



FIRST

VISIONS

an edition of the United Methodist Reporter

Two Sections, Section A | 070665 | Vol. 156 | No. 24 | October 30, 2009

INSIDE FIRST VISIONS

THE PASTOR PONDER'S

RADICAL HOSPITALITY WORKSHOP

HOW DO YOU DEFINE WITNESS?

1 ^A

LAITY SUNDAY/CHILDREN'S SABBATH PHOTOS

OPEN HOUSE

4 ^A

SPECIAL NOVEMBER DAYS

PINE CONE RISTRAS

UPCOMING EVENTS

5 ^A

THE PASTOR PONDER'S



"STEWARDSHIP CAN BE FUN"

My first full-time pastoral assignment was a church full of wonderful old folks in Albuquerque. Some of them were well-off financially, most were merely OK in that category, and some just barely scraped by.

One particular widow whom I knew was barely surviving financially was Rose. I'd been to her house, and I'd opened her refrigerator door while getting a drink of water. To employ a pre-refrigeration expression, "the cupboard was bare."

I spoke privately with a handful of other church members who were substantially better off than she about Rose's empty refrigerator. They all knew Rose and loved her - but they also realized she simply wouldn't agree to let anyone help her. She was stubbornly self-reliant. We tossed around several ideas when finally one of the other widow ladies who was well-off financially said, "I'll take care of it, and she'll never know."

What this lady did was very sim-

ple. She already sat next to Rose in church every Sunday. And so, each Sunday while Rose was intently listening to my sermon (She really did!), she would slip a \$20 bill into Rose's purse. Rose never caught her doing it, and Rose never figured out what was happening, at least not while I was still the pastor there.

Rose commented to me once or twice about the "magical" way she always seemed to find extra money in her purse that she couldn't remember putting there. I smiled and told her to just enjoy it -- that God loved her and was blessing her. Which was, of course, quite true.

In this season of emphasis upon stewardship of the blessings of God, mature Christians realize that stewardship is not a heavy burden. In fact, sometimes it can be fun!

Praise the Lord!

Dave Ring

"RADICAL HOSPITALITY WORKSHOP"

Featuring:

Practical tools from Rethinking Church, Rev. Lourdes Calderon "Reaching out to Hispanics/Latino communities" and a discussion panel from UMC Path1, Sam Rodriguez, Director Hispanic/Latino for Path 1 division and Tom Butcher, Executive Secretary, Path 1 Division Nashville, TN.

When:

Friday 30 October, 2009 12-4 pm
beginning with lunch, workshops start at 1pm
Saturday 31 October 9-11 am

Location:

Lydia Patterson Institute, El Paso--517 S. Florence, El Paso TX 79940

(For those wishing to stay the night, contact the Camino Real Hotel and make a discounted reservation under Lydia Patterson Hispanic Ministry)

Sponsored by New Mexico Conference Equipping Ministries, Hispanic Ministries and UMC Path1

For more information call the Rev. George Miller (915)533-8286 x31 or Rev. Lourdes Calderon (505)877-0632.

HOW DO YOU DEFINE WITNESS?

At the General Conference in 2008, it was decided to add a fifth dimension to the vows that all people confess when they join a United Methodist Church. The five dimensions are: gifts, presence, prayers, service AND WITNESS. Indeed these five dimensions are all a part of being a good steward of what God has given us.

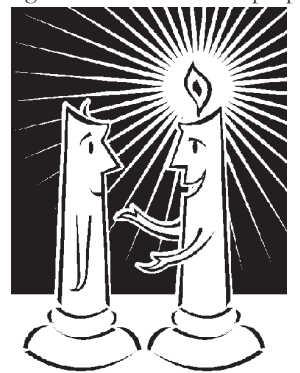
I understand the first four aspects of this vow quite well I think but this fifth dimension is a challenge for me. In doing some research at our New Mexico conference website I learned that the mission of our conference is to: "Engage, Equip, and Empower every local church in their mission to develop dynamic disciples of Jesus Christ for the TRANSFORMATION of the world." It goes on: "The presence and power of Jesus Christ is self-evident in numerous congregations as they Equip and Empower followers of Jesus Christ to invite pre-Christian people (persons who have not yet accepted Christ) to join them in being transformed and transforming the world in which we live."

