



# FIRST

# VISIONS

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## THE PASTOR PONDERES

### "TRAVIS IS COMING! WHAT NOW?"

I arrived in Los Alamos nearly four years ago now and literally within days of my arrival heard the first of what has added up to hundreds of repetitions of the same theme: "This church needs a youth minister." The good news is: It's about to happen. Travis Knapp, with his wife Elisa, is coming to be our Youth and Music Minister. He is expected to arrive on or about May 21st.

Many of us are already familiar with Travis as he has previously served not one, but two, "trial periods" with us. He was our Summer Youth Ministry Intern in both 2008 and 2009. During both those summers Travis received such "rave reviews" from the people of LA-FUMC that I and the Staff-Parish Relations Committee decided to invite him back on a long-term basis. Working with the Committee on Finance and the Church Council we created a full-time position which includes three distinct areas of responsibility for Travis: Youth Minister, First Light Worship Leader, and Chancel Choir Director. In short, before he ever arrives we have some very high expectations of him.

As I anticipate Travis' coming, I recall some of the expectations that were levied upon me immediately on arrival in Los Alamos. Several leaders of our congregation asked to know my "long range plans" for LA-FUMC when I hadn't yet unpacked the boxes in my office. I carefully explained to those folks that I needed to first get to know the people of the congregation before I could determine the directions in which this church needed to be led. Working with people is quite different from LANL science and engineering; at the Lab you don't need to establish a personal relationship with the atoms you're planning to accelerate.

So as Travis comes our way I admonish us all: Let's offer him ample time and opportunity to get his feet on the ground before we begin to expect miraculous fruit. One of the biggest mistakes that churches make when hiring a Youth Minister is the expectation of quick, quantifiable results, e. g., "That new youth director we hired has been here six weeks

already, and not a single new youth has joined our church yet." Give him time. And offer him help: Volunteer to serve in youth ministry with Travis. We already know that Travis can be effective - and he'll be a lot more effective, and more rapidly so, if he has plenty of willing volunteer support. If we expect him to be a "one man show," he'll burn out.

Another subject that can't be avoided as Travis arrives is money. The leadership of our church has carefully and methodically planned to ensure that the funding for Travis' position and program is secure for the remaining seven months of 2010. In order to accomplish this, two other ministry areas, Trustees (the upkeep of our buildings) and Missions (our outreach to others), had to be attenuated this year. We felt Travis - and our Youth -- were worth it. But for 2011 and beyond, we will very much need to both support Travis' ministries and restore our Trustees and Missions ministries to their former levels lest, in the long term, we undercut the foundations of our church as a whole. That means more of us need to give more. And frankly, even if Travis is wildly successful, "more youth" will likely not equate to "more dollars." Adults - particularly older adults - are the financial backbone of any church.

Circling back to the beginning of this "pondering," I clearly recall that the first person who came to me, four years ago, to say "This church needs a youth minister" was an octogenarian woman. And most of the people who clamor to "see more youth in our church" have been, likewise, older adults. God willing, Travis will be a key to meeting that demand. Our senior citizens are the "deep pockets" to which we necessarily must turn if Travis is to be provided the time and support he will need to accomplish that goal.

Travis is coming! Praise the Lord! And now, let's willingly provide the support he will need!

*Dave Ring*



## 2010 UMW ASSEMBLY

The Assembly of United Methodist Women convened April 30 - May 2 in St. Louis, MO. Attending from Los Alamos were Linda Leschnitzer, local Create and Discover Circle co-chair and Opal Lee Gill, Albuquerque District UMW President, accompanied by Dennis Gill. Some 6500 members and guests from the Philippines, Korea, Mozambique, and nations of South America attended. Using a real time video link, UMW units of Haitian refugees in Miami, of retired deaconesses and missionaries from Brook-Howell Home in Asheville, NC, and from the Topeka Correctional Facility in the Kansas East Conference (yes, there is a UMW unit inside the prison!) were included. We were greeted by members in Korean, Hmong, Spanish, Navajo, Creole, Tongan and English. Our new Division president is Inelda Gonzalez, the first Hispanic president to serve the Division, and the homily for the Friday worship was presented by the first female Bishop in Africa, Joaquina Nhanala.

