

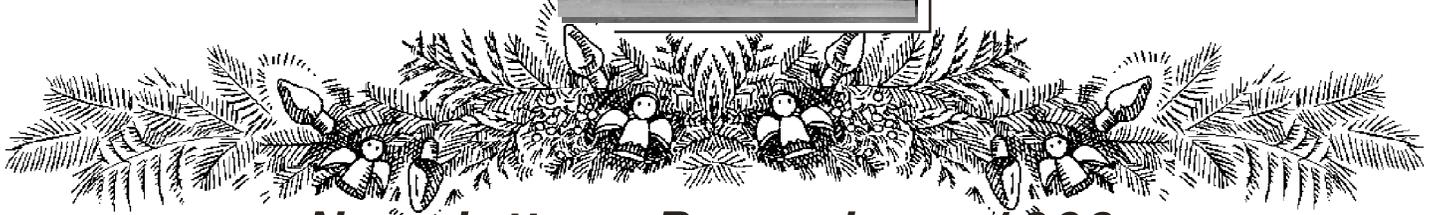


**Dave Blackwell, Pastor**

P. O. Box 378, Estancia, NM 87016  
Church Office 384-5215  
Parsonage 384-2710



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



## Newsletter - December, 1998

### DECEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

Lay Assistant: Kelly Darnell  
Ushers: Carolyn Moore and Bonnie Hughes  
Greeters: Ruby and Craig Martin  
Acolytes: Rose and Alice Daniel

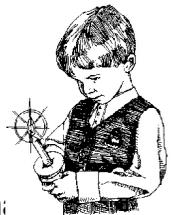
- Special music by a Quartet: Alice Daniel, Rose Daniel, Sydney Alfonso, and Amy Lamb.
- The adult choir will perform.
- A Logos skit.
- The Sharp family will give the 4th Advent reading.

### DECEMBER YOUTH SCRIPTURE READERS:

Dec. 6th: Sydney Alfonso  
Dec. 13th: Jacque Creamer  
Dec. 20th: Brian Wilson  
Dec. 27th: Alice Daniel

### **AND--REMEMBER!!! THE CHRISMAS EVE SERVICE**

5:00      5:00      5:00  
Singing, special music, drama, fun, communion, and candlelight. (And hopefully two very special "Advent readers.") Get your seat early!! Come worship with us the night before Christmas!  
**See ya' there!**



### **ADVENT '98 HAS ALREADY BEEN A TIME TO REMEMBER**

Roy McConkey (fresh from surgery) has hooked up the speakers, and Carolyn Moore turns them loose on the town from 6:00 to 6:30 p.m. every night with Christmas music and chimes. What a great way to remind us of the Christ Child!! Thanks Roy and Carolyn!



Agatha Garrison made the Church Advent Wreath this year. It is beautifully and lovingly constructed. Thank you, Agatha!

The Worship Committee taught the November 29 crowd to sing "Praise the Lord and pass the Kleenex" while packages of Kleenex were strewn liberally throughout the church. Later, the Kleenexes were put to use when Karla Patterson, Julie Griffo, and Renee Richards performed and sang, "Be Not Afraid." The Lehman family read the Advent reading and lit the first Advent candle.

On December 6, we heard Brian Wilson debut on the piano. The children displayed their Advent Banner. Tracy Hemke and Mary Pogue gave us the second Advent reading.

### **WHAT'S HAPPENING FOR THE REST OF ADVENT????**

#### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13th:**

- A singing solo by Alice Daniel.
- The third Advent reading by Ethel Floyd, Alma Wimsatt, Letty Wood, and Marcella Reynolds.
- A special reading by Kimber Sanchez.
- A dramatic rendition of "Mary's Song" along with a solo, "Breath of Heaven" by Karla Patterson.

#### **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17th**

The Children's Christmas program at 7:00.

Come early for a good seat to a great program!!

#### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20th:**

### **EMPHASIZING THE GOOD**

Following a recent meeting with the Pastor Parish Relations Committee where Pastor Dave encouraged the committee to become leaders seeking to shine a light on the positive aspects of the church such as growth, children/youth activities, etc., he found an editorial in **The United Methodist Reporter** (November 6, 1998) entitled "We need more thumbs-up thinking in the church." Below, he quotes, paraphrases, and comments on that article.

"John Glenn's historic return to space has captured high interest among the American people, just as his first and only other flight 26 years ago.

"We believe his constant thumbs up, can-do attitude makes him both a national hero and a superb role model. But, more than that, his wisdom about the cynicism and hope of government can be applied to the cynicism and hope we find in the church as well."

