



*Estancia United Methodist Church,  
600 Williams, Estancia, New Mexico*

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

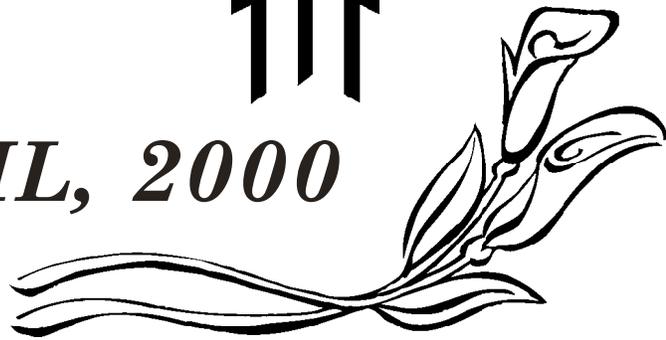


**Dave Blackwell, Pastor**

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Church Office 384-5215  
Parsonage 384-2710  
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**APRIL, 2000**



**SUNDAY SERVANTS FOR MAY**

**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

- Lay Assist:** Cyle Sharp
- Acolytes:** Beth & Andrew Moore
- Ushers:** Carolyn Moore & Sylvia Levy
- Greeters:** Renee Richards & Shellee Stewart
- Scripture Readers:** High School Youth to be assigned

**Nursery Volunteers at Worship Service**

- May 7:** Ashley Welch

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

- May 28:** Julieanne Welch for Gloria & Ralph Dinella
- May 28:** Sylvia Levy for her parent's anniversary.



appointed to **Peralta Memorial UMC** in Peralta, New Mexico, near Los Lunas.

I do not want to get into the details of cherished memories we have had here. But, know that you all have had a significantly wonderful impact on our lives that will not be forgotten nor dismissed.

We will be here through the first week in June. So, we've got plenty of business to attend to on top of the normal tasks. If you need to talk, cuss, cry, or laugh, please call us or visit, and know we will listen and love you just the same.

Your new pastor is **Johann Neethling** who will be coming to us from Highlands (Odessa) UMC and Mackey Chapel. **His wife's name is Anne.** They have three grown daughters.

**Blackwells Reappointed to Peralta UMC**

It is with many happy memories and a temptation to cave in to fear for leaving the comfortability of our loved ones, that I announce to you, if you had not already heard, **Peggy, Erinmarie, and I** have been

**Johann** and I have spoken on the phone and emailed each other twice. I have the utmost confidence that he is who this church needs to get through this transition and to go on to better ministry for our Lord.

They will be here on **April 18 at 6:00** for a visit to meet the PPRC members and any others who would like to welcome them.

**PARTNERS IN MINISTRY**

A group of 21 people met on April 7-9 in the Education Building to learn skills to speak and work in the church spiritually and cooperatively. We were blessed by each others affirmations and commitments, and we were doubly blessed by the leadership of **Rev. Ann Madden** of Truth or Consequences UMC and **Betty Jo Nye** of Central UMC in Albuquerque.

Special thanks to the UMW and others who provided meals and snacks that kept our energy up during the weekend.

We want to share our information with the church and begin to vision together as ----" as dialog and plan for the further spiritual and physical growth of this church



**LENTEN AND EASTER SERVICE SCHEDULE:**



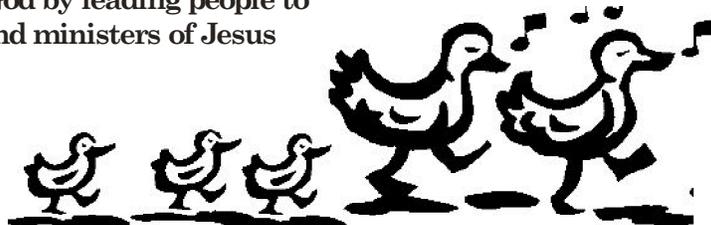
**April 21 is Good Friday.** Church will convene at 7:00 p.m. to guide us into spiritual preparation as we think about the sacrifice of Jesus.

**April 23 is Easter.** The adult choir will be giving a special Cantata to celebrate the risen



**OUR VISION:** Offering God's eternal life to all people such that they would be transformed by the Holy Spirit to live by faith and know that their salvation is secure in Jesus Christ.

