



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



**Dave Blackwell, Pastor**

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

# MARCH MARCH 2000

## SUNDAY SERVANTS FOR MARCH

### WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

**Lay Assist:** Christopher Hughes  
**Acolytes:** Belynn Sharp & Erinmarie Blackwell  
**Ushers:** Bonnie Thomas & Nancy Oberg  
**Greeters:** Nick & Julie Griffo  
**Scripture Readers:**  
**Mar. 5:** Miranda Gomez  
**Mar. 12:** Brian Wilson  
**Mar. 19:** Jessica Gorum  
**Mar. 26:** Catherine Gomez

### NURSERY VOLUNTEERS AT WORSHIP SERVICE

**Mar. 5:** Ashley Welch  
**Mar. 12:** Renea Calhoon & Miranda Gomez  
**Mar. 19:** Margaret & Catherine Gomez  
**Mar. 26:** Jessica Gorum

### ALTAR FLOWERS

**Mar. 5:** Corliss family, in memory of Herbert Riley.  
**Mar. 12:**  
**Mar. 19:** Ann Smythe-Coons, in memory of her son, Lincoln.  
**Mar. 26:** Alma Wimsatt, in memory of Roy.

## SUNDAY SERVANTS FOR APRIL

### WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

**Lay Assist:** Leah Jo Hughes  
**Acolytes:** Rose Daniel & Erinmarie Blackwell  
**Ushers:** Julieanne Welch & Susan Wilson  
**Greeters:** Waynette and Larry Burnett  
**Scripture Readers:**  
**Apr. 2:** Belynn Sharp  
**Apr. 9:** Jessica Gorum  
**Apr. 16:** Nicholas Gomez  
**EASTER:** Riane Stinnett  
**Apr. 30:** Rose E. Daniel

### NURSERY VOLUNTEERS AT WORSHIP SERVICE

**Apr. 2:** Riane Stinnett  
**Apr. 9:** Alice Daniel  
**Apr. 16:** Jessica Gorum  
**EASTER:** Nicholas Gomez  
**Apr. 30:** Margaret Gomez & Ashley Welch

### ALTAR FLOWERS

**Apr. 2:** Marilyn Seddon  
**Apr. 9:** Mary Hemke in honor of her parents' 40th anniversary.  
**Apr. 16:** Barbara and Bill Simms  
**EASTER:** Larry & Waynette Burnett  
**Apr. 30:**

### CHURCH WORKDAYS:

**March 26, April 2, April 16** (if needed).  
There is a lot of clean-up and fix-up to do in and on the church property and buildings, and we have several weekends prior to Easter to improve our property's appearance.

The Trustees are the coordinators of the work days and the ones held responsible for the general upkeep of the plant. But, like any other committee, they need the help of the ones who will benefit from the work.



**OUR CHURCH AT WORK**

**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.

Will you please put the work days on your calendar and lend your time and energy, tools and heart for a church that everybody is proud to have in the community?

Thank you!

**SOME CALENDAR BIZ....**

On Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., the Bible Study, The Crosswalk, begins on March 9 and continues through April 20, Maundy Thursday. This study is designed to help us focus on the meaning of Lent and Our Lord Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. If you have not come to a class but wanted to attend, come anyway because you haven't missed much and this is a good way to become prepared for Easter. We would love to have you with us. The book is only \$5.00 and the atmosphere is very casual.

Starting on Wednesday April 5: Confirmation classes will begin April 5. Pastor Dave will teach various Bible lessons and Methodist principles to youth from 5th through 8th grades who have not been confirmed. Classes will start at 3:30 and last until 4:45 every Wednesday afternoon for 7 weeks. The book fee is \$12.

There will be small homework assignments. We need parents or guardians to help with the responsibility of transportation from school to the Education Bldg, and, of course, for taking their youngsters home.

The April 5 date is a change from last month's newsletter. Wednesday seems to be the best weekday for church activities and lessons.

Letters of invitation and phone calls will be made this month to those who are eligible to be confirmed in the church. A confirmation service will follow in May.

We are also in need of adults who will be in charge of background work such as snacks, appropriating funds for Bibles, gifts (secret brothers and sisters?), and maybe a dinner. This is a big event for our church's children and any who help will be blessed. Call Pastor Dave for more info.

April 7, 8, 9. (Friday through Sunday): Partners in Ministry seminar in the Education Building. This is a program designed to help increase skills at

March 2000						
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April 2000						
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working in the church cooperatively and spiritually. Twenty "work" hours are expected. The Sunday session will be planned around the worship service. No fee will be charged. Meals will be brought in during some sessions.

Those who are interested in taking this step for the assurance of the church's programs in spirit and in body are urged to let Pastor Dave know as soon as possible because the slots are filling up.