Glenn has distinguished himself as an astronaut, an expert in technical and scientific matters, an advisor for the prevention of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and an advocate for high quality public health and education.

Glenn, finishing his last term as a United States Senator from Ohio, warns us about "domestic perpetrators that are infecting us with a spiritual cancer that steadily eats away at America's faith in itself." This includes cynicism, apathy, selfishness, hostility, and lack of civility toward one another. "He warns that if we hear cynical barrages long enough we tend to believe them and so do our youth." America didn't win world leadership by emphasizing the negative, "but by building on what was good."

These are not only wise words about our attitude toward our country, but "also for the attitude toward America's churches as well." It is very easy to lapse into a cynical attitude fraught with apathy, selfishness, and hostility while forgetting that our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ gave us hope for ultimate,



eternal bliss by His sacrifice, but not by anything we did. "Too often we forget: **WE are the church.** We have inherited a legacy and a living gospel that is much greater and more powerful than the painful words which tear at the fabric of our being."

So many churches have lost the shared vision of cooperation because they have lost the simple joy of loving each other and the enthusiasm to serve God and each other before self. The recurrent theme of cynicism, apathy (the "been there, done that" theme) and negativity can and has strangled churches--even in this valley. The belief of "Nothing good can come from that" while cheering quietly on for defeat to prove one's point will permeate through a church quicker than fire on dry wood. But, seeking the Holy Spirit's fire to love and serve God, the church, and the community will create a glow from the light of Christ that will draw others unto Him, just as He has commissioned us to do.

The editorial ends, "Our prayer for our country and for our church is that we banish our cynicism. In its place may we strive, with a receptive, prayerful sense of curiosity and wonder in where God will take us, to follow the instructions of the Apostle Paul: 'Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.' (Philippians 4:8) An optimistic outlook is the first step towards the country's and the church's future."

Amen.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL NEWS**

#### **Trustees:**

---John reported that **Jeff Gorum** was nominated and appointed as the chair person of the Trustees.

--**Cyle Sharp** was made an honorary member for 1999. Discussion was held as to the advisability of using drapes or doors with center posts in the Education Building as separators for classes. The Trustees are working on a list of items that need to be accomplished.

#### **PPRC:**

--The PPRC sponsored a potluck on November 15 in honor of the new families and individuals who have been attending and joining the church. There was a baked food sale fund raiser on Friday, November 20, in front of the bank.

--Because of a few messages left in anger on the parsonage and office phones, Pastor Dave and the PPRC are trying to formulate ways to help keep people informed of the pastor's planned time and days away from the office or out of town, as well as when emergencies occur that call him away unexpectedly.

#### **Finance**

--All the bills for October as well as the yearly apportionments have been paid.

#### **Education:**

--**Julianne Welch** reported that attendance has been good and the enthusiasm has been high for Sunday School.

--Monday School has also been successful with twenty or more children attending each week to practice singing for the Christmas pageant on the evening of December 17 and to make banners.

--An organizational meeting for Logos was held last month, and several people have attended Logos nights at two churches in Albuquerque. **Nick Griffo** and **Pastor Dave** attended a resources workshop at Central United Methodist Church on November 7.

#### **Worship:**

--**Peggy Blackwell** reported that she is working with the committee to compose a supplemental songbook of worship and praise songs to be used frequently during worship services.

#### **KID'S KORNER**

The children and adults have been very busy in preparation for the Holiday Season.



The children continue to meet each Monday, after school, at the Education Building to practice for the Christmas Program and make banners for the church.

On **Saturday, December 5th**, the children made ornaments for the Christmas Tree. These ornaments are called "**Chrismons**" and are always made white and gold. They are a symbol of Christ's purity. Many thanks to **Christmas Angel Carolyn Moore** for her guidance and supply donation to make the "Chrismons" and banners.



On **Sunday, December 6th**, the children and congregation conducted the "**Hanging of the Greens**" and decorated the Christmas tree in the sanctuary. The children decorated the tree with the ornaments they made on December 5th"

On **Wednesday, December 16th** at 7:00pm the children will hold their "**Dress Rehearsal**" for the Christmas Program in the sanctuary.

Mark your calendars now and plan on coming to hear a joyful noise on **December 17, 1998** at **7:00 p.m.** at the Church. Yes our Methodist children are at it again. They are getting anxious to share with all of you their Christmas Program this year which is called "**A Joyful Noise**". Our kids, once again, are outdoing themselves with this production and you definitely do not want to miss it. It is going to be yet another awesome production so be sure to mark your calendars now for this blessed event.

