



**Dave Blackwell, Pastor**

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



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



## Newsletter - February, 1999

### FEBRUARY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

Lay Assistant: Justin Welch  
Ash Wed.: Laura Sanchez  
Ushers: Sam and Susan Wilson  
Greeter: Renee Richards  
Acolytes: Belynn Sharp and Katie Rogers

### MARCH WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

Lay Assistant: Marilyn Seddon  
March 7th: Julie Griffo  
Ushers: Renee Richards and Shellee Stewart  
Greeters: Larry and Waynette Burnett  
Acolytes: Ashlea Stewart and Jett Sharp

### YOUTH SCRIPTURE READERS:

February 14: Jett Sharp  
February 17: (Ash) Dominic Griffo  
February 21: Ashley Welch  
February 28: Laura Sanchez  
March 7: Chris Hughes  
March 14: Leah Jo Hughes  
March 21: Erinmarie Blackwell  
March 28: Ashley Welch

### FEBRUARY COMMITTEE MEETING:

Finance: Tues., Feb. 16, 9:00

### MARCH COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Education: Sun., Mar. 7, 11:00  
Worship: Sun., Mar. 7, 12:30  
Trustees: Sun., Mar. 14, 10:30  
Finance: Sun., Mar. 14, 1:00  
Pastor/Parish: Sun., Mar. 14, 5:30  
Care & Outreach: Mon., Mar. 22, 10:00  
U.M.W. Tues., Mar. 23, Noon.

### CONFIRMATION CLASSES:

Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m.:  
Feb. 24, March 10 & 24  
Alternate Wednesdays at 3:30 on March 3 and 17

### LENTEN CLASSES & WEEKS

On Wednesday mornings, 10:00 starting Feb. 17;  
On Thursday nights, 7:00 starting Feb. 18.  
**BOOKS ARE \$5.00; Checks can be made to E.U.M.C.**

### UPCOMING SPECIAL SERVICES:

**Ash Wednesday: Feb. 17 at 7 p.m.** Special music, dispensation of ashes, communion.

**Country gospel service**, Sunday afternoon **Feb. 28 at 2 p.m.**; potluck to follow. Bring yourselves, families, friends, and a dish for a fun afternoon of worship and fellowship.

**"Jeans and Greens", March 14** To honor St. Patrick's Day, we will have Irish jigs performed by **Ray Darnell** and his band. Come to church wearing your "jeans and greens".

**Palm Sunday: March 28 at 9 a.m.**

**Easter Sunrise Service- April 4** place?? time 6 a.m.

**Confirmation Sunday, Pentecost, May 23, 5 p.m.**

This will be a special night service for our confirmands and families and friends. But, we hope the church takes special note of this opportunity to witness many children give their lives to Jesus Christ.



### ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL BRIEFS:

**Finance:** There are still many boxes of offering envelopes available for those who would like to use them to help with their tithing and offering systems. The offerings for January met the needed amount for the month.





The first **fund-raiser** of the year is the **Spring Dinner Bash** to be held in various host homes on March 6 and March 13.

No apportionments have been paid at this time. Invitations will be given to the congregation for individuals or groups to sponsor designated apportionments to be paid in lump sums or by payments.

**Pastor-Parish:** The committee approved the recommendation for **Dave** to serve here another year. Dave has met with District Superintendent **Terry Anderson** and told him that he would like to stay in this charge.

**Worship:** (See above, regarding the upcoming worship services.) The committee is still working to get books of praise music assembled.

**Trustees:** Some repair work has been accomplished in the parsonage.

Plans are still being looked at and debated regarding doors or curtains to be installed in the Education Building to act as dividers so several classes may be held at one time.



Money has been approved and spent to allow for the installation of cushions for the pews.

**Family at Work** Due to the generosity of **Carolyn Moore**, the church now has a nice TV and VCR so we may watch educational and motivational tapes.

**Historical work** is being done to find and assemble old records of church membership and activities.

Work is also being done towards making of historical booklets in preparation for the 100th anniversary of the church in the year 2005.



**Education** Sunday school attendance for the children is holding steady. The adult class has been growing steadily.

**Monday school** has started again. Children can be driven from the school to the Education Building at 3:00 to participate in worship skills, crafts, singing, etc. Snacks are provided. The "school" gets out at 4:30.

**"Logos Sunday"** on January 31 was very successful. Great fun, fellowship, and singing surrounded the Super Bowl Sunday theme. Many have signed on to help when the real Logos program takes place in September of this year.

