



Dave Blackwell, Pastor

P. O. Box 378, Estancia, NM 87016
Church Office 384-5215
Parsonage 384-2710
email: methods@ix.netcom.com



Sunday Worship 9:00 AM
Nursery Provided
Church School 10:30 AM



Newsletter - April, 1999

APRIL WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Lay Assistant: Cyle Sharp
Ushers: Pam & Mark Lambert
Greeter: Marcella Reynolds
Acolytes: Ashley Welch & Katie Rogers

MAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Lay Assistant: Pam Lambert
Ushers: Marcella Reynolds
Greeters: Nick & Julie Griffio
Acolytes: Brian Wilson & Dominic Griffio

YOUTH SCRIPTURE READERS:

April 11 Brian Wilson
April 18 Audra Long
April 25 Ashley Welch
May 2 Katie Rogers
May 9 Amy Lamb
May 16 Ashley Welch
May 23 Jett Sharp
May 30 Alice Daniel

PLANNED SPECIAL MUSIC:

April 18 Children's Choir
April 25 "Young Followers"
Recognition; Children's Choir
May 16 Congregation's Choice
May 23 Quartet



APRIL AND MAY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Administrative council: Sun., April 11, 1:00.
Finance: Sun., April 18, 1:00.
Nominations: Sun., April 18, 3:00 (this is a change from 1:00)
U.M.W. Tues., April 27, Noon.
Trustees: Sun., May 9, 10:30.
Worship: Sun., May 9, 12:30.
Finance: Sun., May 9, 1:00.
PPRC: (tentative)Sun., May 9, 5:30, (may be held in late April.)

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

• Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m. April 21, May 5.
• Alternate Wednesdays at 3:30 April 28, May 11 (not 12th).

Who are the confirmands, and what have they been doing?

This year there are 10 confirmands, 2 more than **Pastor Dave** had during 1997 and 1998. They have been exploring the Bible, doing some memorization and dramatic reading. By the time the newsletter gets released, they will have been in four sessions with five more to go concerning prayer, peer pressure, and the power of Christ. The **confirmation ceremony is on May 23, 5:00 p.m.**



When you see these great kids, encourage them. Be in constant prayer for:

Aden Corliss **Chris Hughes**
Alice Daniel **Audra Long**
Rebekah Friis **Katie Rogers**
Jessica Gorum **Laura Sanchez**
Dominic Griffio **Josh Stewart**

HOLY WEEK HIGHLIGHTS

The Lenten Bible studies finished with 20 people attending the last classes. They started with 24 in early March and got as high as 32 before sickness and ultra-busy schedules got ahold of some of us.

On Thursday, April 1, a Seder dinner was held to learn about and commemorate our Jewish heritage prior to the incarnation of Jesus. Great food, donated and prepared by a number of people, in

Holy Week Events

in addition to a well-prepared, interesting program made the night a joyous celebration.

Two Good Friday celebrations were held, one at 1:00 p.m. and the other at 7:00 p.m. Readings, communion, and dramatic readings from Matthew brought a time of preparation prior to Easter.

Sunrise service at The Assembly of God Church was a joyous experience with plenty of great music. The Easter Cantata at our church was tremendous! Hard work, prayer, and practice all added up to an uplifting time.

This afternoon.... At 1:00, there will be an **Administrative Council meeting** that the church body is encouraged to attend. The main order of business will be to decide whether or not to tentatively commit the church to having its own pastor, thereby increasing the yearly budget by approximately \$8,000. All members are asked to attend so that the Ad Council can be sure that the commitment has been fully heard and that the vote taken is truly representative of the church body. If it is deemed that the church wants to have its own pastor, then a formal church or charge conference will be held at a later date, with **District Superintendent Terry Anderson** presiding, to again hear and then vote on this issue.

At 3:00, the **Hoffmantown Baptist Choir** will be performing at the **First Baptist Church**. Members of some Estancia churches, including **Charlie Hughes, Morrow Hall, and Karla Patterson** from our church will also be performing. There will be congregation sing-a-longs. Many of the old traditional favorites will be sung. This will be a great afternoon of singing and fellowship. We hope you can come and be lifted by this great program. Please bring finger foods and/or desserts for a little food-fest after the show. See you there.

On Friday, April 16, at 6:30... There will be an **Emmaus gathering** at the church, followed by a service of song and communion. **At 6:30, there will be a Potluck dinner. The service will start at 7:30.** This is a great time for re-acquainting with Emmaus friends as well as making new friends. You do not have to be an Emmaus "graduate" to attend. So, if you have heard about the Emmaus walk and have been invited or interested in knowing more about it, this is a good time to come. Eat, greet, and sing with us on **Friday the 16th**. Please bring a **covered dish** or a **dessert** that will feed a few folks because there will be visitors from out of town.