**LENTEN AND EASTER SERVICE SCHEDULE:**

April 9: A women's singing trio, "God's Hand", from Mesa View UMC will be here. They have a beautiful, unique harmony that will bless you.

April 16 is Palm Sunday. The Logos children will be ministering to the congregation with chime-playing..

April 21 is Good Friday. Church will convene at 7:00 p.m. to guide us into spiritual preparation as we think about the sacrifice of Jesus.



April 23 is Easter. The adult choir will be giving a special Cantata to celebrate the risen Christ.

**HISTORIAN'S REPORT**

The Church History Committee consists of Marcella Reynolds, Carolyn Moore and Ethel Floyd. We are working on the History but it is a slow and frustrating job as so much of the history was never written or is lost. At present, the history consists of a lot of loose papers.

If anyone can furnish us with newspaper articles or pictures with persons identified and if you know of former or present members who could furnish us stories and memoirs during their tenure in our church, we would certainly appreciate it. We also need addresses of former members. As soon as we go over the list of former members or persons who attended our church, we will post a list of names for which we need addresses so that they may be contacted. I'm sure you will be able to add additional names to the list.

**Some thank yous to:**

Virginia Ayers. Thank you, Virginia, for faithfully teaching us about how wonderful it is to live in God's grace. Thank you for sharing your life with us and making us all the better for it, and giving us the vision to persevere in our souls when our bodies are weak. When we grow up, we want to be just like you! God's heaven is a little brighter now.

The Trustees for coordinating the workdays and doing a lot of work to get the shed built.

Ethel and Morrow for continuing to persevere with our choirs. They are sounding better all of the time.

# A Special Thanks

**The Sunday School teachers** for your dedication to children's Bible education.

**Roy Daniel and Julie Griffo** for taking time to go to the Logos resource Sunday till 5:30 on 2/25.

**Ronnie Reynolds** for repairing the leak on the kitchen sink.

**Carolyn Moore** for scheduling **Jane Vaughn** of McCurdy School to be our guest speaker on 3/12 while **Pastor Dave** was gone.

The **UMW** for the great meal and hospitality for the Ayers' family.

**And ESPECIALLY TO JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD AND SAVIOR, THE HEAD OF THIS CHURCH!!**

*In Our Thoughts  
& Prayers*



## Pray for these whom Christ loves:

- **The Pope family**
- **Dorothy Baker** (Margaret Gomez' mother)
- **Agatha Garrison** (healing hip)
- **The Ayers family** grieving for Virginia
- **Justin Darnell** (medical)
- **Pat Frost** (cancer)
- **Gary Camplain** (stroke)
- **Naomi Givens** (cancer)
- **Sunday school teachers** and programs
- **The choir** practicing the Cantata
- **Partners in ministry** program.
- And, especially for **Teri Neish** and the **Neish family** as **Teri** is serving **God** as a missionary in **Nicaragua** this month.

## IT SEEMS PRAYER STILL UPSETS SOME PEOPLE.

When Minister Joe Wright was asked to open the new session of the Kansas Senate, everyone was expecting the usual generalities, but this is what they heard:

"Heavenly Father, we come before You today to ask Your forgiveness and to seek Your direction and guidance. We know Your Word says, "Woe to those who call evil good" but that is exactly what we have done.

We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and reversed our values.

We confess that we have ridiculed the absolute truth of Your Word and called it Pluralism; We have worshiped other gods and called it multiculturalism; We have endorsed perversion and called it alternative lifestyle; We have exploited the poor and called it the Lottery; We have rewarded laziness and called it welfare; We have killed our unborn and called it choice; We have shot abortionists and called it justifiable; We have neglected to discipline our children and called it building self-esteem. We have abused power and called it politics; We have coveted our neighbor's possessions and called it ambition; We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression; We have ridiculed the time-honored values of our forefathers and called it enlightenment.

Search us, Oh, God, and know our hearts today; cleanse us from every sin and set us free. Guide and bless these men and women who have been sent to direct us to the center of Your will. We ask it in the name of Your Son, the living Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen"

The response was immediate. A number of legislators walked out during the prayer in protest. In 6 short weeks, Central Christian Church, where Rev. Wright is pastor' logged more than 5,000 phone calls with only 47 of those calls responding negatively. The church is now receiving international requests for copies of this prayer from India, Africa, and Korea.

Commentator Paul Harvey aired this prayer on "The Rest of the Story" on the radio and received a larger response to this program than any other he had ever aired. With the Lord's help, may this prayer sweep over our nation and wholeheartedly become our desire so that we again can be called one nation under God.

If possible, please pass this prayer on to your friends. "If you don't stand for something, you'll fall for everything."



