



FIRST VISIONS

an edition of the United Methodist Reporter

Two Sections, Section A | 070665 | Vol. 156 | No. 40 | February 5, 2010

INSIDE FIRST VISIONS

THE PASTOR PONDERERS

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

1 ^A

MISSION DROPLETS

CARTOONS

4 ^A

SPECIAL FEBRUARY DAYS

NOAH'S NEWS

PLEASE NOTE

UPCOMING EVENTS

5 ^A

THE PASTOR PONDERERS



"SUPER EVENTS"

Sunday, February 7, 2010 will mark the forty-fourth annual "Super Bowl" of American football. The New Orleans Saints and the Indianapolis Colts will be competing to decide who's "number one" in the National Football League. I'm merely a minor professional football fan. My personal hopes were to see a matchup between the Colts, with their outstanding young quarterback, Peyton Manning, and the Minnesota Vikings, led by their superlative veteran quarterback, Brett Favre. That, to me, would have been a more interesting contest. Notwithstanding, I plan to watch Super Bowl XLIV. And Fran and I will continue our tradition of hosting an annual "Super Bowl" party for the youth of our church. (Youth, y'all come!)

During much of 1965 through 1969 I attended Michigan State University, one of our nation's largest colleges and one with an up-and-down reputation for football prowess. I had little to do with it directly, but throughout the years I was a student there Michigan State was regularly a collegiate football power. One of those years the Spartans were proclaimed the undisputed "national champions" of collegiate football; another of them MSU tied for that honor with Notre Dame University.

I remember the huge pep rallies, the always sold-out stadiums, the wild fervor and deep emotion which gripped the MSU campus on football weekends. I even remember the scores of some of the games, one of which was billed by national television as the "game of the century." (Twentieth century, that is.) It was truly an exciting time to be a Michigan State student; I'm glad I was there.

But the reality of the matter is, that's all-but-forgotten history by now. Those collegiate football hey-days make for fond personal memories but little else. What happened with Michigan State football back

then had little or no lasting impact on the world of today. The names, the faces, the scores of those oh-so-important "championship" contests are no longer of interest. Yesteryear's collegiate "game of the century" is now, at best, a minor question in a game of the sports edition of "Trivial Pursuit." That's to be expected -- what I'm recalling happened forty years ago. The world has moved on, as have I.

Two thousand years ago, a man named Jesus of Nazareth walked this earth for a brief thirty years. He didn't "win" at much of anything; in fact, he was considered a "loser" by just about everyone who ever met him. He died while still a young man; in truth, he was executed as a convicted criminal.

But who Jesus was and what he did during his short, seemingly unsuccessful sojourn on earth have more radically altered the course of human history than any other life ever lived. Two thousand years have passed and Jesus is still making a difference in the present-day lives of billions of persons the world over. What seems important to us at a given moment and what really is important in the long run can be very different. Thanks be to God that Jesus is of greatest importance -- yesterday, today, and forever.

Yes, I plan to watch Super Bowl XLIV. But the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ are immeasurably more "super" events. Praise the Lord!

Dave King

A HYMN FOR SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

8.7.8.7 D IN BABILONE

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

God, you give us recreation, rest and play when work is through,
Game and sport and celebration, times that challenge and renew.
In the days we spend together, in the feasts that we prepare,
In the times of joy and laughter, may we know your loving care.

Yet, O Lord, we see you crying for the ones who know no rest,
For your children, hungry, dying, for the homeless and oppressed.
May we, as your sons and daughters, share with open heart and hand,
Till your justice flows like waters to the poor throughout the land.

Bless, O Christ, our gifts of caring, for we know without a doubt:
Soup and bread are made for sharing, hands are made for reaching out.
Even in our times of playing, may we keep the vision clear:
Keep us serving, loving, praying, welcoming your kingdom here.

Tune: Dutch Melody arranged by Julius Rontgen (1855-1933). Alternatives tunes are many for 8.7.8.7 D found in metrical index of tunes in hymnals.
Biblical References: Exodus 20:8, 34:21, 16:22-30; Ecclesiastes 3:12-13, 9:7-9; Deuteronomy 15:11; Amos 5:24; Mark 6:34-44; Matthew 6:10
Text: Copyright © 2000 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.

