



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 - February, 1998

FEBRUARY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

Lay Assistant: Justin Welch
Ushers: Julie Newsom & Nick Griffo
Greeters: Art & Marge Van Lare
Acolytes: Ashley Welch
Dustin Newsom

YOUTH SCRIPTURE READERS:

February 1: Dustin Newsom
February 8: Audra Long
February 15: Michael Hughes
February 22: Ashley Welch

MEETINGS IN FEBRUARY:

Feb. 22, 3:30PM Administrative Council, for planning the April Revival.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL NEWS

Worship Committee: We are currently (and always) looking for volunteers or willing participants in our worship services. Have you noticed how joyfully the acolytes and youth scripture readers perform their duties. Where have we lost that enthusiasm as we grow older? Let's show our new members how easy and meaningful it is to participate in our worship services. Please help us serve the Lord as cheerfully as the children do by being a greeter, usher or lay assistant for a month in '98. You can even volunteer your spouse or other family member and I'll take the heat and act like it was my idea! Thanks for your help.

Bonnie Hughes, 384-2818

Financial Secretary: Total receipts for January are \$2,676.70. To meet our monthly budget expenses we need \$3,649.58

Board of Trustees: A new vacuum sweeper has been purchased for use in the sanctuary and education building. Also the Xerox machine has been repaired and Xerox supplies replenished. Sufficient shelving will soon be purchased to

organize food items in the food pantry to be located in the church basement.

Pastor Parish Relations: The committee has recommended to the Conference that Pastor Dave be retained for 1998-99. The church profile was also updated. A strong recommendation was made to members of the congregation to take more responsibility for various church meetings and not involve our Pastor routinely. Fewer meetings that require Pastor Dave's presence would give him more time to attend to the spiritual needs of the church.

Education Committee: Plans are being made to have a children's music program at least once a month during the worship service. Although summer seems a long way off, plans need to begin if we would like to send children to summer church camp this year. Church school attendance was high Sept. through Dec. Church school teachers through April are as follows: Cheryl Darnell, Kelly Darnell, Chris Rogers, Susan Wilson, Kerry Alfonso, Renee Richards, Lacy Daniel, Angela Creamer and Peggy Blackwell.

Pastor: Rev. John M. Barrett, general evangelist with On The Rock Ministries, has been re-scheduled for April 18-22. ON THE ROCK MINISTRIES believes that each person in the Church family has certain gifts and graces with which to expand and enhance the ministry of the local church. Prior to Rev. Barrett's visit we will need prayer time and preparation time so we may received the maximum benefit from this visitation.

On March 26-29th, Dave and Peggy Blackwell will be serving on the Walk to Emmaus at Singing Hills. Pastor Dave hopes to be able to come back for church services on March 29th. Pastor Dave has been asked to serve on the Family Life Committee of the Torrance County Health Council. The health council will meet one day a month in the church education building.

F E B R U A R Y



Cards, letters, cartoons etc. would be greatly appreciated by:



Joshua Hall
NMMI #0976
Roswell, NM 88201-5173

MUCH MORE

Matthew 6:30: "If that is how God clothes the grass of the field... will He not much more clothe you?"

If you don't understand that saying of our Lord's, is it because it is too simple? Is it because you have complicated your life with other things beside the basics of Christ's life for you?

Oswald Chambers says, "Every time we have gone back (backslid) in spiritual communion it has been because we have impertinently known better than Jesus Christ."

Recognizing the simplicity of Jesus' care for you and the simple response He wants from you will require a release by you from the world's cares and an acceptance of the Holy Spirit to perpetually dwell with in your heart. Simply, He wants to give you His goodness.

"Behold the birds of the air..." (v. 25). They obey the principles of life and God looks after them. If you are rightly related to Him and put nothing else before Him, He will look after your feathers and your nest. "Consider the lilies of the field..." (v. 28). They grow where they are put. Do we? If not, we have our roots nowhere.

Jesus says that if we obey the life God has given us, He will look after the other things. Do you believe that? Or, is Jesus telling you lies? Or, maybe you can't imagine the Lord knowing anything about your troubles or what you need? We tend to think those things and ask those questions when we are tied up in the world's way.