*Sent with a prayer to:*

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



**Thank You, Ethyl for Wearing Several HATS!!**

**Chairman of the Administrative Council** – leads the Ad. Council, the executive agency which oversees administration and programs, carrying out programs so people are received, nurtured and supported as they seek to live as Christian disciples. **Ethel** is also a member of the Finance Committee.

**Chairman of Historical Committee** – keeps records of the members, servants, and events of this particular church body for the edification of future generations. AND, this committee is working on the upcoming 100th anniversary celebration of Estancia United Methodist Church in the year 2005.

And last, but not least, **Ethel** has stepped in to **lead the adult choir**. They will present an Easter cantata . So you see, **Ethel** is a busy person in our Church.

## FEEDING SOULS AND EDUCATING MINDS

I don't know of another small church such as Estancia UMC where children after worship time may receive training in choral singing, attend age-appropriate Sunday school, and be home by noon. How fortunate are our children?!

Then, there are the kiddos and teens. If you have had the opportunity to study and play with them, you will know what I mean when I say we adults are the ones who are blessed and taught. This is an extraordinarily wonderful group of young people who have intelligence and insight beyond their years.

But, they need some more teachers to spend a little time with them and to stay till 11:30 for their caring, nurturing, and acceptance. They need us parents to direct them to stay a little longer. These are our kids' souls and minds we are entrusted with, not to be casually given permission to bypass opportunities to learn about God's love. This is education far beyond the world that our kids will need to be spiritually equipped to take on the world as Christ's professed disciples. Please make an investment of time for our children. We do not have anything as valuable here in this world, and we have nothing better to give them than our time in and with Christ.

One of the ways that I have had for supporting Sunday School is to have an adult Bible study for the parents (and other adults) while the kids are in their classes. It starts at 10:30-10:45ish. We're done by 11:30. There are no books, no professors of theology, and no previous expectations of your knowledge. In fact, you can tear into me and my sermon. That's the study: the content of my sermon and supportive topics that I have found. The classes have good discussion, disclosure and a time for prayer in a very supportive environment. Venture to break the habit of getting home right after worship, and give God some time to nurture His most valuable~possession. You!

Call me with your comments, concerns, and ideas. I'll be glad to listen.

## LOGOS NEWS

Whew! Can you believe it? After the school spring break, there are only two more Wednesday's left of Logos! And what a year. The times of success have far outweighed the times of "OOPS." Children of all ages have come closer to Christ, learned about Him and each other in study, worship, and fellowship. Parents and grandparents, folks from this church and other churches have learned to appreciate, commune, and celebrate with each other. Yes, there have been struggles, lost expectations, and occasional lacks of communication that bent some feelings. But, we also learned about forgiveness and compassion, lessons Christ put at the top of His list next to salvation.

After attending a Logos workshop on February 25 with representatives from churches in Albuquerque, Las Cruces, and others from northern New Mexico, I have no doubt that our Logos program is the most economically unique and the highest attended of any of the other churches!

When I mentioned that our attendance was down in the spring to about 35, they asked, "That's down? How many were there last fall?" When I told them that we had as many as 55, they were in stunned and in awe of US! Churches five to ten times as large as ours have 25 kids or less on Wednesdays. Only two or three teens attend; they were shocked when I said we can count on at least eight in attendance, with ten not being a surprise. Wouldn't they have been shocked to see the 15 teens in attendance on March 1?

Other churches charge as much as \$80 a semester per child. They couldn't believe it when I said we charge \$55 a child for the year and reduce the cost for families so that no one has to pay more than \$130 a year, and that people contributed towards scholarships.

"How can you do that? How did you start?", some asked. I said we started with nothing but prayer, vision, and a little anger at me for pushing. We held the children in our eye, God in our heart, faith in our Lord, and hunger in our gizzards. We applied for and received a gracious award from Bishop Norris, and we're going to apply again. We held breakfasts and skits, had many meetings, linked up with the Roadrunner food program, and let the Spirit fly.

*Pastor Dan*

Funny, I went there to learn from them. But, I did learn: keep praying, keep faithing, keep working. Our children are worth it. In God, so are we.

## **ACTIONS THAT TAKE COURAGE:**

*Admitting you are wrong.*

*Doing what is right when everyone else isn't.*

*Speaking to someone you don't know.*

*Saying "no" when people are trying to get you to do something you know you shouldn't.*

*Telling the truth and accepting the consequences.*

*Standing up for something you believe in even though it might mean rejection or ridicule or even physical harm.*

*Defending someone who is considered unpopular or unacceptable.*

*Facing a limitation and giving it your very best regardless of pain or discomforts.*

*Confronting a fear without running away.*

*Giving sacrificially to protect or promote either someone you love, someone who has been wronged, or someone who is in need.*

*Being the only one.*

*Taking a risk.*

*Sharing your heart honestly (including your feelings and fears and failures).*

*Living your faith with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength regardless of the cost.*