Permission is granted for free one-time use to support Souper Bowl Sunday's efforts to help the hungry.

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette is the co-pastor of the Limestone Presbyterian Church in Wilmington, Delaware and author of Gifts of Love: New Hymns for Today's Worship is a collection of 45 new hymns published by Geneva Press. A complete list of her hymns can be found at <http://firstpresby.org/hymnlist.htm>.
Email: bcgillette@comcast.net



"SOUPER BOWL OF CARING" collection of monetary donations and/or canned goods/boxed foods will benefit the hungry served by LA-CARES. Our youth will receive your donations at the close of both morning worship services on Sunday, February 7th.

MISSION DROPLETS

*To the holy and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ:
Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.*

IT'S A NEW YEAR!

A belated Merry Christmas to all of you. We sincerely hope that you enjoyed a wonderfully blessed time of worship, thoughtful reflection, family, and friends.

As I mentioned in the November newsletter, a group from our home church, Los Alamos First United Methodist came for a mission trip Nov 27 - Dec 5th. It was a great week of service, fellowship, fun and joy! We accomplished two wells and were reminded that there is a job for everyone, right Miss Alice!

Dennis and I traveled home with the team on the 5th to spend the holidays with our family. We traveled first to Tennessee where we spent a week with our daughter and her family. Ian is getting big and is about ready to be mobile! Then it was on to New Mexico where we caught up with some much needed medical checkups and spiritual refreshment. We spent time with beloved friends and ate and ate and ate! Finally, we arrived in Colorado where the rest of our family lives. We enjoyed time with the other seven grandchildren, my parents, and our brothers and sisters. Mom feed us well green chile and fresh homemade tortillas every day - I love my Mom's cooking! Ten pounds later, I just have to say it was a wonderful, filling, and exhausting trip!

We brought in the New Year back in Managua, Nicaragua where

fireworks exploded overhead for what seemed like hours; especially when one is trying to sleep. January 1, 2010 - I can hardly believe how quickly the time has gone!

Getting back into the "groove" has been slow, but as we hear about more and more work we have picked up steam. Thursday of last week, we completed the eight wells for January. Jairo and Isidro did there part completing three extra wells in December. Praise God for the strength and determination he gave us all to accomplish everything!

This past week we were in Somotillo. It was nice to see the Pastor and his family, also Santos, and Herberth. We were in three villages, Los Posas, Villa Espana, and Jobitos. The well at Santo Tomas was a challenge! The villagers had been pumping water from this well at the rate of 2.5 gallons every 15 - 20 minutes, that's pretty slow. The villagers told us that at least two rope pump bases were stuck in the borehole and that the pump that was in use was the third one in the stack; we removed the third or the top pump in the stack and went to work. The BAD news was that we spent all morning trying to fish the next top base out of the well and, unfortunately, we were unable to do so. The GOOD news was we spent all morning trying to fish it out and it fell a few extra feet. This allowed us to set the India Mark II in right above it, giving them access to approximately 38 feet of water! We

were treated to some of the sweetest cantaloupe I have had in years and a piping hot plate of rice and beans, cabbage salad, and what I think was liver (didn't eat that), and we had enough Cipro to get us through.

We continue to learn never to doubt our heavenly Father, because getting done this time of month was no coincidence. The truck has to go in for some much-needed maintenance that will take days to accomplish and with a team coming in early February this is a perfect opportunity to get all the repairs done! No coincidence here, I think.

This year I will be expanding my role just a bit, and I am looking forward to it! Dennis, as you can imagine, is always busy with the management of the team and scheduling the next job, but I have not been as busy as I would like. I know that sounds crazy, but sometimes I think, "just relax, and enjoy" but there is only so much relaxing you can do without feeling under utilized. So this year I will also be helping Jorge, the LWI drill director, with his account and also may do more with the team logistics.

Susan

STATUS OF WELL REPAIRS

We are back to work after our visit to the states over Christmas. It was a blessed time, but a little stressful trying to spend time with all of our family and friends.

