



FIRST VISIONS

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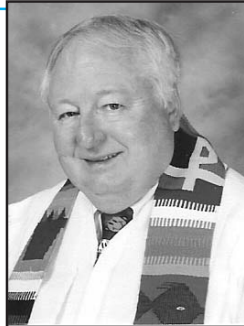
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The Pastor Ponders



"A PERSONAL STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT"

As a younger preacher I did a lot more things that are "outside the job description" of a pastor than I do today. Quite often, when I saw something that needed doing around a church that I was serving and couldn't enlist a layperson to do it quickly enough to suit me, I'd just do it myself. But on more than one occasion this sort of "working outside my calling by God" got me into trouble.

One year it was time for the changeover from heating to cooling at my church in El Paso, and the particular lay members who were supposed to take care of this chore kept dragging their feet. I tired of hearing complaints from worshippers of being too hot in the sanctuary on several successive Sundays, so I simply climbed up on the church roof and accomplished the necessary changeover work myself. Unfortunately, while up there I crawled under a duct that had a wasps' nest on its underside - and received 17 stings as a result.

Just a few months later, at that same church, after repeated entreaties to others had yielded no result, I climbed up into the attic crawl space over the church's nursery to replace a broken ceiling panel. Somehow I inadvertently stepped off the rafters. I crashed through the ceiling and wound up in the middle of one of the topmost of a two-tiered set of baby cribs in that nursery. I didn't really hurt myself, but the major hole I left in the ceiling was pretty hard to explain to that church's Board of Trustees.

In the early Christian church the apostles had to complain in order to get the laypeople to stop asking them to do all manner of tasks unrelated to their callings by God. Acts 6:2 records their complaint: "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables." I've actually felt that way on more than one occasion -- when asked to do something that bears no relation whatever to my calling as a pastor. But sometimes I myself have been guilty of taking on chores that weren't asked of me.

With time and age I've learned the wisdom of allowing the Church, also known as the Body of Christ, to solve many of its own dilemmas. When each member thereof fulfills his or her assigned role the Church - like a human body - functions smoothly. Together, in unity, the people of God can accomplish much to His glory! If you are a member of the Church I trust you're doing your rightful part therein.

Dave King

WINTERFEST LIGHT PARADE

DECEMBER 1, 2007

The First United Methodist Church will be participating in this year's Winter Fest Light Parade at 5:00 p.m.

children and all other dear friends of Christ will join together to sing Christmas carols. The little ones will be on the float, with older ones marching along behind.

Thanks to the generosity of a church family we will have a float in the parade, decorated with lights. We hope to have musical accompaniment (depending upon the weather) and members of the Children's Christmas Pageant, Choir, Ark

We hope to see a large crowd to provide an evangelizing presence for the Los Alamos community. So bundle up and join us! Hot chocolate and goodies after!



Music for Thanksgiving and Christmas

by Herald Kruse



For the Thanksgiving Sunday Service at 11 am on November 18th, we plan that three trumpets, two trombones, and possibly a tympani will accompany the Chancel Choir and congregation as we sing the hymn, "We Gather Together to Ask the Lord's Blessing." Jan McDonald leads the ensemble for this exciting anthem that may raise the roof!

December 9th is an important date to keep on your calendar. The Chancel Choir is working hard on a beautiful work, "Laud to the Nativity by Respighi. This work presents the Christmas story from the point of view of the shepherds, who sing in a 4 part men's chorus. We still need good tenor voices for this ambitious presentation (call Herald Kruse for details). Professional musicians (oboe, bassoons, flutes, and piano) will accompany the choir.



Domestic Abuse Seminar

Family violence is defined as an act or acts of assault or behavior intended to control another person, including physical, sexual, or psychological attacks as well as isolation and economic control.

Statistics about family violence are disturbing, but the numbers cannot tell the story of these victims. Neighbors and loved ones are faced with fear, embarrassment, self-doubt, isolation and lost potential. From every ethnic and socioeconomic background, they are women and children you know and love.

- One in four women will be battered during her lifetime.
- Family violence is the leading cause of injury to women age 15 to 44.
- Children who witness violence at home are more likely to become abusers.
- 50% of men who assault their wives at home also assault their children.

