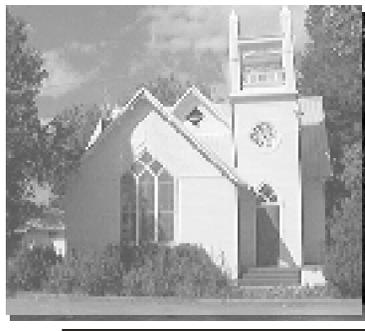




Dave Blackwell, Pastor
P. O. Box 378, Estancia, NM 87016
Church Office 384-5215
Parsonage 384-2710



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

Newsletter - November, 1998



NOVEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

Lay Assistant: Lacy Daniel
Ushers: Shellee Stewart & Marcella Reynolds
Greeters: Cyle & Sharla Sharp
Acolytes: Jett Sharp & Brian Wilson

NOVEMBER YOUTH SCRIPTURE READERS:

To be announced.

NOVEMBER MEETINGS:

Sunday Nov. 1, 6:00 PM: **PPRC**
Sunday Nov. 15, 1:00 PM: **Worship Committee**

PRAYER PARTNERS.

WHAT IS "IT?"
WHO ARE "THEY?"
AND WHY DO WE NEED "IT?"



One year ago, on a Saturday morning, four people from this church and one from the Mountainair church attended a Prayer Partners retreat and training session. The purpose of the training was to develop a high profile praying ministry that would undergird growth and development in the church, help us to pray for ourselves and each other, and to pray for the pastor and pastor's family. The chairperson is Angela Creamer.

Eight people expressed interest in becoming "Prayer Partners."

Six meetings have been called for the Prayer Partners to meet for an hour or a little longer on a week night to go over the concerns and pray for individuals, families, friends, church programs, our children and youth, the community, nation and world, and the pastor/family. Others beside the original eight expressed an interest in this ministry and were called to come and join.

Twice, there have been groups of eight or more. Twice, only Angela and the pastor were in attendance. The other two meetings had four or five in attendance.

During the last two months, before the worship service begins each Sunday, some prayer partners gather in the Education Building with the pastor to pray for the service and those who are there to receive the presence of the Holy Spirit.

The Prayer Partners are not an exclusive group. They are open to any and many who need prayer and would like to pray for others, the church, and the world.

Prayer Partners needs more pray-ers. Our church needs to have steady, consistent, committed pray-ers praying

together for spiritual growth, healing, God's guidance, in-house and outreach programs.

This is not to say that praying individually is undesirable or not good enough. There are many in the church who are good prayer warriors. However, corporate prayer, a concerted effort by many praying to God together for His will to be done through us, the body of Christ, is meaningful, and at least as personally powerful as the prayers we lift up by ourselves.

Will you consider becoming a Prayer Partner, one whom can be called on to meet and pray together with others, one whom can be counted on to lift the arms of the pastor, one whom will be in the forefront on the battlefield of prayer asking for God's guidance and sanctification of hopes and plans in worship and program that will be glory unto Him?

As you pray, your soul will be fed.

As we pray together, we are in communion with Him, the Lord Christ, who will feed us and lead us, His Church, to a better place.

Come and join us. Meet or call **Angela Creamer** at 384-4167, or **Pastor Dave**, 384-2710 or 384-5215.

Pray about it.

God bless you.



CONGRAT\$ TO THE CHURCH!!

For the third year in a row, Estancia United Methodist Church has paid all of its assigned apportionments, our fair share of what the district expects us to contribute toward administrative salaries, education, and mission here and overseas. District Superintendent Terry Anderson said he could not recall when Estancia UMC had paid its apportionments so quickly.

This means that we have two months to stockpile and save for the apportionments of 1999, \$6,433, an increase of \$242. And, we can get a head start on the rest of the budget, a copy of which was sent to you in the mail two weeks ago. It would be nice to say that we will gain \$4,000 a month every month to meet our needs, but that standard doesn't always get met from month to month. Then there are months where we bypass our monthly goal easily!

APPORTIONMENTS - WHAT ARE THEY?

The 1999 apportionments to the local church were calculated using the formula that appears on page 12 of the 1998 Pre-Conference Journal:

"The apportionments made to the churches are based on a three year average of membership and non-benevolent and nonbuilding expenses. The decimal is based 25% on membership and 75% on non-benevolent and nonbuilding expenses. Beginning with the calculation of the apportionment for the year 2000, the membership portion will decrease by 2.5% and will increase the non-benevolent and nonbuilding expenses by 2.5% each year, until church membership is no longer considered in formulating apportionments. The decimal will be calculated based on the figures from the preceding three years as printed in the Journal.