Opal Lee, Linda, and Dennis arrived a day early to work in the Ubuntu Day of Service. "Ubuntu" is a Zulu work meaning "I am human because you are human." Linda went door-to-door in the neighborhood of the LeMay Housing Project delivering packets and encouraging people to register in the Census. Dennis and Opal Lee did maintenance work on the grounds of the Edgewood Children's Center, a facility for greatly troubled children serving 16 surrounding school districts. Our church sent 28 handmade sweaters for newborns, 12 health kits and many items for more UMCOR health kits. During the Ubuntu Day of Service, some 1000 birthing kits were assembled.

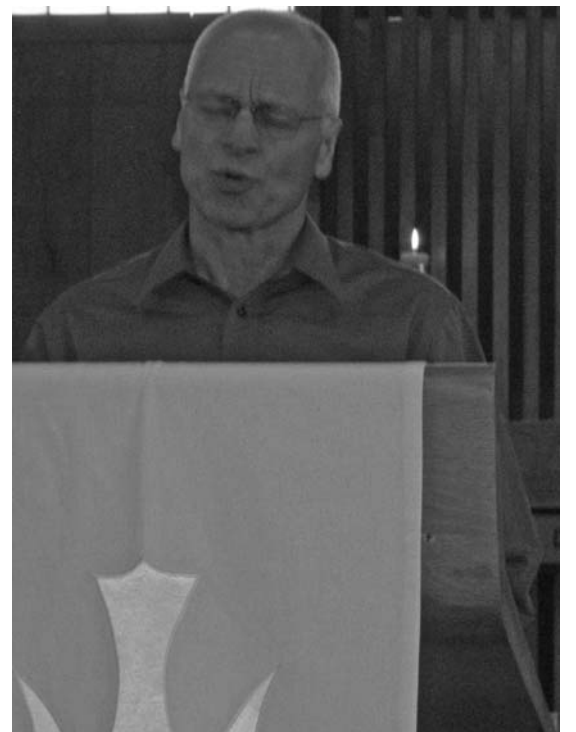
Forty-five members of the New Mexico Conference attended including Dee Dee Heffner who is a National missionary and long-time English teacher at McCurdy School in Espanola. She spoke on behalf of McCurdy Schools before the Assembly. Wonderful music was planned by Jorge Lockward, General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM), with special vocal performances including CeCe Winans, multi-Grammy Award gospel music singer.

They attended the commissioning of new deaconesses and missionaries by the Bishop of the Missouri Conference Robert Schnase and Mr. Thomas Kemper (Germany), General Secretary of GBGM, at the historic Centenary Church. Centenary is a downtown church which is finding its mission in part in serving the homeless with a warm place to stay during the day, providing them with a mailing address and computer access and serving some 3000 meals per week. The church has only 100 members.

Many break-out sessions on a variety of topics were available. Linda and Opal Lee sang from the new Global Praise Hymnal. Linda attended a "Sandwich Generation" session, Dennis' areas were climate change and caring for the caregiver with Opal Lee participating in a session on creative programming.

The group gathered for 4 plenary sessions around the theme "Faith, Hope, Love in Action" for the sake of women, children, and youth, the segments of society around the world most often marginalized by the existing power structures. The women gathered to worship, learn, serve and witness to the power of women who are dedicated to mission through Jesus Christ.

