



FIRST

VISIONS

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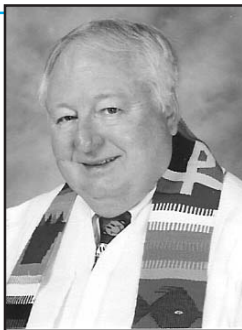
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Pastor
Ponders



"ARACHNOPHOBIA AND OTHER
UNFOUNDED FEARS"

I attended an event where some of the participants played a not-very-nice trick on the man-in-charge. They placed a large, hairy tarantula in a Styrofoam cup. Then they set the cup, top down, on the table in front of the place where that man was to sit. When he sat down, he immediately noticed the cup, turned it over, and out popped the tarantula.

Most everyone at the table scattered in fright. I didn't. I was seated immediately to the head man's right, and I knew that tarantulas aren't anywhere near as dangerous as most folks think. So I gently coaxed the tarantula back into the cup and sealed it over the top. Everyone breathed a sigh of relief and the program continued without further interruption.

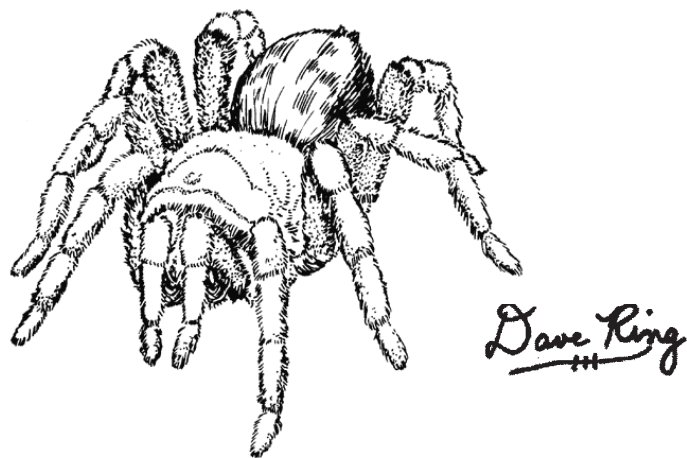
In my younger days I used to let tarantulas crawl up my arms just to watch the strange reactions from other people. The tarantulas which are found in the American southwest aren't poisonous. They rarely bite unless severely provoked. Should one actually bite you, you'll need to make sure your tetanus shot is up to date as tarantulas, being scavengers,

carry many germs. But they aren't venom. The majority of human beings, worldwide, irrationally fear spiders -- especially large spiders like tarantulas. But the truth is that most spiders aren't harmful to us. And, on the positive side of the ledger, they eat a lot of other creatures which are harmful to humans.

Far too many of us live with far too many fears these days, most of them unfounded and irrational. God, our Creator, doesn't intend for us to live lives dominated by fear. In fact when He sent His Son, Jesus, to our world His announcement of that great gift included these important words: "Be not afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people." In another verse of holy scripture, we are told that the perfect love of God casts out all fear.

Why be afraid? Nothing -- not even a big, hairy tarantula - - can separate you from the love of God that is found in Christ Jesus the Lord.

Have a blessed mid-summer!



WHAT'S HAPPENING
AT YOUR CHURCH
Trustees' Report



The floor drain in the men's restroom between the rear of the sanctuary and the Friendship Center has not worked for several years (it seems). In an effort to clean it properly, it was discovered that the iron pipe had been penetrated (broken) by previous efforts to clear the drain. Our handyman and his plumber helper have jack-hammered through more than 20 inches of concrete (the church foundation is solid) to remove the broken pipe and to prepare to replace the drain system. We are thankful that they managed to avoid the heating duct and two water pipes in the process. In the meantime, please avoid the bathroom, which is currently in a state of "under construction".

The Trustees are replacing the carpet in the sanctuary during the month of July. That will undoubtedly cause some disruption of traditional church activities. The Trustees apologize for any inconvenience, but that appears to be unavoidable if the carpet is to be replaced. The plan is to replace the carpet during the week of July 9th. Hopefully, it will be finished

when you receive this paper!

