



FIRST VISIONS

an edition of the United Methodist Reporter

Two Sections, Section A | 070665 | Vol. 155 | No. 46 | March 20, 2009

INSIDE FIRST VISIONS

THE PASTOR PONDER'S

PALM SUNDAY CANTATA

LENTEN LUNCHEON

1^A

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

PHOTOS

4^A

LENTEN SCHEDULE

SPECIAL MARCH DAYS

UPCOMING EVENTS

5^A

THE PASTOR PONDER'S



"READING THE INSTRUCTIONS"

I have a friend who for more than a decade was a jet pilot in our U. S. armed services. One day he called me up and told me he would be passing through Albuquerque, where I was then living, and he wanted to show me the new aircraft which he'd just been assigned. I agreed to meet him at Kirtland Air Force Base, and he arranged for me to receive the necessary authorizations to meet him out on the flight line.

After he'd landed and tied his plane down, he walked over to meet me wearing one of those military flight jackets with extra pockets and zippers in all sorts of places. He opened the pocket on his upper right arm and took out a small book. "I thought you, being a preacher, would appreciate seeing that I carry this whenever I fly. It's my good luck charm." The book was a tiny edition of the New Testament of the Holy Bible. "That's nice," I responded, "but do you ever open it up and read it?" "Nah, I figure God will protect me when I'm flying just because I'm carrying it," was his rejoinder.

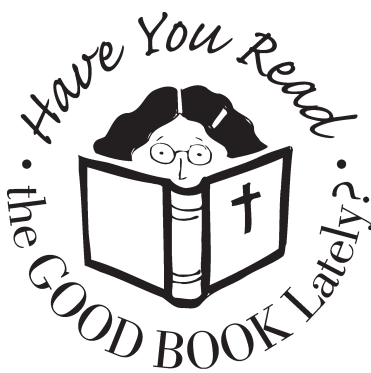
I then proceeded to look over the cockpit of the compact new fighter jet which he was flying and noticed, stuffed into just about every one of the limited available nooks and crannies, a series of flight systems manuals. So I asked him, "Have you read those flight manuals you've got in the plane with you?" "Of course!" was his ready response. "I'd be a fool to try and fly this aircraft without learning all I possibly can about every one of its systems." That gave me the perfect opening to say what I needed to say to him. I held out the little New Testament he'd handed to me. "I agree. And you'd be equally a

fool to try to fly to heaven without reading this flight manual."

As a pastor, I know quite a few people who are like my jet pilot buddy. They respect and reverence the Bible, but they don't open it. They want to be called Christians, but they have no knowledge of what that really means -- because they've never read the basic instruction manual. They may have given their hearts to Jesus, but not their heads. Our Lord, who created all of us, wants all of us in return. Read the Bible, people of God. Study it and learn what it really says.

Lenten blessings to all!

Dave Ring



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH TO PRESENT ORIGINAL CANTATA ON PALM SUNDAY



Retired pastor Jim Beinke and his daughter, Jennifer, wrote their first cantata together in 2005. Jim, then pastor at First Congregational Church in Roscommon, MI, and Jennifer, who lives in Sacramento, CA, collaborated by e-mail to write a Christmas cantata for the Roscommon church choir.

Jim, who is currently interim choir director at First United Methodist Church in Los Alamos, contacted Jenny about working together on a new cantata - Jennifer doing much of the versification and Jim concentrating on the music. The result is REDEEMED!, a cantata for the Easter season.

Rather than following the currently popular "praise music" style of writing, the cantata was purposely written with portions using traditional harmonies and others written with more modern rhythmic and harmonic variety - and yet easily sung by smaller church choirs.

REDEEMED will be performed at the eleven o'clock service on Palm Sunday.

Lenten Meal and Dramatic Presentation African Pastors Pension Fund Event

Please join us after second service on March 22 for a potluck meal and a dramatic Lenten presentation. We will also be viewing a DVD about the Methodist pastors in Africa and taking up a free will donation to benefit the AFRICAN PASTORS PENSION FUND.

March 22, 2009
12:15 pm



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JULY 27-31, 2009



MARK YOUR CALENDARS,
RESERVE SOME TIME FOR THIS SUMMER'S VBS!

ALL CHILDREN AGES 4-SIXTH GRADE ARE WELCOME.

PARENTS,
WE NEED: **TEACHERS**
HELPERS
SNACK CREWS!

SEE VALERIE COLLINS OR CAMILLE WESCOTT TO VOLUNTEER NOW.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

March is Women's History Month and the 30th anniversary of the creation of United Methodist Women.

For more than a century, women in the Methodist and Evangelical United Brethren churches have been in the forefront of the struggle for human, social and women's rights. The earliest generation of women founded missionary societies and organizational structures to help women attain full participation in the church and society.

Many problems faced by the women of the turn of the 20th century have reemerged in our own time with new urgency, waves of immigration, homelessness, racial divisions, threats to the environment, substance abuse and addiction, lack of affordable health care, concerns for the well-being of children and the elderly, public education, and questions about women's roles in society and the workplace.

Because of the faithfulness and courage of the millions of women who prayed, planned, organized, marched, petitioned, labored and supported the work of early missionaries, the lives of countless individuals have been irrevocably changed.

Deaconesses were central to the work of the early foreign and home missionaries. As opportunities for women missionaries grew, the need for trained laywomen became a priority for the office of deaconess work. The first generation of deaconesses served as pastor's assistants, nurses, social workers, and educators, roles deemed gender appropriate by church and state.