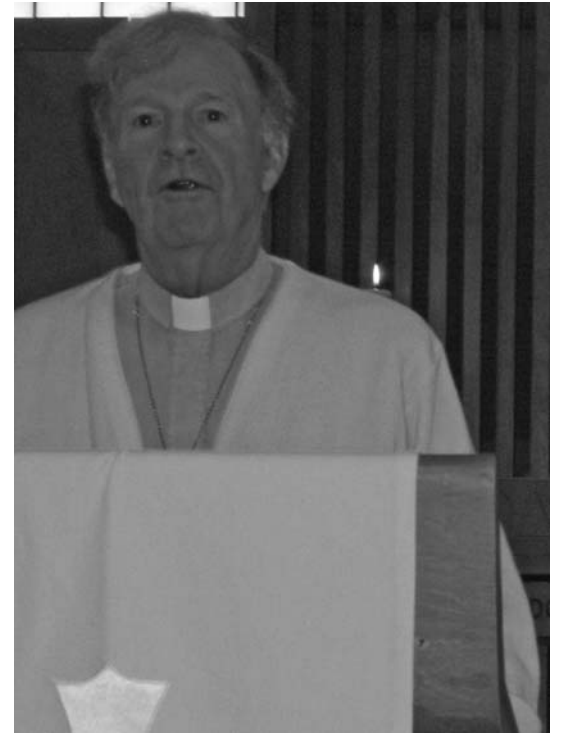






# National Day of Prayer

May 6, 2010



## Local Ministers Lead Celebration of the 59th National Day of Prayer

Many participants from Los Alamos and Espanola gathered to observe the 59th Annual National Day of Prayer at the First United Methodist Church of Los Alamos on Thursday, May 6th. Locally sponsored by several churches, the purpose of this observance was to provide prayerful support to our communities and our nation. The hour long program featured specific prayers for Family, Church, Education, Business/Economy, Government, the Military, Youth, and the Media offered, respectively, by Harry Chronis of White Rock Presbyterian, Chuck McCullough of White Rock Baptist, David Ring of First United Methodist, Colin Kelly of Trinity on the Hill Episcopal, Paul Cunningham of First Baptist, Henry Fernandez of Bryce Presbyterian, Mark Lincoln of Crossroads Bible; and Jack Sullivan of Grace Vineyard Christian Fellowship churches. The celebration was led by Reverend Sullivan who presented a unifying prayer for World Peace in keeping with this year's theme of "for such a time as this we need to trust in God and know that He cares for us". Gloria Streit established a prayerful mood with a prelude of sacred music, and accompanied the celebrants in their enthusiastic rendition of the closing hymn, "God Bless America".



## SPECIAL MAY DAYS

<b>Birthdays:</b>		Sarah Ricketts	05/26
Jana Beery	05/02	Kyle Beery	05/27
Fred DeVries	05/03	Walker Eaton	05/29
Hunter Eaton	05/03	Angela Hodgson	05/30
Jason Trimmer	05/04		
Tom Ricketts	05/06	<b>Anniversaries:</b>	
Bob Malone	05/09	May 9	
Rachel Taylor	05/11	Ed & Lea Brodnax	
Debbie Trimmer	05/11	May 21	
Brent Collom	05/12	Tom & Vicki Ricketts	
Brad Wescott	05/12	May 23	
Ron Jones	05/13	Dale & Linda Leschnitzer	
Ed Brodnax	05/15	May 24	
Anna Parks	05/19	Bill & Carol Mead	
Hunter Dare	05/20		


## PAJARITO DANCE PROJECT

**every! buddy! dance!**

an evening of cultural dance by choreographers  
**Melissa Balice Alina Deshpande Julia Fair**  
 Ballet & Hip Hop Kathak LA Swing

**Thursday, May 20**  
**7 pm**

**Duane Smith Auditorium**

musical guest: Hans Snyder 

family entertainment and audience participation

raffle tickets \$1 in advance and at the door

**ARK DANCE CLASS PARTICIPATING!**

First United Methodist Church  
 called to:

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

The next edition of Visions will be dated May 28.  
 The deadline for articles is Wednesday, May 19.

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 First Visions Editor ~ Jan Stong  
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 Lorri White, Director  
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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.

## UPCOMING EVENTS Highlights

### Sermon Titles

Sunday, May 16, 2010 -  
 Teacher Appreciation Day  
 Pastor Ring's Sermon Message:  
 "Falling Up" Acts 26:12-18

Sunday, May 23, 2010 -  
 Pentecost Sunday/Global Day  
 of Prayer Pastor Ring's Sermon  
 Message: "Filled with the  
 Fullness of God" Epistle  
 Scripture Text: Ephesians 3:14-  
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Sunday, May 30, 2010 -  
 Memorial Weekend "Peace with  
 Justice" Sunday (special offer-  
 ing) New Youth/Music  
 Minister Travis Knapp will be  
 the main speaker