Now I imagine that you who are reading this would certainly like to see our world transformed as I also would. I wonder if our congregation could be counted as one in which the PRESENCE and POWER of Jesus Christ is evident as we, His followers, invite pre-Christian people to join us in being transformed for the transforming of the world.

Pastor Dave challenges us every Sunday to go out into the world to bring others in. How well do we meet that challenge?

The definition of WITNESS in the dictionary says: "to know by personal presence". To me this means that in order to tell anyone else about Jesus Christ - to be a witness for Him- means that I must

know Him personally and have Him present in my life. This means that "pre-Christian people" must see in me a person who is an authentic witness, demonstrating the spirit of Christ in my daily living. But not only showing God's spirit by my daily living but going a step further as the NM conference mission statement says, "inviting pre-Christian people to join me in being transformed for the purpose

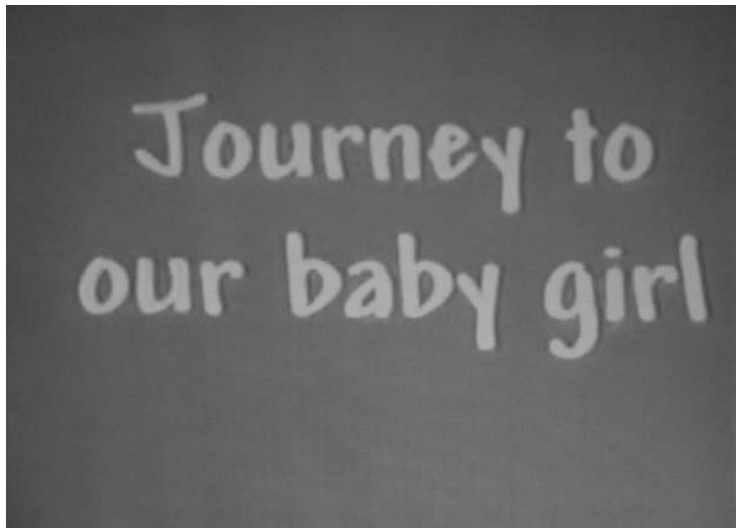


of transforming the world. That's the part that is difficult for me. I find it challenging to speak to people of my faith and invite them to join us at FUMC to work together to bring about Transformation.

Our choir recently sang Charles Wesley's well-known hymn, "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing my great Redeemer's Praise". The second verse of that hymn has been going through my mind and I feel it is so relevant to this article I'm writing - "My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of Thy name." In other words, because I know you as my Master and my God, help me to share that joy with those I meet - whether here in my hometown or in lands far away. And I acknowledge that I do need my master's help with this. Please join me in striving toward this goal.

Alice Carter





Laity
Sunday



Children's
Sabbath



Open House
at the Parsonage
226 Venado
Sunday, November 8
2 to 4 pm
Come and see the newly updated bathrooms.

SPECIAL NOVEMBER DAYS

Birthdays:

Louise Mendius 11/04
 Jeanie Standley 11/11
 Miriam Balog 11/12
 Val Hundley 11/12
 Armond Standley 11/12
 Irene Bubernak 11/14
 Harriet Zickert 11/17
 Margaret Gibson 11/22
 Mada Jones 11/25

Anniversaries:

November 4
 Walt & Martha Lou Ellis
 November 23
 Ron & Mada Jones
 November 24
 Stanley & Roberta Yasuda
 November 25
 Court & Mary Courtright
 November 26
 Dick & Judy Opsahl
 Ray & Debbie Trimmer
 November 27
 Larry & Bobi Bryant



from *The Joyful Noiseletter*
 © Ed Sullivan
 Reprinted with permission

FUTURE SPECIAL DATE:

Please Mark Your Calendars for this Important Upcoming Fall Event
 Sunday, Nov. 15th, Noon - Annual Charge Conference for our church. Everyone invited

First United Methodist Church
 called to:

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

The next edition of *Visions* will be dated November 13.
 The deadline for articles is Wednesday, November 4.

