- * None of my soul, or spirit, or intellect perished with my leg. I'm looking forward to the rest of my life and I harbor no bitterness.
- * I do not intend to be handicapped; but I will apply for one of those stickers.

Sincerely,

Maurice Sheppard



**UMW
JANUARY
STUDY**



MISSION DROPLETS FROM THE TRUMBLEES

DECEMBER IN NICARAGUA

December in Nicaragua is very different than New Mexico to say the least, the weather does change; the temperature and humidity drop a wee bit, the winds pick up and the days get slightly longer. At dusk Christmas lights, begin to glow from surrounding homes and out in the Campo (countryside) strung to plastic sided homes a string of lights or two twinkle in celebration of the season. The city gets a make over, the trash is picked up, the streets swept, people paint their homes, wash walls, and there is a definite change in the air. In addition, Santa can be found dressed in his red suit, sweating in central park.

On December 7th, the Catholic population of Nicaragua, which is substantial, celebrate "The Gritería" which loosely translated means "the shouting". The Gritería is the celebration of the conception of the Virgin Mary. Catholic people throughout Nicaragua set up elaborate altars in honor of the Virgin Mary. Participants of the Gritería go from altar to altar each one shouting to the host ¿Quién es la causa de tanta alegría? Or Who is the cause of so much joy? The host than shouts back the response "La concepcion de Maria" or the conception of Mary. After which the "shouter" is given a treat. The treats can be anything from: a piece of sugar cane, an apple, a piece of candy, a pencil, or any other thing the host cares to give, sound familiar? The Gritería is not just for children everyone is welcome to participate, and needless to say they do!

Yet another aspect to this celebration is the appearance of the Gigantona (the giant female) and Pepe Cabezon (Pepe big head) see photo gallery. I am not sure I totally understand their meaning and but they dance through out the streets with many followers in tow. Dennis and I went to central park Cathedral to watch the celebration and later went to the house of a friend and enjoyed some dishes made special for the occasion, it was a sight to see.

This past month the Lord lead us to a small cooperative village called El Chivola near the El Hoyo volcano. This community has had to use an open and contaminated well for the past several years. The open well is approximately 200 feet deep and a team of oxen hauls up water in a 30-gallon drum. The deep dark coolness of the well is very inviting to several creatures who have taken up residency in the walls of the well, bats being the primary inhabitants. The women strain the water in order to remove the bat droppings and any other contaminants that may have fallen into the open water. The government at one time came in and drilled a very deep well but the pump installed was unable to function at the depth necessary so they came and dismantled the pump, promised to return and never did. The villagers have been praying and patiently waiting for a resolution and God was faithful. We had never tried to develop a well at the depths of this well but because all things are possible through Him who

strengthens us, we were able to develop and install a new pump with the cylinder set at 220 ft. for this community. God is Good! All the time!

This past month has been hectic and amazing as we rushed to complete our 48th well prior to boarding the plane for the States. What a wonderful feeling to have caught up and ready for the new year! We look forward to hosting a team from Los Alamos on January 19th through the 24th, we are confident that they too will be blessed by the experience.

Thank God for His Mercy and Grace!

BLESSINGS & THANKSGIVING

Thanks to all of you who donate to our ministry either through daily prayer and/or monetarily we couldn't do it without you! We thank God daily for your generosity. We are grateful to have been able to go home to see our Doctor's who gave Dennis a clean bill of health after his two surgeries and to have had time with our friends and families at Christmas.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray that God's continue to bless our ministry this coming year and that He will guide our steps and lead us to where the need is greatest. Pray that as always His will be done, that glorify Him in all that we do, for the people of Nicaragua, for the lost, the lonely, the poor, and for the next shipment of pumps. Please also for the health and safety of the teams in 2009.