### Global Day of Prayer

May 13-23

### Firemen/Police

#### Appreciation Dinner

Friday, May 14, 5:30 pm in the  
 Fellowship Hall

### Parent's Night Out

Friday, May 14, 6-9 pm in the  
 Nursery

### Teacher Appreciation Brunch

Sunday, May 16, 9:30 am

### MF

Sunday, May 16, 4 pm in the  
 Senior High Room

### Powerful Prayer Warriors

Tuesday, May 18, 10 am in the  
 Prayer Chapel

### Staff

Tuesday, May 18, 10z:30 am in  
 the Library

### Ark Board

Tuesday, May 18, 6 pm in the  
 Friendship Center

### Finance

Tuesday, May 18, 7:30 pm in  
 the Library

### Newspaper Articles Due

Wednesday, May 19

### Adult Bible Study

Wednesday, May 19, 6 pm in  
 the Friendship Center

### Choir

Wednesday, May 19, 7 pm in  
 the Sanctuary

### City-Wide Worship & Prayer

Thursday, May 20, 11:30 am in  
 the Sanctuary

### Ark Graduation

Thursday, May 20, 5 pm in the  
 Sanctuary

### Boy Scouts

Thursday, May 20, 7 pm in the  
 Fellowship Hall

### 1st Light

Thursday, May 20, 7 pm in the  
 Sanctuary

### Roller Skating

Friday, May 21, 5:30 pm in the  
 Fellowship Hall

### Senior Recognition Brunch

Sunday, May 23, 9:30 am

### Welcome Reception and Pounding Party--Knapps

Sunday, May 23, Noon, help  
 stock Travis and Elisa's pantry  
 in the Friendship Center

### MF

Sunday, May 23, 4 pm in the  
 Senior High Room

### Powerful Prayer Warriors

Tuesday, May 25, 10 am in the  
 Prayer Chapel

### Staff

Tuesday, May 25, 10:30 am in

the Library

### Martha Circle

Tuesday, May 25, 1:15 pm

### Ark Staff

Tuesday, May 25, 6 pm in the  
 Friendship Center

### Church Council

Tuesday, May 25, 7 pm in the  
 Friendship Center

### Adult Bible Study

Wednesday, May 26, 6 pm in  
 the Friendship Center

### Choir

Wednesday, May 26, 7 pm in  
 the Sanctuary

### City-Wide Worship & Prayer

Thursday, May 27, 11:30 am in  
 the Sanctuary

### Boy Scouts

Thursday, May 27, 7 pm in the  
 Fellowship Hall

### 1st Light

Thursday, May 27, 7 pm in the  
 Sanctuary

### Senior Appreciation Night

Saturday, May 29

### NO MF

Sunday, May 30

### Memorial Day

Monday, May 31  
 Offices Closed

### Emmaus Gathering

Monday, June 7, 6 pm in the  
 Fellowship Hall

### UWV Exec Board

Tuesday, June 8, 1 pm in the  
 Library

### Christian Education

Tuesday, June 8, 6 pm in the  
 Friendship Center

## RELAY FOR LIFE JUNE 25-26, 2010 ASHLEY POND

The First United Methodist Church is participating for the third year in a row in the local American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. Those of you who have participated in the past know that the Relay does not involve running, or even relaying. It is an annual fund raiser to celebrate those who have beaten cancer, remember those who have become its victims and fight back against this terrible disease.

Why should you, as a member of this church join our team? It is an opportunity to show our community that our church cares about defeating cancer and helping those fighting it through treatment, research and counseling. It is not often that we get to interact directly with the community in such a positive way.

We often ask how we can evangelize our faith to others. The Relay for Life allows us to interact with community members and show them that our church reaches out to those in need, just as our Lord did.

The Relay is fun! People walk around Ashley Pond from Friday evening to Saturday at noon, play games, talk to other participants, maybe even camp out all night (to show that cancer never sleeps). This year we are featuring a Dancing with the Stars competition on Friday evening with many of our County council members and other community leaders participating. You can vote for your favorite dancer with your dollars, all benefiting the Relay.

The Relay is also offering a silent auction of birdhouses. Each

house has been decorated by community members, some of whom are true artists. You can visit Village Arts to see the birdhouses or go on-line to [www.relayforlife.org/losalamosnm](http://www.relayforlife.org/losalamosnm) then click on birdhouses.

All cancer survivors are invited to a special Survivor Dinner and they lead off the Relay with the first lap at 6:00 p.m. We hope all our survivors and those who want to remember others will sign up to show Los Alamos that our church shows its love for others in a positive fun way. Hope you can join us for an hour or however long you want to be there.

You can sign up with Ann LePage, or on-line at [www.relayforlife.org/losalamosnm](http://www.relayforlife.org/losalamosnm). Click on the Join a Team button and look up our team: Atomic City Circuit Riders.