715 Diamond Drive
 Los Alamos, NM 87544
 Phone: 505-662-6277
 Fax: 505-663-0089
 E-mail: [lafumc@lafumc.org](mailto:lajumc@lafumc.org)
 Website: www.lajumc.org
 Pastor ~ Dr. Dave Ring
 Discipleship Coordinator ~
 Ann LePage
 Choir Director ~ Jim Beinke
 First Visions Editor ~ Jan Stong

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.

Join Us
 November 18, 2009, 5:30 p.m.
 WE WILL MAKE
 PINE CONE RISTRAS
 UNDER THE DIRECTION OF
 DORIS JACKSON
 MAKE YOUR RESERVATION NOW!
 LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE

Call Doris at: 662-7563, or
doriscjackson@earthlink.net

\$5.00 materials fee

UPCOMING EVENTS Highlights

Sermon Titles

Sunday, November 1, 2009 -
 Communion Sunday
 Stewardship Theme:
 Stewardship Is a Matter of
 Trust Pastor Dave Ring's
 Stewardship Emphasis Message
 # 3 : "The Trust Test - Part 1"
 O. T. Script. Text: Psalm 139

Sunday, November 8, 2009 -
 Stewardship Theme:
 Stewardship Is a Matter of
 Trust Pastor Dave Ring's
 Message #4: "The Trust Test -
 Part 2" O. T. Scripture Text:
 Psalm 139

Sunday, November 15,
 Consecration Sunday:
 Message from Dr. Tom Nagle:
 "Nine Or One?" Gospel
 Scripture: Luke 17: 11-19

Women's Emmaus Walk

October 29-November 1

Garden Meeting

Friday, October 30, 10 am in
 the Library

Roller Skating

Friday, October 30, 5:30 pm in
 the Fellowship Hall

Change Clocks

Saturday, October 31, set clocks
 back before bed

MF

Sunday, November 1, 4 pm at
 the home of Maurice & Jensina
 Sheppard, 458 Brighton in
 White Rock

Church Council

Sunday, November 1, 7 pm in
 the Friendship Center

Boy Scout Court of Honor

Sunday, November 1, 7:30 pm
 in the Sanctuary/Fellowship H

Emmaus Gathering

Monday, November 2,
 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Staff

Tuesday, November 3, 10 am in
 the Library

UMW Exec Board

Tuesday, November 3, 1 pm in
 the Library

Trustees

Tuesday, November 3, 6 pm in
 the Friendship Center

Disciple III

Tuesday, November 3,
 6:45 pm in the Library

Newspaper Articles Due

Wednesday, November 4

Disciple III

Wednesday, November 4, 3 pm
 in the Library

Choir

Wednesday, November 4, 7 pm
 in the Sanctuary

City-Wide Worship & Prayer

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

Boy Scouts

Thursday, November 5, 7 pm
 in the Fellowship Hall

1st Light

Thursday, November 5, 7 pm
 in the Sanctuary

Roller Skating

Friday, November 6, 5:30 pm in
 the Fellowship Hall

Leadership Training Dinner

Saturday, November 7, 6 pm in
 the Friendship Center

Open House

Sunday, November 8, 2-4 pm at
 the Parsonage

MF

Sunday, November 8, 4 pm in
 the Senior High Room

Missions/Outreach

Monday, November 9,
 6 pm in the Friendship Center

Disciple III

Monday, November 9,
 6:45 pm in the Library

Staff

Tuesday, November 10, 10 am
 in the Library

Ark Anger Management Class

Tuesday, November 10, 5:30
 pm in the Friendship Center

Christian Education

Tuesday, November 10, 6 pm
 in the Library

SPRC

Tuesday, November 10, 7 pm
 in the Friendship Center

Veteran's Day

Wednesday, November 11
 Offices Closed

Disciple III

Wednesday, November 11, 3
 pm in the Friendship Center

Choir

Wednesday, November 11, 8
 pm in the Sanctuary

City-Wide Worship & Prayer

Thursday, November 12, 11:30
 am in the Sanctuary

Boy Scouts

Thursday, November 12, 7 pm
 in the Library

1st Light

Thursday, November 12, 7 pm
 in the Sanctuary