



FIRST

VISIONS

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## THE PASTOR PONDER'S



### "THE ENDLESS LINE OF SPLENDOR"

Shortly after I began to serve as pastor of Paradise Hills United Methodist Church in Albuquerque, a strikingly beautiful young woman and her husband joined that church by transfer from another Christian body on the very first Sunday that they visited. That's somewhat unusual -- people typically like to take more time looking over a church before they commit to membership therein. But I certainly didn't complain.

As I spoke to this couple further after others had left that Sunday morning, she asked, "Don't you remember me?" "I'm sorry," I responded, "but I don't. Should I know you?"

She replied, "You ought to. I used to sit on your lap every Sunday back when you were pastor at Harwood Church. I'm Clyde Crabb's granddaughter."

With that additional information I then remembered. This young lady, about 15 years previously, had been virtually the only child in the congregation of Harwood United Methodist Church, also in Albuquerque, back then. Many Sundays when I began to offer a message for children, she came up and plunked herself down in my lap. She was between four and five years old in those days.

Before I left Paradise Hills this young woman had borne a child, a daughter. And just before I moved on to another church her little girl began coming up, with the other kids in the congregation, to sit with me for the Children's Sermon. Thus I got to serve the child in the same way I'd ministered to her

mother two decades before.

That's not the only time I've had the privilege of ministering to a succession of generations of particular families. I've performed a number of baptisms of children of children whom I'd baptized years previously. I've also done a couple of weddings for the children of couples I'd united in marriage long before. After thirty years in the pastorate -- and counting -- such incidents are becoming more and more frequent in my ministry.