STATUS OF WELL REPAIRS

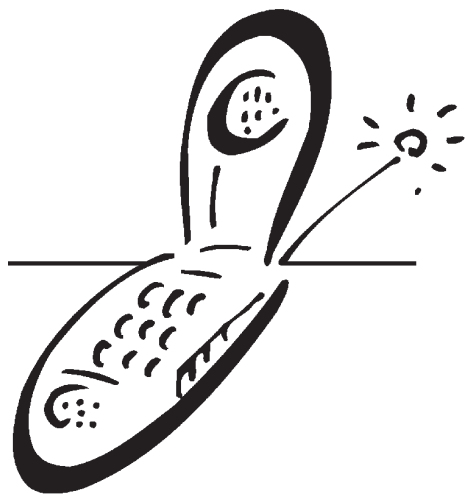
Dust, first it was rain, now it is dust. Driving in the backcountry is a dusty proposition for us and the people who live there. Most people in the compo - walk, ride a bike, or travel by cart - either horse or oxen powered. As we travel down these country roads, the people get coated with a light dusting of the very fine dust. It gets everywhere; respiratory problems are rampant during the dry season. If you are driving down the road and slow down or stop, it all catches up with you. I truly feel for the people who live and work in these areas on a daily basis. People build speed bumps in front of their homes to slow people down, they are referred to as "sleeping or dead policeman."

Repairs since mid November

November 08
NPR-08-037, La Paz Central - La Chivola - Deep well India Mark II Installation - Complete
NPR-08-038, Somotillo - La Danta - Rope Pump Conversion - Complete
NPR-08-039, Leon, Sutiaba - Chague 1 School - India Mark II repair - Complete
NPR-08-040, Leon, Chacara Seca - La Bolsa - Deep well India Mark II repair - Complete
December 08
NPR-08-041, Leon - Rpto. Kit La Parcela #2 - India Mark II Installation - Complete
NPR-08-042, Somotillo, El Ojoche - Rope Pump Conversion - Complete
NPR-08-043, Somotillo, La Carreta - Rope Pump Conversion - Complete
NPR-08-044, Leon, Sutiaba - Nueva Vida Community #2 - India Mark II repair - Complete
NPR-08-045, Leon - La Leona - Central de Escolar - India Mark II repair - Complete
NPR-08-046, Leon - Communida Chirigrie - Iglesia Luz y Vida Well #1 - India Mark II repair - Complete
NPR-08-047, Leon - La Paz Centro - Sabaneta - Deep well India Mark II repair - Complete
NPR-08-048, Leon - Communida Chirigrie #2 - India Mark II repair - Complete

ICE

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY



Recently two of our members Rachel and Maurice Sheppard, were involved in a serious motorcycle accident. Shortly after that Jensina sent this note to me regarding a way in which we can make the job of notifying family members easier for paramedics.

Apparently this is a standard procedure all paramedics follow at the scene of an accident when they come across your cell phone.

ICE - 'In Case of Emergency'

We all carry our mobile phones with names & numbers stored in its memory 20 but nobody, other than ourselves, knows which of these numbers belong to our closest family or friends.

If we were to be involved in an accident or were taken ill, the people attending us would have our mobile phone but wouldn't know who to call. Yes, there are hundreds of numbers stored but which one is the contact person in case of an emergency? Hence this 'ICE' (In Case of Emergency) Campaign

The concept of 'ICE' is catching on quickly. It is a method of contact during emergency situations. As cell(mobile) phones are carried by the majority of the population, all you need to do is store the number of a contact person or persons who should be contacted during emergency under the name 'ICE' (In Case Of Emergency).

The idea was thought up by a paramedic who found that when he went to the scenes of accidents, there were always mobile phones with patients, but they didn't know which number to call. He therefore thought that it would be a good idea if there was a nationally recognized name for this purpose. In an emergency situation, Emergency Service personnel and hospital Staff would be able to quickly contact the right person by simply dialing the number you have stored as 'ICE.'

For more than one contact name simply enter ICE1, ICE2 and ICE3 etc. A great idea that will make a difference!

Let's spread the concept of ICE by storing an ICE number in our Mobile phones today!

Please forward this. It won't take too many 'forwards' before everybody will know about this. It really could save your life, or put a loved one's mind at rest. ICE will speak for you when you are not able to.

