



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 - March, 1998

FEBRUARY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

Lay Assistants:

- 3/1--John Hughes
- 3/8--Corinne McNatt
- 3/15--Letty Wood
- 3/22--Ethel Floyd
- 3/29--Tish McMichael

(It takes 5 people to help watch out for Pastor Dave's mess-ups??)

Ushers: Jill Rogers & Justin Darnell

Greeters: Jeff & Kathy Gorum

Acolytes: Annie Garner & Audra Long

YOUTH SCRIPTURE READERS:

- March 1: Jacque Creamer
- March 8: Christopher Hughes
- March 15: Katie Rogers
- March 22: Justin Welch
- March 29: Megan Bird

MEETINGS IN FEBRUARY:

- Mon., Mar. 2: Prayer Partners, 6:30 PM
- Sun., Mar. 8: Admin. Council, 5:00 PM

Pastor Dave's out-of-town schedule for

Special Events:

March 12-14 in Albuquerque for training in "Partners in Ministry" program.

March 26-29 at Singing Hills (north of Edgewood) for Women's Walk to Emmaus event. Peggy Blackwell and Sue Hughes will be there, too. Pastor Dave is planning to preach on Sunday the 29th, and then go back to Singing Hills for conclusion of the event.

FEBRUARY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

1st--57; 8th--62; 15th--53; 22nd--56
Average attendance = 57

WELCOME TO OUR RECENT VISITORS:

Mike and Renee Calhoun, and their daughter Caitlyn.
Xiomara Alfonso, and her daughter Angie.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL NEWS

The meeting this month was devoted to organization for the up-coming revival on April 18 through April 22 with Dr. John M. Barrett.

There will be a general theme around which the sermons, talks, sessions and/or classes will be centered. The most important aspect of this event for our church is prayer. We especially need to keep Dr. Barrett in our prayers. Publicity and promotion will be headed by Bonnie Hughes. We hope to contact all local groups and organizations as well as radio stations and newspapers. The idea is to get the word out! One evening will be designated as "Community Service Appreciation Night" - we will recognize people in our community upon whom we rely and have this chance to say, "thanks". The children's program will be handled by the Education Committee. Carolyn Moore will be in charge of hospitality and lodging for Dr. Barrett. Linda McConkey will handle the light refreshments served after each service as well as on Sunday morning, April 19. Susan Wilson will coordinate the music and worship portion. Kimber Sanchez will make arrangements for nursery attendants. We need everyone's help to make this time a success - when your phone rings, please say, "YES, I will"!

PARENTS!! LEAVE YOUR CHILDREN...

at Sunday School after the worship service and come to the Bible studies in the Education Building or in the Parsonage. It's your opportunity to talk, share, and learn.

CHURCH IN THE COMMUNITY... COMMUNITY IN THE CHURCH...

Did you know?? The Education Building on the church grounds is a meeting place for:

Rotary Club,
Alcoholics Anonymous,



Driver's Ed for Adults,
Torrance County Health Council,
Youth Baseball field planning.

And it has been used for
Head Start meetings,
A Head Start Thanksgiving lunch,
2 wedding receptions.

"Are you lonely tonight? Are you lonely tonight?...."

A great way to beat the "lonelies" and feel God's love through His word and fellowship is to attend the Lenten class which continues on Tuesdays from from 7:00-8:30 p.m., in the Educ. Bldg. Books are \$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 let your hearts, minds, and souls prepared for the reaffirming knowledge that **you are Easter people!** Besides, it's one of the few times I get to teach and learn from you, so please come!!

Pastor Dave

One Great Hour of Sharing

On Sunday, March 15 we will be taking an offering in which all United Methodist

Churches participate, "The 1

Great Hour of Sharing." This

offering is used to support the work of the United Methodist

Committee on Relief UMCOR), which is responsible for organizing our denominations response

disaster relief all over the world. It also organizes famine relief efforts.

Please consider giving beyond your

normal tithes or

this very

offerings to assist in this important relief effort.

Thank you.

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Flossie Elliott--God's mercy. and her granddaughter, Nancy Stuart--patience and health.

Rachel Palmer--health.

Agatha Garrison--health.

Kenneth Moore--health/chemo.

Brandon York--health/seizures.

The Mariner family--in mourning.

Ina Artman--health.

Kathy Martinez--health.

Vera Bass--health.

Jill Rogers and Justin Darnell--protection during Sr. year at school

The John Byrne family--in mourning.

Cindi Howe--spiritual and physical health.

Our Bishop and Dist. Supt's--preparing for pastoral appointments

Our local and national leaders--Morality, Iraq.

Christ's body here at EUMC--commitment to Him.

Christ's body at MUMC--commitment to Him.

Our church leaders--servant and sacrificial leadership.

Pastor Dave--health, boldness compassion, energy, submission.

The new kids group--on fire for the Lord.

Our Sunday school teachers--compassion and creativity.