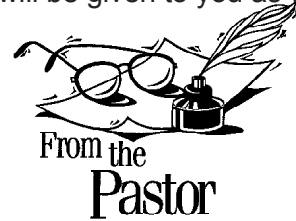
"Take no thought about your life..." (v. 25). Our Lord wants us to be careful in only one thing, our relationship to Him. Common sense says that is absurd, that you must consider how you will eat and drink. Jesus says "You must not"! He knows our circumstances better than we do, and He says that we must not think about these so as to make them the concern of our lives. Our God is a jealous God. When we put his creation above Him, there will be consequences to pay that no increase in wealth is going to cover.

"Be anxious for nothing..." (v. 34). Jesus said it. How we are with God's gifts tells Him about our belief in Him.

Keep your mind on the "much more" of God.

What do you need to release in order for God to give you His "much more?"

"Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." Matthew 6:33



After a long afternoon and evening of committee meetings in Mountainair and here in Estancia, I went home on the night of January 18th feeling very loved and affirmed. I didn't seek compliments, nor did I expect those feelings to occur after the meetings. But, they did.

I remember going to bed that night thinking that if I am supported, cared for and loved that much by the people God has called me to serve, then Jesus must really love me. No matter how good it feels to be accepted by the people you are here to serve God with, there is no greater love than His.

Then, I thought, wouldn't it be great if everybody knew and felt what I was feeling right then? To really know how much God truly loves you is the balm for our souls. Regardless of my faults, errors, sins and all, I receive God's love through so many of you. I don't deserve it. None of us really do. It's God's grace that gives love, true permanent love, to us.

Realizing this, I will strive my best to help you gain the knowledge of His great love for you. Not gain His love, because you can't. You already have it. But, gain that knowledge that He loves you so much that there isn't anything He wouldn't do for you to have a permanent relationship with Him.

I want you to have that great feeling of loving security from Him, too. It is the beginning of spiritual rejuvenation, the knowledge that there is not anything you and He can't do together in His will.

Let us in all our time together, worship and praise God, drink in His unconditional love through Christ, and reflect Him to each other. Be His love to the church, and you will know that which I knew on January 18.

DATES TO REMEMBER

February 22, at 5:30 PM

A potluck social is scheduled for Sunday, February 22,

at 5:30 in the Education Building. This is NOT a fund raiser. It's a time for us to meet our newer families and to get re-acquainted with each other. Bring a covered dish (with food in it), a salad, or a dessert. We'll supply the rest. Please come. Eat, greet, and meet in fellowship with us. with food and fun in your church.

February 24, at 7:00 PM

Lenten class starts on Tuesday night, Feb. 24, 7:00, in the Education Bldg. Books will be \$4.00 each. These classes are informal, discussion oriented. Clear your calendars for God for 1 1/2 hours, come and be fed good spiritual food, and get your hearts, minds, and souls prepared for the reaffirming knowledge that you are Easter people. Besides, Pastor Dave says it's one of the few times he gets to teach and learn from you, so please come!!

February 25, at 7:00 PM

Ash Wednesday service, February 25, 7:00 p.m. This is a service that reminds us of our mortality compared with Christ's eternal humility to be incarnate for us on His way to being sacrificed for our eternity. Please give this time in worship and thanksgiving to Him for His promise of eternal life for us.

Pastor Dave

Pastor Dave's Schedule:

- Mon.** - 8 a.m. - 6 p.m., Estancia (Business & Visitation)
- Tues.** - 8 a.m. - 1 p.m., Estancia (Business & Visitation)
2 p.m. - 6 p.m., Mtair (Business & Visitation)
- Wed.** - 8 a.m. - 6 p.m., STUDY DAY - emergency calls only please.
- Thurs.** - 8 a.m. - 3 p.m., Travel Day, Albuq. and/or Mtair
3 p.m. - 6 p.m., Estancia, (Business & Visitation)
- Fri.** - OFF DUTY
- Sat.** - 8 a.m. - Noon, Estancia, (Business & Visitation)
Noon - 6 p.m., PREPARATION TIME
- Sunday** - If no church meetings in p.m. - OFF DUTY

10 Love-mandments for the Church

The following are needed in order for the church to be the bride of Christ, to be a shining light for God's love:

1. **Purity** in the people. A repentant people seeking daily cleansing from the sins of the world.
2. **Hunger for the Word.** A need to get into Scripture and live the Gospel is essential for our hearts and souls.
3. **Prayer with each other.** Corporate prayer is the most powerful voice God can ever hear.
4. **Prayer for the pastor.** Leadership needs sustenance; devoted prayer for the pastor keeps him/her ongoing.
5. **Willingness to be led.** The flock must want to stay in

the light of the Lord in the sanctuary and out.