**Care and Outreach:** Cards and calls are continually being made to shut-ins and to those who are hospitalized or ill at home.

Several loaves of bread have been delivered to visitors.

This committee has also committed to helping the confirmands and **Pastor Dave** through the spring.

**United Methodist Women:**

After many years of faithful service as president of the UMW, **Agatha Garrison** has moved to the Vice-Presidency of this great organization. **Marcia Fitzner** is our new president. The UMW met at **Charlie and Sue Hughes** home to have lunch and make plans for the year. The UMW will continue to lead in our mission efforts and be a force to support many of our church programs.

**Lay Leader:** **Lori Lamb** reports that all of the speakers that will be needed during the time that Dave is in Kansas City and on vacation have been lined up. She will still need some help, however, in coordinating music, bulletin construction, and worship assistance.

**Pastor:** The confirmation class has had two sessions. There are seven more to go. Indications from the confirmands are that they like it so far.

Several discussions have been had with Dave regarding the time he is needed here as opposed to the time he spends in Mountainair with a very small and currently diminishing congregation.

**In Our Prayers:**

- **Gene Kamerzell**, recuperating from heart surgery and pneumonia.
- **Joe Voorhees** (brother of **Renee Richards**), recuperating from staff infection following removal of brain tumor.
- **Cindi Howe** (Renee's daughter), undergoing testing.
- **Michael Rodriguez, Sr.** (father-in-law of **Khristy (Martinez) Rodriguez**, suffering from pancreatic cancer.
- **Vences Sanchez**, recovering from surgery,
- **Tonya Davidson** (Ina Artman's daughter), recovering from cancer.
- **Sarah Davidson** (Ina's niece), onset of diabetes.
- **The Creamer family**, for the death of Angela's dad, **Tommy Lewis**.
- **The Simmons and Parnell families**, for the death of their 4 month old son, **Dillan**.
- **The Muth family**, for the death of **Michael Muth**.
- **David Mahaffey**, in I.C.U. recovering from serious neck injury.
- For our **Logos program** and for leaders to direct it starting in September.



**WALK TO EMMAUS**

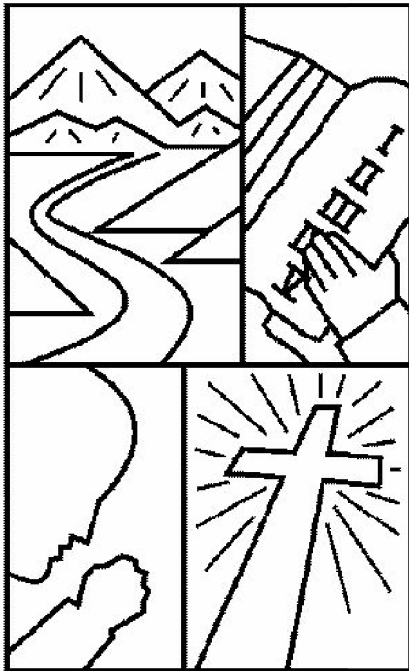
Are you hearing a lot again about... **The Walk to Emmaus?**

Eleven people went on walks last year, and they want as many people as possible to experience the grace of God that they had then and still carry with them now.

Many of you have been approached to at least think about going on one of these walks. There is a men's walk next

month at Singing Hills, 40 miles from Estancia. And there are two women's walks scheduled there, too; one in April and one in October.

The Walk to Emmaus is a three day spiritual journey that cannot be adequately described as a "retreat." Participants hear 15 great talks, are blessed with wonderful music and times of communion, and get to "let their hair down." In and through it all, God's love and the Holy Spirit pervades and nurtures you.



It is not a cult, nor is it a secret society. It is Christ-centered, Biblically based, and continually prayed about by many who have gone on this journey and are praying that others will go, too.

Many have said that they didn't want to go at first, but then they didn't want to go home afterwards. You are accepted for who you are as a brother and sister in Christ. You do not come back as a pious, pompous, God-pusher. You come back

wanting others to have the loving experience you had; you want to share it.

That is why you are hearing some more about it now. These walks are nearby; there are Emmaus "grads" here who would love to care for children or help with with jobs, or do whatever it takes so others can go.

I have been on nine walks, eight of them as part of the team who helps those who have never gone before, and out of over 300 people that I have helped, only one has had a somewhat negative reaction.

