



FIRST

VISIONS

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## THE PASTOR PONDER'S



### "THANKSGIVING OR DOOM?"

Two conflicting strains of thought run through my mind as I write this article a few days before our national Thanksgiving holiday. (Most of you should receive this newspaper in your mailboxes on the Friday following Thanksgiving, one day thereafter.) At the same time I'm preparing for the celebration of Thanksgiving, I'm aware that the most popular film in America this past week was "2012," Hollywood's newest offering of doom and disaster for humanity. (I haven't personally seen this movie as yet, but one of my young adult sons enthusiastically recommends it to me.)

Now almost a decade ago, as the end of the year 1999 approached, there was a man who attended my Odessa, Texas church who predicted doom and gloom and cataclysm of every kind. According to this man, the turnover of the calendar to "Y2K," as it was then called, would mark the start of years of tribulation to come. He stockpiled food, water and fuel for himself and his family, as well as buying a gasoline-powered generator in anticipation of the failure of publicly-distributed power. And he urged everyone he knew to do the same, me included.

This man was well-versed in Biblical knowledge, so he underwrote all of his dire admonitions with Bible references, principally from the Book of Revelation. For months he regularly filled my mailbox with tracts and treatises on the coming Y2K disaster, and became increasingly frustrated with me as I failed to heed his many warnings. As the dreaded date approached, he grew genuinely angry at my repeated refusals to use my position of pastoral leadership to pass on his doom-filled predictions.

When January 1, 2000 dawned a normal day the world over, you might think that this man would have admitted his foolishness. Frankly, I was personally hoping he would call and apologize, simply and forthrightly admitting, "I was

wrong." Instead he moved his predictions forward a few months, claiming that the predicted cataclysms would begin on September 9, 2000. When that day, too, passed without notable problems, he then further updated his predictions to Jan. 1, 2001. That third date also has long ago passed, and this world is still humming along. But insofar as I'm aware this man is yet predicting doom and gloom on the near horizon, though his latest prognostications have no specific date associated therewith.

What is amazing to me is that there are quite a few folks who still believe what this individual has to say. I guess there are some people who so much want to see our world in chaos that they'll believe anyone who claims cataclysm is coming, regardless of how often that person has missed the mark in the past.

Predicting the end of the world is way beyond me. That's God's territory, and I'm careful to leave it to Him. Rather, I believe in focusing on what God has given me to face today. And in that regard, I commend to you the words of Psalm 118, verse 24: "This is the day which the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."

Happy post-Thanksgiving, people of God!

*Dave Ring*

WINTERFEST LIGHT PARADE  
DECEMBER 5, 2009  
5:30 P.M.

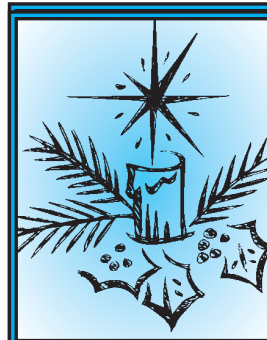


PLEASE JOIN US IN OUR THIRD ANNUAL WINTERFEST LIGHT PARADE!

WE WILL HAVE A NEW LOOK THIS YEAR WITH MORE LIGHTS AND COLORS. THOSE WHO FOLLOW THE PARADE WILL GIVE OUT INVITATIONS TO OUR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES. HOT CHOCOLATE WILL BE SERVED AFTER THE PARADE BY THE BOY SCOUTS.

CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER WILL RIDE ON THE FLOAT; PARENTAL PERMISSION REQUIRED.

PLEASE TELL DAVE RING OR Ann Le Page IF YOU CAN ATTEND THIS WONDERFUL EVANGELISM OPPORTUNITY.



Mark Your Calendars:  
Special "Start of Advent" Worship -  
Sunday, Nov. 29th,  
5 PM

## Advent/Christmas Activities



November 29	1st Sunday in Advent Morning Church Services Advent Service	8:30 and 11 am services 5 pm service
December 5	Light Parade, downtown, followed by hot chocolate	5 pm
December 6	2nd Sunday in Advent Morning Church Services Children's Pageant Rehearsal MYF Shopping for Christmas	8:30 and 11 am services 11:30 am TBA
December 9	Ark Pageant	5 pm
December 11	Drop Off Christmas Boxes	
December 12	Christmas Box Delivery Children's Pageant Dress Rehearsal	8 am 10 am
December 13	3rd Sunday in Advent Morning Church Services-- Children's Pageant, both services  Christmas Carolling	8:30 and 11 am services  3:30 pm
December 19	Choir Christmas Cantata Rehearsal	9 am
December 20	4th Sunday in Advent Morning Church Services-- Choir Cantata, second service only	8:30 and 11 am services
December 24	Christmas Eve Early Candlelight Service Late Candlelight Service	Offices Closed 4 pm 7 pm
December 25	Christmas Day	Offices Closed



## MISSION DROPLETS

To the holy and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

### Praise & Thanksgiving

These past two months have been very busy with paperwork, trips to the custom's office, teams, and a visit home. We were blessed to be able to attend the LWI Gala, this year's theme was 'The Story of the Thirsty.' It was a wonderful presentation which you can view at [http://www.water.cc/news/videos/?clip\\_id=7070167](http://www.water.cc/news/videos/?clip_id=7070167).

