



FIRST

VISIONS

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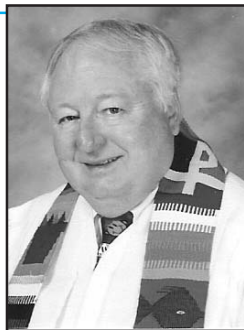
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The Pastor Ponders



"A LITTLE ENCOURAGEMENT"

Everyone has a bad day from time to time. Some years back, I remember one such that started out as an all-time record-setting loser. I woke up with a headache, stubbed my toe on the way to the bathroom, found my five year old son in a crabby mood and my infant son throwing a crying fit, and had three minor arguments with my wife -- and that was all just before breakfast.

Then, I went over to the church office just in time to get chewed out over the phone by one of the other preachers in town. After I got off the phone, the church treasurer informed me that we had more bills than we could pay, and five different people stopped by to tell me that the roof over the educational wing of our church buildings had leaked during the rainstorm the night before -- and I had better do something about it. Right after lunch, a member called to criticize something I had said the previous Sunday, and the mail arrived with three more bills in it. Next, I tried to visit three patients in the hospital, only to find two missing from their rooms and the other sound asleep.

When I got home in the late afternoon, still feeling poorly with that same headache, I tried to lie down for a quick nap before dinner, only to receive three junk phone calls

in the space of twenty minutes. During dinner, when the phone rang again, I was just about ready to yank it out of the wall. But this time, the call was different. It was another member of the church, and she was calling to tell me how much she appreciated my visits to her home during a recent family crisis. In closing the brief conversation, she said, "Just thought you might appreciate a little encouragement this evening, pastor. Keep up the good work!"

Well, that lady's call changed my whole perspective on that day. The headache went away, the evening melted, and what had seemed destined to be a horrible day went into the record books as not so bad after all. And all it took was a little encouragement.

In Hebrews 10:25 in the Holy Bible, the Word of God says: "Let us encourage one another." From my perspective, that's one of the most important pieces of advice in all the Bible. We all need a little encouragement. Try it -- encourage someone you know -- today!

Dave Ring



Encourage one another and build up each other....

I Thessalonians 5:11, NRSV

Council Meeting April 22, 2007

Attendees: Louise Mendius, Dave Ring, Geniece Courtright, Linda Leschnitzer, Sheila Enemark, Don Enemark, Gail Diedrich, Gene Diedrich, Dennis Trumblee, Susan Nava, David Janecky, Carol Mead, Bill Sole, David Miller, Dennis Gill, Opal Lee Gill, Nels Hoffman, Alice Carter, Ben Gibson, Margaret Gibson, Sarah Kelly, Mary Keller, Fred DeVries, Hazel DeVries, Susan Hodgson, Mark Hodgson, Vicki Ricketts, Mada Jones, Cathy Grindstaff, Randy Parks, Crystal Densmore, Debi Nichols, Mike Nichols, Martha Zumbro

The meeting was opened with a prayer by Dave Ring at 7:03 PM.

Leadership Lesson #3 (Attitude) was presented by Pastor Dave Ring.

Focus Dinners:

Susan Nava reports that a new refrigerator is needed. Nels Hoffman moved and Susan Hodgson seconded that this issue be tabled until May; motion passed. Don Enemark will look for a new dishwasher.

Possible time change for Sunday morning church services:

Louise Mendius introduced the idea of moving both Sunday morning worship services forward one-half hour. The first service would be moved to 8:30 AM, and the second service would be moved to 11:00 AM. Dave Ring noted that the first service is growing; attendance has gone from 30-35 to 50-55 each Sunday. Attendance at the second service has remained stable. Pastor Ring states that he is "100% neutral" on this issue and will go along with whatever is decided by the Council and the Worship Committee. The Council and the Worship Committee will consider this time change. Ark:

David Miller, Chair of the Ark Ad-Hoc Committee, presented its report and recommendations, which follow. (Recommendations are in abbreviated form. For the complete form, please see the report in its entirety):

1. The Church Council vote on continued operation of the Ark as an outreach program of the Church.

2. Majority committee recommendation: Make no immediate change in enrollment limits until mandated meetings have taken place and any proposed actions have been considered by the Council. Any change in the size of the Ark should take place over a two to three year period.

