



FIRST

VISIONS

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INSIDE FIRST VISIONS

THE PASTOR
PONDERS
FOCUS ON GOD

1^A

PRESENCE-THE JOY
OF OBEDIENCE

SUNDAY SCHOOL
CORNER

EDUCATION &
MINISTRY FAIR

4^A

PHOTOS FROM
AROUND THE CHURCH

5^A

SPECIAL OCTOBER
DAYS

BAPTISM

DR. ESCAMILLA

UPCOMING EVENTS

8^A

THE PASTOR PONDERS



"FOUR DAYS OF FOCUS ON GOD"

In the days of our Old Testament ancestors of faith, the Hebrews, there was an annual time when "normal" life was suspended. For one week each year the chosen people of God were asked to specially focus upon their relationship with the Lord. The week was called "Passover Week," a time to remember, to commemorate, to celebrate God's bringing His people out of Egypt and into the "Promised Land" with signs, wonders, and mighty acts. For centuries this celebration bound the Hebrews together in covenant with God and one another. (Look in Exodus 12 in the Bible for details of the Passover.) Today, more than 3,000 years later, modern Jews still celebrate the Passover - many call it "the high holy days."

For at least a century now the people of God called "Methodists" have set aside an annual time to focus upon our special relationship with God. It's usually called "Revival Week." During that week, just like the Hebrews of old, we are asked to suspend "normal" life and to focus upon remembering, commemorating, and celebrating God's mighty acts in our midst. Of course, our remembrances are only centered upon liberation from bondage in Egypt, but also and more completely upon our freedom from bondage to sin made possible by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Modern living has forced us to compromise somewhat from that of past times. Whether we truly love God or not most of us can't walk away from our jobs and other regular responsibilities for an entire week. But despite the fast-paced lives we all lead, we can still set aside significant time, annually, to remember what God has done for us. That's what "Revival Week" is intended to provide for the people called Methodists today.

This year's fall Los Alamos First United Methodist Church Revival Week - really just four days - is Sept.

27-30. I've invited Dr. Roberto Escamilla, one of the "great names" of contemporary Methodism, to come and help us as we attempt to remember and revitalize our special relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Dr. Escamilla's "credentials" are too numerous to share here except via the briefest of notation. He is a seminary professor, an evangelist extraordinaire, a long-time director at our United Methodist Board of Discipleship, and a truly wise, seasoned follower of Jesus Christ. I sincerely hope you'll join me during the time he is among us to receive some or all of the excellent teaching which he will offer us.

Elsewhere in this newsletter is a complete "calendar of events" of our planned 2009 Fall Revival. Please fervently pray that God anoint Dr. Escamilla, myself, and all of us with His Spirit as we seek to re-establish our Lord as the focus of our lives through this annual time of renewal of our faith and fellowship with Christ and with one another.

Blessings to all!

FOUR DAYS OF FOCUS ON GOD

2009 FALL REVIVAL

LOS ALAMOS FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



DR. ROBERTO ESCAMILLA,
PRINCIPAL SPEAKER*

Sunday, Sept. 27th -

8:30 and 11 AM - Regular Morning Worship Services,

Dr. Escamilla preaching, "How to Find God Again"--John 14:7-10

Noon - Churchwide Potluck Luncheon in Fellowship Hall

7 PM - Evening Worship; Dr. Escamilla preaching, "Life, What is it all about?"--John 10:10

Monday, Sept. 28th -

7 AM - Men's Breakfast with Dr. Escamilla; everyone invited in the Friendship Center

7 PM - Evening Worship; Dr. Escamilla preaching, "The Flickering Flame of Hope"--Romans 15:13

Tuesday, Sept. 29th -

Noon - UMW sponsored Luncheon with Dr. Escamilla; everyone invited in the Friendship Center

7 PM - Evening Worship; Dr. Escamilla preaching, "How God Heals Today"--John 5:1-9

Wednesday, Sept. 30th -

7 PM - Evening Worship; Dr. Escamilla preaching, "The New Life in God"--John 3:1-9

*More about Dr. Escamilla is on Page 8.