A. Twenty-five percent on total membership (column 9 of the statistical tables of the last complete year of statistics).

B. Seventy-five percent on total non-benevolent, nonbuilding expenditure. (Pastor's base compensation amount paid; associate(s) base compensation paid; pastor and associate(s) utilities and other housing-related allowances paid; pastor and associate(s) reimbursements paid; pastor and associate(s) other cash allowances paid; Diaconal minister(s) total compensation and expenses; other staff compensation and expenses; current expenses for program; and other current operating expenses (columns 61 b, 62b, 63c, 64c, 65c, 66, 67, 68, and 69 of the statistical tables of the last complete year of statistics)).



**A growing church is a challenging church-
and a challenging church is a growing
church.**

As you may have noticed, there are some increases in certain areas of the budget:

1. The pastor's salary increased \$300. The thought of the Finance Committee is that we want to be competitive for an experienced pastor when the time comes for a change, rather than having to have a "rookie". Thus, the pension rate went up as well.
2. The pastor's insurance premiums have increased because of ineligibility for him to be covered on another program.

We have two new programs that need financial support:

1. The 100th Anniversary Project that is being planned for the year 2,005, Lord willing. Plans are being made to compose reports, invite dignitaries, and host a large meal. Putting the money away now will save us a large lump(y) "surprise" in the future.
2. The Logos project for our children and youth in our church and community needs seed money for training, curriculum, food, supplies, etc. It is hoped that once the project gets going, the tuition fees many children will pay will cover the cost of a major part of the program. And, some fund-raisers are also being considered.

Your gracious giving of your prayers and support, and your giving back of the time and income that God has given to you are greatly appreciated.

Let's "keep the giving going" through the rest of the year and get prepared for an exciting, challenging year of our Lord 1999.

May God continue to bless you and the church through

you to His glory.



REMEMBER YOUR PLEDGE...

Please remember your pledge sheet that was sent to you, with an attached budget, in the mail a few days ago.

Pray over what you hear and believe that God wants you to give to financially support His church. Write the amount on your pledge sheet. Sign it as a vow to our Lord, and place it in the envelope.

Bring it to church on Sunday, November 15 or on November 22, Consecration Sunday. It will be prayed over and the Lord will be asked to supply you with what you need to honor Him in your giving back to Him.

Most churches' financial committees would look at your pledge. But, we don't. We keep your pledge envelope sealed and locked in a box. We go by faith and by the hope that you will honor the pledge. At the end of the calendar year, your pledge sheet envelope will be mailed back to you.

And we encourage you to remember that God expects us to give Him our firstfruits, the first and the best. He will give back to you at least what you have sown and given, but most likely He will give you more blessings than you thought as you trust Him with His Word.

If you did not receive a newsletter or have lost your pledge sheet, there are extra ones in the coffee area of the church.

NOVEMBER 15...SERVANT LEADERSHIP SUNDAY.

We will be honoring those who have said "Yes," to serving as workers in the church, and those who are committee leaders.

Servants of the Lord in His church are asked to please be in attendance so that we can express our appreciation and pray you to be expressions of Him in your work for His mission and glory to be done.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE TIDINGS

The holiday season is upon us. The worship committee met to discuss the upcoming holiday services and worship needs. We will be developing songbooks that will contain songs and hymns that are not in the current hymnal. The songbooks will be distributed by the greeters on the days they will be used. Please give any of your special music, not found in the hymnal, to Peg Blackwell as soon as possible and we will incorporate it in the songbook.

The following committee member responsibilities were discussed:

Pam Lambert will be contacting people to schedule Greeters and Ushers. To volunteer or ask questions, contact Pam at 228-5914 (home) or 857-0888 (work). We are asking that the duties of the ushers and greeters be combined at each service.



Julie Griffo will be scheduling and training acolytes. The acolytes will begin wearing their robes with Ina Artman coordinating. Julie will also be scheduling the lay assistants and coordinating children's music with **Charlie Hughes, Morrow Hall, and Julieanne Welch.**

Kelly Darnell will continue to schedule youth scripture readers.

Kathy Gorum, Ina Artman, and Peg Blackwell will coordinate communion bread and cups preparation.

Marilyn Seddon and Ina Artman will be straightening the sanctuary before services. Marilyn will also be responsible for maintaining worship supplies.

Special music will be coordinated by Morrow, Charlie, Julie, Julieanne, and Peg. Please let them know if you have ideas about, or know individuals that can contribute special music.

We are looking forward to the holiday season and the celebration of Christ's birth. Please contact **Peg Blackwell** if you are interested in serving on the committee and/or assisting with any of the upcoming services.

LOGOS

Keep your eyes and ears ready for our newest program. Logos is coming to our congregation. What is Logos? Simply, it is a Wednesday program that bridges the gap from Sunday to Sunday for our youth, ages K-12. But that would be cutting short what Logos is really about. The program is so much more and involves not only the youth but the adults as well, in building disciples for Christ and a weekly fellowship that is surrounded and based on love. Keep your eyes peeled for some upcoming introductions to Logos through some of our congregation, and please keep this program in your prayers regularly, because our major focus right now is in proceeding through the guidance of our Lord. And if, through your prayers, you receive a call or even a whisper from God about getting more involved with this program, don't ignore it. Please give **Julieanne Welch** or **Susan Wilson** a call and they will get you involved; and, through prayer, you and others will find where your gifts of service for the Lord can be utilized the best in this program.



Just one vote...

In 1649 one vote gave Oliver Cromwell control of England. In 1649 one vote caused Charles I of England to be executed. In 1776 one vote gave America the English language instead of German. In 1845 one vote brought Texas into the Union. In 1868 one vote saved President Andrew Johnson from impeachment. In 1876 one vote gave Rutherford B. Hayes the presidency of the United States. In 1876 one vote changed France from a monarchy to a republic. And in 1923 one vote gave Adolf Hitler the leadership of the Nazi party.

-The Chamber of Commerce
Newsletter, Willard, Ohio

The Common Search

Read Psalm 100

**Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters;
and you who have no money, come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost.**

—Isaiah 55:1 (NIV)

Some years ago on an extended trip that crossed several continents, I observed two women at worship in two different churches. The first was in a village church in West Africa. I watched a woman as she swayed and clapped her hands to gospel songs sung in her own dialect to the accompaniment of beating drums and clicking gourds. Her face radiated the joy of her faith.

A week later I saw another woman at worship in Westminster Abbey in London. As the great organ filled the church with music, I saw her prayer book. Her lips moved silently as she read the prayers.

Many things were different about the two women—race, nationality, culture, and much more that I could not see, I'm sure. The two settings and styles of worship were worlds apart. Each, though, was drawn to be with others in a common seeking of God. In worship with others, their hunger and thirst for God were satisfied. I feel sure that each one in her own way found peace, joy, strength, and grace. So can we.

PRAYER: Lord of heaven and earth, satisfy our deepest needs, we pray, whether we shout our praise or silently seek your love, wisdom, strength, or consolation. We are together in our need for you. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Our common need for God is greater than all our differences.

Joe W. Fort (Texas)

**Be kind to each other,
tenderhearted, forgiving one
another, just as God through
Christ has forgiven you.**

EPHESIANS 4:32 NLT

God does not forgive us because we forgive others, but out of his great mercy. As we come to understand his mercy, however, we will want to be like him. Having received forgiveness, we will pass it on to others. Those who are unwilling to forgive have not become one with Christ, who was willing to forgive even those who crucified him.

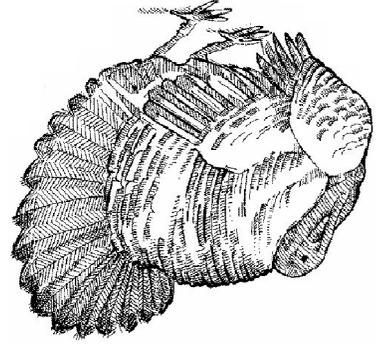
Let Christ's roving forgiveness be your model for forgiving others.



November



Sent with a prayer to:



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



What is Choir?

For those who don't consider becoming part of the choir because they don't feel musical enough, I decided to look up the word's meaning: "A group of singers especially in church." I would go a step further and say that choir is more than just a group of singers. It is **C-H-O-U-I-R** and by that I mean:

C*hristian Ministry* - In times past, before the people got enlightened choir was a man/boy thing only. That's because it was considered pastoral service and women couldn't be pastors. It is good to have women in choir no doubt, and the best part is that is still a pastoral ministry.

H*uman Participants* - Although it would be great to be perfect and to sing every note, rhythm, and nuance perfectly every time, each choir member brings they own level of musicianship and experience to the choir. Some have lots of ability and some have a lot of ability in progress. Regardless, we all work together and God blesses the music that our co operative effort produces. In other words, sometimes we make mistakes.

O*pportunities* - Choir provides many ways to reach people for Jesus. The most obvious way is to be singing, but other ways include inviting people to join the choir, inviting people to church to hear the choir's music, and without a doubt coming to hear seasonal music.

I*ntense Joy* - There is no way to describe how much fun choir is. But also we work hard to present the best music we can, but we have a lot of fun doing it. God seems to bless our efforts and the result is music that blesses our congregation as we worship.

R*elationships* - Choir is a medium for many kinds of relationships. First of all it adds a new dimension to our relationship to Jesus. There are the relationships members form with each other and relationships with other church choir members. In short a good time is had by all.

U - Of course you noticed that my version of choir was spelled with a "U" in the middle of it. That's because a choir is not just "a group of singers especially in church", but a group of people like YOU The more of you we get the better we will all be. Do consider becoming a part of a fine group like the **Estancia** choir.