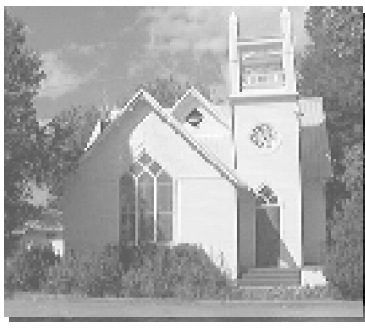




Dave Blackwell, Pastor

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 - September, 1998



SEPTEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

Lay Assistant: Kimber Sanchez
Ushers: Don & Marcia Fitzner and Marcella Reynolds
Greeters: Ruby and Craig Martin
Acolytes: Laura and Matthew Sanchez

SEPTEMBER MEETINGS:

Sunday, September 13, 1:00 pm: The entire church is asked to come and join the Administrative Council meeting to hear about a Children and Youth Program, entitled **Logos**. It is important that we have as many people as possible to hear and raise questions about this program that can be community-based with enough participation. Bring a salad for a potluck meal after the meeting. We hope to see you!

Following the meeting and meal, the Education Committee and the Pastor Parish Relations Committee will meet.

Sunday, October 11, at 4:00: The Annual Church Conference, with Rev. Terry Anderson, District Superintendent, presiding will be held at 4:00. The entire church is invited to hear the reports and the state of this church, and to offer comments and questions. You can be fairly certain that refreshments of some kind will be provided. Please come!

STEWARDSHIP

There are four months left in the year, and we are behind on our income and payment of our apportionments. I know that reading this is a pain in the "behind." But, I will make it brief. In order for us to make good on our obligations, we have established ourselves as a church that takes our obligations toward ministry and mission seriously. We have prayed and worked our way through. No one has been slighted or felt cheated. Please pray about the obligations you made in prayer and/or in writing, and compare where you are now with them, if you need to catch up, or if you could stretch a little more. Everybody pulling together a bit more will make the difference.

I have not forgotten those who serve in other ways through

time and service. Your contributions, along with your financial help are appreciated.

Continue to remember that this Christ's church, He will bless you as you give joyfully and faithfully.

Thank you for what you have done and will continue to do in His Name.



Do I Give
to my Church
as the Lord
has given
to me?

Stewardship

GOD GAVE HIM TEN APPLES

Once upon a time there was a man who had nothing and God gave him ten apples.

He gave the man three apples to eat.

He gave him three apples to trade for a shelter from the sun and rain.

He gave him three apples to trade for clothes to wear.

And He gave him one apple so that he might have something to give back to God to show his gratitude for the other nine.

The man ate three apples.

He traded three for a shelter from the sun and rain.

He traded three for clothes to wear.

Then he looked at the tenth apple. He knew God had given him the tenth apple so that he might return it to him out of gratitude for the other nine. But the tenth apple

looked bigger and juicer than the rest. And he reasoned that God had all the other apples in the world.

So the man ate the tenth apple and gave back to God the core.

God has given you enough apples to supply your needs-plus one with which you may show your gratitude to Him, the choice is yours. Will you return to God the largest and juiciest of your apples-or only the core?

Do not worship any other gods besides me.

Exodus 20-3 NLT

Today we can allow many things to become gods to us. Money, fame, work or pleasure can become gods when we concentrate too much on them for personal identity, meaning, and security. No one sets out with the intention of worshiping these things. But with the amount of time we devote to them, they can grow into gods that ultimately control our thoughts and energies. Letting God hold the central place in our lives keeps these things from turning into gods.

Take stock of your life. Do you have any other "gods" before the Lord?

A NOTE FROM PASTOR DAVE

Listen, listen. Love, Love.

There is a prison ministry called Kairos, meaning "God's time," that uses this title as their theme: "Listen, listen. Love, love." For the first time in many years, or ever, inmates are actually heard and loved as children of God who made mistakes and were caught.

"Listen, listen. Love, love." Those are gifts of God, listening and loving. It works with God. It works with family. It works with co-workers and friends. It works when there are misunderstandings. It has even been known to work in churches.

"Listen, listen. Love, love." Who or what do we listen to, or not? Who or what do we love, or not? Take some time to think about those questions. Pray about it. Praying: listening to God. Loving God...and His answers. Have you already come up with some answers?

"Listen, listen. Love, love." At the end of the August 30 Administrative Council meeting, I mentioned that there is an increasing level of mean-spiritedness present within our church body fueled by rumors, innuendo,

and misinformation. I am not talking about remarks about me because that's part of my job. I'm talking about remarks I hear from people about their Christian brothers and sisters. Not just concern for them, but hurtful "shots" about them.

"Listen, listen. Love, love." Life is short. Hurt feelings aren't. You ever hear of a one day grudge? I suggested to your Ad Council to help me guide hurt parties toward one another and/or ask for a pray-er or mediator.

