



# FIRST

# VISIONS

## an edition of the United Methodist Reporter

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## THE PASTOR PONDER



### "DO YOU WANT TO GET WELL?"

In chapter five of John's Gospel in the New Testament, by the pool of Bethesda in Jerusalem, Jesus encounters a sick man who has been chronically ill for 38 years. And he proceeds to ask this man a question: "Do you want to get well?" (John 5:6b, New International Version).

Years ago, when I first began to serve in the ministry of God, I thought that was one of Jesus' oddest moments. I mean, if somebody's sick, their greatest desire is to get well, isn't it? Why even ask such a silly question?

But when you read further in this gospel story, you discover that the sick man doesn't give Jesus the sort of automatic response you'd anticipate. Rather, he proceeds to make excuses - excuses to justify the fact that, due to his illness, he's been sidelined from society for 38 years. And frankly, it's pretty clear that he's learned to be content, and perhaps even to like it, that way.

Do you want to get well? As I grow older - and perhaps a tad wiser - I'm discovering that there are considerable numbers of sick persons in our society who really don't want to get well. Being disabled may provide an income from the government which, if one gets well, would disappear. Being chronically ill can generate sympathy and compassion from relatives, neighbors and friends. Being sick provides a ready excuse for not being expected to perform as an accountable, adult human being.

In the gospel story of John 5, despite the sick man's equivocation about wanting, or not, to be made well, Jesus heals him. And sure enough, soon after being cured, he's forced to cope with a barrage of difficult questions from others. I suspect he thought, more than once, about how much less complicated life was -- back when he was an ignored invalid. So when Jesus encounters him a second time the Lord tells him, in effect, to "suck it up" and start acting like a responsible person. (Read John 5:14)

Jesus, while he walked this earth, was unapologetically in the healing business. He tried to help everyone he met to be whole - in body, mind, and spirit. And he then expected those same persons to be dependable, conscientious, reliable, mature humans.

When Jesus left this earth (in bodily form) the disciples of Jesus - collectively known as the Church of Jesus Christ - were commissioned by Him to continue the work of our Lord. Throughout the Book of Acts in the New Testament, healing was one of their most frequent ministries as well.



A HEALING  
SERVICE

The Church today continues to be in the healing business. Specific to that ministry, First United Methodist Church of Los Alamos holds periodic healing worship services. The next such is scheduled for 6:15 PM on Wednesday, May 6, 2009 in our sanctuary. All are invited.

Do you want to get well? I hope the answer for you, one and all, is a firm and unequivocal "Yes!"

*Dave King*

## NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER 58TH ANNUAL NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER THURSDAY, MAY 7

Theme: "Prayer....America's Hope" based on Psalm 33:22, "May Your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we put our hope in You."

Location: Church sanctuary (instead of Ashley Pond)

Time: 11:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon, worship led by Gloria Streit  
12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m., program  
Stop and go-come for the entire event or stay as long as you can.

