



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 - July, 1998



JULY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

Lay Assistant: John Hughes
Ushers: Julie Newsom & Nick Griffio
Greeters: Barbara and Bill Simms
Acolytes: Katie Rogers

YOUTH SCRIPTURE READERS FOR JULY:

July 5: To be announced.
July 12: To be announced.
July 19: To be announced.
July 26: To be announced.

JULY MEETINGS:

Vacation Bible School

July 6 - 10: Vacation Bible School will be held in conjunction with the First Baptist Church of Estancia from July 6-10. There are plenty of opportunities to help. Whatever you do brings a little one closer to Christ, closer to you, and you closer to Christ. Working and serving together for the good of our young-uns is not only a commission of His but an opportunity. Julieanne Welch will be calling you to help. Please devote yourself graciously and thankfully. You will be blessed.



Coming up in the early fall will be nominations to serve on church committees. At this point we will be needing help in the following areas:

Trustees(2)--help to oversee maintenance of church buildings and grounds.

Care and Outreachincluding chair person--coordinates communications, cards and gifts to shut-ins, those who are ill, and those in need of encouragement.

Worship Committeeincluding chair person--

coordinates special worship services, implements special programs, and coordinates worship assistants.

Pastor Parish Committee(need 1 more)--works as liaison for congregation concerns and in advisory capacity with pastor with regard to vocational and personal issues; also responsible for evaluating current pastor and advising for new pastor should that be a concern.

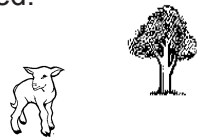
Nursery coordinatoroversees care and program for our littlest angels.

Youth coordinatoroversees and helps to implement programs for our older-little angels.

Sunday school teachersfor children. There may be other openings soon.

Don't let lack of experience or plenty of past experience be a stumbling block. Christ's Church is to glorify God by using the gifts He gave us and developing those interests we have for Him. Servant leadership is one way we lay up treasures in heaven for Him and us. Pray. Consider. Pray some more. When you hear His call, know He will be with you as you obey Him in service, word and deed.

FROM THE PASTOR'S PASTURE



Well, it's about time for your pastor to go back to school in Kansas City. Some of you may have thought that I had already departed, but no, the first day of school is on July 13.

I have to confess that I do not look forward to going, but it is required because of my Local Pastor status, and the fact that the District Committee and the Board of Ordained Ministry would frown on me playing hooky. I am anticipating this to be the roughest and most challenging summer of classes since I've been attending St. Paul's. If I am correct in my prognostication

(prophesy?), then this summer will match the year of '98 as being the most challenging I've had in vocational ministry thus far.

At the end of 1997, I broadcast to the Administrative Council and to others that I was on a mission to increase the spirituality of this church. Since then, there have been more special services including services of healing. Eleven people have gone on Walks to Emmaus. We had a four day spiritual revival led by Rev. John Barrett. And Prayer Partners began. Through it all I have observed many folks coming closer to Christ. But there has also been some discouraging comments and behavior from others.

When former District Superintendent Mark Dorff asked me in 1995 to be the pastor of this charge, he told me what was needed: visibility on the pastor's part in the community, laity involvement, spiritual growth and energy, increased attendance, and renewed attention to paying apportionments. My personal assessment is that other than not so high visibility at times, the other items have at least improved over the last three years. But, there is still work to do--for all of us.

I have been re-appointed to be your servant leader again through at least May of 1999. At this last Annual Conference, laity and clergy alike were told that we need to take responsibility towards making disciples, bringing the ones who are here closer to Christ, and bringing Christ to ones who do not know Him well or at all.

My point for you to ponder now and for us to discuss when I arrive back from Kansas City, Lord willing, is this: if my drive to feed the souls of this church has created some consternation with regard to time, money, resources, and talent (all of which God graciously gave us in spite of our shortcomings), how will we do what Christ has called us to do, to bring His Word and to go and make disciples for Him?

I expect an accentuated effort to provide for ways to expand our spirituality towards unity with God's way and to bring His word to others may meet with increased opposition. Stories from spiritual leaders from way back justify this expectation. Jesus was crucified for the very same reason. I am obviously not Jesus, although some have called me on the carpet for not being perfect. But my promise is to continue to provide opportunities for you to get closer to Christ and to provide times of thanksgiving for the challenges He presents so that we may learn to rely entirely upon Him. Your response is your responsibility, just as His salvation of you and His love for you is yours to have unless you decide not to take it.

I will continue to push for Sunday school for children, not just on Monday, but for Sunday as well. I will

continue to call on adults, especially the leaders to be more visible in church, in Bible Study, and in the community for Christ.

Let us remember who we will ultimately answer to. Saying that we are Christians won't be enough. Attending church even more than occasionally won't be enough. What will be enough is to rely on Him and Him only to provide us with what we need and then use it so that others will come to know Him for His glory, not ours. What will be enough is for us to put Christ FIRST in our priorities of life, and believe that He will abundantly take care of the rest of our needs

The world will tell you otherwise. The world does not have Christ, nor does it have keys to eternal happiness and peace in Christ's kingdom. That's why Christ and the world needs us. That's why we need Him. That's why we need each other in Him--even in the summer!

Your prayers for my family and me are coveted while I am gone. Cards and cookies will also be appreciated.

Rev. Dave Blackwell, Year 4, @ Rockhurst
St. Paul School of Theology
Course of Study School
5123 Truman Road
Kansas City, MO 64127

I'll pray for you, too. Receive God's blessings.

Pastor Dave

GREAT PICNIC!



Thank you to all who contributed so much toward the community picnic for our church. Over \$550 was raised!!

More fund raisers will be occurring during the summer and fall to help us meet our apportionment commitments. Please help with your time, talent and gifts. For not only do our fund raisers help to fulfill our commitments, they are excellent ways to reach others for Christ and bring them to church.

GOING SHOPPING THIS SUMMER???

Please don't "buy in" to these concepts:

1. Church attendance just does go down in the summer.
2. The church doesn't need me to help--it's summer
3. We're too busy after vacation to go to church.
4. My guests usually (never?) go to church.



Sent with a prayer to:



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

Great Picnic!

Good Food!

Good Turnout!

Successful Fundraiser!