PRESENCE - THE JOY OF OBEDIENCE

"Free us for joyful obedience." You may recognize that phrase as part of the congregational prayer that we pray just before we celebrate communion. That prayer describes why you and I exist: joyful obedience to God. You and I exist to worship. The more we realize that, the more we approach the experience of pure joy. So why are not more of us "present" in worship services? Why are we not "free for joyful obedience"?

I choose to give those absent the benefit of the doubt, since Opal Lee and I are also frequently absent. Actually, we are regular attendees at three churches. There is our church here in Los Alamos, of which we are members and sometimes officers. Then there is the church that my mother attends in Midwest City, Oklahoma, where we attend often enough that the Pastor and many members know us by name. And finally there is the church in Gonzales, Texas, near the ranch, where we also are known and recognized as regular attendees at both church and Sunday School. We also have attended church in England, Germany, Switzerland, and wherever

we might happen to be on a Sunday. The Lord is everywhere and can be worshipped everywhere. When we joined the church, our presence was one of the five things we promised. Let us give more priority to being at church on Sunday.

But, "presence" can mean more than "attendance" in worship. We can be present in body, but not really in spirit. We can be there but not really participating in the worship, just as we can attend worship but not be a part of the body of the church. We can also be present for someone else that needs our help. We can be present to listen to someone that needs to be heard. When you ask, "How are you?", do you really listen for the answer, which may come as much in body language as in words? We can be present for our family, which again means more than just physically being there.

Let's all practice our "presence" skills. Let's all be free for joyful obedience to God.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CORNER

THE LITTLE CLASS

We are currently studying the gospel of John. Our class follows a discussion format and is open to those of any age but it seems to attract experienced adults. The discussion usually starts by reading a few verses of bible text and then the leader asks about some issue of current interest relating to the text that was just read. Very interesting questions are often raised and class members share their feelings and life experiences about that particular issue. Many questions are raised that theologians have wrestled with for years. Usually the class does not reach a conclusion but everyone regardless of religious and political background shares. All opinions are lovingly respected. Political discussions are off limits.

Prayers are requested for Jan, for Betty, and for Dave's mother.

BIBLE HISTORY CLASS

The Bible History Class meets every Sunday in the Friendship Center. Our average attendance is about 20. We are a discussion class, and hold strongly to the philosophy that everyone's opinion is important, and that each of us must come to our own conclusions after hearing the discussion and reading both the Bible and the literature book. Our discussions are Biblically directed, and we use a variety of literature to lead us. We often study the history and culture surrounding a Biblical story in order to better understand its meaning for us.

Right now we are studying the book *The Jesus Priorities: 8 Essential Habits*, by Christopher Maricle. The author asks the question "What did Jesus consistently say and do during his public ministry that would be instructive for us?" He looks for the answers by analyzing the sayings and actions of Jesus as reported in the four Gospels.

Most of our literature books last about 8-12 weeks. Before this we studied the book of Luke from the Interpretation Bible Studies series. Before that we did a Lenten study called "Watching the Disciples, Learning from Their Mistakes", by Mary Jane Gorman. In the past we have been through all of Ray Vander Laan's Faith Lessons series, "That The World May Know", and studied *Who Wrote The Bible*.

Among our members, congratulations to Sheila and Don Enemark for their 50th Wedding Anniversary. Praise God for Gene Diedrich's successful eye surgery, and for Fran Ring's continued recovery from knee surgery.

Karen Knapp

EDUCATION & MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY FAIR

HELD ON SEPTEMBER 13

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES PAMPHLETS PRESENTED WERE:

Following God Class--uses a series of workbooks written by Eddie Rasnake, pastor and author.

It includes practical life lessons from the Bible, life stories based on Biblical men and women of faith, and detailed studies of New Testament epistles.