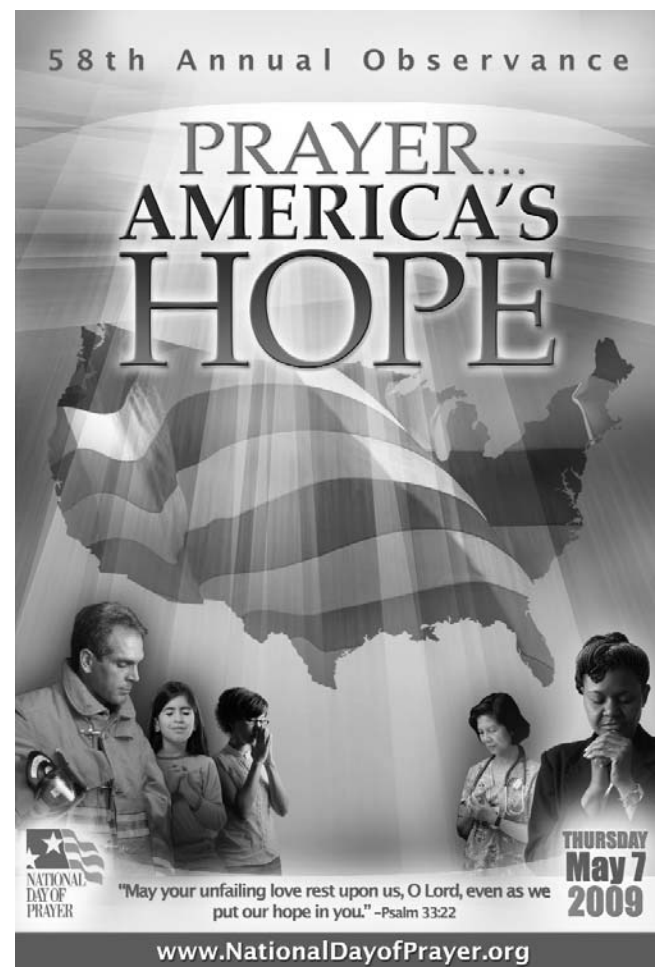
Overflow parking accommodations: Permission has been granted to use the following parking lots as needed:

Sullivan Field next door  
Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church and Trinity on the Hill Episcopal Church, both across Diamond Drive

Hosted by City-Wide Worship and Prayer (an interdenominational Christian ministry)

No childcare

See [www.NationalDayofPrayer.org](http://www.NationalDayofPrayer.org) for additional information.  
Contacts: Gail Diedrich, 672-9864 and FUMC, 662-6277





# Summer Camps 2009

## Younger Children's Camp

*(completed grades 1-4)*  
June 12th-14th (\$120)

**Senior High Camp**  
*(completed grades 9-12)*  
June 22nd-26th

**Mid-High Camp**  
*(completed grades 6-8)*  
June 22nd-26th

*"On time" registration  
(2 weeks prior to camp)  
is \$240.*

**Elementary Camp**  
*(completed grades 4-6)*  
July 6th-10th

**Sunshine Camp**  
*(mentally challenged  
adults)*  
August 3rd-7th

**Backpacking Camps**  
*Beginners*  
*July 9-12*  
*Advanced*  
*July 26-31*  
*(prices pending)*



## Sacramento Methodist Assembly

P.O. Box 8 • Sacramento, NM 88347 • 1-800-667-3414  
[www.sacramentoassembly.org](http://www.sacramentoassembly.org) E-mail: [info@sacramentoassembly.org](mailto:info@sacramentoassembly.org)

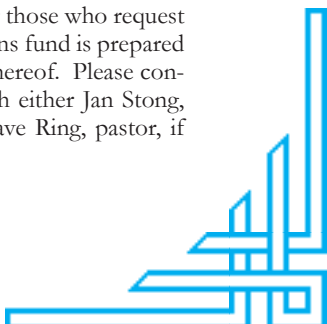
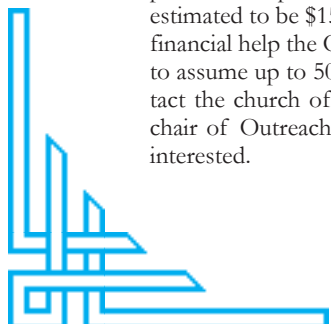


Spring Confirmation Class Members: Chevalier Zackary Jackson (also known as "Val") and Cory Leigh Carnes joining the church by profession of faith in Jesus Christ; Deana Louise Carnes also joining by profession of faith; and Jay Russell Carnes joining by transfer from First Christian Church in Plano, TX on April 19