What You Can Do To Help Protect Yourself

1. Call 911 if you are in danger or need help.
2. If you are injured, go to a hospital emergency room or doctor and report what happened to you. Ask that they take photos and document your visit in writing.
3. Know where you can go for help and tell someone what is happening to you. Have the phone numbers of friends, relatives, and domestic violence programs with you.
4. Plan with your children and identify a safe place for them: a room with a lock or a neighbor's house where they can go for help. Reassure them that their job is to stay safe, not to protect you.
5. Arrange a signal with a trustworthy neighbor (for example, if the porch light is on during the day, call the police).
6. Keep any evidence of physical abuse (ripped clothes, photos of bruises and injuries, etc.).
7. Keep important items with someone you trust:
 - spare set of keys
 - some money
 - prescriptions
 - birth certificates
 - set of clothes
 - driver's license
 - immunization records
 - passports
 - checkbook
 - Social Security card
 - insurance papers
 - food stamps
8. Plan the safest time to get away.
9. Contact a shelter to find out about laws and other resources available to help you before you have to use them. A shelter can help you plan ways to protect yourself and your children.

PROGRAM IS SPONSORED BY:

- * Los Alamos Police Department
- * Crisis Center of Northern NM and Emergency Shelter (Located in Espanola)
- * Self Help, Inc.
- * Los Alamos Family Council

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF ABUSE

- You are ridiculed, put down, made fun of, or belittled.
- You are not free to come and go as you wish.
- Your possessions are damaged. You are verbally attacked or accused.
- You are spied on, followed, or harassed.
- You or your children are emotionally deprived.
- You are isolated from family and friends.
- You are forced to have sex against your will.
- You are refused help when you are sick or injured.

DOES YOUR PARTNER:

1. Embarrass you with bad names and put-downs?
2. Look at you or act in ways that scare you?
3. Control what you do, who you see or talk to, or where you go?
4. Stop you from seeing or talking to friends or family?
5. Take your money or Social Security, make you ask for money, or refuse to give you money?
6. Make all the decisions?
7. Tell you you're a bad parent or threaten to take away or hurt your children?
8. Act like the abuse is no big deal, it's your fault, or even deny doing it?
9. Destroy your property or threaten to kill your pets?
10. Intimidate you with guns, knives or other weapons?
11. Shove you, slap you or hit you?
12. Force you to drop charges?
13. Threaten to commit suicide?
14. Threaten to kill you?

*If you've answered yes to any of these, contact a local family violence prevention resource or call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233 (SAFE).

RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE:

- LOS ALAMOS POLICE 911
- CRISIS CENTER OF NORTHERN NM--ESPANOLA AND WHITE ROCK-- (800) 206-1656 or (505) 753-1656
- LOS ALAMOS FAMILY COUNCIL (505) 662-4422 24 Hour Crisis Line (505) 662-3264 Counseling Center
- SELF HELP INC.--(505) 662-4666
- National Domestic Violence Hotline--(800) 799-7233 (SAFE)

MEXICO: FLOOD RESPONSE

Please pray for the thousands of people affected by damaging floods from Hurricane Noel in the Mexican state of Tabasco. UMCOR is in contact with Action by Churches Together to assess the situation and is working on a plan of action. UMCOR will address the immediate humanitarian concerns as well as long-term recovery needs of those affected.

You can help UMCOR in its anticipated response by giving to Hurricanes 2007, UMCOR Advance # 982511

LWI Mission to Guatemala

by Larry Rybarcyk, a first-time mission-team participant

On Oct 20, I was one individual of a ten-member missions team that arrived for a one week stay in Guatemala. Our goals were to drill a water well near a school in a small western Guatemalan community, teach good hygiene techniques to the local people there and share the gospel. The team was made up of five members from FUMC (Dennis, Susan, Kim, Louise and myself) and five members (Ken, Tom, Byron, Barbara, and Steve) from the Houston and Dallas areas. Susan and Louise were nominally assigned to the hygiene team and the rest of us to the drilling team. Were we successful? Yes, I believe we were very successful. In the four days we spent working at the 45 family community of Line C16 we successfully drilled a 120 ft well, installed a hand pump and saw clean water flow from the pump spout. The hygiene team visited a number of those families the first day and taught hygiene classes on the subsequent days to the women and young girls who attended. Did we spread the gospel? Well, since the other nine all had a far better grasp of the Spanish language, I'd say they probably did. As for me, I know so little Spanish that this task seemed next to impossible. However, early on in the trip, Ken our team leader shared with us a quote from Saint Francis of Assisi that goes, "Preach the Gospel at all times and when necessary use words". And so as I reflected

back, I realized that with a few kinds words, a smile, a thumbs-up or a pat on the back I shared the peace and love of Jesus Christ with the individuals in that community. During one afternoon I had the opportunity to toss a football and a frisbee with several of the children. Their faces said it all. Sincere expressions of joy and delight from playing a simple game of catch. How blessed I was to be a part of this.