Little Class--studies the Bible related to today in a discussion format.

Women of Faith--We are women of faith in Christ who meet to study and discuss the issues women face every day and seek to apply Christian principles to the way in which we face those issues.

Children's Sunday School--purpose is to provide young children with a fun, educational experience as they begin their journey towards fulfillment in Christ for children ages 2 - 5th grade. Our curriculum is entitled B.I.G. (Believe In God). There are prepared lessons, crafts, a DVD and CD that accompany each lesson. We are in special need of a song leader 3 Sundays per month. We also need substitute teachers. Call Karen Knapp at 661-4914 or email at kknapp53@hotmail.com.

CHURCH WORK AREAS PAMPHLETS PRESENTED WERE:

SPRC--Staff Parish Relations Committee performs the basic functions of a Human Resources department, including assuming responsibility for some legal and risk management issues. For more information check out the SPRC's web page: <http://www.lafumc.org/Other/bosprc.html>

Missions/Outreach--works in our community and surrounding communities by supporting local Christian organizations, civic organization, and our church. Several of the groups at this fair, as well as many others, are included in the work done. For more information check out the Mission/Outreach handbook on the Mission's web page: <http://www.lafumc.org/Missions/mishand.html>

Stewardship--This committee is represented in the article, "Presence - the Joy of Obedience," in the left column on this page.

Trustees--The Board of Trustees maintain, update, and keep track of all the property that makes up the physical part of the Church. For more information check out the Trustees' web page: <http://www.lafumc.org/Other/botrus.html>

Crisis and Caring Ministry--provides short term tangible support for those in the church family going through crises in their lives through: providing meals, giving support to those persons during their crisis, giving support to those persons during their crisis, furnishing receptions for memorial services. You can help by cooking food for meals or for the freezer to be used for emergencies and quick meals, delivering meals or plants, supplying transportation, calling, visiting or sending cards, and helping at memorial receptions. Contact Carol Mead - 662-9475.

ONGOING PROJECTS:

Christmas Box Program--Some years ago, FUMC began a Christmas Box Program, to make the season a little brighter for some families over the holidays. What we ask for is help in providing food for a Christmas dinner, a small gift for the family, and/or possibly a small toy for young children, and warm clothing for the elderly. Please prayerfully consider providing for one or more of these families. The list with solid information concerning shopping suggestions and delivery dates should be available around the 1st or 2nd Sunday in November.

Sound System/Video--We need additional volunteers to assist in the recording of Sunday services and for special events. This ministry provides DVD recordings of every Sunday service for later viewing by shut-ins, by our missionaries abroad, and for the church archival library. Please contact Don Casperson if you would like to learn how to use our equipment and contribute to this ministry.

City-Wide Worship and Prayer--is a noon-time central location where students, Lab employees, business community, and others can enter into the presence of the Lord through worship, prayer, and the Word and leave transformed to follow Jesus and fulfill the Great Commission. Initiatives have included 24/7 NM Prayer for 2010; hosting the 58th National Day of Prayer; a healing, worship experience called, "Healing Love;" a party leading into Pentecost called, "Grace, Grace, God's Amazing Grace and Fire;" and many others.

Handwork Ministries--Many of these projects are through UMCOR-United Methodist Committee on Relief such as School Kit Bags and Layette Nightgowns. Other projects include fleece hats and scarves and prayer shawls.