Prayers cannot be answered fully about other issues nor can God's mercy be fully received when we harbor anger towards another. Read Matthew 7 about Jesus' command to turn the other cheek and to be made in His perfect love.

God will continue to check us on this problem until we relent, "listen, listen, and love, love" those who were also made in God's image and who, along with us, are prone to mistakes and errors.

Forgive as you have been forgiven. That is the result of listening and loving as Christ is listening to and loving us.

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My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.
_____ Psalm 73:46 _____

We can't choose whether or not we will be hurt in our lives. The mistakes of others are out of our control. But we can determine how we will respond to the pain that comes to our lives by the hand of another. Release resentment. In so doing, you will set your heart free.
Passage. Psalm 73:1-28



PLEASE CONSIDER THIS:

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

Worship Committee, including 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 coordinator--oversees care and program for our littlest angels.

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

Sunday school teachers for 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.

What's So Great About Hugs?

There is no such thing as a bad hug; only good ones and great ones. They're not fattening and they don't cause cancer or cavities. They're all natural, with no preservatives, artificial ingredients or pesticide residue. They're cholesterol-free, naturally sweet, 100 percent wholesome. And they're a completely renewable resource. They don't require batteries, tune-ups or X-rays. They're nontaxable, fully returnable and energy efficient.

They're safe in all kinds of weather; in fact, they're especially good for cold or rainy days. They're exceptionally effective in treating problems like bad dreams or the Monday blahs.

Hugs are free to give and free to get. There is no minimum age requirement. You can never get hurt by giving a hug. You can give someone a hug anytime, day or night.

There are also many different types of hugs: hugs of sadness and hugs of joy, loose hugs with a kiss on the cheek, big bear hugs, a pat on the back hug or a giant pull-your-shoulders-out-of-your-socket group hug. You can hug a human, you can hug a pet, you can hug a stuffed toy, you can hug a tree, you can even hug yourself. Hugs can warm you from the cold, they can comfort you when you are scared; you can hug while you dance, you can hug while you sleep. There is no time limit on giving a hug. Hugs never go out of style. There is no restriction on how many hugs you can give. Hugs cross all racial, personality and age boundaries. Hugs are love, hugs are caring, hugs just feel good!

Never wait until tomorrow to hug someone you can hug today! Just do it.

The Pit

A man fell into a pit and couldn't get himself out.

A subjective person came along and said, "I feel for you down there."

An objective person walked by and said, "It's logical that someone would fall down there."

A Pharisee said, "Only bad people fall into pits."

A mathematician calculated how he fell into the pit.

A news reporter wanted the exclusive story on the pit.

An IRS agent asked if he was paying taxes on the pit.

A self-pitying person said, "You haven't seen anything until you've seen my pit!"

A fire-and-brimstone preacher said, "You deserve your pit."

A Christian Scientist observed, "The pit is just in your mind."

A psychologist noted, "Your mother and father are to blame for your being in that pit."

A self-esteem therapist said, "Believe in yourself and you can get out of that pit."

An optimist said, "Things could be worse."

A pessimist claimed, "Things will get worse."

Jesus, seeing the man, took him by the hand and lifted him out of the pit.

—Church bulletin in Australia

Addresses for Kids away at School

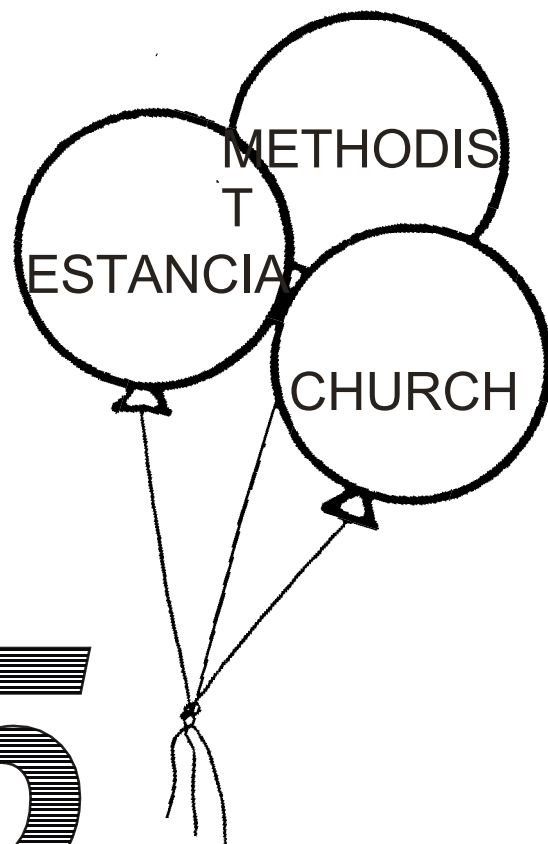
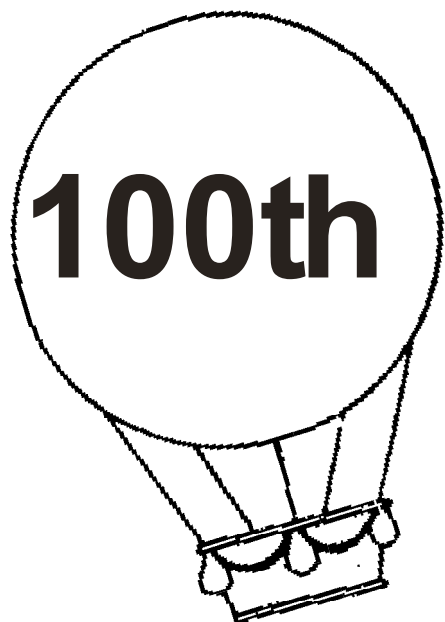