Minority committee recommendation: Consider immediate reduction in enrollment limits of the Ark, through attrition in the upcoming school year and by setting specific enrollment goals over the next one to two years.

3. Ark Board, SPRC, and Council update the Ark Charter, giving special consideration to Ark Board membership to better align Church leaders and Ark committee.

4. a) Ark must reduce its presence throughout the Church facility.

b) A new Building Use Policy should be implemented, which addresses: 1) Ark equipment in the facility; 2) Rooms to be used by the Ark; 3) Implementation of a room-scheduling program.

c) The hiring of a new Ark Director at this time coincides with Council's review of the Ark, thus presenting a unique opportunity to chart the future direction of the Ark ministry.

5. Together, the Ark Board and the Pastor will establish a curriculum rooted in Christianity, to be implemented in fall, 2007. The Pastor will facilitate training in the curriculum for Ark personnel. Job

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Adult Sunday School Available at 9:15 am

"Little" Class

Traditional Bible study class with insightful instruction and lively discussion. Each person shares his or her own experience and insight concerning the scripture verses we are looking at that day. Enough Bible history and Old Testament scripture is presented to set the stage for understanding how the people to whom the scripture was first presented understood (misunderstood) it. Discussion continues with questions germane to the contemporary Christian.

Leadership: Jim Little
Room: #129 Library

Bible History Class

A discussion led, not "taught", class. We study the Bible & various current religious books.

Leadership: Dennis Gill is main leader with several knowledgeable subs
Room: #138 Friendship Center

Following God Class:

This class consists of a series of books designed to provide an introspective look at the key characters and concepts found in the Bible. It emphasizes the importance of building a relationship with God and living a life totally surrendered to His leading. All books incorporate important scriptural points of interest into every lesson and focus on the characters and concepts studied from a historical perspective. In the past, we have used books that present various characters from the bible, including prophets, people of faith, and friends of Paul. We learned how they approached difficulties and grew in faith as a result.

Leadership: Louise Mendius, Nels Hoffman
Room: #114

Women of Faith

Our class seeks to create friendships among women as we seek God's response to issues that are unique to Christian women. This class is very casual with time to discuss anything that comes up, whether or not it pertains to a planned lesson.

Leadership: Shelley Morris
Room: #107

Inquirer's Class

Caring community of mid-life adults studying Christian spiritual growth books combined with spirited discussions.

Leadership: rotates among class volunteers
Room: #116 Resource Room

Fellowship Class

No focus on study. Strictly for coffee, conversation and fellowship. Everyone is welcome.

Leadership: rotates
Room: #B146, Prayer Chapel

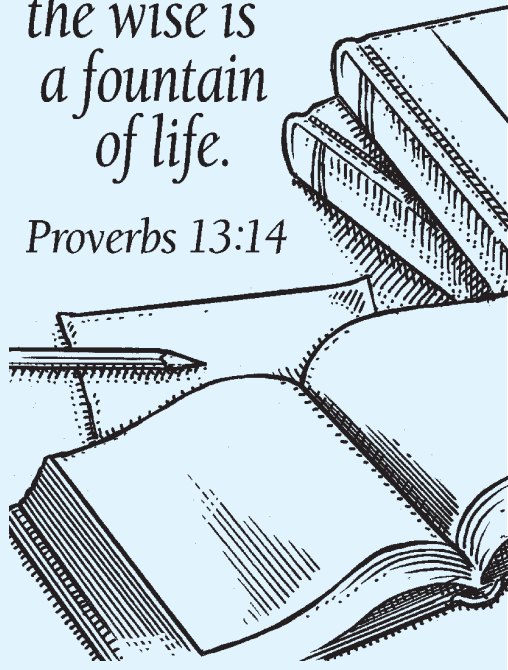
Parents of Young Children Class

The Parents of Young Children group focuses on effective, Christian based parenting skills and is an outlet for discussing our children's behavior and socialization.