If you are approached and asked to consider and pray about going, please know it is done with love and hope in our hearts for you. Yes, there is a cost, \$120 for the whole weekend; and if that is a problem, scholarship money is available because this is too good to let money be a hindrance. And, if you are not approached about it, talk to **Dave or Peggy, the Griffos, the Wilsons, the Sharps, the Gorums, the Calhoons, Sue Hughes, Renee Richards, Karla Patterson, Tish McMichael, Marcella Reynolds, Ethel Floyd, and Julieanne Welch.** We can't get to everybody. But we want everybody to go who wants to.

Thank you for reading this. Pray about the possibilities for you.

Dave.

*Fearing God More than Men*

***SHIPHRAH AND PUAH***

But the midwives feared God and didn't obey the king (Exodus 1: 17, TLB)

Shiphrah and Puah, two Hebrew midwives, were undoubtedly tense and a little confused when they were summoned to appear before the ruler of all Egypt. Yet that confusion must have given way to shock, fear, and even anger when they found out why they had been called. Pharaoh ordered them to kill all the boys born to Hebrew women from that moment forward. But even though they were placing their lives in jeopardy, the women refused to comply. They engineered a strategy of passive resistance that undermined Pharaoh's zero-population-growth plan. The births continued, and Israel grew to a mighty nation.

Shiphrah and Puah never hesitated when faced with the choice of serving God or obeying the sinful demands of a human ruler. They were confident that God would sustain them if they stepped out in faith. Christians today may not be ordered to participate in murder, but we may be encouraged to join in causes or activities that clearly violate God's commands. Like the courageous midwives, we may face risks when obeying God—ridicule, isolation, and even physical harm. But we can act knowing that God will honor our efforts as he did the efforts of Shiphrah and Puah.

Obedience to God brings his protection and blessings.

*Shiphrah and Puah's story is found in Exodus 1: 15-21.*

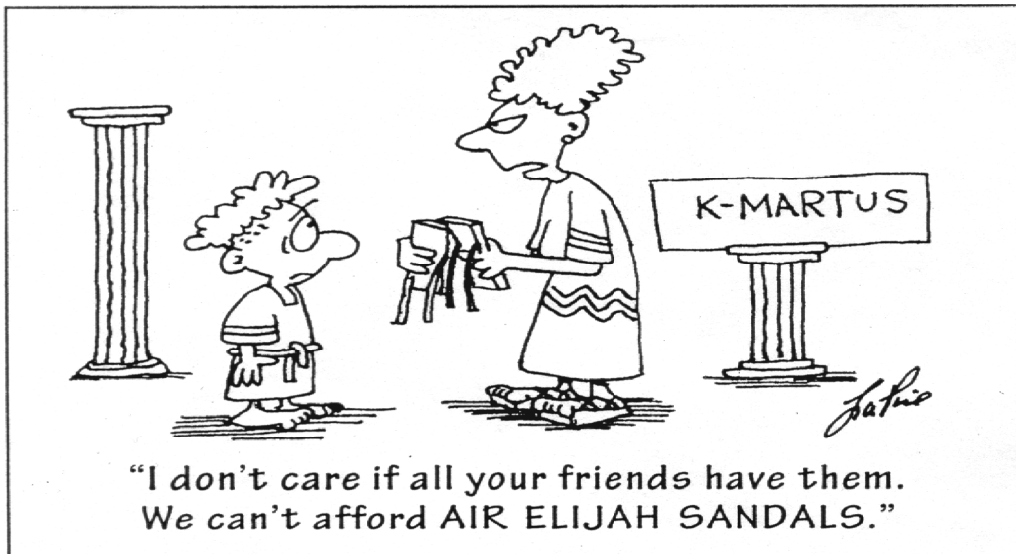




*Sent with a prayer to:*



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



## **Lent is almost here**

This year, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17th. Lent has been observed by Christians since the fourth century. It is a time of reflection, penitence and spiritual renewal before Easter. Lent ends at midnight on Holy Saturday, the night before Easter Sunday.

During Lent some Christians focus on giving up something. Is it absolutely necessary for the observation of Lent to give up a delicacy or a bad habit or an hour of sleep in order to pray? Who can truly say? What one does during the Lenten period should be a matter between a Christian and God. Some may decide to do something extra for their spiritual growth. Others may indeed "give up" something that's a hindrance to the spiritual life. Some may make a special sacrifice of some sort. And some may decide to improve their communication and fellowship with God by having special times of prayer throughout the day, or vow to worship in the church at every service held.

The important thing is to make Lent a special time, a memorable time. A time so meaningful that it sets the tone for the rest of the entire year. At the very least it should be a time of sincere spiritual growth.