The pumps have arrived! We were filled with joy and excitement when we saw the truck round the corner loaded down with 100 pumps sets.

Our crew, along with eight hard working Nicaraguans, took two hours to unload the container. I never imagined that pipe racks filled with pipe could be so beautiful.

It's back to work, hallelujah!

### Fellowship of believers

Added confirmation that each team is hand picked by God. In September, the Lord sent us a wonderful group of six men from the US and Canada, all filled with the Spirit and enthusiastic about serving. They arrived late on a Sunday evening a bit tired but excited and loaded down with supplies.

This team would be the first to experience the border town of Somotillo and surrounding communities. Somotillo is located in the northern part of Nicaragua on Honduran border. It has been

described by some as the surface of the sun. The temperatures in Somotillo are only a few degrees higher than Leon, but it feels much hotter. If I were a weatherperson I might say, "It will be 87°F today, with a "sun ray factor" of +33 making it feel like 120°F. So if you have to be out, and about find shade to enjoy a pleasant 100°F. "Did I mention it was hot?"

We were joined by Pastor Santos and Herberth who served as our guides. Pastor Santos is a church planter and is currently pastoring seven churches with an eye always open for new opportunities. His boldness in proclaiming the gospel is inspiring. When he isn't working on a well alongside us, you will find him sharing with a villager(s) about the Lord. Herberth is very knowledgeable about agriculture and helps the communities start community agricultural projects. Both men are dedicated to serving the Lord and helping their countrymen.

Somotillo and the surrounding areas are faced with great water hardships and although many of the communities are beginning to have a potable water source, the availability is very limited. Many receive water one or two hours a day, two days a week. That leaves a lot of time when they must find water elsewhere. Our goal with this team was to work in four communities, most of which had been without a community water source for several months. We

were blessed with success three of the four well projects. Regrettably, in the fourth, the base of a broken rope pump became lodged in the bore hole and we were unable to remove it or force it to the well bottom. It is always difficult to abandon a well, but we did so in order to move on to the other wells that we could complete. We did however, promise the community that we would return with a different tool to try again.

We had the added blessing of having a producer/film maker on the team. We didn't see much of his face as it was usually behind the camera. We are looking forward to seeing his work and this trip through his lens.

Because the lodging arrangements were different with this team, we were all co-located for several days; we were able to enjoy daily devotionals together. The diversity and shared insights were astounding and we learned a great deal from one another. Observing and listening to such faithful men discuss their experiences and discoveries in their faith walk was a privilege.

The October team, albeit smaller (only three men), did not lack excitement and served the people of Nicaragua with love and kindness. We were especially blessed by the unexpected arrival of a past missions brother. It is so nice to meet again in the field serving the Lord. It's fun to remember past experi-

ences and to look forward to new ones.

We stayed closer to home with this team and through the goodness and power of the Lord we repaired three wells and prepped an additional five well sites. This will be very helpful in catching up due to the delay of the pump shipments. Thanks guys!

We traveled miles and miles of country roads, took a few wrong turns, but were able to locate all the sites and were guided to a few new ones. Word in the campo travels fast!

These wonderful men were part of our family as we celebrated Dennis second birthday here in Nicaragua, with good food, cake, ice cream, and a Marachi band. Also among the guest were two young ladies that are in Nicaragua as interns through the Niehamai Center of Managua. It is fun to get together with people from home and share in celebration.

Each team the Lord has sent has inspired us and helped us to grow in one way or another. We regularly tell our selves and those that share in our ministry that this is not just about water it is also about relationships, and we are constantly reminded of the truthfulness of that statement. Relationships are formed and nurtured, not only with the people we serve but also with those that have come to serve.

The devotionals we shared with

the September group were like cool raindrops on a hot day, and the insightful observations, encouragement, and warm conversations with the October team were a compass and gave me new perspective and much needed guidance. Full-time ministry can begin to feel like a job and the numbers become the focus, but these amazing teams not only ministered to the people of Nicaragua but to two fairly new missionaries like Dennis and I.