**NICARAGUA MISSION  
THIS WINTER**

LA-FUMC's Outreach/Missions Committee is planning to field a small team to work on water well repairs with our congregation's own "in the field" missionary couple, Dennis Trumblee and Susan Nava, in Nicaragua in late November-early December 2009. The most probable dates are Nov. 30-Dec.5, although a week sooner or a week later is possible. Two "experienced" missionaries from our church will be leading this team, but we'd very much like to involve up to four new folk who haven't previously gone on a Volunteers In Mission, or "VIM," team. Yes, it's only April, but much advance planning is involved and air-fares are rising -- so we need to hear from interested persons a.s.a.p. The per-person cost of this venture is estimated to be \$1500 - \$1600. For those who request financial help the Outreach/Missions fund is prepared to assume up to 50% of the cost thereof. Please contact the church office and talk with either Jan Stong, chair of Outreach/Missions or Dave Ring, pastor, if interested.



Heifer Project



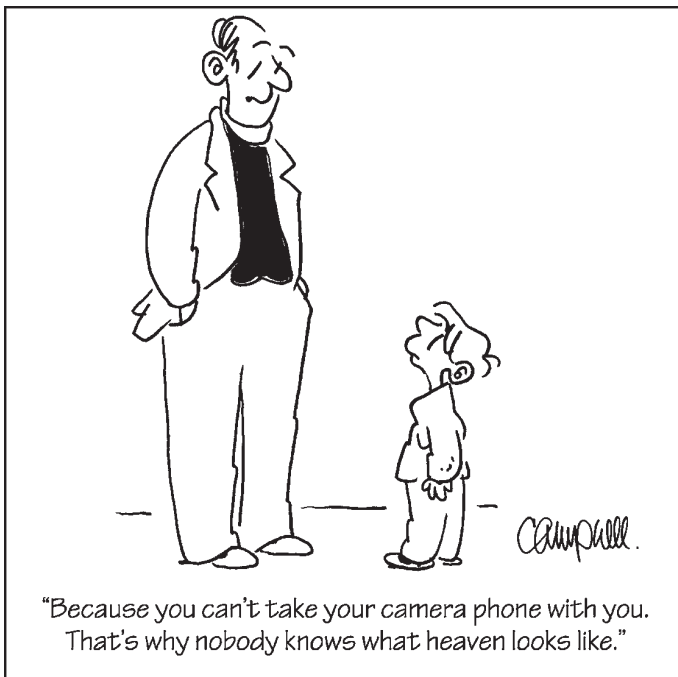
## SPECIAL MAY DAYS

### Birthdays:

Jana Beery	05/02
Fred DeVries	05/03
Hunter Eaton	05/03
Jason Trimmer	05/04
Tom Ricketts	05/06
Bob Malone	05/09
Rachel Taylor	05/11
Debbie Trimmer	05/11
Brent Collom	05/12
Brad Wescott	05/12
Ron Jones	05/13
Anna Parks	05/19
Sarah Ricketts	05/26
Kyle Beery	05/27
Walker Eaton	05/29
Angela Hodgson	05/30

### Anniversaries:

	May 21
Tom & Vicki Ricketts	
	May 23
Dale & Linda Leschnitzer	
	May 24
Bill & Carol Mead	



All,

Greetings! Most of you I have met before, but some of us have not had the chance to meet yet. My name is Travis Knapp, and I will be the Summer Intern Youth Director at Los Alamos First United Methodist Church this summer. I look forward to seeing you all soon and to meeting some of you for the first time!

I am seeking volunteers for the youth missions trip to Four Corners this summer, happening June 13-20. The primary responsibility would be supervision, but could also include driving, as well as participation, in what events will be happening.

The general outline for the mission trip is:

Saturday, June 13: Arrive before dark (approximately a four-hour trip from Los Alamos)

Sunday, June 14: Worship at Native American Church, event in the afternoon

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday: A.M. mission work projects (relatively low-skilled work, like clean-up, painting, etc., suitable for junior high and high schoolers). In the afternoon each of these days, we will go to a 'cultural sight.'

Wednesday: Free day, at a sight that is yet to be decided by the youth.

