

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

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

Dave Blackwell, Pastor

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



DECEMBER 1999

DECEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Lay Assist.: Kelly Darnell
Ushers: Carolyn Moore and Bonnie Thomas
Greeter: Renee Richards
Acolytes: Jett Sharp and Erinmarie Blackwell

JANUARY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Lay Assist.: Ashley Welch
Usher: Renee Richards

FEBRUARY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Lay Assist.: Audra Long
Usher: Sam Wilson

DEC. YOUTH SCRIPTURE READERS

Dec. 5: Belynn Sharp
Dec. 12: Brian Wilson
Dec. 19: Jett Sharp
Dec. 24: Audra Long
Dec. 26: Lindsay Stinnett

ADVENT READERS

November 28: The Popes: Shawn & Lynne, Riane & Lindsay Stinnett, with a little help from Travis!
December 5: Alma Wimsatt and Ethel Floyd
December 12: The Calhoons: Mike and Renea, with some help from Mikayla and Leeann.
December 19: The Gomez's: Oscar, Margaret, Christopher, Miranda, Catherine, Nick, and a little help from Georgie.

December 24: The Fastnachts: Jason & Leslie with a little help from Jaxon.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES:

Sunday, December 19, 6:00 - A special service will be held just for our children. There will be reading, singing, and stories. No parents allowed! But, **parents** we would like you to stay in the Ed. Building, have some snacks, make hot chocolate, and fellowship until the end of the service. Then join the children as we get in Lowell and Gayle Clark's horse drawn wagon and sing carols all through the town. We will return to drink all that hot chocolate. There is no school the next day, so join us!



ADVENT



Candlelight Service

The Christmas Eve Candlelight service will be at 5:00 p.m. Come early for good seats and get into the true Christmas Spirit with song, praise, prayer, and music. Hope to see you there!!

Adult Bible Study continues this afternoon at 4:30 in the church coffee room. We will be reading and discussing Luke for approximately an hour. Contact Pastor Dave if you need help with transportation to and from church.

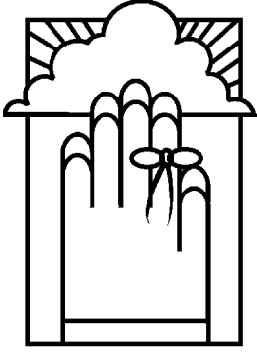
PRAYER REQUESTS:

Our **Veterans' families** who still suffer the pain of loss from the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Mary Kay Kelly, Kim Sanchez's mother, died



on December 7 from abdominal cancer. Pray for her family and for **Kim, Laura and Katherine's** safety as they travel to Georgia.



**PLEASE REMEMBER
THESE FRIENDS IN
PRAYER**

marriage.

Roxanne Lewallen, Cyle Sharp's sister, undergoing severe trials with neurological troubles yet to be diagnosed.

The **Burnett family** as they mourn the death of **Larry's** father.

Brenda Booth, friend of **Sylvia Levy**, undergoing severe trials with cancerous condition.

Michael Clark, son of **Gayle and Lowell Clark**, being tested in job readiness while he prepares for

Our college students, **Jill, Justin, and Curtis**, preparing for finals and looking forward to coming home for the Christmas break.

Cindi Howe, Renee Richards', daughter, missing.

Pastor Dave: see attached Christmas wish list to **Jesus**; and:

- preparing papers for examination by the Albq. District Committee on Ordained Ministry on January 18;
- preparing papers to be sent in February to the Board of Ordained Ministry for meeting in March in El Paso as part of ordination examination;
- flying to Tuscaloosa, AL, January 19, as NM Conference rep at General Board of Global Ministry Health Concerns meeting.

Administrative Council News

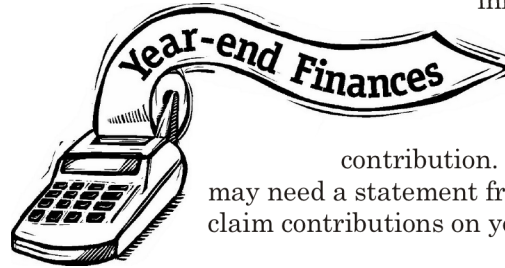
The need for a computer system for church business was discussed and the council voted to purchase a computer, printer and necessary software. Use of the computer will be restricted to church business.

Carolyn Moore gave an update on the kitchen remodeling work. A new cooktop has been installed. New ovens and a stove have been ordered, at cost, courtesy of Moore Appliance. **Mel Stephenson** volunteered to do the necessary carpentry work to install the new double oven. **Mel** has worked for several days and the ovens are now installed. **Sue Hughes** and **Alma Wimsatt** will take care of other kitchen needs after Christmas. **What a great improvement to our kitchen!!**

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee extends it's thanks to those who made the generous pledges toward the year 2000 budget. There were eighteen pledges for a total of \$31,903.20. This

means that approximately 30% of the church families made pledges for over 54% of the total budget of \$58,862.00. This is a great start for the new year and I know each one that gives their tithes and offerings will be richly blessed. As you know, we need to average just over \$4905.00 in offerings each month to meet our budget goal. We will keep you informed via the newsletter and church services on a regular basis of how we are doing toward meeting our commitments and goals. For those who want an official record of your gifts and/or offering, contact Marcella Reynolds and she will provide you with envelopes and quarterly and annual statements. For your information, the IRS



will not accept canceled checks as proof of church contribution. That is why you may need a statement from Marcella if you claim contributions on your tax returns.