Susan Nava Trumblee

*"Do all the good you can,  
By all the means you can,  
In all the ways you can,  
In all the places you can,  
At all the times you can,  
To all the people you can,  
As long as ever you can."*

John Wesley

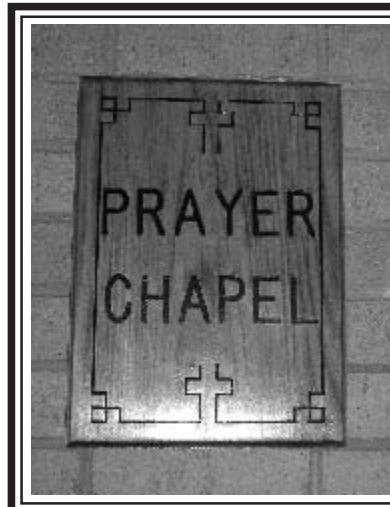
## SPECIAL DECEMBER DAYS

### Birthdays:

Kelly White	12/03
Bill Mead	12/06
Nancee Beebe	12/08
Zeke Zumbro	12/10
Chelsea Pearson	12/13
Rod Douglass	12/14
Hazel DeVries	12/17
Joey Grindstaff	12/25
Maurice Sheppard	12/25
Lucy Malone	12/26
Loui Janecky	12/27

### Anniversaries:

December 19
Brent & Robin Collom
December 20
David & Loui Janecky
December 28
Harold & Peggy Kruse



## NEW CHAPEL PLAQUE

Recently Jon Sollid was gracious enough to prepare a beautiful wooden plaque to attach to the brick wall near the door to the chapel. We want everyone to know that the chapel is available for anyone who would like to have some moments of solitude in God's presence. Please use it.

Also, a group meets there on each Tuesday morning at 10:15 to pray for our church, it's staff, and anyone in our church or related to our church that needs our prayers. Please join us for that special time.

## MYF

11/22	Crop Walk	2:00 p.m.
11/29	Advent Worship	5:00 p.m.
12/6	Shopping	4:00 p.m.
12/13	Carolling	3:30 p.m.

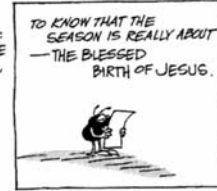
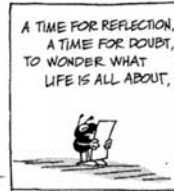
No MYF Dec. 20 or 27



WHAT TIME IS IT ?



THERE IS A TIME FOR EVERY PURPOSE UNDER HEAVEN.



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## NATIVE AMERICAN POTTERY NATIVITY SETS

Our Native American friend, Burdell, is offering her beautiful hand-made nativity sets, in black or red for this Christmas season. Other pottery pieces are available also.

Please contact Mada Jones if you want to order a Nativity set, and specify red or black. Each set is \$200.

## UPCOMING EVENTS Highlights

### Sermon Titles

Sunday, November 29, 1st Sunday in Advent/United Methodist Student Day, Message for Pastor Dave Ring: TBA

### Advent Service

Sunday, November 29, 5 pm in the Sanctuary

### Mission to Nicaragua

November 30-December 5

### Disciple III

Monday, November 30, 6:45 pm in the Library

### Trustees

Tuesday, December 1, 6 pm in the Library

### Newspaper Articles Due

Wednesday, December 2

### Disciple III

Wednesday, December 2, 3 pm in the Library

### Choir

Wednesday, December 2, 7 pm in the Sanctuary

### City-Wide Worship & Prayer

Thursday, December 3, 11:30 am in the Sanctuary

### Boy Scouts

Thursday, December 3, 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall

### 1st Light

Thursday, December 3, 7 pm in the Sanctuary

### Roller Skating

Friday, December 4, 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall

### Light Parade

Saturday, December 5, downtown followed by hot chocolate at the church

### Boy Scout Lock-In

Saturday, December 5, 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall

### LA Cares Food Drive

Sunday, December 6, during the morning

### Children's Pageant

#### Rehearsal

Sunday, December 6, 11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall

### MF

Sunday, December 6, shopping check for time

### Disciple III

Monday, December 7, 6:45 pm in the Library

### Staff

Tuesday, December 8, 10 am in the Library

### SPRC

Tuesday, December 8, 7 pm in the Asbury Room

### Create & Discover

Tuesday, December 8, 7:15 pm at the home of Mada Jones, 100 Kachina

### Disciple III

Wednesday, December 9, 3 pm in the Friendship Center

### Ark Pageant

Wednesday, December 9, 5 pm in the Sanctuary

### Choir

Wednesday, December 9, 8 pm in the Sanctuary

### City-Wide Worship & Prayer

Thursday, December 10, 11:30 am in the Sanctuary

### Roller Skating

Friday, December 10, 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall

### Boy Scouts

Thursday, December 10, 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall

### 1st Light

Thursday, December 10, 7 pm in the Sanctuary

### Drop-off Christmas Boxes

Friday, December 4

### Roller Skating

Friday, December 11, 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall

### Christmas Boxes Sent Off

Saturday, December 12, 8 am

## First United Methodist Church called to:

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

The next edition of Visions will be dated December 11. The deadline for articles is Wednesday, December 2.

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Discipleship Coordinator ~ Ann LePage  
Choir Director ~ Jim Beinke  
First Visions Editor ~ Jan Stong  
**Ark Child Development Center**  
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.