Pastor Dave's Schedule... He will be in Albuquerque for Logos training from April 12 through the 14th, day and night. He will check in for emergencies.

From May 12 through the 18th, he will be out of town on vacation. **Marcia Fitzner** will be leading the May 16 service which will be highlighted by worship assistants recognition and congregation's choices for hymns.

From May 19th through the 22nd, **Dave** will be at the Annual Conference in Glorieta. He will not be spending the nights there, but will be driving back and forth each morning and evening, thus checking for emergencies.

Dave will be away from home and church while at school in Kansas City from July 9 through August 6. He will then take a week's vacation in Denver to celebrate his graduation (hopefully) from Course of Study school. He will be back on August 13 providing he is reappointed to our church, Lord willing.

Committee News

WWW.COM NEWS

(aka Wacky Witty Worship Committee)

"Jeans & Greens" Sunday on March 14th was a wonderful blessing with the special music of **"The Rye Creek Band"**. Many thanks to **Ray Darnell** for coordinating this special event!

The Seder meal on Thursday, April 1st was an awesome experience. People were guided through the Seder meal in the likeness of "The Last Supper" with authentic (almost) foods and drink. Readers walked with people through the

historical steps of "The Last Supper" that was complemented with servants in authentic clothing and Jewish music. Many, "**many thanks**" to **Ethel Floyd** for coordinating the feast and **Julie Griffo** for coordinating the servants & speakers.

The Easter Cantata was beautiful! The choir practiced several times a week for many weeks to provide us with this music. Thank you all so very much for your time, efforts, and beautiful voices!

Many special events are coming in the next several months. We do have a few services that do not have a special event, music, or singing. If you are interested in participating in the worship service through music, song, a special speaker or event please contact **Peg Blackwell @ 384-2710**.

Finance Committee Update

Fundraising Report

The six Spring Dinner Bashes were a wonderful success! A total of \$844 was raised! The money is being used to begin paying our

conference apportionments.

"**Thank you**" to all the generous attendees! Also, even though it was mentioned last month, "**thank you**" hosts and hostesses for opening up your homes and preparing such wonderful meals!

Host and hostesses for the dinners

were: 1)**Roy and Linda McConkey**, 2)**Tish McMichael and Elaine Darnell**, 3)**Lacy, Alice, and Rose Daniel**, 4)**Bill and Barbara Simms**, 5)**Chris Rogers, Corrine McNatt**, and **Cindy Littlefield**, and 6)**Ethel Floyd and Marcella Reynolds**.

We are beginning plans for the annual church/community **barbecue fund-raiser to be held June 13th** at the fairgrounds. If you have ideas talk to **Lacy Daniel (384-5154)** or any of the Finance Committee members, **Marcella Reynolds, Carolyn Moore, Dave Blackwell, Lori Lamb, Charlie Hughes, or John Hughes**.

Budget Update

The church budget for 1999 is \$47,958.20. That means we need \$3,996.52 per month to operate.

What we don't

receive in offerings has to come from fund-raisers. Our offerings for January through April 4th are as follows:

	Offering	Target to Meet Monthly Budget	Difference
January	\$3936.57	\$3996.52	- \$ 59.95
February	2970.03	3996.52	- \$1026.49
March	4059.21	3996.52	\$ 62.69
April 4th	1468.20	999.13	\$ 469.07
YTD Total	\$12,434.01	\$12,988.69	- \$554.68

I hope this information is helpful to you. We are working towards providing more detailed information periodically. If you have any questions or suggestions please talk to **Lacy** or one of the other committee members.



EDUCATION

Sunday School, Monday School, & Logos!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ;

Well, now that we have celebrated another season of our risen Lord, I believe it is time to take our renewal or rebirth and, working together, help God as we allow His will to be done through each of us. This season has brought me to a greater understanding of who we all are in Christ and just how precious each of us are in God's eyes.



I believe that God wants nothing more than for us to experience the rebirth that He offers through all seasons so that we can truly be His in our jobs, in our tasks, in our words, in our eyes, and in our hearts. Each Easter I seem to experience, as perhaps we all do, a rebirth. The rebirth I experienced last year was much bigger, or rather significant anyway, in my life when I received the call to ministry. I knew at that time only one thing for sure -- He was preparing me, and that event has most certainly been occurring.