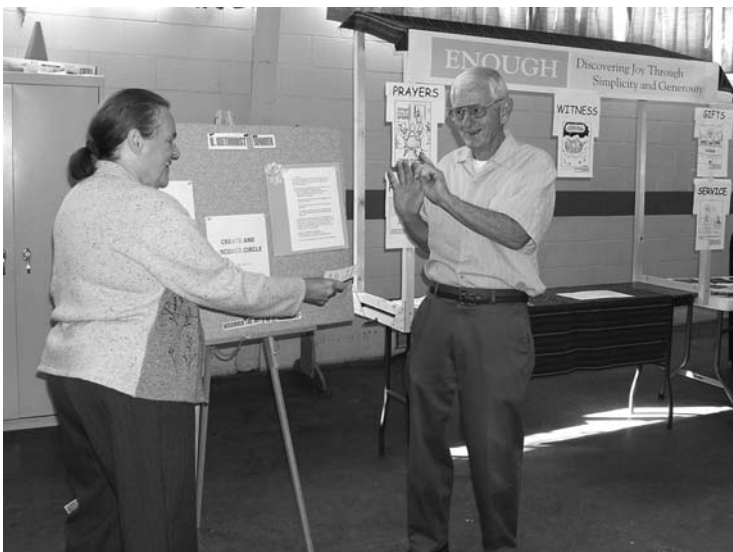




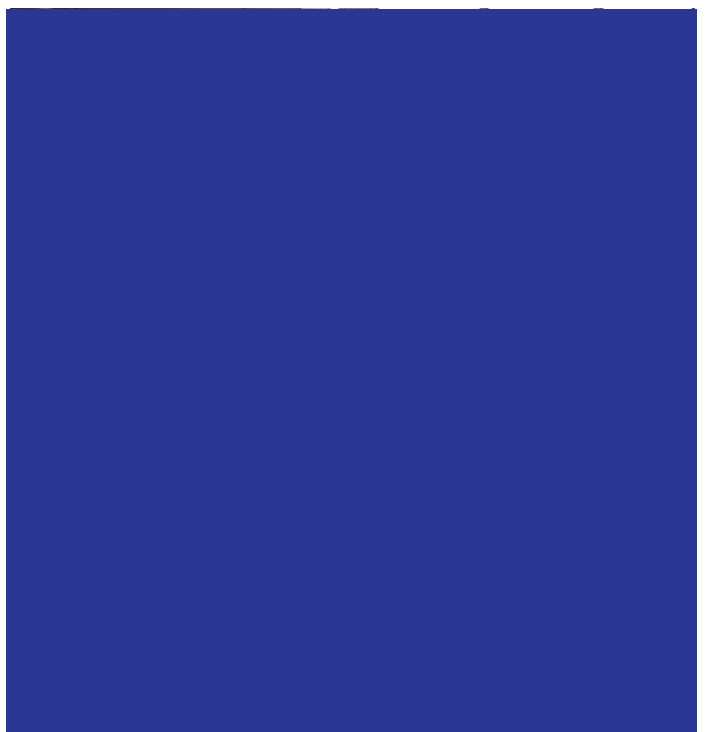
EDUCATIONAL & MISSION OPPORTUNITIES FAIR



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN PRESENTS MISSION PIN TO OPAL LEE GILL



CHURCH PRESENTS BIBLES TO THIRD GRADERS



SPECIAL OCTOBER DAYS

Birthdays:		James Barefield	10/15
Jon Sollid	10/01	Gerald Collom	10/18
Emma Jean Mader	10/01	Susan Hodgson	10/20
Michael Hundley	10/02	Ray Trimmer	10/20
Doris Jackson	10/02	Ella Leschnitzer	10/22
Matthew Ricketts	10/02	Edith Potter	10/27
Nels Hoffman	10/04	Dave Scudder	10/29
Alice Carter	10/05	Charles Knapp	10/30
Geniece Courtright	10/08		
George Balog	10/12	Anniversaries:	
Susannah Rousculp	10/12	October 8	
Peggy Goldman	10/13	Fred & Hazel DeVries	
Don Zickert	10/14		

ROBERTO ESCAMILLA BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Roberto Escamilla is the Minister of Evangelism at the First Methodist church in Ada, OK. He has held revivals in many parts of the country. He was selected as one of the preachers in the radio program "The Protestant Horn". He has served on the faculty of the Methodist Theological School in Ohio and Perkins School of Theology.

He has written several books including Prisoners of Hope and Come to the Feast which will be available during the Revival. He and his wife, Dorothy, live near Ada, OK.

