



FIRST

VISIONS

an edition of the United Methodist Reporter

Two Sections, Section A | 070665 | Vol. 156 | No. 50 | April 16, 2010

INSIDE
FIRST VISIONS

THE PASTOR
PONDERS

IMPRESSION OF THE
HOLY LAND

DINING OUT

MYF SCHEDULE

1^A

FAREWELL TO THE
DIEDRICHS

PALM & EASTER
SUNDAY PHOTOS

4-5^A

SPECIAL APRIL
DAYS

UPCOMING EVENTS

8^A

THE PASTOR PONDERS



"BUSY, BUSY, BUSY!"

I'm writing this article during the week following Easter, which used to be considered a "quiet" week in the life of a pastor. But the beehive of daily activity that is Los Alamos First United Methodist Church in A. D. 2010 has shown no perceptible let-up.

I recall that when I first started out in the ministry I carried a shirt-pocket-sized calendar book around with me. This tiny planner contained an entire year of dates, providing me four lines on which to note the things I needed to do on any particular day. For the first five years of my pastoral career, those little organizers served me well. But as time went on, I found that I was having to write increasing numbers of appointments and obligations smaller and smaller on those four daily lines, until -- too often -- I could no longer read what I'd written down. I started having to call people to help me interpret my illegible writing and, occasionally, I'd even miss appointments because I couldn't decipher my own notes.

One of my associate pastors introduced me to something bigger and more useful. It's called a Day Timer, and it allows you to write down a whole day's worth of appointments and other obligations. The only problem is, Day Timers are only good for one month -- it takes twelve of their little books per year, instead of the one I was used to.

Eventually I did get used to these Day Timers, and they served me well for about a decade. But about ten years ago I began noticing that I was again filling up all the available space, writing smaller, making notes in the margins, and so forth. The number and complexity of my appointments and obligations had again gone beyond my capacity to organize them.

What I did then was to go from the "normal" Day Timer system to their "senior-sized, two pages per day" organizers. These allow me to record times and obligations from

6:30 AM to 10:00 PM daily. But even one month's worth of those organizers don't fit in a shirt pocket, so I had to learn to carry them along with me, a companion book that -- along with my Bible -- rarely leaves my side. Every once in a while, I've lost track of my calendar books, and then it's briefly panic-time. But, thank the Lord, I've never actually lost one for more than a few hours.

Lately I've been discovering that the number of obligations and appointments -- and the notes I need to make regarding them -- is once again taxing my capacity to record. My tech-savvy young adult son is pressing me to convert to a computer-based "personal data organizer" that can be carried around like a wallet, but which will hold volumes of information. I'm not quite there yet, but I definitely see such on the horizon.

The point of all this is not to impress you that I'm a busy person, but rather to use myself as a tangible example of how modern life is becoming more and more complex and difficult to cope with. We're all busy people today -- and life itself is getting busier with each new day that dawns. In the midst of such unavoidable complexity and busyness, it's more important than ever before to have a focus, a still point, an anchor upon which to fix ourselves. That focus, that anchor, that still point, is Jesus Christ. He's the same yesterday, today, and forever. No matter how complex life gets, Jesus is always available. You can trust Him.

Happy post-Easter season, busy people of God!

Dore Ring

IMPRESSION OF THE HOLY LAND



Now that some time has passed since we came home from our Holy Land tour, I can try to verbalize some of what I saw, learned, and felt. Over 40 members of the New Mexico Conference went with Bishop Max Whitfield to Israel in early February. We took a bus to Galilee after arriving in Tel Aviv. Slightly groggy from the long trip, my main impression was "Wow, look how green it is!" I was expecting brown desert; but in the north of Israel, among the rolling green hills, the Israelis have made a naturally arid landscape bloom with extensive irrigation. Everywhere we looked, we found crops of some sort, even in traffic islands, fruit or nut trees are planted. They really take advantage of their limited space. The country of Israel is about the size of New Jersey.

Then began a whirlwind tour of so many places Jesus was supposed to have been, taught, had friends, performed miracles or had some other association.

Every day was packed with excursions, starting early and ending in late afternoon. Though we learn in Sunday School that people and their armies have been fighting in Israel for centuries, seeing the successive layers of civilizations of 'winners' was fascinating. Step number one if you are a conquering army is to destroy the conquered city. Then you rebuild on top of it. So, we went down a great many steps passing through layers of stone and marble to reach the 'Jesus era' (and even earlier in Jericho and

other sites). We learned to recognize the different types of marble columns for Greek, Roman, Herodian, Byzantine and Islamic architecture. And then we had to climb back up the stairs to get to our present day starting point. A lot of walking and climbing.