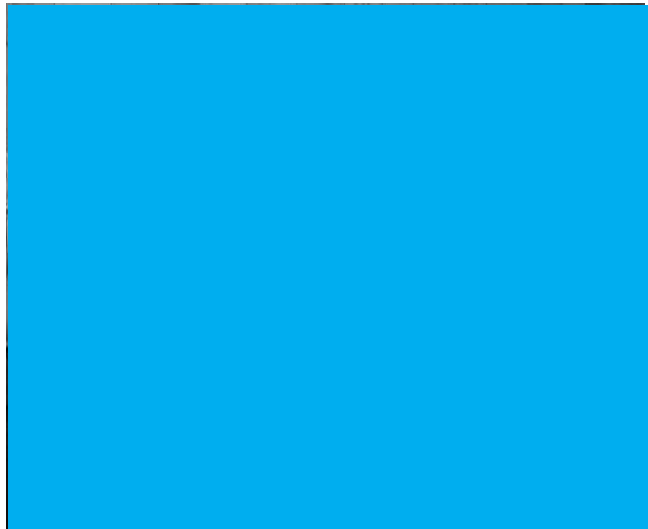
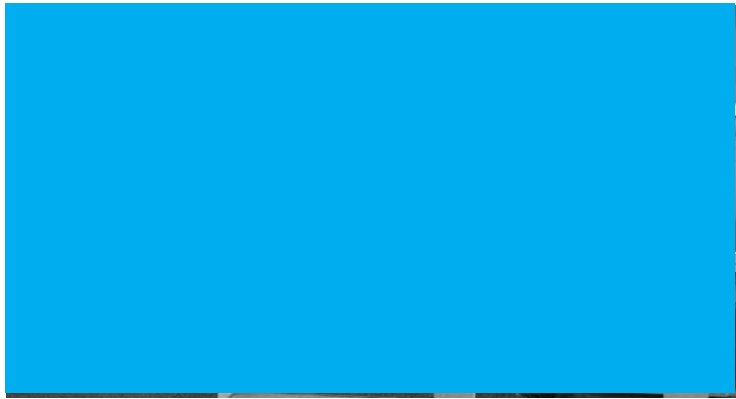
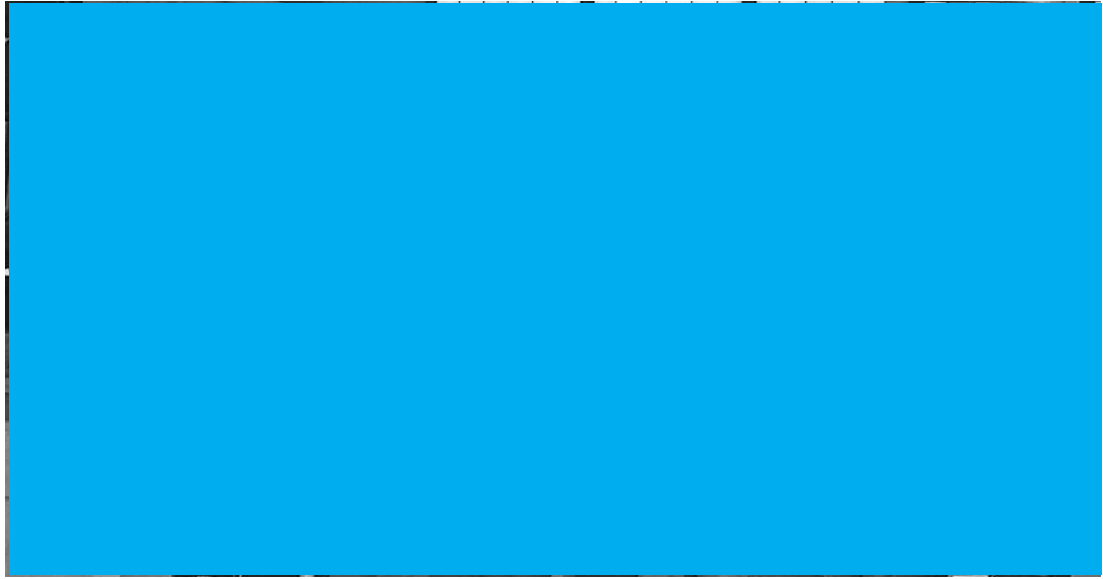
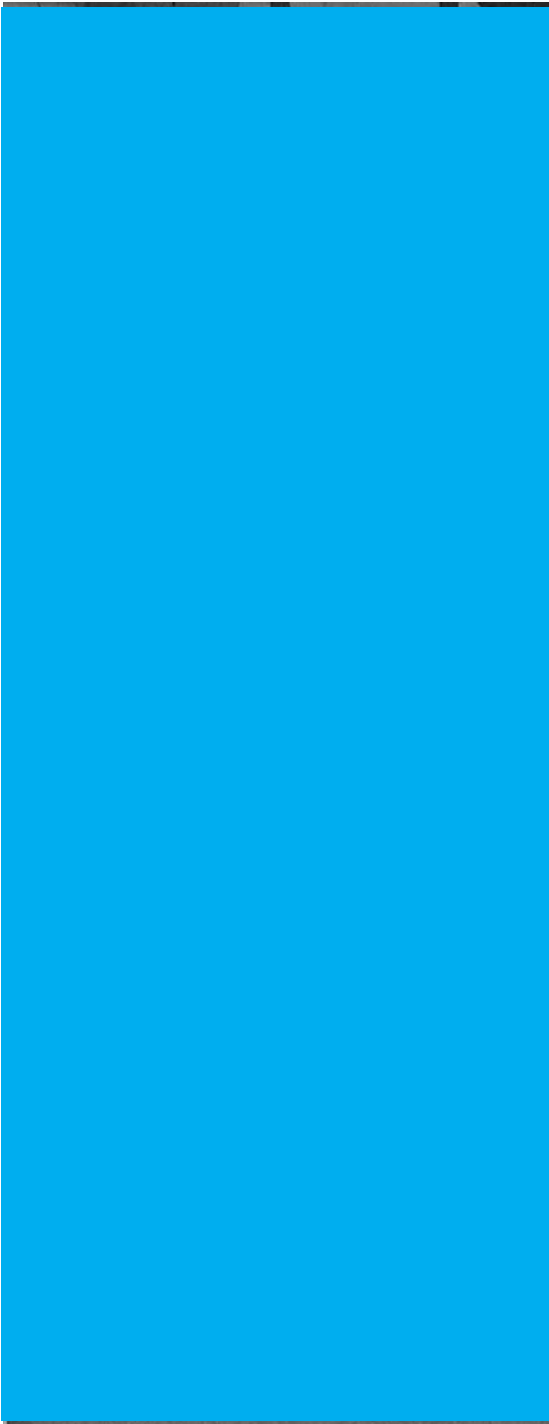
The Holy Scriptures are full of genealogical information that we sometimes regard as tedious: "Abraham begat Isaac and Isaac begat Jacob and Jacob begat Joseph and his brothers..." (Matthew 1:2) But how exciting it is to watch unfold the endless life of splendor of God's faithful people and, even better, to be included in that great, multi-generational family of God which spans human history -- and beyond.