The total apportionment for 1999 has been paid, which meets this portion of our budget goal for 1999. The apportionment is for many worthy causes and the church is reaping the rewards for us meeting our commitment.

With the continued growth in church attendance, some members of the Finance Committee are thinking we need to initiate a building committee to assess our needs for future growth and possible expansion of the church facilities. Statistics show that you can only fill a church to a certain level and if you do not have room for new church attendees/members the church will become stagnant and lose the opportunity to grow. Therefore, do not be surprised if some of you are approached to lend your support to evaluating these possibilities.

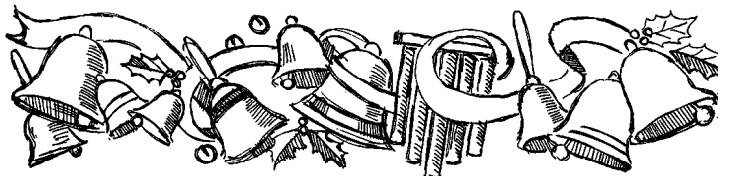
Mel Stephenson
Finance Committee Chairman

My Christmas Wish List....Pastor Dave

Dear **Jesus**:

Here's my Christmas wish list. Please understand that I know You already know what is needed and You have already given gifts like these that we haven't opened yet. But, humbly, I ask this of You anyway:

Lord, we need a **picture of an empty tomb**. We've got



building, but no picture of the empty tomb.

I need a **John the Baptist wardrobe** to help me communicate to my dear ones here that I am not the church or the Savior.

Do you have anything I could use as a demonstration to communicate that I'm not the devil, either? Like maybe a **sack with no silver coins** in it, or an **empty perfume bottle**?



We could use several **pairs of kneepads**, Brother. Not that we have worn many out, but that we would remember to use them. So could you send us **a rack or a dispenser for them** to hang next to the door for everyone to get when they leave the church on Sunday?

Is there a way, **Jesus**, that You could send people back to church who haven't been here for awhile without causing them to suffer much? Maybe, like a **chariot** that took Elijah to your house, except that it would come to Your house here on earth, or any of Your houses on earth? I know I'm on hot, holy ground with this one, Lord, but couldn't You stir the Holy Spirit into their hearts that they would return without their idea of tragedy getting to them first?

Lord, You have done some magnificent healing of hearts and bodies in Your church here over the last year. Some of us haven't been very thankful. In fact, some of us have been very quiet until the next crisis. Could You send me **a message** that would portray Your hurt over their hurts and Your thankfulness for their thankfulness? I've tried, but it seems that when I say what I think you want me to say it seems more like a lump of coal to Your beloved ones.

Lord, we need **more gates**. Once there was child at the fence of the church yard watching the Logos activities. When he was invited in, he went through the gate. He has come back a few times.

Could you send us some **more salt, yeast, and light**, Jesus? We've learned how to volunteer, which is

better than some churches. But, we've got some things to do here that have been promised but remain undone. Maybe sending **a burning bush** would be better.

Our **collection plates** seem to be holding up just fine. But you might send us **another one** in case the ones we have get too full and the money starts spilling out of them.

We may need a **new yoke**, too. The one we have seems to have some parts that are rattling due to tension and stress from wanting to make our own paths.

Please send us a **combination clock and calender** from your house that we can't plug in or make notes on. Our calendars are all marked up and we can't read them any more, and our clocks have sprung gears and broken crystals.

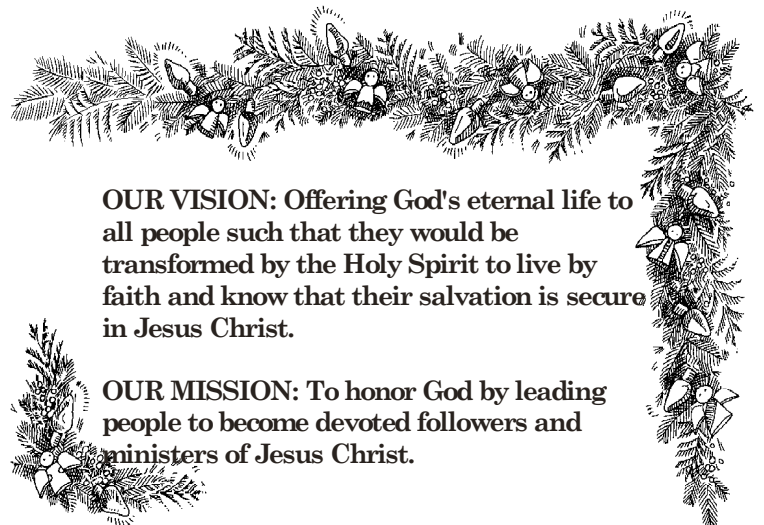
Send us **pictures of You in the manger**. Send us **splintery crosses, hard nails, vinegar**, and a **crown of thorns to replace the ones we made for ourselves**. Then feel free to take them back.