**Clip out these new addresses and phone numbers for updates in your church directory:**

Agatha Garrison  
331 AO 27  
Estancia, NM 87016

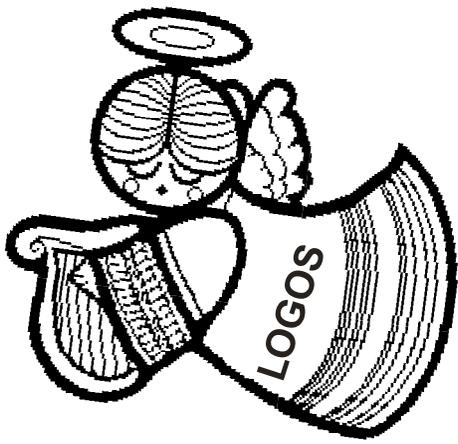
Mike/Lisa Hughes  
PO Box 729  
Moriarty, NM 87035

Alan/Shellee Stewart  
and Josh and Ashlea  
PO Box 58  
McIntosh, NM 87032

Cyle/Sharla Sharp  
and Jett and Belynn  
PO Box 737  
Estancia, NM 87016

Mark/Pam Lambert  
PO Box 115  
McIntosh, NM 87032

Alma Wimsatt  
Drawer C  
Estancia, NM 87016



**Do not despise this small beginning, for the eyes of the Lord rejoice to see the work begin.**

ZECHARIAH 4:10 TLB

Many of the older Jews were disheartened when they realized this new Temple would not match the size and beauty of the previous one. But bigger and more beautiful is not always better. What you do for God may seem small and insignificant at the time, but God rejoices in what is right, not necessarily in what is big. Be faithful in the small opportunities.

*Begin where you are and do what you can—and leave the results to God!*

## **LOGOS NEWS**

This is a true story about a little girl who had milk chocolate brown hair that came down just below her chin and curled under, and dark brown eyes that were black as night. Her innocence ran deep, pure like only the innocence of a child. Her family did not have much in the way of material possessions; in fact, it was just about all her mama could do to provide enough food for her and her brothers. But she was so proud of her mama and she had a right to be, she was a wonderful woman. The little girl walked with unease though, learning quite early that friendships and being liked had strictly to do with how much money you had and how many things you owned. Well she didn't own very much and at Christmas time, the tree was not filled with countless gifts, but rather three, one for her and one for each of her brothers. But she was proud anyway and thankful because she had her mama. She soon became school aged and went to school, but she didn't much like school. It was a hurtful place, where the other kids made fun of her and the clothes she wore and the family she came from and soon she dreaded going to school everyday. It didn't seem like she could do anything that pleased even one of them. Not one of them wanted to be her friend. And so everyday after school she would run, not walk, but run home from school as fast as her little legs could carry her so that she could escape the taunting and the ridicule and be safe again at home. Upon her return home she would quickly throw down her books and race outside to her mama's garden, pull a carrot out of the ground, and wiping the dirt off on her dress would race to her favorite tree where she would throw herself down under it and dream. Dream of having all of the wonderful things her school mates had; dream of having a big house with lots of toys and dream of coming out on Christmas morning to find the floor covered in gifts like the other kids had. But more than anything, she dreamed of having a friend. Just one would be enough for her. Just one who she could talk to about anything; just one who would stay with her forever and ever. But her dream state would always be interrupted by her mama's voice who would call her to supper. She would get up and go to the house for supper always feeling a little silly and a little guilty for wanting all of those things that other people had. But she hung onto her dreams in hopes that God, who she had been told was very powerful, would be able to give her at least one of these things (mostly she hoped for a friend!

Then one Sunday, as her aunt and cousin arrived to pick her up and take her to church (which they did occasionally), something felt different. She kissed her mama goodbye and skipped out of the house wearing her best dress (which had been beautifully wrapped under the Christmas tree; it was a red velvet dress with lace trim that her mama had made especially