When you receive this newsletter I should just be returning from a journey to the Holy Land, the earthly "center point" of God's long association with people of faith. I hope to see many of you this coming Sunday in His Los Alamos house!

*Dave King*

## CHOIR THANK YOU TO PAT MENDIUS





**BOY SCOUT SUNDAY**

## SPECIAL FEBRUARY DAYS

**Birthdays:**  
 Doris Blackstock 02/01  
 Bob Collom 02/05  
 Aaron Goldman 02/08  
 Stacey Eaton 02/12  
 Francis Naffziger 02/15  
 Sarah Kelly 02/18  
 Lance Eaton 02/20

**Anniversaries:**  
 February 17  
 Cathy & Darin Westley



MARK  
YOUR  
CALEN-  
DARS

**Ash  
Wednesday**

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP  
FEBRUARY 25, 2009 - 6:15 PM

First United Methodist Church  
called to:

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

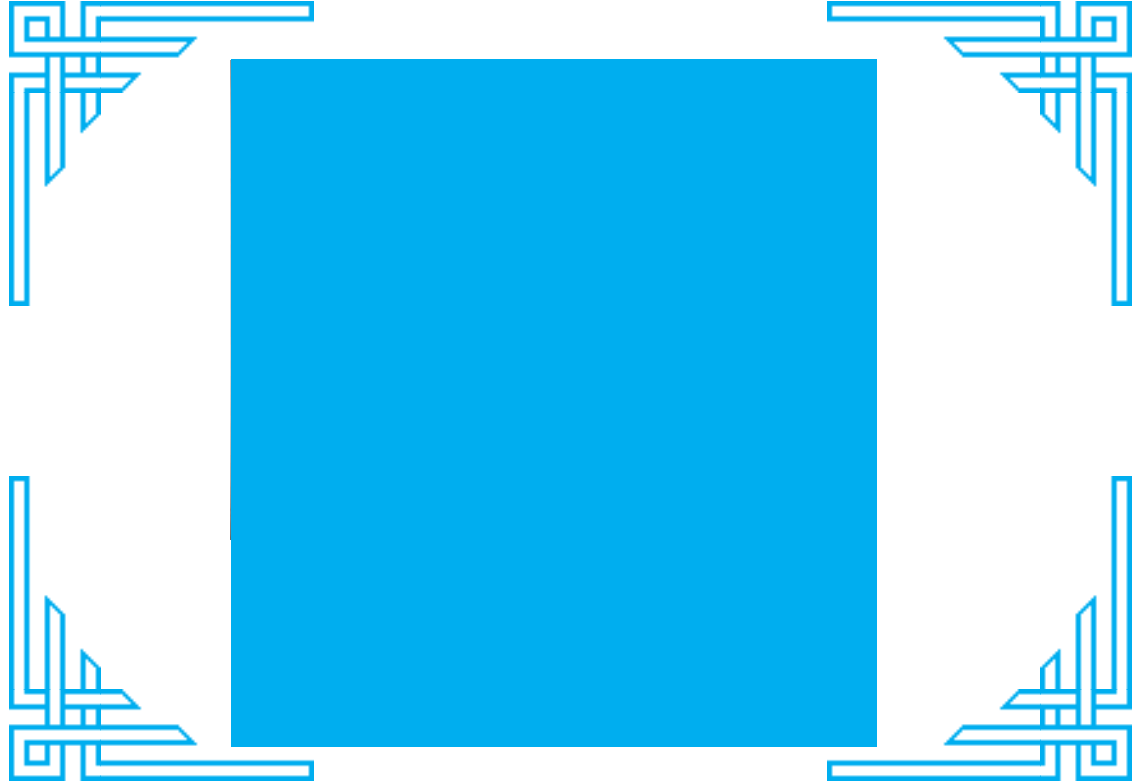
The next edition of Visions will be dated March 6.  
The deadline for articles is Wednesday, March 11.