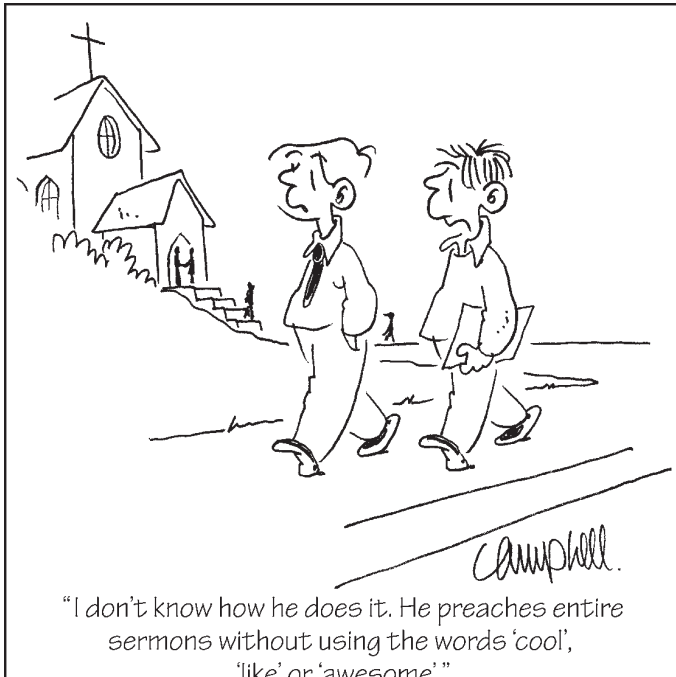
SPECIAL JANUARY DAYS

Birthdays:	<i>Carrie Shuman</i>	01/17
<i>Bethy Terrell</i>	<i>Jensina Sheppard</i>	01/19
<i>Jason Grider</i>	<i>Virginia Lee Souder</i>	01/23
<i>Dennis Gill</i>	<i>Al Blackstock</i>	01/25
<i>Robyn Collom</i>	<i>Jim Little</i>	01/27
<i>Caroline Ronsculp</i>	<i>Carolyn Pearson</i>	01/27
<i>Craig Siebe</i>	<i>Eileen Douglass</i>	01/28
<i>Martha Zumbro</i>	Anniversaries:	
<i>Clayton Pearson</i>	January 12	
<i>Kyle Cash</i>	<i>Kemp & Nancee Beebe</i>	
<i>Clara Leschnitzer</i>		

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY FEBRUARY 1, 2009

**THE YOUTH WILL BE COLLECTING FOOD AND/OR
MONEY TO GO TO L.A. CARES**

**PLEASE HELP IN THIS NATIONWIDE PROGRAM TO
FIGHT HUNGER.**



UPCOMING EVENTS Highlights

Sermon Titles

Sunday, January 25 - 3rd
Sunday after the Epiphany
Stewardship Follow-Up
Celebration Pastor Ring's
Sermon: "John's Gospel-
Chapter 3"

Sunday, February 1 - Holy
Communion will be observed.
Pastor Ring's Meditation:
"John's Gospel-Chapter 4"
Super Bowl of Sharing

UMW Study -

Rev. Paul West -

4 Corners - Pot Luck

Sunday, January 25, 5 pm in the
Fellowship Hall

Disciple II

Monday, January 26, 6:30 pm in
the Friendship Center

Staff

Tuesday, January 27, 10 am in
the Library

Martha Circle Christmas

Party

Tuesday, January 27, 11:30 at
Sheila Enemark's home

Ark Staff

Tuesday, January 27, 5:30 pm in

the Mid-High Room

Choir

Wednesday, January 28, 7 pm
in the Sanctuary

City-Wide Worship & Prayer

Thursday, January 29, 11:30 am
in the Sanctuary

Boy Scouts

Thursday, January 29, 7 pm in
the Fellowship Hall

1st Light

Thursday, January 29, 7 pm in
the Sanctuary

Skates

Friday, January 30, 5:30 pm

Super Bowl Youth Party

Sunday, February 1, 3:30 pm at
the parsonage

Emmaus Gathering

Monday, February 2, 6 pm in
the Fellowship Center

Staff

Tuesday, February 3, 10 am in
the Library

Sister to Sister

Tuesday, February 3, noon in
the Friendship Center

UMW Board Meeting

Tuesday, February 3, 1 pm in
the Library

Trustees

Tuesday, February 3, 6 pm at
the parsonage

Disciple II

Tuesday, February 3, 6:30 pm
in the Friendship Center

Choir

Wednesday, February 4, 7 pm
in the Sanctuary

City-Wide Worship & Prayer

Thursday, February 5, 11:30 am
in the Sanctuary

Boy Scouts

Thursday, February 5, 7 pm in
the Fellowship Hall

1st Light

Thursday, February 5, 7 pm in
the Sanctuary

Create & Discover

Thursday, February 5, 7:15 pm
location to be announced

Skates

Friday, February 6, 5:30 pm

**First United Methodist Church
called to:**

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

The next edition of Visions will be dated February 6.
The deadline for articles is Wednesday, January 28.

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
Choir Director ~ Jim Beinke
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