On second thought, don't send any of the above. Please just keep sending us Your love that forgives us, Your promise, Your water, Your hallowed communion. Well, maybe You could send that **picture of Your empty tomb**. You will take care of the rest.

Thank You, **Jesus**.

Your brother,

Dave



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.

For unto us a Child is born; unto us a Son is given... These will be his royal titles: "Wonderful," "Counselor," "The Mighty God," "The Everlasting Father," "The Prince of Peace."
ISAIAH 9:6 TEB

In a time of great darkness, God promised to send a light who would shine on everyone living in the shadow of death. He is both "mighty God" (all-powerful) and "Counselor" (all-loving). This message of hope was fulfilled in the birth of Christ and the establishment of his eternal kingdom. He came to deliver all people from their slavery to sin.

Glory be to God in the highest—the Prince of Peace has come!



HE CLIMBED IN WITH US

I read about a grandfather who found his grandson jumping up and down in his playpen, crying at the top of his voice. When Johnnie saw his grandfather, he reached up his little chubby hands and said, "Out, Gramps, out."

It was only natural for the grandfather to reach down to lift him out of his predicament, but as he did the mother of the child stepped up and said "No, Johnnie, you are being punished—so you must stay in."

The grandfather was at a loss to know what to do. The child's tears and chubby hands reached deep into his heart. But the mother's firmness in correcting her son must not be taken lightly. But love found a way. The grandfather could not take the grandson out of the playpen, so he climbed in with him. Beloved that is what our Lord Jesus Christ did for us at the cross (or at Christmas). In leaving heaven for earth He climbed in with us. The Bible says, "The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us

CHURCH BULLETIN BLOOPERS

• "Newsletters are not being sent to absentees because of their weight."

• "Diana and Don request your presents at their wedding."

• "Hymn: I Need Three Every Hour"

• "Child care provided with reservations."

ADVENT VIRUS

Be on the alert for symptoms of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love! The hearts of a great many persons have already been exposed to the Advent Virus, and it is possible that people everywhere could become contaminated. This could become an epidemic. It would pose a serious threat to what has, up to now, been a fairly stable condition of conflict and distrust in the church and world.

Some signs and symptoms of the Advent Virus:

- A tendency to think and act with others in mind
- An unmistakable ability to enjoy the present moment
- A loss of interest in judging or condemning others
- A loss of interest in conflict and arguing
- A loss of the ability to worry (a very serious symptom!)
- Frequent, inexplicable episodes of appreciation
- Frequent attacks of smiling and/or humming
- An inexplicable sense of contentedness
- A peculiar loss of self-centeredness
- A tendency to let go of control and allow things to happen
- A tendency to want to read the Bible and pray
- An increasing susceptibility to friendliness in others, and an uncontrollable urge to share it with others.

(Ways to avoid a download into your "system" (soul):

Find excuses to avoid worship and praise of God; stay away from people who believe in God; focus on self-serving priorities; close your mind to messages that speak of forgiveness, reconciliation, peace, joy, hope, faith or love.)

For many, it is already too late. Their systems have been wiped clean by this virus.

Merry Christmas!!





Thank you Thank You Thank You Thank You Thank You
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Joyful Giving
 +
Hard Work = Great Results

I have some recent "thank yous" that need to be published so that when you see these people, you will give them your appreciation.

To the Gomez family who worked several days and evenings to clean up and organize both food pantries, many thanks! Your dedication as new members feeds all of us.

To Carolyn Moore who, at a cost to her and her business was able to get a new stove/oven and a new double oven so that cooks have good equipment with which to work, thank you. You have warmed our hearts and your spirit is good food.

To Mel Stephenson who did all of the carpentry work on his own time with his own tools to put the new appliances in the Education Building, and did a beautiful job at no cost to the church, thank you for using your skill to fit this need of the church as a priority that was quickly completed. You really measured up!

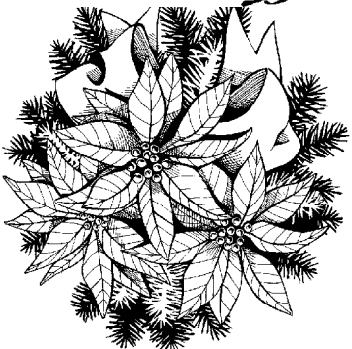
To Estancia United Methodist Church, the apportionments for 1999 are paid. There was a stiff increase from last year to this year, and there was a \$5,000 increase in the budget due to becoming a one point charge. But, you did it through faith, concentrated effort, and faithful, reliable giving. In the early 90s, paying in the area of 10% was normal. Now, we have been complete in our missional giving and support of the Methodist church four years in a row. Congratulations.

And to the many that pledged for next year's giving, I am praying for you and thanking God for your faithfulness. He will bless this devoted obedience.

In the name of Christ who gave His all for all of us,

Dave

December



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Sent with a prayer to: