



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



Dave Blackwell, Pastor

*P. O. Box 378, Estancia, NM 87016
Church Office 384-5215
Parsonage 384-2710
email: methods@ix.netcom.com*

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

NOVEMBER 1999

NOVEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Lay Assist: Laura Sanchez
Ushers: Barbara & Bill Simms
Greeters: Susan & Sam Wilson
Acolytes: Brian Wilson and Lindsay Stinnett

DECEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Lay Assist: Kelly Darnell
Ushers: Carolyn Moore and Bonnie Thomas
Greeter: Renee Richards
Acolytes: Jett Sharp and Erinmarie Blackwell

NOV. YOUTH SCRIPTURE READERS

Nov. 7: Paige Deborski
Nov. 14: Nick Gomez
Nov. 21: Riane Stinnett
Nov. 28: Chris Hughes

DEC. YOUTH SCRIPTURE READERS

Dec. 5: Belynn Sharp
Dec. 12: Brian Wilson
Dec. 19: Jett Sharp
Dec. 24: Audra Long
Dec. 26: Lindsay Stinnett

Preparing for Advent

The last Sunday of November will be the first Sunday of Advent, the day we prepare our hearts to remember the Incarnation. Some anonymous poet has a message for us in these words:

There's Christmas in the home and church,
There's Christmas in the mart,
But you'll not know what Christmas is,
Unless it's in your heart!

ADVENT READERS

November 28: The Popes: Shawn & Lynne, Riane & Lindsay Stinnett, with a

little help from Travis

December 5: Melanie Dunn and Paige Deborski

December 12: The Calhoons: Mike and Renea, with some help from Mikayla and Leeann

December 19: The Gomezs: Oscar, Margaret, Christopher, Miranda, Catherine, Nick, and a little help from Georgie

December 24: The Fastnachts: Jason & Leslie with a little help from Jaxon



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.

Church & money; Money & church! OY!
(Please keep reading!)

It is understandable if you are tired of hearing about church monetary issues, specifically the budget, apportionments, tithing, pledges, finance campaigns, etc.

Now, I know you are thinking, "Uh-oh, here we go again," or maybe you're thinking something unprintable for the church newsletter. You may be thinking about trashing this newsletter because of what you suspect. And there may be some of you who are thinking "Yeah!!, more money and budget news." Uh-huh.

I **don't** want to communicate to you now about what we need. I want to congratulate you and thank you for what you've allowed the Holy Spirit to do through you for this church so that ministry, mission, and muscle was increased for Christ.

We've all been in churches where no one wanted to do or to contribute diddly, where "new" was a dirty word, where kids were only to be seen sitting straightly in their pews, and where there was such strict conformity to liturgy and procedure that everyone was afraid to say or do anything. (If you have never been to one of those churches, you have been blessed, but "it" may happen to you.) Granted, not everything new works well and sometimes "new" can be a bust. But trying and missing is not failing. Not trying again is the devil's mischief on discouraged hearts. But that has not been the case at Estancia (Wegobyfaith) U.M.C.

The people who have contributed to the faith-work of this church are too many to list. If you have a recent directory, those are the ones who have served in one or many capacities and in many places they thought they would never serve. You have given and we have received. God has received and He has given. That has been the promise since Abraham and continues to be the promise here. In fact, God gave before we gave, and those who have given in some form as a response to Him reap double blessings. Oh, yeah, there are some thorns on the roses but when we talk about roses, thorns don't seem to be part of the beautiful, vivid picture.

We have a tendency, we-the-church and we-the-humanity, to not be thankful for what has been given. We give more thought about trying to take up the slack for what we need or berate the system that continually calls on us to take up the slack.

The trouble with most of us is that we would rather be ruined by praise than saved by criticism
.....Norman Vincent Peale

So, I want to say "thank you" to God and to you. That's it. Thank you. I want to live a life of thanks and to reflect that thankfulness to God and you. Through your obedience to God you have ministered to more than you know with the time, talent, and treasure He has bestowed upon you.



Thank you. Thank you all.

I pray you have a wonderful, thank-filled, Thanksgiving.

Blessed be His name, and His blessings upon you,
Dave

The Source of it All



Back of the loaf is
the snowy flour,
And back of the
flour the mill,
And back of the
mill is the
wheat and the
shower
And the sun and
the Father's will.

-Maltbie D. Babcock

FROM THE PASTOR'S PRAIRIE--

'He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow.. Mark 4:38.

The incident recorded in Mark 4:35-41 is not an incident in the life of a man but in the life of God incarnate. Jesus had said to the disciples, "Let us cross over to the other side (of the lake)," but when the storm

arose, instead of relying upon Him, they failed Him. The actual circumstances were so crushing that their common sense was up in alarm, their panic carried them from their wits, and in terror they awoke Him. When we are in fear, we can do nothing less than pray to God, but our Lord has the right to expect of those who name His name and have His nature in them to have full confidence in Him. Instead, when we are at our wit's end, we tend to go back to the elementary prayers of those who do not know Him, and prove that we do not have the slightest atom of confidence in Him and in His government of the world. We think, "He is asleep, the boat will crash." We live in nervous dread. **GOD EXPECTS HIS CHILDREN TO BE SO CONFIDENT IN HIM THAT IN A CRISIS THEY ARE THE ONES UPON WHOM HE CAN RELY.** A great point is reached spiritually when we **STOP WORRYING GOD OVER PERSONAL MATTERS OR OVER ANY MATTER.** God expects of us the one thing that glorifies Him--to **REMAIN ABSOLUTELY CONFIDENT IN HIM,** remembering what He has said beforehand about the future and **SURE THAT HIS PURPOSES WILL BE FULFILLED.**

QUESTION: What do you worry about the most? Your job, other people, your family, money, your health?