The confirmands--protection from spiritual attack.

The continuation of our new Prayer Partners group.

"On The Rock Ministries" and Rev. John Barrett for a successful mission and revival here, Apr. 18-22.

A pre-school Sunday School teacher or teachers for our littlest ones right after church.



From Pastor Dave:

How have your New Year's resolutions been going? How has your commitment to Christ progressed. Don't get discouraged if your answer is, "Not very well." Keep listening. Keep praying. Re-commit yourself to worshipping God in church every Sunday and being in prayer with Him every day.

Stay away from the 7 deadly snails (sins). Don't be like the dead frogs in the hot water or the potholes. Don't be like the ox playing sick to the farmer.

For those of you who have no idea what the deal is regarding snails, frogs, and an ox, they were topics of conversation on Sunday mornings at Estancia United Methodist Church, open every Sunday morning from 9-11. Come see. You may be surprised!

Upcoming sermons:

March 8 "The Cruellest Cut of All"

March 15 "Christmas Cards"



In the future:

- "The Glory of our Weakness"
- "In the Fire"
- "Briefing for a Mission"
- "Wasting Your Life on Jesus"
- "WWJD" (What Would Jesus Do?)
- "The Onlys"
- "Growing Pains"

God Bless you!

Rev. Dave Blackwell, pastor
 Estancia United Methodist Church
 P.O. Box 378
 Estancia, NM 87016
 384-2710 or 384-5215

KIDS IN THE HOUSE...

The children of our church are meeting in the Education Building every Monday after school for a program of singing/rehearsing for a 5 week Lenten mini-series to be shown every Sunday during the worship services. They will also be learning how to make banners and will have other activities.



Lori Lamb is their fearless leader. Julieanne Welch and Julie Newsom are working with the kids on their Lenten play and music. Many other "moms" have helped to contribute their time and energy for planning, preparing the snacks, and organizing games: Chris Rogers, Lacy Daniel, Ina Artman, Angela Creamer, Renee Richards, and Susan Wilson. Thanks to all of you!! Also thanks to Morrow Hall for his musical help!!

All of our children are invited to come from 3:00 to 4:30 every Monday and learn about God's love in a great, fun way.



GROWING IN THEIR FAITH...

The confirmands this year: Leah Jo Hughes, Michael Hughes, Amy Lamb, and Ashley Welch have met twice with Pastor Dave so far this spring. The classes have been great! Confirmands and teacher have learned a lot.

The confirmation ceremony will be on Mother's Day, May 10. Get to church early for a seat!!

Pastor Dave selected???

Each District Superintendent (there are 4) of the NM Annual Conference was asked to nominate 3 clergy from their respective Districts for a 2 1/2 day event called "Partners in Ministry" designed to train clergy and laity to

learn to trust each other and to work together toward the building Christ's church and to make disciples of His people. Pastor Dave was one of the three clergy selected, after a hint to our D.S. by Pastor Dave that this would be beneficial for him as a servant leader. Regardless, he will be in Albuquerque from March 12-14 working at gaining skills to be in partnership with the body of Christ for spiritual growth.



So...what is LENT

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (this year, Feb. 25) and continues through the Holy Week (starting on Palm Sunday, April 5) to Easter (April 12). Thus, it is a period of 40 days, not including Sundays. The word "Lent" comes from an old German word which means "Spring" in English.

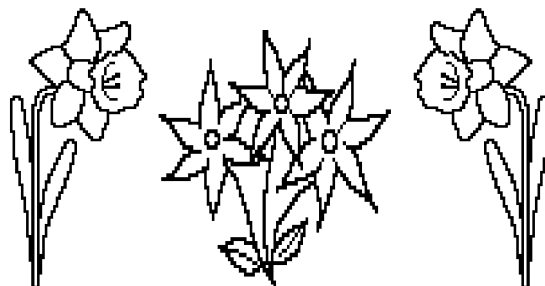
Lent has become a time of spiritual devotion and preparation for remembering the anniversary of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. As we are focusing on the passion and death of Jesus Christ during this time it gives us a sense of what He went through for us prior to His resurrection, and it calls us to examine ourselves as to what we can do in adoration and obedience for Him as part of our growing faith. There are many ways that each of us can grow spiritually during Lent--and other times of the year: praying, fasting, special fellowship and study.

Covenant with God to especially be with Him waiting, watching, and listening to His love and wisdom. Take this time to be part of Spring Renewal, Lent, and be renewed in your hearts and souls for Him and for you.

The Purpose of Emmaus

The coming of the new year is a good time to recall the aim and purpose of The Walk to Emmaus. Stephen Bryant's pamphlet called "What is Emmaus?" indicates four parts to the purpose of Emmaus.

First, the three-day Emmaus course in Christianity aims to move folks into a new understanding of commitment and



discipleship. The purpose of the Walk includes a new look at the meaning of faith, an experience of God's unconditional love, and the resulting eagerness to pass along the excitement of God's love to others.