What were some of the highlights? For me, one was the boat ride on the Sea of Galilee. We do know that Jesus was there, no dispute about that. Mercifully, it was a calm day, as I don't like boats. We could see the Syrian hills in the distance and the valley between the hills near Nazareth where successive armies had advanced. I could imagine the fishermen in Jesus' time in their small boats, fighting the storms, casting their nets for a living, until Jesus called the fishermen to a different vocation. How marvelous it would have been to have seen Jesus walk upon the water!

Another highlight was arriving in Jerusalem, and looking over the city, with the Dome of the Rock shining in the sunlight. We went to the Garden of Gethsemane where there are trees over two thousand years old. Since some were actually there when Jesus prayed there, I felt compelled to touch the old tree nearest to the path; it was surrounded by fencing to protect it, but one spot was big enough to put a finger through. It was smooth after the touches of thousands of pilgrims.

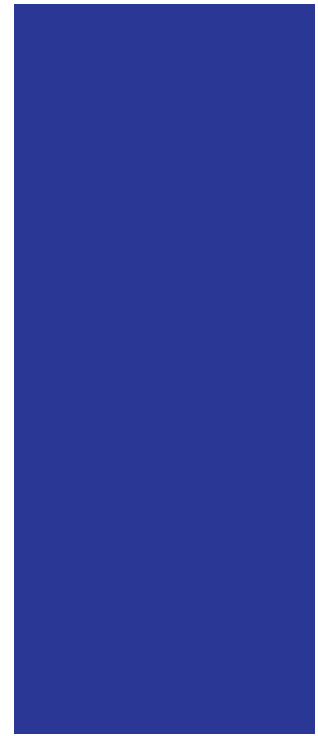
Holy Land

Con't. on Page 8



Glenn & Gail,
 May "the Lord bless you and keep you."
 Numbers 6:24





Confirmation Easter 2010

Camille Rousculp, Ella Leschnitzer, Kyle Cash, and Natalie Jones



SPECIAL APRIL DAYS

Birthdays:	Kathy Siebe	04/23
Birthdays:	David Janecky	04/25
Mark Hodgson	04/01	Mary Courtright
Dave Ring	04/01	Abby Wescott
Linda Leschnitzer	04/02	Camille Wescott
Becky Farnum	04/03	Gregg Janecky
Jan Taylor	04/03	Emily Collom
Daniel Swart	04/08	
Lee Weinland	04/08	Anniversaries:
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

Holy Land

Con't. from Page 1

We did finally see the desert, called the 'wilderness' in the Bible. It is in southern Israel, where Qumran, Jericho and the Dead Sea are. Our guide took us on an unauthorized side trip up the side of a mountain on a very narrow road. He showed us a sixth century aqueduct built by the Arabs and still functioning, and a Roman road - the road Jesus walked to Jerusalem - also still used, by hikers. We overlooked a deep valley, the Valley of the Shadow of Death; the one where Elijah was fed by the ravens. Palestinian kids came out to see us, one of whom had been so traumatized by the destruction of his home by the Israelis, that he was still unable to talk. All very interesting, but how were we supposed to get back to the main road, as there was no place to turn the bus around? Our diver backed down the road, most of us praying heartily the whole time as we were on the

edge of the mountain. Later we joked that we truly experienced the Valley of the Shadow of Death.

Our last day in Israel, we had communion at the Garden Tomb, a lovely quiet spot in Jerusalem. One of the young pastors did the worship service which was beautiful and thought provoking. His message was that during this Lenten season we should consider Jesus' example of repentance. Jesus, repent? Of what? The pastor was using the broader sense of the word 'repent' which means to turn around your life. Jesus' whole life was the example of how to turn our lives around and follow him. How can we follow him and ask others to do the same?

First United Methodist Church called to:

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

The next edition of Visions will be dated April 30.
The deadline for articles is Wednesday, April 21.

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

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS Highlights

Sermon Titles

Sunday, April 18, 2010 - Native American Ministries Sunday (special offering) Heather Bishop, U. S. 2 Missionary assigned to Four Corners Native American Ministry, will bring the morning message.