Just not enough time and you do not get to see everyone you would like to. I hope we did not disappoint anyone or slight someone we should have spent more time with. Jairo and Isidro kept up with our work while we were gone, so we have started the year on a positive note. We are caught up and may actually get ahead for February, but we have had vehicle issues so just being on schedule may be good enough.

I wish to thank all of our supporters; you make everything possible here. It is a true blessing to get to go into God's world and do work for His people. We will continue to do our work here in Nicaragua, although we have volunteered to go to Haiti for a few months and are waiting for word. We will see where God leads and do the work that is assigned to us.

God has been so good to us and we praise His Name for all that He has done for us.

Dennis

PRAISE & THANKSGIVING

We are so grateful for the time we were able to spend with family and friends, for safe travel, and for the prospects of another wonderful and blessed year of service.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please continue to pray for

- the people of Nicaragua, for the political unrest, and for the economy
- the people of Haiti and all their needs
- that the Lord will continue to guide us to those in the most need and that we will be able to solidify partnerships with other organizations to better serve the Lord's people
- for the teams that will be coming to serve in 2010

CONTACT US

justnava@earthlink.net
VOIP 303-552-0622
Or 505-695-7125

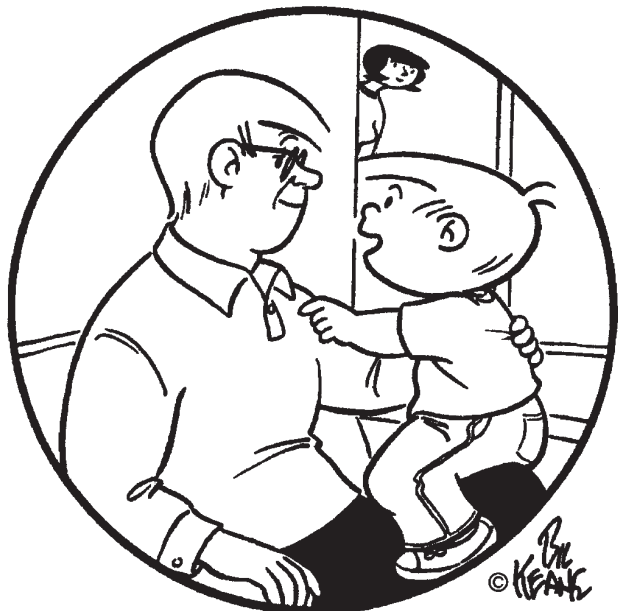
WWW.WATER.CC

LIVING WATER INTERNATIONAL

SEE WHAT IS GOING ON IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD!

May the Lord fill your hearts with peace and joy!

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Another thing we have in common, Daddy - we both have the same Valentine - Mommy!"

from *The Joyful Noiseletter*
Reprinted with permission of Bill Keane



from *The Joyful Noiseletter*
©Jonny Hawkins
Reprinted with permission

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



Noah's News

Ark Child Development Center
 Where we get to "Noah" Child

IMPORTANT DAYS THE ARK IS CLOSED

February 15, 2010



February Birthdays

Tunir Maity 2/15/08
 Marek Jablonski 2/20/04

Parents and church members are always welcome to attend the Ark Board meetings. The next one will be held Tuesday Feb. 16 at 6 PM in the

Friendship Center.

Parents: Please feel free to attend and bring any questions or ideas!

Ark Grievance Policy

Any complaints need to be made in writing to the Ark Director and or the Ark Board. The Ark Board will investigate any of your concerns. You may email your concerns, complaints, or ideas to the following emails:

Ellie Rightley 2/8/01 Gavin Kelly 2/11/05
 Iyanna Antonio 2/5/09 Kaitlyn Gonzales 2/27/03
 Jayson Jones 2/7/07 Elliott Beveridge 2/2/07
 Kaitlyn Gonzales 2/2/27/03



Lorri White (director)
 arkdirector@lafumc.org
 Shelley Morris (Ark board chair)
 milomorris@aol.com
 John Scott blinky@cybermesa.com



PRE-CONFIRMATION CLASSES

--Beginning on Sunday morning, Feb. 28, 2010 Pastor Ring plans to offer a series of four sessions of Pre-Confirmation Classes for those in grades six through ten who are interested in exploring the topic of church membership. These will be held during the regular Sunday School hour, 9:45 to 10:35 AM, and will meet in the pastor's office. If interested, please let him know on/before Feb. 21st.

