



FIRST

VISIONS

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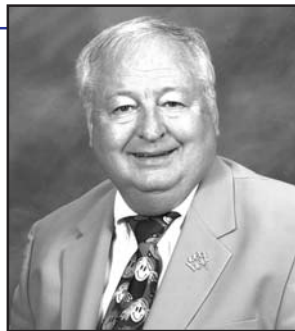
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The Pastor Ponders



"CAN INTELLIGENT PEOPLE REALLY BELIEVE IN GOD?"

I have maintained friendships, going all the way back to high school days, with at least two men who claim to be agnostics. Both of them are puzzled by me and my solid faith in God. They know I'm not brainless, so they can't dismiss me as easily as they do most of the Christians they encounter. Each of them has said to me, probably 100 or more times over the course of our lifetimes, "Dave, you're too intelligent to believe in God."

One of the many "image" problems from which the Christian faith suffers in the contemporary world is that it's an old-fashioned fortress for the feeble-minded. Unfortunately, that's precisely how many of today's Christian leaders and the congregations they guide present themselves. Whole denominations of churches nostalgically long for the "good old days" when there was (so they would claim) "less sex and violence" in the world. I lost count a long time ago of the number of times I've heard other supposed believers in Christ talk about "missing heaven by 18 inches." That's Christian "code language" for a presumed need to turn off one's mind and accept Jesus solely with one's heart.

The God I follow created all of me, not just my heart. And the Jesus in whom I trust was best known among His earliest followers as a "rabbi" - a teacher. He spent three years developing disciples, not three minutes "winning converts."

One of the reasons that I've chosen to be part of the United Methodist branch of the family tree of Christian faith is that the

founder of Methodism, John Wesley, championed informed, holistic Christianity. One of Wesley's most memorable sayings is this: "Unite the two so long disjointed: knowledge and vital piety."

Having recently arrived in Los Alamos, I'm rapidly discovering that I'm by no means the only "mentally gifted" person in the area. There are a lot of truly brilliant folks here, many of them far more intelligent than I. And a majority of them are solid believers in God.

The good news of salvation available by grace through faith in Jesus Christ is not in any way contingent upon IQ score. There are no automatic exclusions to God's love for all of humanity. But it's especially affirming to me, as one who has been gifted with a well-functioning mind, to find others like myself - others who also believe in employing their brains in the service of the King of Kings.

Can intelligent people really believe in God? I do, and I'll do my best not to insult your God-given intelligence as I attempt to represent Him to you.

Dave Ring

Outreach/Missions The Way



by Dennis Trumblee

A new ecumenical ministry called the "The Way" got its kick-off on July 1st. Eight vol-

unteers in need of a helping hand. The ministry is designed to assist the elderly, single parents, or disabled when they need a little extra help. Please consider volunteering your time or helping to fund this new ministry.

If you wish to volunteer for this worthwhile ministry, please stop by the church between 7:00 and 7:30 AM if you would like a hot breakfast. If you are not a breakfast person, show up at 7:45AM for a short devotional before going to the selected work site.

This ministry is currently working 8 am to Noon on the first Saturday of each month, please join us or let us know of someone who could use a little help.

Forms for soliciting help for individuals will be on the mission board and may be turned into Jan Stong.



unteers co-lead by John Stong and Dennis Trumblee performed landscaping activities at a newly built Habitat for Humanity home located in Arroyo Seco.

The volunteers started off the morning with breakfast at the church and a morning devotional led by John. They then traveled to the Habitat build site and started constructing a retaining wall. New skills were taught and everyone pitched in and helped.

In addition, the ministry also assisted a church member with a brush pile that had the potential of being a fire hazard.

It was great start for the ministry that plans on meeting at least once per month (first Saturday of each month) to assist



Take a Look

An Eye on Emmaus at LAFUMC

by Alice Carter, lay director of the Cottonwood Community

The Walk to Emmaus is an opportunity to meet Jesus Christ in a new way -- much like the two disciples met Him as Luke relates it in chapter 24, verses 13-35. Through the formational process of accountable discipleship in small groups and participation in the Emmaus community, servant leadership skills are developed for use in the local church and its mission.

On the 72 hour weekend experience one enjoys three busy days of singing, learning, laughing, praying, worshipping and participating in small groups. Discussions center around 15 talks given by clergy and laity. One will discover how grace is real in one's life and how to live a life of grace and bring grace to others.

Here in FUMC we have an active Emmaus group which

meets on the first Monday of each month for a fellowship potluck and a worship service which includes singing, a celebration of holy communion as well as a short talk given by a participant or a clergy person.