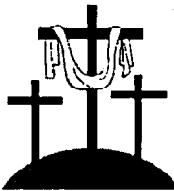
Second, the Emmaus reunion or follow-up groups continue the focus on love and on Christian commitment and action. The groups provide a place for spiritual growth that builds upon the experience of the Walk. These groups provide a means of accountability among people who care about each other.

Third, teams are built to provide the Walk to Emmaus to others. These servant teams provide another place for spiritual growth while contributing the love and excitement to others. Team members learn to share their faith, stay humble in the background, and use their gifts to spread the good news of the Kingdom.

Fourth, Emmaus aims to bring strength, focus, and leadership to the local churches. As Emmaus participants renew their commitment to their own personal faith, they take their message home and act in their church community. Emmaus helps to strengthen faith individually, and to bring this strength and vitality to local church programs.

Don't attack people, attack problems. Instead of focusing on the person with whom you're in conflict, direct your attention toward the problem that is separating you.

Passage: Romans 12:14-16



So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 NLT

As you near the end of a foot race, your legs ache, your throat burns, and your whole body cries out for you to stop. This is when friends and fans are most valuable. Their encouragement helps you push through the pain to the finish. In the same way, Christians are to encourage one another. A word of encouragement offered at the right moment can be the difference between finishing well and collapsing along the way. Be sensitive to another's need for encouragement, and offer supportive words or actions.

Look around you. Who needs an encouraging word from you?

Special dates

- First Sunday in Lent, March 1, 1998
- World Day of Prayer, March 6, 1998
- One Great Hour of Sharing, March 15, 1998

"God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Revelation 7:17 NRSV

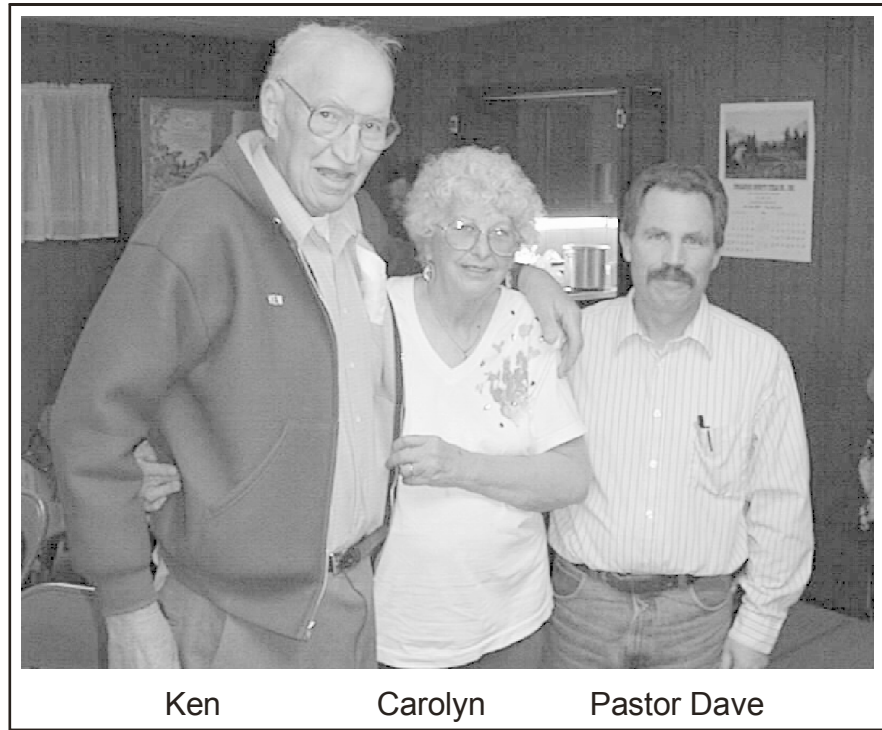
In this passage, all who have been faithful through the ages are singing before God's throne. Their tribulations and sorrows are over: no more tears for sin, for all sins are forgiven; no more tears for suffering, for all suffering is over; no more tears for death, for all believers have been resurrected to die no more.

When times of sorrow burden your life, remember that a day of comfort is ahead.

Potluck Dinner ~ February 22nd



We had a good turnout and an excellent dinner Sunday night - If you weren't there, you missed a good time! See you at the next one!



Ken

Carolyn

Pastor Dave

ADDRESSES & PHONE NUMBERS OF NEW MEMBERS AND VISITORS

Mark and Pam Lambert
P.O. Box 115
McIntosh, NM 87032
228-5914

Tracy E. Hemke & Mary C. Pogue-Hemke
Megan & Jess Bird
P.O. Box 381
McIntosh, NM 87032
384-1163

Mike and Lisa Hughes
Michael, Leah Jo, Chris
P.O. Box 729
Moriarty, NM 87035
384-9662



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