Dorothy is an accomplished musician and holds degrees in music education from Vanderbilt and SMU. She was an outstanding basketball player and her name appears in the Oklahoma Hall of fame in Oklahoma City. She sings in the church choir and gives book reviews to several civic groups.

Robert and Dorothy have four children and ten grandchildren.



First United Methodist Church
called to:

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

The next edition of Visions will be dated October 2.
The deadline for articles is Wednesday, September 23.

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Discipleship Coordinator ~
Ann LePage
Choir Director ~ Jim Beinke
First Visions Editor ~ Jan Stong
Ark Child Development Center
Lorri White, Director
(505) 662-4822

United Skates
First Session:
3rd graders & younger
5:30 pm - 6:45 pm
Admission \$2:00
Second Session
4th graders & older
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Admission \$2:50
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.



Joe Densmore
baptized
September 13, 2009
pictured with her family--
Crystal, Jacob, and Jeff

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sermon Titles

Sunday, September 20, 2009
Pastor Ring's sermon "David and Goliath - A Fresh Look"
Old Testament Scripture Text: I Samuel 17:1-50

Sunday, September 27, 2009
REVIVAL SUNDAY Dr. Escamilla's sermon "How to Find God Again"--New Testament Scripture Text John 14:7-10

Sunday, October 4, 2009
World Communion
Sunday Pastor Ring's Meditation: "The Bond of Peace" Epistle Scripture Text: Ephesians 4:1-6

Women's Retreat

Friday & Saturday, September 18-19, Casa Del Sol, Abiquiqui

Roller Skating

Friday, September 18, 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall

MF

Sunday, September 18, 4 pm in the Senior High Room

Healing Worship

Sunday, September 18, 7 pm in the Sanctuary

Disciple III

Monday, September 21, 6:45 pm in the Library

Lay Leadership

Monday, September 21, 7:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Staff

Tuesday, September 22, 10 am

in the Library

Newspaper Articles Due

Wednesday, September 23

Disciple III

Wednesday, September 23, 6 pm in the Library

Choir

Wednesday, September 23, 7 pm in the Sanctuary

City-Wide Worship & Prayer

Thursday, September 24, 11:30 am in the Sanctuary

Ark Staff

Thursday, September 24, 5:30 pm in the Mid-High Room

Boy Scouts

Thursday, September 24, 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall

1st Light

Thursday, September 24, 7 pm in the Sanctuary

Roller Skating

Friday, September 25, 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Parsonage Work Day

Saturday, September 26, 8:30 am

Fall Revival Potluck

Sunday, September 27, Noon in the Fellowship Hall

MF

Sunday, September 27, 4 pm in the Senior High Room

Revival Service

Sunday, September 27, 7 pm in the Sanctuary

Revival Men's Breakfast

Monday, September 28,

Breakfast with Dr. Escamilla; everyone invited, 7 am. in the Friendship Center

Revival Service

Monday, September 28, 7 pm in the Sanctuary

Staff

Tuesday, September 29, 10 am in the Library

Revival Women's Luncheon

Tuesday, September 29, Noon in the Friendship Center

Revival Service

Tuesday, September 29, 7 pm in the Sanctuary

Disciple III

Wednesday, September 30, 4 pm in the Friendship Center

Revival Service

Wednesday, September 30, 7 pm in the Sanctuary

Choir

Wednesday, September 30, 8 pm in the Sanctuary

City-Wide Worship & Prayer

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

Boy Scouts

Thursday, October 1, 7 pm in the Library

1st Light

Thursday, October 1, 7 pm in the Sanctuary

LATER IN SEPTEMBER--

LA-FUMC'S 2009 FALL REVIVAL EMPHASIS IS COMING SEPT. 27-30. MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND PREPARE FOR AN EXCITING SPIRITUAL JOURNEY LED BY THE REV. DR. ROBERTO ESCAMILLA.