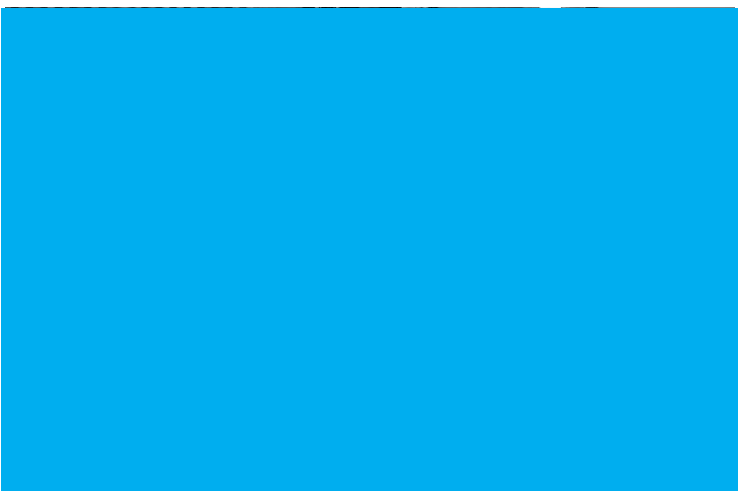
In 1888 the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church legislated in favor of the Office of Deaconess. This legislation opened the door that had been closed to Protestant women for hundreds of years.

United Methodist Women continue to support the Deaconess Program Office of the General Board of Global Ministries. During the 30th anniversary of UMW women have much to be proud of and a great deal to celebrate as we continue the journey begun more than 100 years ago by our faithful and courageous foremothers.

We will celebrate Women's History Month during March 22 services.



Two faces of Children's Church



Two faces in the Pulpit

Mary White,
VIM director
above



Rev. Will Steinsiek
Conference Archivist
right

SPECIAL MARCH DAYS

Birthdays:	Anniversaries:
Ruby Meaders 03/05	March 31
Fran Ring 03/09	Don & Kathy Siebe
Cleo Byers 03/10	
Don Siebe 03/10	
Claire Harmon 03/12	
Thomas Beery 03/13	
Emma Barefield 03/19	
Vicki Ricketts 03/20	
Charlotte McQuillan 03/21	
Susan Sasser 03/22	
Rachel Granzow 03/23	
Pam Hundley 03/27	



SPECIAL LENTEN EVENTS SCHEDULE

AT NOON ON SUNDAY, MARCH 22ND, a special potluck Lenten Luncheon will be held in our church's Fellowship Hall. This will feature a dramatic "skit" on the meaning of Lent, directed by Marthe Sims, plus a DVD presentation describing the Central Conference Pension Initiative (CCPI).

ON PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 5TH, both regular morning worship services will include a palm processional by the children present. Be sure to bring your whole household. At the 11 AM service the Chancel Choir will present the Lenten/Easter season Cantata, "Redeemed," an original musical composition by our own Rev. Jim Beinke. (Holy Communion will not be observed on April 5th.)

HOLY THURSDAY EVENING, APRIL 9TH AT 7:00 PM, there will be a celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion, which will constitute our monthly observance thereof for April.

GOOD FRIDAY EVENING, MARCH 21ST, "TENBRAE" WORSHIP will begin at 7:00 PM. This "Silent Service of Darkness" is quite different from every other form of traditional Christian worship. It has quickly become an annual "favorite" for those who choose to attend it. All ages are certainly welcome, but parents are asked to prepare their children in advance for an unusually quiet and contemplative worship experience.

EASTER SUNDAY MORNING, APRIL 12TH, worship opportunities will begin with an ecumenical, community-wide Sunrise Worship at Ashley Pond, tentatively set to start at 6:30 AM. Contemporary Worship in our sanctuary will commence at 8:30 AM, Sunday School will follow at 9:45 AM, with Traditional Worship will be held at 11:00 AM.



UPCOMING EVENTS Highlights

Sermon Titles

Sunday, March 15 - Pastor Ring's Meditation: "John's Gospel-Chapter 8"
 Sunday, March 22 - Pastor Ring's Meditation: "John's Gospel-Chapter 9"
 Sunday, March 29 - Pastor Ring's Meditation: "John's Gospel-Chapter 10"

Skates

Friday, March 20, 5:30 pm

Parents Night Out

Friday, March 20, 6 pm

Youth Lock-In

Friday, March 20, 7:30 pm in the Senior High Room

Lenten Luncheon

Sunday, March 22, 6:30 pm in the Friendship Center

Disciple M

Monday, March 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 in the Friendship Center

Women of the Bible

Wednesday, March 25, 10 am in the Friendship Center

Choir

Wednesday, March 25, 7 pm in the Sanctuary

Emmaus Men's Walk

Thursday through Sunday, March 26-29

City-Wide Worship & Prayer

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

Boy Scouts

Thursday, March 26, 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall

1st Light

Thursday, March 26, 7 pm in the Sanctuary

Skates

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

MF

Sunday, March 29, 4 pm in the Senior High Room

Disciple M

Monday, March 30, 6:30 pm in the Friendship Center

Staff

Tuesday, March 31, 10 am in the Library

Ark Staff

Tuesday, March 31, 5:30 pm in the Mid-High Room

Women of the Bible

Wednesday, April 1, 10 am in the Friendship Center

City-Wide Worship & Prayer

Thursday, April 1, 11:30 am in the Sanctuary

Boy Scouts

Thursday, April 1, 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall

1st Light

Thursday, April 1, 7 pm in the Sanctuary

Skates

Friday, April 2, 5:30 pm

Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, April 4, 10 am in the Sanctuary

Church Council

Sunday, April 5, 7 pm in the Friendship Center

Emmaus

Monday, April 6, 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall and Friendship Center

First United Methodist Church
called to:

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

The next edition of Visions will be dated April 3.
The deadline for articles is Wednesday, March 25.

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

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 THROUGH APRIL 1, 2009.

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