Fifteen windows will be replaced in the parsonage, in an effort to make the parsonage more comfortable for the occupants. This is part of the "continuous quality improvement" of the parsonage envisioned by the Trustees. We thank the members of the congregation for their help in the initial refurbishment that occurred just prior to the Rings arrival in June 2006.

Refurbishment of the galvanized roof over Fellowship Hall will be attempted later this summer -- after the restroom drain project is completed. The galvanized metal is suffering corrosion. You may have noticed the ongoing effort to add gutters and downspouts to mitigate leaks that were experienced following the moderate snow fall of last winter.

FUMC Trustees:
James Barefield, Ed Brodnax, Jay Carnes, Bev Faulkner, Ben Gibson, Mary Keller, Sue Kinkead, David Miller, & Armond Standley

Special July Days

| | | | |
|-------------------|-------|---------------------------|-------|
| Birthdays: | | | |
| Mark Ortiz | 07/01 | Cathy Grindstaff | 07/28 |
| Thomas Collins | 07/04 | Natalie Jones | 07/28 |
| Sheila Enemark | 07/06 | Robert Zbu | 07/30 |
| Megan Douglass | 07/07 | Maureen Beery | 07/31 |
| Marilyn Peek | 07/07 | | |
| Patricia Mendius | 07/09 | Anniversaries: | |
| Katie Weinland | 07/10 | July 1 | |
| Ametbist Collins | 07/11 | Dennis & Opal Lee Gill | |
| Shelby Courtright | 07/11 | July 2 | |
| Carli Chavez | 07/15 | James & Emma Barefield | |
| Lynn Kluegal | 07/17 | July 3 | |
| Zachary Parks | 07/17 | Larry & Valerie Collins | |
| Sam Wescott | 07/18 | July 6 | |
| Sandra Larson | 07/19 | Jon & Dagne Sollid | |
| Kyle Parks | 07/19 | July 17 | |
| Chris Rousculp | 07/21 | Dave & Fran Ring | |
| Amanda Courtright | 07/27 | July 20 | |
| | | Ben & Margaret Gibson | |
| | | Chris & Susannab Rousculp | |

START PLANNING NOW FOR LABOR DAY WEEKEND

The New Mexico Conference has a new archivist named Will Steinsiek whom I met at conference a few weeks ago. He told me about the plan to have a Heritage Tour this fall - Labor Day weekend to be exact. The destination will be Cimarron, NM which is celebrating its 100th anniversary in September. He said that the ones who take part in the Heritage Tour will also participate in the celebration at Cimarron. There will be much more information later but I just thought I'd give you "heads up" so that you could begin planning. - Alice Carter, Historian. (I need to correct an error in my article in the June 29th issue of First Visions. I said that Cimarron was celebrating their 100th anniversary but, indeed, it's their 150th anniversary.)

Historian's Note--As I was looking at a copy of "Glimpses of the Past" which I wrote in 2001, I found this paragraph about carpeting. Now, 6 years later, it looks as though the plan to have new carpeting is coming to fruition. Below is my article of 2001.

Sanctuary Carpet: Another item of interest in the January 1980 paper was that the sanctuary was finally going to be carpet-

ed. The church was built in 1960 so for 20 years the floor of the sanctuary was concrete. But, due to energy concerns and concerns for older members with arthritic conditions, as well as for aesthetic reasons, the decision had been made to carpet the sanctuary. Now, in 2001, we are looking at recarpeting the sanctuary. Isn't it about time? Alice Carter, Historian

First United Methodist Church
called to:

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

The next edition of Visions will be dated July 27.
The deadline for articles is Friday, July 20.

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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

Wednesday Activities
Chancel Choir 7 p.m.