I was humbled to experience the gratitude of the people in the community. On the first day after we prayed together, we heard through an interpreter the sincere thanks of an elderly man who recognized the benefits that his children and their children would realize from the clean water that this well would provide. Each day several women from the community prepared lunch for us, giving us their best. We were blessed to work side-by-side with several men from the community who toiled endlessly to lend a hand. On the last day during the dedication the mayor, the local pastor, and the school director thanked us for leaving our families for a while and giving of our time and talents to help make this gift of clean water possible.

When I decided to go on this mission trip it was because I thought I could be another able body that could help drill a well in an area of the world that desperately needed it. By doing this I thought I could share the blessing I have received with others. Little did I know that I would receive so much more in return.



Council News

The church council meetings, usually the first Sunday of the month at 7:00 P.M., are open to anyone in the church. However, only certain members have voting rights. These include the following:

- Council Chair (for breaking ties only), Council Vice-Chair, Council Secretary
- Church Treasurer
- Lay Members of the Annual Conference
- Lay Leader
- Administrative Committee Chairs: Finance, SPRC, Trustees, and Lay Leadership (the Pastor)
- Work Area Chairs: Outreach/Missions, Worship, Fellowship Events, Hospitality, Evangelism/Visitation, Care and Crisis, Communications, Christian Education, and Recreation
- Church Historian
- Age-level Ministry Coordinators: Nursery, Children, Youth, and Adults
- Heads of United Methodist Women, United Methodist Men, and United Methodist Youth
- Membership Secretary
- Ark Board Chair

The next council meeting will be on December 9, as the Advent Service is on December 2.



Rev. Jim and Mrs. Marji Beinke joined our church on Sunday, November 4th. Welcome to the FUMC family!

The Ark's annual Halloween Parade on October 31st in the Fellowship Hall.



The Children's Choir

My Walk to Emmaus

Hi, I'm Ann, table of Mary. This was my prescribed introduction during my Emmaus Walk. The weekend was a memorable experience in Christian love. I met wonderful caring women, was reminded of others I have known in my personal Christian journey, and spent the weekend in yet another beautiful mountain location in New Mexico. I am very grateful to Alice Carter for being my sponsor, and to all of the caring members of the Emmaus community



who made my Walk so special. For me this Walk was an affirmation of God's love, love from the First United Methodist Church, and love from the greater Emmaus community. I hope I can maintain that feeling of love throughout the rest of my walk and share Christ's love with those whom I meet.

Crop Walk

The 10th annual CROP Walk will be held Sunday Nov.18 at 2pm. A table providing all the information including sign up sheets for walkers and contributors will be set up at the Church Services Nov.4,11,and 18. CROP now means Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty and has the motto, "We walk because they walk." Needy people in developing countries walk as much as 6 miles a day just for water. CROP Hunger Walks support Church World Service that helps needy people all over the world including the United States and 25% of the money collected will go to LA Cares ,a FUMC sponsored group that provides help to over 70 families in Los Alamos. We ask that you support Pastor Dave and other volunteer walkers from our church with your prayers and/or financial contributions. Contact Aaron Goldman at 662-5959 for more information.

Repaving the parking lot.



Special November Days

Birthdays:

Louise Mendius 11/04
 Jeanie Standley 11/11
 Miriam Balog 11/12
 Val Hundley 11/12
 Armond Standley 11/12
 Irene Bubernak 11/14
 Harriet Zickert 11/17
 Margaret Gibson 11/22
 Mada Jones 11/25
 Bob Kelly 11/26

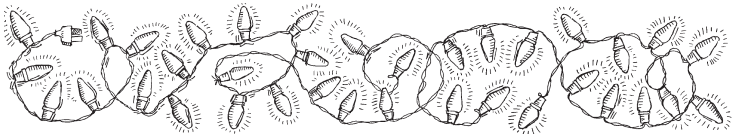
Anniversaries:

