



# FIRST VISIONS

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## THE PASTOR PONDERERS



### "DO WE DO TOO MUCH?"

I was present for worship on Sunday morning, March 7th, when our church's Stewardship Chairman, Dennis Gill, ticked off a long list of the many outstanding ministries of this church. We're involved in several dozen different endeavors which address human needs, both spiritual and physical, for thousands of precious people - some of them our own members, but most of them persons outside our local church.

It was personally uplifting to me to hear this recounting of all that we do, for sometimes the "trees" of daily work in our church cause me to lose sight of the larger "forest" of our ministries for Christ. As Dennis spoke I recall thinking, "This is why I'm a United Methodist." We United Methodists are unashamedly broad in our vision for accomplishing the work of the God's Kingdom in this world, to the greater glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

However, with the above said, I'm reading a great deal today which says that this, our present model of "how to do church," is becoming less and less attractive to today's young people. The Baby Boomer generation of America, of which I'm personally a member (people now in their 50's and 60's age-wise), and their children, often termed Generation X (folks now in their 30's and 40's), demanded and for the most part enjoyed "full service" churches. This reached its zenith during the 1980's and 1990's with the rise of the "megachurch" in the US and elsewhere. "Megachurches" were and are vast "religious shopping malls" where every possible human need is somehow addressed. United Methodism has its share of such - the Church of the Resurrection in the Kansas City area and Ginghamburg UMC in the Dayton area are two obvious examples.

Today's teens and young adults, termed either "Generation Y" or "Millennials," apparently are no longer interested in "big" and/or

"broad" churches. Their path to Christian commitment, called the "Emergent Church" movement, is much more tightly focused. If interested in "church" at all, they're seeking smaller, often single-purpose faith communities. Doctrine is of little or no interest; doing is paramount. A group of 10 which gathers regularly to feed the hungry in Jesus' name - no more and no less - is a prime example of such. They're far more concerned with "doing one thing well" for God than spreading themselves over a variety of causes and concepts. Should their chosen faith community grow larger and/or become more "institutionalized" than they consider appropriate, they often deliberately abandon it.

What all this may mean for the future of the more traditional church, like ours, is yet to be determined. But it does cause me to engage in very serious "pondering." Could it be that the very things of which I'm proudest about our church make it unattractive to the current generation of those who want to follow the ways of Jesus? Could we be doing too much as a church, thereby appearing "a mile wide and an inch deep" to today's young people? I hope not, but there's mounting evidence that such might be the case. I don't have a simple answer, but perhaps this is an issue we all need to seriously examine.

At Lent and always - praise the Lord!

*Dave Ring*

## LANL VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION EVENT

Many of you work tirelessly as volunteers to address community needs, and we would like to celebrate your efforts and help boost your contributions to the nonprofit agencies you support.

Our Third Annual Volunteer Recognition Event will be held on June 9. LANL employees and retirees who register and report their calendar year 2009 volunteer hours through our online VolunteerMatch resource will be recognized at the event with an appreciation gift. Also, LANS recognition awards, in amounts ranging from \$100 to \$500, will be given to qualifying nonprofit organizations on behalf of the volunteers who support them.

These cash awards will be based upon the number of volunteer hours served by the employee or retiree. Over the past two years, LANS has used this opportunity to recognize 1,475 LANL employees and retirees for volunteering to serve more than 215,500 hours in their communities and award more than \$133,500 to the nonprofit organizations they sustain.

To be eligible, please register as a LANL volunteer and report your hours of volunteer service with nonprofit agencies on VolunteerMatch at <http://volunteermatch.lanl.gov/> by April 12. The organization you support must be registered with the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) and be in good standing with the New Mexico Attorney General's Office.

For more information about VolunteerMatch or the LANL Volunteer Recognition Event, write to [volunteermatch@lanl.gov](mailto:volunteermatch@lanl.gov) or contact Debbi Wersonick, Community Programs Office, at 665-4400.

Thank you for the positive difference each of you make in our communities!



## ATTENTION ALL LANL EMPLOYEES AND RETIREES

It's time to remind all LANL employees and retirees to register their volunteer hours with LANL. Your hours spent here at the church, whether it be as part of a committee, choir, band, MYF parent volunteer, your hours count! FUMC received \$100 - \$500 per volunteer, depending on the number of hours donated to the church. Our budget can use these extra gifts, so please take a few minutes to register your hours on-line at <http://lanl.volunteermatch.org>, then go to Login or Register to enter your hours. If you have questions, please call Debbi Wersonick, at 665-4400.

<b>MYF</b>	3/21	MYF Linda L. leading, Susan Keddy, 2nd chaperone
	3/28	No MYF
	4/4	Easter No MYF
	4/11	Open
	4/18	Open
	4/25	MYF teen depression Eileen Douglas, 2nd chaperone
	5/2	MYF Hiking with Ronda Jones, Ann L. 2nd chaperone
	5/9	No MYF
	5/16	'Lost Boys' mission movie @ the Rings
	5/22	Open
	5/30	No MYF

# SENIOR HIGH SPRUCE-UP



**MEMBERS OF OUR YOUTH GROUP WORK TO ADD THEIR OWN PERSONALITIES TO THE WALL IN THE SENIOR HIGH ROOM THIS WINTER.**

**SEE IF YOU CAN FIND THE NEW FISH DESIGNED BY THESE YOUNG PEOPLE!**



## SPECIAL APRIL DAYS

<b>Birthdays:</b>	Kathy Siebe	04/23
Birthdays:	David Janecky	04/25
Mark Hodgson	04/01	Mary Courtright 04/25
Dave Ring	04/01	Abby Wescott 04/25
Linda Leschnitzer	04/02	Camille Wescott 04/25
Becky Farnum	04/03	Gregg Janecky 04/27
Jan Taylor	04/03	Emily Collom 04/29
Daniel Swart	04/08	
Lee Weinland	04/08	<b>Anniversaries:</b>
Sean Collins	04/14	April 8
Randy Parks	04/17	Armond & Jeanie Standley
David Siebe	04/17	April 8
Don Casperson	04/19	Don & Harriet Zickert
David Hodgson	04/19	April 20
Michelle Aslin	04/22	Randy & Anna Parks

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2010 OUT OF THIS WORLD!