Participants find it helpful to meet weekly with others who have attended Emmaus Walks in



order to continue the deepening of their spiritual lives. We have several of these groups call "reunion groups" for both men and women in our church.

The Walk to Emmaus is interdenominational and is available to anyone who is seeking to have a closer walk with Christ.

The Walks within our area

that are available for the rest of 2006 are:

- 1) A men's walk in the Four Corners Region at the Hesperus Retreat Center near Durango on August 24-28.
- 2) A women's walk in the Four Corners Region at the Hesperus Retreat Center on September 14-17.
- 3) A men's walk in the Northwest Region at the Inlow Retreat Center in the Monzano mountains on October 26-29.

If you have any interest in attending any of these walks, you can contact any member of the Emmaus community, Pastor Dave, or Alice Carter--Lay director of our Cottonwood community. A sponsor will be found for you.

Nicaragua Mission

September 9th to 16th, 2006

by Dennis Trumblee

And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward. (NIV - Matthew 10:42)

1.1 Billion People lack access to clean water

Preventable water-borne diseases kill 30,000 daily

One child dies every 8 seconds

2.3 Billion People are without basic sanitation

Pump Repair



Recently I had the opportunity to attend a pump repair class in Houston, TX sponsored by Living Water International (LWI). It was a four and a half days training session on 13 of the most common hand pumps found in the world.

We pulled each pump from its well casing to see how they worked. Once we had a general idea of how they worked the trainers would break them and we would have to figure out what they had done and make the necessary repairs. It was a blast; I invite those who share my concerns to contact me about getting involved in this worthwhile ministry.

Later this year I plan on going to drill camp, where they teach you how to drill water wells. LWI works in Central America, South America, Africa, and India drilling water wells, repairing hand pumps, and providing health and hygiene training.

Health & Hygiene

A few weeks after I went to the pump repair camp, my wife Susan went to LWI Houston on a two day training seminar on being health and hygiene facilitator. Each facilitator is taught how to guide the local village to discover areas of improvements



to better their health, sanitation and basic hygiene behaviors.

LWI Mission Statement is: LWI exists to demonstrate the love of God by providing desperately needed clean water and medical attention, along with the "living water" of the gospel of Jesus Christ, which alone satisfies the deepest thirst.

Mission

This September, Susan and I will be serving with Living Water International in the Leon region of Nicaragua repairing broken hand pumps, working with villages on health and sanitation issues, and sharing Christ.

I pray that we as the body of Christ can share His love in various water projects around the globe. A cup of water in His name, somehow it just makes sense.

Landsun Invitation

Landsun would like to invite members of the NM Annual Conference to join with them in celebration of their expansion of independent living to Alamogordo, NM. If you are in Alamogordo on the following dates, you are cordially invited to stop by.

On **Tuesday, August 1, 2006** there will be a ribbon cutting at 11:30 am with the Alamogordo Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors. Refreshments will be served. The Landsun Regency is located at 3001 N. Florida Ave, Alamogordo, NM. You may RSVP to Marsha at 1-800-274-9966 or 505-234-5869. mail-to:marsha@landsunhomes.org

On **Thursday, August 24, 2006** from 2:00pm to 4:00pm Landsun will host an open house for all area churches, residents, families, staff and community members. Please help us spread the word and plan to participate. We would love to have you join us.



Welcome to Fran Ring, wife of Dr. Dave Ring. She joined our church on July 9th.

We are overjoyed to have you join our family!

VH-Luv Weekend

A very special weekend is planned for FUMC youth. They will be traveling to Alamogordo to experience the VH-Luv Weekend. It's all about the Vertical and Horizontal Love. The greatest commandment is to Love God-Going Vertical--and the second is to Love Your Neighbor-Serving Horizontal. Worship and celebration is the agenda for the weekend. Artists and speakers who will be at the



weekend include the Kyle Cantrell Band, Wayne Kerr, Riley Armstrong, and Rhythm.

Registration closes Monday so check out the white pamphlets in the kiosk.

Hymn Sing!



This Sunday, July 30th

in the 10:30 am service

Hope to hear your voice there!

We Witness

Our Church Vows

We will be loyal to the United Methodist Church and uphold it with our prayers, presence, gifts and service.

Our Prayers

There are many, many prayer needs in our church family and community. The caring board by the church office is filled to overflowing, and there are too many prayer needs to put in this space without leaving out some other equally important needs. Having the complete prayer list is as simple as sending your email address to the church office and asking to be placed on the email list for prayer needs.

Our Presence

Attendance at second service on July 23rd was 101.