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Roswell, NM 88201-5173

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2005

Were not too concerned
about the Millenium!!
But we're excited about
the year 2005!!

The year 2005 will be the 100th anniversary of the Estancia United Methodist Church! Our historian, Ethel Floyd, says it's time to start thinking / planning for this special event. A motion was made and passed at the recent Administrative Council meeting to put aside \$20 each month between now and 2005 so that the church can have a wonderful celebration.....Mark your (2005) calendar!!

Administrative Council News

Worship: The big news is that Peggy Blackwell will now be the chairperson for the Worship committee. Please give her your total support when she calls on you!

Care & Outreach: The big news is that Bonnie Hughes will now be the chairperson for the Care & Outreach committee. Marcella Reynolds has been handling this job as well as the job of Finance Secretary - Thank you, Marcella! Marcella reported that 9 loaves of fresh bread have been delivered to recent newcomers in the community. As the new chairperson, Bonnie, would appreciate knowing about any newcomers, cards to be sent, or folks that need a visit.

PPRC: The bake sale on July 10th made \$174.26 for the committee's apportionment share. The next meeting of this committee will be on Sept. 13.

Education: The spaghetti supper was a big success and everyone had a good time. Curriculum supplies for the rest of year have been purchased as well as other Sunday School supplies. A youth leader is needed as well as a coordinator for the pre-schooler group on Sunday morning. A new youth program called "Logos" will be presented to the Church on Sept. 13 by Susan Wilson followed by a potluck supper.

Church Treasurer: Check book balance less designated funds is \$824.31. Unpaid bills come to \$555.21. Total apportionments left to pay, \$3,411.00.

Pastor Dave: Charge Conference will be held Oct. 11 at 4:00 p.m. Concise, one page reports are needed from each committee detailing what has been done and what needs to be accomplished. Total apportionments for our church for the coming year, \$6,433.00

LAITY SUNDAY is Oct. 18th.

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

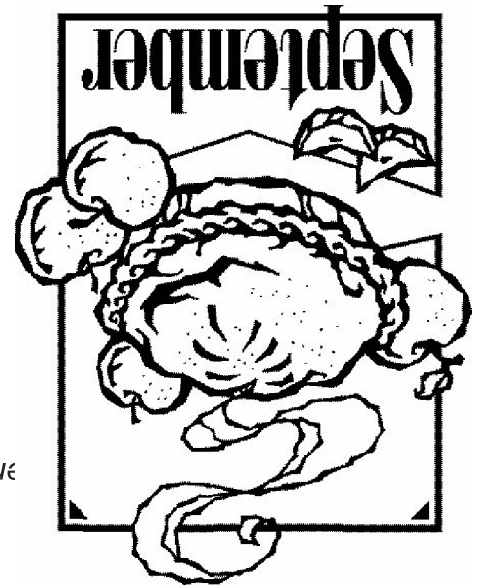
Our common need for God is greater than all our differences.

Joe W. Fort (Texas)





ent with a prayer to:



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

The following comes from a study of American congregations by Bill Easum and Tom Bandy, in *Growing Spiritual Redwoods*, pg. 12-13. After intensive study of the basic characteristics of declining and thriving congregations, this is what they found:

Members of Declining Congregations are:

- † Committed to church
- † Managing committees
- † Holding offices
- † Making decisions
- † Trained for membership
- † Serving at the church
- † Preoccupied with raising money
- † Doing church work
- † Retiring from church work
- † Surveying internal needs
- † Eager to know everyone
- † Loyal to one another
- † Building faith on information
- † Perpetuating a heritage

Members of Thriving Congregations are:

- † Committed to Christ
- † Deploying Missions
- † Doing hands-on ministry
- † Making disciples
- † On a lifelong quest for quality
- † Serving in the world
- † Preoccupied with rescuing people
- † Finding personal fulfillment
- † Pursuing constant personal growth
- † Sensitizing themselves to community needs
- † Eager for everyone to know God
- † Drawn to the unchurched
- † Building faith on experience with Christ
- † Visioning a future

Their conclusion? "Declining churches want to do everything on the right hand side, without letting go of anything on the left hand side. Thriving churches want wholeheartedly to do everything on the right hand side and are prepared to let go of everything on the left hand side."