**OUR MISSION:** To honor God by leading people to become devoted followers and ministers of Jesus Christ.



**A NEW FENCE...**

Thank you to **Don Fitzner** and **Bill Simms** for putting up the new chain link fence on the south side of the church yard. It looks terrific!!



**LOGOS PROGRAM**

Our LOGOS program just completed another fantastic session on March 29th. The program has drawn area-wide attention for it's attendance and the amazing commitment of community as well as local adults and children!

The first season (ending in November) started with only 9 and finished with 50 kids! The last session (just ended in March) finished with about 40 kids attending. A significant accomplishment was the large increase in high school aged students over the course of the program.... ending up with 15!

Although there was plenty of bible study and homework, it was not all serious business. Weekly themes such as Crazy Hair Day and Cartoon Character Day kept the kids attention, and the fantastic weekly meals cooked up by the parents and volunteers didn't hurt either. Activities such as hand chimes, and singing were witnessed and enjoyed by the whole church congregation.

Meetings will begin next month to make plans for the next LOGOS session starting in August. Help of all kinds will be needed. In order for a small church like ours to support such a large and successful children's program, we need lots of prayer, volunteers, supplies and "all hands on deck!" .....***THANKS!***





## Marcella Reynolds

Marcella not only helps out in many church-related activities, but she is also responsible for two other very important positions in our church:

**Financial Secretary**--Receives, records and deposits all funds received and works with the Treasurer and the Committee on Finance to develop ways that funds can be made available to support the church's ministry.

**Trustee**--Supervises and maintains all property belonging to the church so that the ministries of the congregation can be effective and so that the witness of Christ into the world through the church will be pleasing and invitational....***Thanks, Marcella!!***



### **A Prayer for Maundy Thursday**

O God, we remember that Christ gave us an order and an example for this special night. "This is my body," he said as he took the bread. "This is my blood," he said as he took the cup. "Do this in remembrance of me." So we come together to remember our Lord and to have fellowship with him. May this be a meaningful and glorious time for us all as we commune together in worship and the pursuit of holiness. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



The rulers of the Roman Empire wanted everyone under their power to understand clearly that it would be very costly to try to overthrow their government. They conceived the idea of crucifixion as a way of sending an unforgettable message to all people under their control. Death on a cross would be a slow, excruciatingly painful death. The cross would be put in a very public place so as many as possible would get the message: Don't even think of defying Roman rule!

That is why Christ was crucified on Golgotha hill close to a busy road where no passerby could miss the shocking scene. Christ was guilty of nothing. Yet his enemies hated him so much that they told Pilate, Rome's representative in Jerusalem, that Jesus was a danger to Roman rule. Christ's enemies said to Pilate, "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend; everyone who makes himself a king sets himself against Caesar" (John 19:12). Pilate caved in to the clamor of the crowd and allowed Jesus to be crucified.

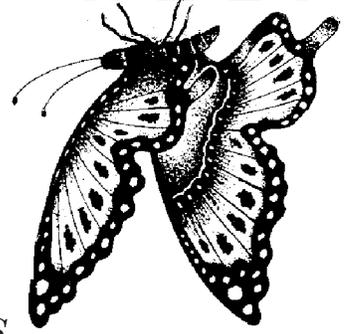
But those who saw to it that Jesus suffered death on the cross did not know that God had a message to send as well. God victoriously raised Christ from the dead! God touched the precious body of his Son and infused it with life, glorious, dynamic life, life in all of its fullness.

God turned the cross, the executioner's tool of death, into a dramatic symbol of victory. The empty cross and the empty tomb, along with the resurrected body of Christ, reveal God's victory over the worst deed humans might do — the assassination of the Holy.

That is why we put crosses everywhere: boldly, proudly, joyously, triumphantly. It is why we glory in the cross always. It stands eternally "towering o'er the wrecks of time" (John Bowring).

After the Resurrection, Jesus' friend, Peter, explained God's message to all of Christ's enemies with these bold and certain words: "This Jesus, you crucified and killed .... But God raised him up, having loosed the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it .... This Jesus God raised up, and of that we are all witnesses .... Therefore know assuredly that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified" (Acts 2:23-24; 32, 36). That is what Easter is all about. All praise to the living Lord!

APRIL



*Sent with a prayer to:*



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