Our Applause

Special thanks go to Susan Nava and all those who planned and prepared the Volunteer Dinner. Of course, there would not have been a volunteer dinner if

so many people in our church weren't helping with all the other activities and service events that the church sponsors. Each and every one of you who have participated

deserve our heart-felt thanks! Thank you to all who helped move Ann Le Page, especially Jon Courtright, who lent his truck to the task.

Upcoming Events Highlights



Sermon Titles

July 15 7th Sunday after Pentecost
Dr. Dave Ring ""Doing It Christ's Way, Part 1""
Epistle Scripture Text: Philippians 2:5-11
July 22 8th Sunday after Pentecost
Dr. Dave Ring ""Doing It Christ's Way, Part 2""
Epistle Scripture Text: Philippians 2:5-11
July 29 9h Sunday after Pentecost Hymn Sing

LA Cares

July 16, 6:30 pm in the Library

Christian Education

July 16, 7 pm in the Asbury Room

Finance

July 17, 6:30 pm in the Library

Newspaper Articles Due

July 20

Parents' Night Out

July 20, 6:30 to 9:30 pm

Church Council Party

July 21, 6 pm at the home of Louise Mendius

Ark Board

July 24, 6 pm in the Mid-High Room

Healing Worship Service

July 29, 7 pm in the Sanctuary

Quito Mission Trip

Aug. 1-10

OUR CHURCH IN NEED

by Ben Gibson

Our church was without "professional" handyman service for some time. Trustees such as Gene Diedrich, Don Siebe, and others attempted to fill in where possible in the limited time that they had available while fulfilling their day jobs. Thanks to Trustee Jay Carnes, services of a qualified handyman have been secured and work on a backlog of repairs was initiated in late March. As one might have expected, in our effort to deal with a backlog of issues, some 80% of the year's handyman budget has been expended in 3 1/2 months. Nonetheless, the Trustees will continue to push forward with catch up on deferred maintenance as well as current problems.

For those who wish to see what the Trustees have done so far this year, please visit the FUMC web site. Under BOARDS you should click on "Table of Contents" and then Trustees. In addition to a list of Trustees, you will find Projects Completed and Continuing Issues. We try to update the web based upon our monthly report to Council.

Important Note: Jan Stong is not a member of the Trustees.

Requests for Trustees' tasks should not be given to Jan. We would like to avoid issues of "lost in translation".

Work Requests: Anyone identifying work needed is kindly asked to complete one of the work request forms, which can be found on the wall in Jan's office. In addition to a brief description of the problem on the front of the form, there is a map on the back on which to mark the location, to help us find the problem area. Your name and contact information are essential. A problem that is perfectly clear to someone who spots it is likely to be "clear as mud" to a Trustee reading the description on the form.

Please be patient in terms of the Trustees' response to your work request. If you check the FUMC web site, you will find that we have more than a full plate. Also, The Trustees have a limited budget, which is set several months in advance of the beginning of the calendar year. Much of the Trustees' budget is for non discretionary expenses: debt service, insurance, utilities, custodial service, snow removal, lawn care, equipment maintenance, copier costs, etc.

Please do report problems in a timely manner. Recently at least a couple of issues were

"discovered" well after the problem occurred. For example, the Trustees would like to know how the new chair in the library was broken, so that we can avoid that possibility in the future. When the disposal clogs in the kitchen, it would be helpful to others were the clog removed and the circuit breaker closed, so that we can avoid calling a plumber and have the unit back in service more quickly.

The Trustees very much appreciate Carol Mead's role as our eyes and ears for a number of problems that have arisen, especially with the Education Wing heating system and water leaks. Thank you, Carol! Also, kudos to Alice Carter who not only discovered an ant problem in the chapel but explored a remedy, rather than walking away or just reporting the issue to the Trustees. The church belongs to all of us, so that the Trustees hope that all of us will treat it as we would our own homes when we see a problem.

Finally, thanks once again to everyone who worked hard on Friday and Saturday before the Rings arrived a year ago (June) to accomplish the many needed updates to the parsonage.