Saturday, June 20: return to Los Alamos

This provides an idea of the general activities of the trip, but I'm sure there will be spontaneity, play, times of discussion, prayer, worship, and recreation, among others.

To help us attain an honest count of where we currently are as far as having volunteers, could you please reply to this message with one of three answers?

1. Yes, I will be a volunteer on the trip
2. No, I will and/or cannot not be a volunteer
3. Maybe, and I can let you know by this date \_\_\_\_\_

If you have any questions about the trip, please speak with me or Ann LePage.

Thank you, and God bless you. I look forward to the mission trip with anticipation of what the Lord could do through it!

Blessings,

Travis Knapp

(c) 505-920-3426

## UPCOMING EVENTS Highlights

### Sermon Titles

Sunday, May 3, 2009 -  
Communion Pastor Ring's  
Sermon: "John's Gospel,  
Chapter 13"

Sunday, May 10, 2009 -  
Mother's Day Pastor Ring's  
Sermon: "John's Gospel,  
Chapter 14"

Sunday, May 17, 2009 -  
Communion Pastor Ring's  
Sermon: "John's Gospel,  
Chapter 15"

### Skates

Friday, May 1, 5:30 pm

### Missions Talk

Friday, May 1, 7 pm in the  
Friendship Center

### Senior Appreciation

Sunday, May 3, 9:45 am in the  
Friendship Center

### MF

Sunday, May 3, 4 pm in the  
Senior High Room

### Church Council

Sunday, May 3, 7 pm in the  
Friendship Center

### Emmaus Gathering

Monday, May 4, 6:30 pm in  
Fellowship Hall and Friendship  
Center

### Staff

Tuesday, May 5, 10 am in the  
Library

### Sister to Sister

Tuesday, May 5, Noon in the  
Friendship Center

### Trustees

Tuesday, May 5, 6 pm in the  
Library

### Worship

Tuesday, May 5, 7 pm in the  
Friendship Center

### Healing Worship

Wednesday, May 6, 6:15 pm in  
the Sanctuary

### Choir

Wednesday, May 6, 7 pm in the  
Sanctuary

### National Day of Prayer--

### City-Wide Worship & Prayer

Thursday, May 7, 11:30 am in  
the Sanctuary

### Boy Scouts

Thursday, May 7, 7 pm in the  
Fellowship Hall

### 1st Light

Thursday, May 7, 7 pm in the  
Sanctuary

### Men's Breakfast

Friday, May 8, 6:30 am in the  
Friendship Center

### Skates

Friday, May 8, 5:30 pm

### LA Cares

Saturday, May 9, 10 am-6 pm  
in the Fellowship Hall

### Eagle Court of Honor

Saturday, May 9, 7 pm in the  
Sanctuary

### LA Crafts

Sunday, May 10, 4 pm in the  
Friendship Center

### MF

Sunday, May 10, 4 pm in the

Senior High Room

### Outreach/Missions

Monday, May 11, 6 pm in the  
Library

### Staff

Tuesday, May 12, 10 am in the  
Library

### Ark Graduation

Tuesday, May 12, 5:30 pm in  
the Sanctuary

### Education

Tuesday, May 12, 6 pm in the  
Library

### SPRC

Tuesday, May 12, 7 pm in the  
Asb

### Choir

Wednesday, May 13, 7 pm in  
the Sanctuary

### City-Wide Worship & Prayer

Thursday, May 14, 11:30 am in  
the Sanctuary

### Men's Kairos Begins

Thursday, May 14

### Boy Scouts

Thursday, May 14, 7 pm in the  
Library

### 1st Light

Thursday, May 14, 7 pm in the  
Sanctuary

### Skates

Friday, May 15, 5:30 pm

### Parents Night Out

Friday, May 15, 6 pm

### Youth Outing

Saturday, May 16 to Puye Cliffs

First United Methodist Church  
called to:

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

The next edition of *Visions* will be dated May 15.  
The deadline for articles is Wednesday, May 8.

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