Our Giving

Figures through July 16-- Ministry budget for 2006	\$475,000
Ministry gifts needed each week	9,134
Ministry gifts needed to date	264,904
Ministry gifts received to date	260,221
Shortage	4,683
Special gifts received to date for ministries outside our budget	11,184
Delta ministry gifts vs needed	4,683

Special August Days

Birthdays:

Jan Stong	08/06
Charles Mader	08/08
Tiffany Rockage	08/08
Sue Wooten	08/10
Lynne Cash	08/13
Jim Terrell	08/15
Don Enemark	08/16
Alex Lloyd	08/18
Dean Taylor	08/18
Tressa McDaniel	08/20
Mark Anthony Ortiz	08/21
Riley Courtright	08/23
Walt Ellis	08/25
Carla Shuman	08/27
Peggy Kruse	08/28
Jeff Lloyd	08/28
Grant Janecky	08/31

Anniversaries:

August 6	John & June Pirtle
August 12	Jeff & Jane Lloyd
August 15	John & Anja Blackadar
August 17	Mark & Susan Hodgson
August 23	Don & Sheila Enemark
August 28	Joe & Irene Bubernak
August 30	Wesley & Delores Burk

First United Methodist Church
called to:

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

The next edition of Visions will be dated August 11.
The deadline for articles is Friday, August 4.

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Sunday Services & Activities
8:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship
9:15 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
Chancel Choir 7 p.m.



Our Applause

Thanks go out today to all the participants in The Way mission project's first Saturday: Dennis, Susan Nava, John, Joshua, Daniel, Aaron, Sheila, and Christian. You all did a great job!

Louise Mendius provided dinner to all the attendees of this month's Church Council

meeting. Thank you Louise. The food was wonderful.

The sprinkling system requires a fair amount of upkeep. Thanks to Joe Bubernak the lawn stays looking green. He has also been working one of the parking lot lights. The door on the southeast side of the sanctuary is also working

much better thanks to Joe's good work. Many thanks!

Thank you Nels Hoffman for the lawn mowing job you took on for the church. Thanks for noticing and stepping up and doing what needed to be done.

Organization continues for the Youth VHweekend. Thank you, Rachel Ortiz, for making it possible.

Upcoming Events Highlights

Sermon Titles

July 30: 8 am service--
"Christian Freedom,
Christian Responsibility",
Romans 7:1-6
10:30 Service--Hymn Sing,
Pastor Ring will speak briefly
about John Wesley's
Directions for Singing"

August 6: Holy Communion
observed
Meditation: "The Blood of
the Lamb", Rev. 5:6-12

August 13: "More than Fire
Insurance", Eph. 2:8-10 and
James 2:14-17

The sermons will be present-
ed by Dr. Dave Ring, pastor
at LAFUMC.

Hymn Sing

July 30, 10:30 am service

Mission Movie

Please join the Outreach/
Mission committee Monday
evening at 6:30 pm in viewing
the movie the "End of the
Spear." This is the story of five
missionaries who lost their lives

July 31, 6:30 pm, "End of the
Spear" will be shown in the
Friendship Center

Da Vinci Code

Will not meet on July 31 or
August 7 due to scheduling
conflicts. The last meeting of
this class will be on August
14, at 7 pm in the Mid-High
Room. Everyone whether
you have attended or not is
invited to join for one last
look at *The DaVinci Code*.

Youth Event Registration

Forms due by July 31st--see
brochures in the kiosk

Trustees

August 1, 6:30 pm in the
Library

The Way

August 5, Breakfast at 7 am,
Team prepares to leave at
7:45 am

Church Council

August 6 at 7 pm in the
Friendship Center

Emmaus Community

August 7, 6 pm for Potluck
Dinner; 7 pm for service

SPRC

August 8, 7 pm in the Asbury
Room

Brodnax Shower

August 12, 1 pm in the
Friendship Center

LAF Crafts

August 13, 4 pm in the
Friendship Center

Youth Event

August 19-20, in
Alamogordo--see pamphlets
in the kiosk

Movie Time

during the 1950's attempting to
bring the Gospel to the
Woadoni tribe in Ecuador. The
movie is based on a book writ-
ten by Steve Saint, son of one of
the missionaries.

Popcorn and drinks will be
served.

The movie is rated PG-13.
There are some violent scenes
in the movie.

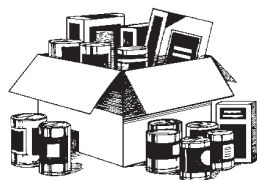
Notice

from the Trustees

To: All church committees and other Church functionaries
with any materials residing in the Trustee's storage areas

Please: Label said materials appropriately as to ownership and use

All unlabeled items will be disposed of before the end of summer
(after August 1)



Thank you,
Ben Gibson
Trustees President