for her). She was very proud in her new dress and her black patent leather shoes that were a little scuffed on the toes but were still wearable. While proud, she rode in the car a little preoccupied that day, because she was going to have to read in front of the class the next day and she was dreading it. "They'll laugh at me. They'll make fun of me on the playground. They'll push me down, unless I'm quick enough to hide in the tunnels on the playground until the bell rings." Oh, she dreaded going to school. When they arrived at the church, they entered the same double doors as usual, but something felt different that day and there was a crowd of people trying to get seated at the door to the sanctuary. Somehow she got separated from her Aunt and began to feel scared when out of the crowd, a big man in a black robe, with large hands reached down and took her hand in his. He led her to the front of the church and seated her in the front pew. She was terrified because she knew she wouldn't be able to scrunch down behind the pew in front of her this time. She was amazed as she watched the big man walk on and take his place up on the altar and begin speaking. He was talking about friendship and the little girl did not understand very much of what he said. He was talking about how friendship is about loving and she knew that wasn't true at all. It was about what you had. When the man seemed to be finished talking, he invited the people to come up and pray, which the little girl didn't understand either. Her mama had taught her the Lord's Prayer, but she knew you only said that at night. So she sat there alone, not knowing what she was supposed to do. Then! Seemingly out of nowhere, a woman appeared in front of her and she held her hand out to the shy, scared little girl. The little girl saw such love in the woman's face and so she took the woman's hand and followed her up to the altar. Just then the big man in the black robe appeared in front of her and he took her little hands into his and began to talk to her about friends. She couldn't believe it, it was as if he knew that she hadn't understood what he was saying and he started to tell her about a man named Jesus. As he talked to her about this man, tears ran down her little face because everything the robed man was telling her was what she had been dreaming about. Jesus was her friend. And he was a friend who would love her no matter what, and he was a friend who was always with her and would never leave her. The big robed man told the little girl that Jesus loved her because of who she was. And just then the little girl's eyes lit up and sparkled as she realized that God had really heard her. When the man finished speaking, the little girl held out her small arms and wrapped them around the man's neck and whispered "Thank you God for hearing me". As she left the church that day, she stood up a little taller and walked with a little more ease knowing that her friend was walking with her and was holding her tiny little hand. She was so grateful to that woman who had extended her hand to her, and although she never saw her again, she never forgot the hand that led her to a place where she finally found her friend.

It is hard to hear that there are pure little souls out there who want nothing but love and who are sometimes taunted and teased and who feel all alone. And yes, all of us are guilty of sometimes overlooking their little pain filled souls. To me, that is a huge part of what the Logos program is about. I want every child and adult alike who attend, to know and feel that safety and comfort and love when they come to Logos every Wednesday. The little girl in the story grew up to be a minister for Christ because of a hand that reached out to her and led her to Him when she was a small child. The hand that reached out to the little girl that day was your hand; your Christian hand. And as Christians, Jesus is in need of our help with his youngest pure souls to show them the way to Him through us. So, the next time you think you cannot make a difference because you believe

# DECEMBER



*Sent with a prayer to:*

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

you're not good enough, or because you're doing too much already, think of the woman that took a few seconds out of her life and through Christian love led a small child to Jesus. That is what Christ wants for us and from us. So please pray about our Logos program. Pray for God's will to take place in this program. Pray to God about what your place may be in this program. Perhaps you could volunteer to go to town and buy the supplies / food we need. Or perhaps you could volunteer one hour a month to share a craft with the children; or perhaps you love to cook and could help in the kitchen at meal times. Perhaps you could help design and organize the material needed to make a booklet about our program for the parents of the children who will attend. There are so many ways that your Christian hand can touch somebody's life and change it forever. You can never know who that somebody is or when the moment has occurred, but Jesus knows and that may be the very reason that you were brought here. Who knows, perhaps it will be an adult who your hand touches and makes a difference where there is an emptiness that is in need of filling. Please keep praying because He is indeed listening, and please come to our next meeting on January 6, 1999 at 5:30 to hear about what needs to be accomplished and what areas need more prayer.



*Work the cause of righteousness into your personal budget*



Thank you, Julieanne Welch



**But be sure to fear the LORD and sincerely worship him. Think of all the wonderful things he has done for you.**

Samuel reminded the people to take time to recall all the good things God had done for them. Taking time for reflection allows us to focus our attention upon God's goodness and strengthens our faith. Sometimes we are so progress and future-oriented that we fail to take time to reflect gratefully on all that God has already done. Make it a practice to review what God has done for you so that you may move ahead with a grateful attitude.

*Make a time of worship today for remembering God's goodness.*

God supplies some people with the personal and financial abilities to respond to the needs of others. If these people all realized why God has blessed them, and if they all used their resources to do God's will, hunger and poverty would be wiped out. God expects us to work hard so that we can be a blessing to others. But wealth is a blessing only if we use it in the way God intended.



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