November 4
 Walt & Martha Lou Ellis
 November 23
 Ron & Mada Jones
 November 24
 Stanley & Roberta Yasuda
 November 25
 Court & Mary Courtright
 November 26
 Dick & Judy Opsahl
 Ray & Debbie Trimmer
 November 27
 Larry & Bobi Bryant



Special Items of Advent

Saturday, November 25th
 Decorate our sanctuary for Advent, noon
 Saturday, December 1st
 LA-FUMC Float in Los Alamos Festival of Lights, 6 pm
 Sunday, December 2nd
 Advent Worship, 5 pm
 Sunday, December 9th
 Chancel Choir Christmas Cantata, 11 am
 Christmas luncheon for women
 at the home of Opal Lee Gill, 12:30 pm
 Saturday, December 15th
 Collection of Christmas Boxes, 8 am
 Sunday, December 16th
 Children's Christmas Pageant, 8:30 and 11 am
 Caroling to the Community, 4 pm
 Monday, December 24th
 Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship, 4 and 7 pm



First United Methodist Church
 called to:

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

The next edition of Visions will be dated November 30
 The deadline for articles is Wednesday, November 19.

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 Ann Le Page

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Ark Child Development Center
 Carol Mead, Director
 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.



Our Applause

Special thanks is extended to those who spent Saturday, November 3rd striping our newly repaved parking lot. These were Don Siebe, James Barefield, Dennis Gill,

John Stong, and Mike Pope.

Upcoming Events Highlights



Sermon Titles

November 18 Thanksgiving
 Sunday Pastor Ring's
 Message "A 2007 Thanks-
 giving Prayer"
 Psalm 149: 1-5

November 25 Christ the
 King Sunday Pastor Ring:
 "The Leper and the Lord"--A
 Story Sermon; Gospel
 Scripture reading: Luke
 5:12-13

December 2 First Sunday in
 Advent Communion
 Pastor Ring

Parents' Night Out

November 16, 6 to 9:30 pm

Crop Walk

November 18

MF Youth

November 18, 4:30 pm in
 the Senior High Room

Thanksgiving Dinner

November 18, 5:30 pm in
 the Fellowship Hall

Church Conference

November 18, 7 pm in the
 Sanctuary

Newspaper Articles Due

November 19

Disciple I

November 19, 6:30 pm in
 Friendship Center

LA Cares

November 19, 6:30 pm in
 the Library

Martha Circle

November 20, 1:15 pm at
 the home of Peggy
 Goldman

Ark Board

November 20, 6 pm in the
 Mid-High Room

Finance

November 20, 6:30 pm in
 the Library

Thanksgiving

November 22
 Offices closed Thursday and
 Friday

Mission Movie Night

"Amazing Grace"

November 26, 6:30 pm in
 the Friendship Center

Disciple I

November 26, 6:30 pm in
 the Friendship Center

Staff Meeting

November 30, 9 am in the
 Library

The Way

December 1, 7 am in the
 Friendship Center

Food Drive

December 2, both services

MF Youth

December 2, 4 pm, SH

Advent Service

December 2, 5 pm in the
 Sanctuary

Emmaus Community

December 3, 6 pm in the
 Fellowship Hall

Trustees

December 4, 6 pm in the
 Library

Disciple I

December 4, 6:30 pm in the
 Friendship Center

Church Council

December 9, 7 pm in the
 Friendship Center

Other Important Dates

Sunday, November 18th--ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE of FUMC will be held at 7 pm. The United Methodist Women will be hosting a **MISSION THANKSGIVING DINNER** preceding this at 5:30 pm that evening in the Fellowship Hall. We hope that all will plan to attend this time of fellowship and enjoy a delicious meal. All contribution will be donated to missions.

Saturday, December 9th--ATTENTION WOMEN OF THE CHURCH--A Christmas luncheon will be held at the home of Opal Lee Gill. Mark your calendars now for this festive occasion.

Saturday, December 15th--CHRISTMAS BOX PROGRAM

FUMC will once again be participating the Christmas box program. This program is a way for all of us at FUMC to help provide families in a few northern New Mexico communities with a Christmas dinner and small gifts. At this time we are collecting names of the families and will be getting them ready for distribution in the near future. We are planning on distributing the boxes on, Saturday, December 15. Please stay tuned for more details soon.