DINING OUT

--McCurdy School in Espanola will be holding their annual fundraiser, a 'gala dinner and silent auction', on Saturday, February 6 at 6 pm. Tickets are \$60. per person and include dinner (steak or salmon) plus a tax deductible donation to McCurdy. Let's help support this great school and make this our dining out destination for February. Tickets can be ordered directly by calling McCurdy, (505)753-7221 ext.210. Let Peggy Goldman, 662-5959, know if you plan to go so we can get a group reservation. Also, we can carpool from the church so let her know if you can drive or would rather not.

LENTEN DEVOTIONS

--Los Alamos First United Methodist Church and Los Alamos United Church cooperate in offering a joint series of Lenten Devotions starting at Noon each Thursday during Lent 2010. The theme thereof will be the seven "I Am" statements of Jesus found in the Gospel of John. A light lunch of soup and bread will be served at each gathering. The first of these will take place on Thursday, February 18th at the United Church. The second will be at First United Methodist on Thursday, Feb. 25th. The next five weeks will continue this pattern of alternating sites each week, concluding on Thursday, April 1st. Please join us for this special Lenten 2010 spiritual emphasis.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sermon Titles

Sunday, February 7, 2010 - Communion "Souper Bowl" Sunday Pastor Ring's Sermon: "I John 5"

Sunday, February 14, 2010 - Boy Scout Sunday Pastor Ring's Sermon: "I John 6"

Sunday, February 21, 2010 - First Sunday in Lent, "Souper Bowl" Sunday Pastor Ring's Sermon: "Getting Through the Tough Times" Gospel Scripture Text: Mark 8:31-38

Roller Skating

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

McCurdy School Gala-- (Dining Out for Feb.)

Saturday, February 6, 6 pm at McCurdy in Espanola

Super Bowl of Caring

Collection/LA Cares Sunday, February 7, during church

MF

Sunday, February 7, 4 pm at the Rings' home, 226 Venado

Outreach/Missions

Monday, February 8, 6 pm in the Library

Disciple III

Monday, February 8, 6:45 pm in the Friendship Center

Staff

Tuesday, February 9, 10 am in the Library

Christian Education

Tuesday, February 9, 6 pm in

the Library

SPRC

Tuesday, February 9, 7 pm in the Asbury Room

Newspaper Articles Due

Wednesday, February 10

Disciple III

Wednesday, February 10, 1:30 pm in the Library

Adult Bible Study

Wednesday, February 10, 6 pm in the Friendship Center

Choir

Wednesday, February 10, 7 pm in the Sanctuary

City-Wide Worship & Prayer

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

Boy Scouts

Thursday, February 11, 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall

1st Light

Thursday, February 11, 7 pm in the Sanctuary

Roller Skating

Friday, February 11, 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, February 14, between services in the Fellowship Hall served by Troup 122 in appreciation of all the Church does for them

MF

Sunday, February 14, 4 pm in the Senior High Room

Highlights

Presidents' Day

Offices Closed

Monday, February 15

Disciple III

Monday, February 15, 6:45 pm in the Friendship Center

Staff

Tuesday, February 16, 10 am in the Library

Ark Board

Tuesday, February 16, 6 pm in the Friendship Center

Finance

Tuesday, February 16, 7:30 in the Library

Disciple III

Wednesday, February 17, 1:30 pm in the Friendship Center

Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, February 17, 6:15 pm, in the Sanctuary

Choir

Wednesday, February 17, 7 pm in the Sanctuary

City-Wide Worship & Prayer

Thursday, February 18, 11:30 am in the Sanctuary

Noon Lenten Study

Thursday, February 18, Noon at the United Church

Boy Scouts

Thursday, February 18, 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall

1st Light

Thursday, February 18, 7 pm in the Sanctuary

First United Methodist Church called to:

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

The next edition of Visions will be dated February 19. The deadline for articles is Wednesday, February 10.

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

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.