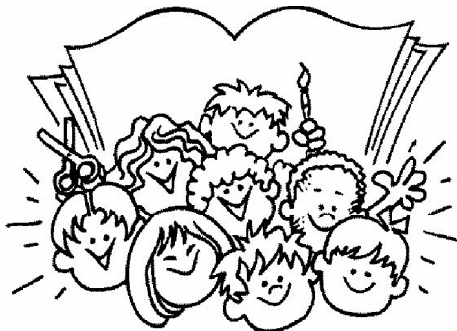


yards by clearing out weeds and other debris. They are also gearing up to begin a study of their Christian faith through a curriculum called *The Truth About Families and The Truth About Relationships*. This study will focus on understanding their roles as Christians in the family and in other relationships that they have in the world. As they begin to examine these important topics, they will "dive into the core essential beliefs of the Christian faith." The Education Committee also discussed some awesome fund raisers that they will be doing this Spring to help with education expenses. Our fund raisers will also be for our anticipated church camp scholarships that will be needed this summer. Vacation Bible School is also already in the works and **Sharla Sharpe** has offered to help head up our VBS for this summer. We are looking forward to a busy Christ-filled spring and summer this year. Just a special note to all in our congregation:



you are our answered prayers in all that you are doing and in all the support you are giving to us in our children/youth ministry. Thanks to all and thanks be to God for blessing us with all of you.

Care and Outreach Committee

It seems like the whole church was busy helping the Care and Outreach Committee over the holidays. The committee purchased candy and fruit for "goodie bags". With the help of the children who filled the bags and help from others in delivering them around town, 25 shut-ins plus others who just needed a lift were recipients of



Estancia Methu dist love and caring. Many others helped C&O last month with an outpouring of coats, toys, food and financial help to those in the community who came up a little short for Christmas. Thanks to all of you who shared in this generous giving.

Plans are underway for a special project for our young confirmands. Our next meeting is January 25th, 10:00a.m. at the parsonage.

Worship Committee

(aka "The Wacky Witty Worship Committee")
(email: methods@ix.netcom.com)

The Worship Committee is planning many exciting and spirit filled worship services through Easter. Please contact **Peg Blackwell** @ 384-2710 or by email if you have ideas for worship services and/or special music during this season.

Maundy Thursday - A Maundy Thursday (4/11/99) program is being planned entitled "The Room Upstairs". It is a "you are there" church supper Passover event. Those in the audience are not only observers, but participants in the Last Supper with Jesus. Our education building will become the "Upper Room" where Jesus has asked his disciples to join Him to celebrate the Passover. The meal will be structured around an actual Jewish Passover Seder with appropriate foods.

We are looking for thirteen (13) men to play the parts of Jesus and the disciples for this event. We are also looking for two women and servants to play roles, as well. We look forward to presenting this to, and with, the congregation and experiencing the "Upper Room" Passover. Contact **Ina Artman** @ 384-5310 if you are interested in

being a part of this exciting program.

Easter Sunday - The adult choir is planning an Easter Cantata (4/4/99). Contact **Charlie Hughes** @ 384-2798 if you are interested in being involved with the Cantata and/or joining the adult choir. New choir members are always needed and welcome.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee is taking a new direction in 1999.



Choir

Education: Announcements of progress made and needs to be met will occasionally be given during worship services and in the newsletter. (See related article.) Visual graphics

will be displayed regarding progress on paying the apportionments. Dave will have short-term classes about apportionments, budgets, etc. in the fall prior to the stewardship campaign.

Fund Raisers: Rather than having each committee come up with fund raising ideas to help pay the apportionments, the Finance Committee will be designating three large fund raisers which will be led by task forces forming committees from the congregation. There may be a sale project or two to supplement these fund raisers. This allows other church committees to sponsor fund raisers for their own needs should they need funds for special projects.

Pastor Parish Relations Committee

The PPRC has recommended that Pastor Dave be retained here for 1999-2000. And Dave has reported that he would like to stay in this charge for another year.

From Our Treasurer: Carolyn Moore:

I know you hear a lot of conversations about "apportionments." I would like to tell you about these apportionments.

Each church is given an amount of money to pay into the New Mexico Conference Treasury. The first five apportionments are for salaries, pensions and insurance for retired pastors, the district superintendents and the Bishop, salaries for pastors whose churches cannot pay their whole salaries, and insurance for all of those pastors.

The remainder of the list is for the administration and funding of programs in the New Mexico Conference, jurisdictional and general conferences.

Apportionments are like our pledge to our church. If they are not paid, the programs cannot be funded.

There is a list posted in the front room of the church. If you would like to select one for your own project, sign your name next to it on the list, and let me know. You can pay weekly, monthly, or all at once.

(Pastor's note: This church is one of the few churches in the N.M. Conference that have paid all of its apportionments for three consecutive years. You are making a difference!)



IN OUR PRAYERS

- **Gene Kamerzell**, recuperating from heart surgery and pneumonia.

- **Joe Voorhees** (brother of Renee Richards), recuperating from stapf infection following removal of brain tumor.
- **Cindi Howe** (Renee's daughter), undergoing testing.
- **Michael Rodriguez, Sr.** (father-in-law of Khristy Martinez Rodriguez), suffering from pancreatic cancer.
- **Tonya Davidson** (Ina Artman's daughter), recovering from cancer.
- **Sarah Davidson** (Ina's niece), onset of diabetes.
- **The Simmons and Parnell families**, for the death of their 4 month old son, Dillan.
- **The Muth family**, for the death of Michael Muth.
- **David Mahaffey**, in I.C.U. recovering from serious neck injury.
- **For our Logos program** and for leaders to direct it starting in September.