ANSWER: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." Philippians 4:6

QUESTION: When was the last time you shared your home or meals at Thanksgiving or Christmas with someone who does not have a family or someone who, for whatever reason, might be alone? Do you think you do enough to support people who are alone?

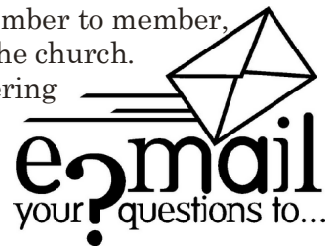
ANSWER: "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world." James 1:27 (See also Deuteronomy 27:19 and Matthew 25:35-46.)

SPEAKING OF EMAIL.....

Some anonymous author made the wise statement that where there is no laughter not much is happening.



Did you know that this church is communicating more and more by email? Not only member to member, but also between members and the church. It saves time, postage and answering machine space. You can send email to **Pastor Dave and Peggy** at: **methods@ix.netcom.com** And you can leave information for the newsletter with **Barbara and Bill Simms** at: **rwsimms@worldnet.att.net**

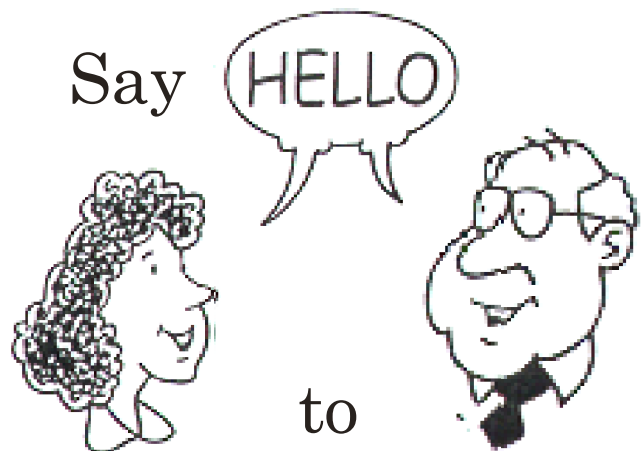


Bill and Barbara will be putting together a list of email addresses for the church. If you have access to email, please email Bill or Barb at: **rwsimms@worldnet.att.net** to have your name added to the list.

Administrative Council News

Some of the best news to come out of the Nov. 7th Ad. Council was from the Logos group. Logos is averaging 50 kids on Wednesday evenings. There are 11 high schoolers- awesome! One week remains in the fall session of a ten week period. There will be another 10 week session in the spring. If you missed attending one of the Logos meetings, you'll still have a chance in 2000! Our hats are off to all the adults and student helpers who helped make this program a reality.

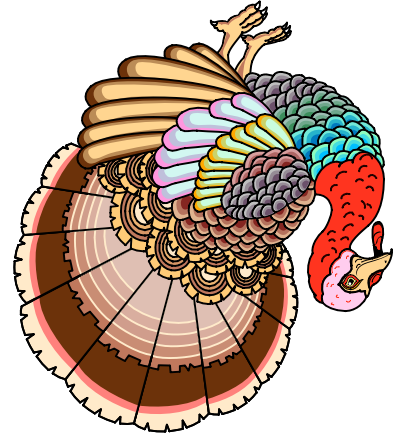
New business included discussion on how to utilize the church's recent \$8,000 estate donation. It was recommended and voted upon to invest \$4,000 in an interest bearing account. It was also decided that several of the major kitchen appliances should be replaced using a portion of the remaining donation. **Alma Wimsatt, Sue Hughes, Carolyn Moore and Mel Stephenson** were appointed by chair person **Ethel Floyd** as the "kitchen committee" to oversee this project. The unused money will be placed in the Board of Trustees fund for repairs and other items needed by the church.



Say HELLO to Someone You Don't Know



Sent with a prayer to:



*Estancia, NM 87016
P. O. Box 378
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-Thank You-

A newly arrived soul in Heaven was met by St. Peter. The saint toured the soul around Heaven. Both of them walked side by side inside a large workroom filled with angels. St. Peter stopped in front of the first section and said, "This is the Receiving Section. Here, all the petitions to God said in prayer are received." The soul looked at the section and it was terribly busy with so many angels sorting out petitions written on voluminous paper sheets from all over the world.

They walked again until they reached the 2nd section. "This is the Packaging and Delivery Section. Here, the graces and blessings asked for are packed and delivered to those who asked for them down on earth." Oh, how busy it was! There were many angels working in that room, since so many blessings were being packed and delivered to earth.

Finally at the farthest corner of the room, the soul stopped, only one angel was there, hardly doing anything. "This is the Acknowledging Section," St. Peter told the soul. "How is it that there is no work here?" St Peter answered, "That's the sad thing. After people receive the blessings they asked for, very few send their acknowledgments."

"How does one acknowledge God's blessings?"

"Simple, "St. Peter answered.

"Just say, *"Thank you, Lord."*