6. **Use of spiritual gifts.** God gave us talents to be used to reflect His Son love to each other and the world.
7. **Outreach to the needy.** Jesus said, "Go." The world is hungry and angry. Take Him with you to feed and love.
8. **Attitude of gratitude.** Giving our time, talent, and treasure pleases God and supplies the church to minister.
9. **Courage to move forward.** God's promise is hope for us. Learn from the past, look toward His future.
10. **Rejoice in faith!** There should be no such thing as a joyless Christian. The battle is won, our God loves us, He is true, and our eternity is set. Rejoice! His glory awaits you!

"How long are you going to waver between two opinions? . . . If the Lord is God, follow him!"

1 KINGS 18:21 TLB

Elijah challenged the people to take a stand—to follow whoever was the true God. Why did so many people waver between the two choices? Perhaps some were not sure. Many, however, knew that the Lord was God, but they enjoyed the sinful pleasures and other benefits that came with following Ahab in his idolatrous worship. It is important to take a stand for the Lord. If we just drift along with whatever is pleasant and easy, we will someday discover that we have been worshipping false gods—ourselves.

Don't drift along with whatever is easy; take a stand for God.

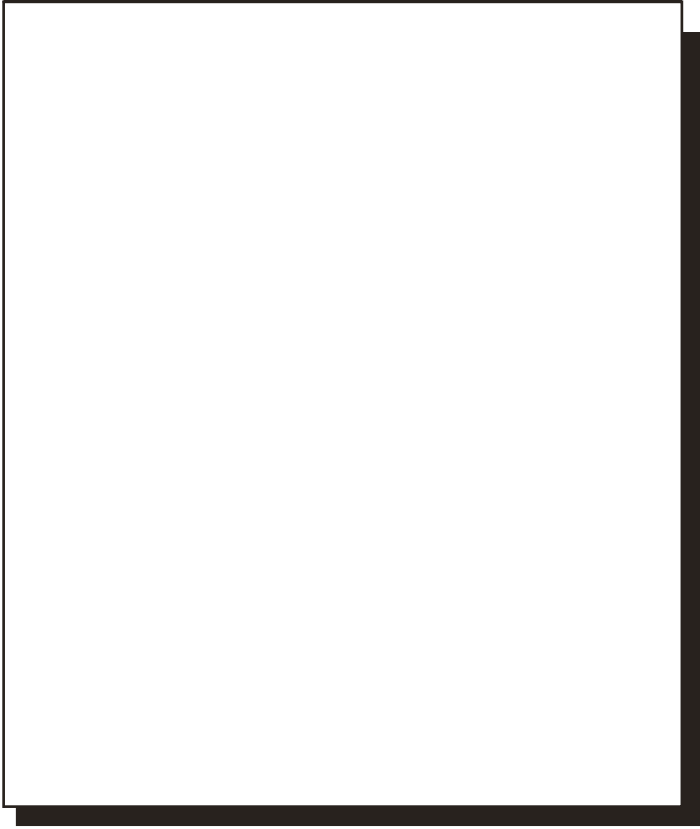
An Autobiography in Five Short Paragraphs

Portia Nelson

1. I walk down the street. There is a deep hole in the sidewalk. I fall in. I am lost. I am helpless. It isn't my fault. It takes forever to find a way out.
2. I walk down the street. There is a deep hole in the sidewalk. I pretend I don't see it. I fall in. I can't believe I'm in the same place, but it isn't my fault. It still takes a long time to get out.
3. I walk down the street. There is a deep hole in the sidewalk. I see it is there. I still fall in.. It's a habit. My eyes are open. I know where I am. It is my fault. I get out

Blessed is the person who is too busy to worry in the daytime, and too sleepy to worry at night.

Leo Aikman



immediately.

4. I walk down the street. There is a deep hole in the sidewalk. I walk around it.

5. I walk down a different street.

JANUARY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE:

4th--62, 11th--68, 18th--52, 25th--48

Average attendance = 57