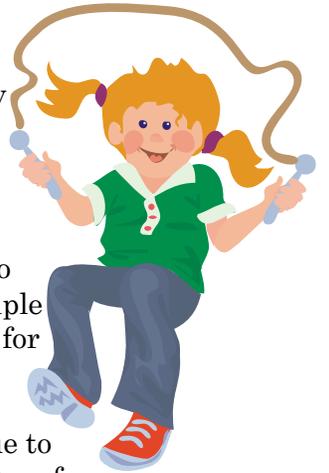
My most precious tasks seem to be the ones I'm doing for God; I can't seem to get enough of it, like my work with the children at Monday School. I say "with" the children, rather than "for" the children because often times what I receive from God through these young ones seems to outweigh what I'm doing for them (at least in my eyes anyway). They are such a joy to me and I continue to be thankful to all of you for allowing me to do this task. Something I've come to understand better is that this most precious task in my life is only one of many God has for me. I've realized that the task at hand, whatever it be and wherever it be (at work, at home, in the neighborhood, at the grocery store), all of them are so precious to God. There is not just one place where we are doing God's will that makes the task more fulfilling than another, nor even sometimes more frustrating than another. In fact, I've come to understand just how important our tasks out in the world really are. What I mean to say is that it seems much easier at times when doing a task at church or for the church to keep the focus on Christ so that God's will occurs, but when we step out into the world, it seems a lot harder to maintain that focus. Nevertheless, those tasks in the world are never less important and perhaps more important in many instances to God.

I have come to a place in my life where I have had to go to work full-time. You see God has graced my life for the past 6 1/2 years to be able to work part-time while I've raised my children to be young adults (teenagers), but now I have had to make this transition into a full-time position to help, as we all know, make ends meet. After struggling with this decision for about 6 months (mostly with how this would effect my calling), I realized that this is what He needs me to do now. I assumed, of course, that my call would lessen somewhat into something more reasonable as far as time is concerned. In essence, I knew that this would mean I probably would not be able to do the precious task of Monday School any longer; that I would not be able to serve you as an effective Sunday School Director any longer, but that I would probably be able to continue helping to lead our Logos program. These

realities have weighed heavy on my heart and I have been on my knees in prayer a lot about them. The truth that I feel I need to share with all of you is this: I feel no calling to stop being your Director of Sunday School; I feel only stronger about continuing Monday School (and in fact was given the opportunity and encouragement from my employer to continue my role at Monday School) and my devotion to these and the Logos program seem to only get stronger every day.

As for my call to ministry, I have come to a place where my relationship with God has become much more intimate and firm than I had ever imagined it could be. I have also come to understand more fully how much we are all ministers and what a peace that gives me daily. But that's not all. God is once again calling me and His call this year is as strong and as deeply felt as it was a year ago. So while I continue to be God's servant and all of yours in my current tasks, I feel God moving me closer to my call to ministry and I will keep you posted as to where and what He is leading me to do. I just wanted you all to know how much grace I have received from serving you in my work with our young ones, and I just want to ask you all to keep praying - it works!!

Pray for our young ones who will be participating in a **jump rope-a-thon** called **Rope It Up for Camp** to earn money to go to church camp this summer. Pray for our Logos leaders who will be attending an intense 3-day training program in April to learn how to be strong disciple leaders for our youth. Pray for our Monday School leaders **Julie, Sharla, Renee** and myself, that we can continue to reveal Christ through us. Pray for our youth leaders **Sam, Nick and Jeff** who are struggling to keep our youth alive in God and to bring them back to the church for fellowship, support and bible teachings. Our mid-high kids reach a place in their lives where their world becomes a sort of search and seizure type of place. They're searching to find who they are and seizing just about everything they experience and see into their own beings. Let us pray for **Sam and Nick and Jeff** to be able to show them the love of Christ so they will seize Him and hold onto that grasp to get them through these tough years. Keep praying for our confirmands and keep them close to your heart and pray that God keeps them close to Him as they get ready to be confirmed into His holy family with their own hearts. And lets keep praying for each other -- that we are Christ's lights that continue to lead our young ones to God's love as well. May God bless each of you and keep you all close to him throughout the rest of this year.



Your sister-in-Christ,

Julianne



Sent with a prayer to:



*Estancia United Methodist Church
P. O. Box 378
Estancia, NM 87016*

Logos Sunday

Logos Sunday was a lot of fun and a great success. We are all looking forward to the Logos program beginning in the fall.