715 Diamond Drive  
Los Alamos, NM 87544  
Phone: 505-662-6277  
Fax: 505-663-0089  
E-mail: [lafumc@lafumc.org](mailto:lafumc@lafumc.org)  
Website: [www.lafumc.org](http://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



## UPCOMING EVENTS Highlights

### Sermon Titles

Sunday, February 22 - Pastor Ring's Meditation: "John's Gospel-Chapter 6"

Wednesday, February 25 - Ash Wednesday. Traditional Ash Wednesday worship, including the imposition of ashes, begins at 6:15 PM.

Sunday, March 1 - Holy Communion will be observed  
 Pastor Ring's Meditation: "John's Gospel, Chapter 7"

Sunday, March 8, 2009 - The Rev. Will Steinsiek, New Mexico Conference Archivist, will be guest preacher. His sermon is entitled "In the Midst of Not Knowing Why" based upon the New Testament Scripture Text of Luke 13:1-9

### Skates

Friday, February 20, 5:30 pm

### Parents Night Out

Friday, February 20, 6 pm

### Disciple III

Monday, February 23, 6:30 pm in the Friendship Center

### Staff

Tuesday, February 24, 6:30 pm in the Library

### Martha Circle

Tuesday, February 24, 1:15 pm TBS

### Stewardship

Tuesday, February 24, 7 pm in the Library

### Women of the Bible

Wednesday, February 25, 10 am in the Friendship Center

### Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, February 25, 6:15 pm in the Sanctuary

### Choir

Wednesday, February 25, 7 pm in the Sanctuary

### City-Wide Worship & Prayer

Thursday, February 26, 11:30 am in the Sanctuary

### Boy Scouts

Thursday, February 26, 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall

### 1st Light

Thursday, February 26, 7 pm in the Sanctuary

### Skates

Friday, February 27, 1:15 pm in the Friendship Center

### Church Council

Sunday, March 1, 7 pm in the

Friendship Center

### Emmaus

Monday, March 2, 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall and Friendship Center

### Staff

Tuesday, March 3, 10 am in the Library

### Sister to Sister

Tuesday, March 3, Noon in the Friendship Center

### Disciple III

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

### City-Wide Worship & Prayer

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

### Boy Scouts

Thursday, March 5, 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall

### 1st Light

Thursday, March 5, 7 pm in the Sanctuary

### Skates

Friday, March 7, 5:30 pm

### Eagle Court of Honor

Saturday, March 7 (check on time with the troop leader)

## TALES OF TERROR, BRAVERY AND SUBJUGATION

### WOMEN OF THE BIBLE

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO A SIX-WEEK BIBLE STUDY EACH WEDNESDAY, IN THE LIBRARY FROM FEBRUARY 25, 2009 THROUGH APRIL 1, 2009.

TEA/COFFEE AND GOODIES WILL BE SERVED. 10:00 - 11:00 A.M.