Organizer: Camille Wescott
Room: #107 Asbury

The teaching of
the wise is
a fountain
of life.

Proverbs 13:14



Minutes

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descriptions of Ark teachers should reflect the expectation that they will implement this curriculum. Curriculum review should be added to the Pastor's Roles and Responsibilities.

6. Mandate annual or semi-annual meetings between the Ark and the Education Ministry to address a balance in facility usage.

7. Mandate the Finance Committee review the basis of the split of costs between the Ark and the Church annually at mid-year.

8. Direct the SPRC to develop specific roles and responsibilities for the Pastor in the operation of the Ark.

Ark Ad-Hoc Committee members: David Miller (Chair), Don Enemark, Susan Nava, Randy Parks, Anja Blackadar.

Dave Ring expressed gratitude for the committee's work. Louise Mendius also commended the committee.

Council should be ready to discuss the committee's recommendations at the next Council meeting on May 13.

FUMC goals:

Dennis Trumblee would like to see the recommendations of the Connected in Christ committee (CIC). CIC did not get mission statements returned from all ministry areas. He thinks that FUMC still does not have a clear plan for the future. David Janecky disagreed, stating that he thinks FUMC has many positive aspects.

Other Old Business:

AED (Automatic Emergency Defibrillator)--Susan Nava will address this issue again in May.

Welcome Center--Margaret Gibson reported that the Welcome Center has not yet been put in place. Susan Nava will follow-up.

Approval of Minutes

Susan Nava moved, and Margaret Gibson seconded that the March minutes be approved as corrected. The motion passed. The correction follows:

Gail and Gene Diedrich have noticed that several checks they have written to individuals and ministry areas, as donations to the church, have not been cashed in a timely manner. They recommend that: 1) checks should promptly be submitted to the Church Financial Secretary for cashing and accounting purposes; and 2) they believe that they should not be requested to write personal checks to individuals for

church use. Finance Committee and SPRC will consider these recommendations.

Vacation Bible School

Opal Lee Gill reported that the budget for Vacation Bible School will be submitted in May or June.

New Items:

A Modified Procedure to Determine the Trustees' President.

Ben Gibson brought a motion from the Trustees to Council setting a new procedure for determining the President of the Trustees. The current procedure does not provide for "corporate memory"; the recommended new procedure would. The Trustees recommend the following: The Vice President should be elected from the incoming (first year) class of Trustees; the Vice President would be, in effect, the President-elect and serve as President in the following year (during his/her class's second year; the President would then serve as Past President during his/her class's third year. (The Vice President need not automatically become the President, but someone from the second year class should hold that office.) Ben then announced that he will resign as President of the Trustees effective July, 2007. He will remain on the Trustees to serve as Past President until the end of 2007. Ben recommended that all new Trustees should be made aware of this protocol when they are

asked to serve by the Nominating Committee. It is also imperative that Trustees be made aware by the Nominating Committee that attendance at the monthly Trustees' meetings is essential, to provide effective stewardship of the FUMC property. Dennis Gill commented that the proposed Presidential succession procedure does not comply with the Book of Discipline. Nels Hoffman suggested that the motion before Council be amended to state that Council RECOMMENDS to the Trustees that such a line of succession for the President be utilized. Ben Gibson accepted the amendment and noted that the President must be elected at the beginning of each year but that the Trustees should select someone from the second year class to insure corporate memory.

Landscaping

Ben Gibson stated that the



Kathleen
Rebekah
Brodnax
baptized
May 13, 2007

Welcome to the family, Kathleen!