Plan to be here July 26-30! This is your chance to spread God's word in an exciting, fun way! At Galactic Blast VBS, cadets will voyage into outer space praising God. Through daily Bible missions, kids will see space like never before, gain a new perspective on our planet Earth, and learn easy "green" earth tips they can practice at home. Join us on this cosmic combination of faith and fun as cadets develop a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ! Register to volunteer at [www.cokesburyvbs.com/galactic-blast/LAFUMC](http://www.cokesburyvbs.com/galactic-blast/LAFUMC), or call Camille Wescott at 662-0905.

Join us July 26-30 9-12 a.m.



First United Methodist Church  
called to:

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

The next edition of Visions will be dated April 2.  
The deadline for articles is Wednesday, March 24.

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Ann LePage  
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**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.



## L E N T E N D E V O T I O N S

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. These will continue through Thursday, April 1st. March 18 and April 1 will be at United Church. March 25 will be in our Friendship Center. Please join us for this special Lenten 2010 spiritual emphasis.

## UPCOMING EVENTS Highlights

### Sermon Titles

Sunday, March 21, 2010 -  
Pastor Ring's Sermon Message:  
"Christian Conflict Resolution"  
"Gospel Scripture Text:  
Matthew 18:15-17

Sunday, March 28, 2010 - Palm  
Sunday Children's Palm  
Processional at both services  
Pastor Ring's Sermon Message:  
"The Name Above All Names"  
Epistle Scripture Lesson:  
Philippians 2:5-11

Friday, April 2, 2010 - 7 PM  
Good Friday "Tenebrae"  
Worship

Sunday, April 4, 2010 - Easter  
6:30 AM - Community Sunrise  
Worship at Ashley Pond;  
8:30 and 11 AM -  
Communion/Worship at LA-  
FUMC Pastor Ring's Sermon  
Message: TBS

### Roller Skating

Friday, March 19, 5:30 pm in  
the Fellowship Hall

### Mission Potluck

Sunday, March 21, Noon, FH

### MF

Sunday, March 21, 4 pm, SH

### Disciple III

Monday, March 22, 6:45 pm in  
the Friendship Center

### Staff

Tuesday, March 23, 10 am in  
the Library

### Martha Circle

Tuesday, March 23, 1:15 pm at  
the home of To Bradley

### Ark Staff

Tuesday, March 23, 5:30 pm in  
the Friendship Center

### Church Council

Tuesday, March 23, 7 pm in the  
Friendship Center

### Newspaper Articles Due

Wednesday, March 24

### Disciple III

Wednesday, March 24, 1:30 pm  
in the Friendship Center

### Adult Bible Study

Wednesday, March 24, 6 pm in  
the Friendship Center

### Choir

Wednesday, March 24, 7 pm in  
the Sanctuary

### City-Wide Worship & Prayer

Thursday, March 25, 11:30 am  
in the Sanctuary

### Noon Lenten Study

Thursday, March 25, Noon the  
Friendship Center

### Boy Scouts

Thursday, March 25, 7 pm in  
the Fellowship Hall

### 1st Light

Thursday, March 25, 7 pm in  
the Sanctuary

### Roller Skating

Friday, March 26, 5:30 pm in  
the Fellowship Hall

### Palm Sunday Reception for Gail & Gene Diedrich

Sunday, March 28, Noon in the  
Friendship Center

### No MF

Sunday, March 28

### Disciple III

Monday, March 29, 6:45 pm in  
the Friendship Center

### Staff

Tuesday, March 30, 10 am in  
the Library

### Disciple III

Wednesday, March 31, 1:30 pm  
in the Friendship Center

### Adult Bible Study

Wednesday, March 31, 6 pm in  
the Friendship Center

### Choir

Wednesday, March 31, 7 pm in  
the Sanctuary

### Holy Thursday

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

### Noon Lenten Study

Thursday, April 1, Noon at the  
United Church

### Boy Scouts

Thursday, April 1, 7 pm in the  
Fellowship Hall

### 1st Light

Thursday, April 1, 7 pm in the  
Sanctuary

### Good Friday Tenebrae Service

Friday, April 2, 7 pm in the  
sanctuary

### Easter Sunday No MF

Sunday, April 4

### Emmaus Gathering

Monday, April 5, 6 pm in the  
Fellowship Hall

### UMW Exec Board

Tuesday, April 6, 6 pm in the  
Library

### LAF Crafts

Sunday, April 11, 6 pm in the  
Friendship Center

### Trustees

Monday, April 12, 6:30 pm in  
the Asbury Room

### Christian Education

Tuesday, April 13, 6 pm in the  
Friendship Center

### SPRC

Tuesday, April 13, 7 pm in the  
Asbury Room

### Create & Discover

Thursday, April 15, 7:15 pm

### Missions/Outreach

**Note Date Change**  
Monday, April 20, 6 pm in the  
Library

### Ark Board

Tuesday, April 20, 6 pm in the  
Friendship Center

### Finance

Tuesday, April 20, 7:30 pm in  
the Library