Stewardship

Because of your giving:

- 21 food baskets were prepared and sent prior to Thanksgiving;
- 30+ Christmas baskets were prepared and sent;
- 9 children of prisoners received Christmas gifts;
- 31 foster children received Christmas gifts;
- 2 very needy families received Christmas gifts and clothes; all the bills were paid on time; apportionments were paid nearly 3 months ahead of time; and we are blessed by God's providence as He gives to His givers.

Offering envelopes are still available. If you would like to have one to help you with your regular financial giving and receive a quarterly statement for your tax records, contact **Marcella Reynolds**, the church financial secretary, 384-2358.

From the Blackwells:

The **Blackwell family** sincerely thanks this congregation for the wonderful cards and gifts, cookies, candies, and fruit. We also thank you for the beautiful quilt that will always be a keepsake. We are very blessed by you.

Peg, Dave, and Erinmarie

I also thank the United Methodist Women for their generosity in purchasing a white robe for me. It is beautiful and very comfortable. It rests well over my grateful heart.

To the many, many people who worked so hard to make the Christmas Eve service one for the ages in front of an all-time record crowd of 144, I give you great and sincere thanks. When the pastor has as much fun worshipping as the congregation does, that is special! And to our teachers, parents, and children who brought Christ directly in front of us at the magnificent Children's Christmas pageant, "Thank you," doesn't quite describe my feeling for your faith and effort. You are blessed by God with great talent and commended for your use it. Thank you, again.

I am going to have the Bible more visible for our children during the Children's Time of the Worship service. I am going to read to them a little and we will discuss what it means to us.

Dave

Would you help me with this? Would you bring your Bibles to church? I know there are pew Bibles, but there are not many of them. Besides, bringing Bibles and reading from them as part of worship is good modeling for our children whom we want to know the Word of God. It also makes good study later for you and through the week. Most importantly, carrying God's Word where it is easily visible is honoring to Him!

Let's remember together to get our Bibles out and open.

Thanks to you and thanks be to God for His Holy Word.

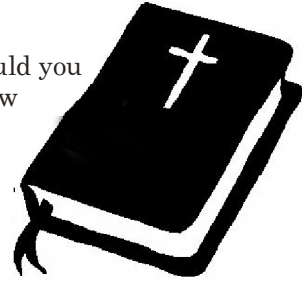
Dave

Dave

Bring Your Bible

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Let's remember together to get our Bibles out and open. Thanks to you and thanks be to God for His Holy Word.

Pastor Dave

'At the Love Shack...'

CCYM Winter Event Feb. 12 - 14

New Mexico Conference youth in grades 9-12 are invited to gather at Sacramento Methodist Assembly February 12-14 for the Conference Council on Ministries "Winter Event," reports the Rev. Kimberly Dawn Kinsey, New Mexico Conference Youth Coordinator.

Theme for the event is *At the Love Shack*.

Youth will have an opportunity to encounter God, grow in their faith, share in contemporary worship and a variety of recreational activities, and learn "fun ways" to support CCYM mission projects, those planning the event report.

"Bring extra money to enjoy our special kissing booth, our dance requests, and our pie-throwing contest," youth leaders urge.

The retreat agenda includes an orchestra performance Friday evening, and a "dress your best" dance for Saturday night.

Registration is scheduled from 7 p.m. until 10 p.m Friday, February 12. The retreat will end at about 11:30 Sunday, February 14.

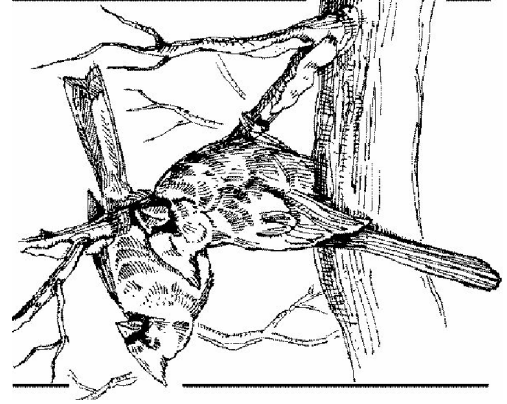
Meals will begin with Saturday breakfast and end with breakfast on Sunday.

Questions may be directed to Kim Kinsey, First United Methodist Church, 200 East Snyder, Hobbs, NM 88240; phones: 505 397-7777, 392-7813, or 370-2126.



"I still love my enemy, but he's pushing his luck."

JANUARY



Sent with a prayer to:

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



The children's Christmas Program was a blessed event. Our angels were awesome. They practiced during Young Followers (Monday School) time for weeks prior to the program. Parents were not part of the rehearsals in order to make the event more special for them. Pictured above are two parents who decided to have some fun with the children and leaders and wore paper sacks over their heads to keep from seeing the rehearsal one Monday. We are so blessed with our children and the gifts/graces they give to us. Thanks to all the kids, Julieanne Welch, and Julie Griffo for their love of God, hard work, and gift to all of us with this program.