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Special May Days

Birthdays:

Jana Beery	05/02	Anna Parks	05/19
Fred DeVries	05/03	Sarah Ricketts	05/26
Hunter Eaton	05/03	Kyle Beery	05/27
Jason Trimmer	05/04	Walker Eaton	05/29
Tom Ricketts	05/06	Angela Hodgson	05/30
Bob Malone	05/09		
Rachel Taylor	05/11	Anniversaries:	
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	
Judy Keen	05/15	May 24	
		Bill & Carol Mead	

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Trustees cannot undertake the church landscaping, as had been previously suggested. The Trustees have many other tasks to manage. He suggested that the Council form a Landscape Committee. Geniece Courtright suggested publicizing, in the bulletin, that a gardening ministry is being formed and is in need of volunteers. Margaret Gibson will place this notice in the bulletin and in the First Visions newspaper.

Lay Person behind the Scenes

Louise Mendius attended the recent Bishop's Meeting with Laity in Albuquerque, where she presented Don Casperson as FUMC's "Lay Person behind the Scenes". This is in recognition of the many services Don provides to FUMC. Congratulations and thank you, Don!

Calendar Items:

April 29: Children's Sabbath
Worship Service (UMW)
April 27-May 8: Pastor
Dave Ring out-of-town

First United Methodist Church
called to:

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

The next edition of Visions will be dated June 1.
The deadline for articles is Friday, May 25.

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
Choir Director ~ Sarah Kelly
First Visions Editor ~ Jan Stong

Ark Child Development Center
Carol Mead, Director
(505) 662-4822

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

Wednesday Activities
Chancel Choir 7 p.m.
United Skates, Friday evenings
First Session 5:00-6:45 p.m. for children third grade and younger, \$2.00 includes skate rental
Second Session for third grade and up, \$2.50 includes skate rental

May 6: Senior Brunch
June 6 - 9: Annual
Conference at Glorieta (Louise Mendius and Melanie Barefield are delegates; Dennis Gill and Alice Carter are alternates.)
June 17 - 22: Vacation Bible School (June 17-21 at 5:30-8:00 PM; June 18-22 at 9:00-11:00 AM)

Nels Hoffman moved for adjournment, Dennis Gill seconded, the motion passed, and Council adjourned at 9:03 PM.

The next Council meeting will be on May 13.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Keller
Council Secretary



Our Applause

Thank you to all the members of the committees of this church who so graciously give of your time and energy to make FUMC a quality program

that helps within our community, the area, the nation, and the world. It may not seem like what you do accomplishes that, but each piece of work that you do

enables our church to contribute in all these areas. You are doing a great job!

Upcoming Events Highlights



Sermon Titles

May 20: Lay Speaker Jan Stong, "When Trumpets Sound" Old Testament--Psalm 23; Gospel--John 10:22-30; Epistle--Acts 9:36-43; Rev. 7:9-17

May 27: Pentecost Dr. Dave Ring "You Can Be Sure" Epistle--Romans 8:31-39

June 3 Communion Trinity Sunday Dr. David Ring "Natural and Super Natural" Epistle--Colossians 2:6-12

Parents' Night Out

May 18, 6:30 to 9:30 pm

Baccalaureate for LAHS

Graduating Seniors

May 20th, 3 PM - Smith Auditorium

MF

May 20, 4 pm, in the Senior High Room

LA Cares

May 21, 6:30 pm in the Library

Martha Circle

May 22, 1:15 pm, TBA

Newspaper Articles Due

May 25

Senior Activity Night

May 26th - including Skating at LA-FUMC from 11 PM to Midnight

Pentecost Sunday

May 27 Wear Red, Orange, and/or Yellow to Church in Celebration of Pentecost. These are the colors of fire, signifying the outpouring of God's Holy Spirit!

Memorial Day

May 28, Office Closed

The Way

June 2, 7 am in the Friendship Center

Emmaus Community

June 4, 6 pm potluck in the Fellowship Hall followed by worship at 7 pm in the Friendship Center

Annual Conference

June 6-9

Create & Discover

June 7, 7:15 pm, TBA

Mark your calendars for:

VERY EXCITING BIBLE SCHOOL™

Following Jesus Every Day

PASSPORT TO THE HOLY LAND

Featuring Music Performed by Scat Springs

June 17-21,
5:30 to 8 pm
with
snack supper
Adult Classes
included

June 18-22,
9 to 11:30 am
for the Ark
Plan to join us
for the jour-