Sunday, April 25, 2010 - Pastor Ring's Sermon Message: "The Pursuit of Happiness - or Holiness?" Scripture Text: Matthew 6:25-33

Sunday, May 2, 2010 - Holy Communion will be observed. Pastor Ring's Meditation: "Why One and Not the Other?" New Testament Scripture Text: Acts 12:1-11

Sunday, May 9, 2010 - Mother's Day Pastor Ring's Sermon Message: TBS

Roller Skating

Friday, April 16, 5:30 pm in the Senior High Room

McCurdy Work Day

Saturday, April 17 - Meet at church at 12:15 pm or at McCurdy at 1 pm

MF

Sunday, April 18, 4 pm in the Friendship Center

Missions/Outreach

Note Date Change

Monday, April 19, 6 pm in the Library

Disciple III

Monday, April 19, 6:45 pm in the Friendship Center

Staff

Tuesday, April 20, 10 am in the Library

Ark Board

Tuesday, April 20, 6 pm in the Friendship Center

Finance

Tuesday, April 20, 7:30 pm in

the Library

Newspaper Articles Due

Wednesday, April 21

Disciple III

Wednesday, April 21, 1:30 pm in the Friendship Center

Adult Bible Study

Wednesday, April 21, 6 pm in the Friendship Center

Choir

Wednesday, April 21, 7 pm in the Sanctuary

City-Wide Worship & Prayer

Thursday, April 22, 11:30 am in the Sanctuary

Boy Scouts

Thursday, April 22, 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall

1st Light

Thursday, April 22, 7 pm in the Sanctuary

Roller Skating

Friday, April 23, 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall

MF

Sunday, April 25, 4 pm in the Senior High Room

Disciple III Whole group

Last Class

Monday, April 26, 5:30 pm Pot Luck & Communion in the Friendship Center

Staff

Tuesday, April 27, 10 am in the Library

Martha Circle

Tuesday, April 27, 1:15 pm

Ark Staff

Tuesday, April 27, 6 pm in the Friendship Center

Church Council

Tuesday, April 27, 7 pm in the

Friendship Center

Adult Bible Study

Wednesday, April 28, 6 pm in the Friendship Center

Choir

Wednesday, April 28, 7 pm in the Sanctuary

City-Wide Worship & Prayer

Thursday, April 29, 11:30 am in the Sanctuary

Boy Scouts

Thursday, April 29, 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall

1st Light

Thursday, April 29, 7 pm in the Sanctuary

Roller Skating

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

MF

Sunday, May 2, in the Senior High Room

Emmaus Gathering

Monday, May 3, 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall

UMW Exec Board

Tuesday, May 4, 1 pm in the Library

Missions/Outreach

Monday, May 10, 6 pm in the Library

Trustees

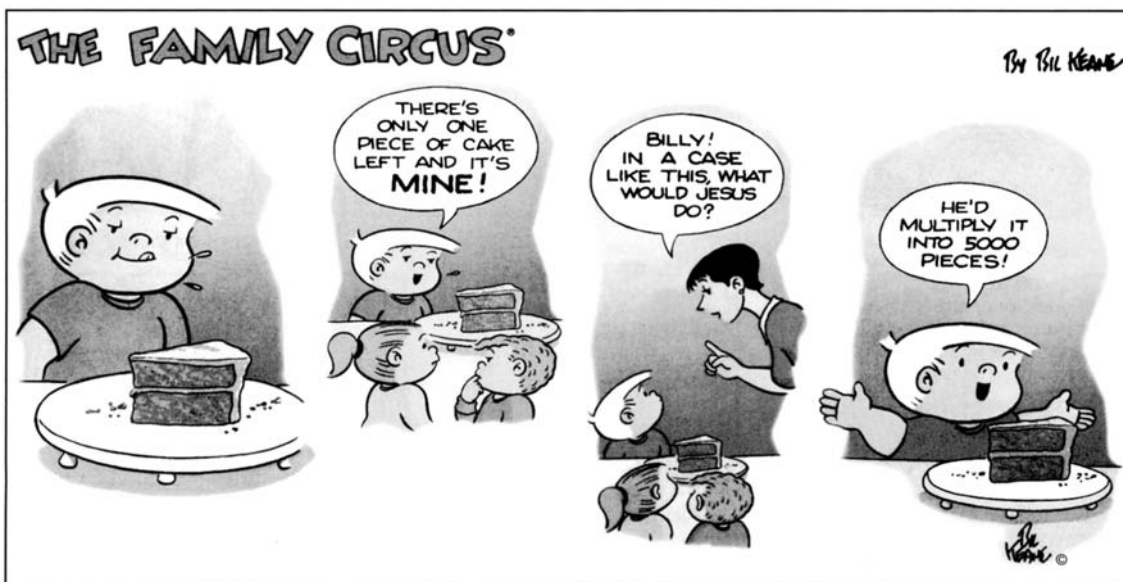
Monday, May 10, 6:30 pm in the Asbury Room

Christian Education

Tuesday, May 11, 6 pm in the Friendship Center

SPRC

Tuesday, May 11, 7 pm in the Asbury Room



from The Joyful Noiseletter Reprinted with permission of Bil Keane ©Bil Keane