



The

February 2021

On February 3rd 1949, my parents were rushing to the hospital to deliver ME! It was the worst snow storm to hit our county in thirty-five years and still stands today, as one of the worst in Indiana history! Six times they went off the road and luckily did not get stuck. After two hours for a 20 mile drive, they arrived at the hospital, white knuckled and frozen. Within 20 minutes, I was their newest son!

On December 22 1995, Dorii and I were rushing to the hospital to deliver McKenzie! It was a snowy night too, but certainly no snow storm like I was born in. Though I was an EMT with the fire department and had been involved with other births, I made it very clear to Dorii that I did not want to deliver my own baby. She paid me no mind... McKenzie was coming on her own time table. A foot was presented to let us know that she was soon to come and in the worst way for an emergency birth. I knew the danger of a breach birth and knew there was no time to waste. Needless to say the gas pedal was down and the after-burners were lit! Fastest time I ever made it from our home to town!

Sometimes, the best things in our lives come through great crisis. We may not see that at the time, usually because we are way too emotional in the throes of the crisis. Many of us find our faith in such circumstances, different from pregnancy certainly, but much like a birth or rebirth in other ways. Just when you think you can take no more, you make it through to a beautiful new beginning! Through the tears, turmoil and exhausting stress, you have certainly paid your dues to enter a new life where darkness is almost a thing of the past.

I remember well my first glimpse of McKenzie, hanging upside down by her ankles. She looked like a giant, until she was laid on the warming table, by the doctor and she curled back up like babies do. I remember how fragile she looked and the feeling of responsibility for her life that flooded over me. I remember the light in Dorii's eyes, when she first held our new baby in her arms (after the drugs wore off). What a night it had been... Weary as I was and wanting of sleep, I was completely engulfed in being a new daddy... **With my Bible in hand I thanked God for being with us and keeping my girls safe... As always, He never let me down.**

Phil

Happy
Birthday

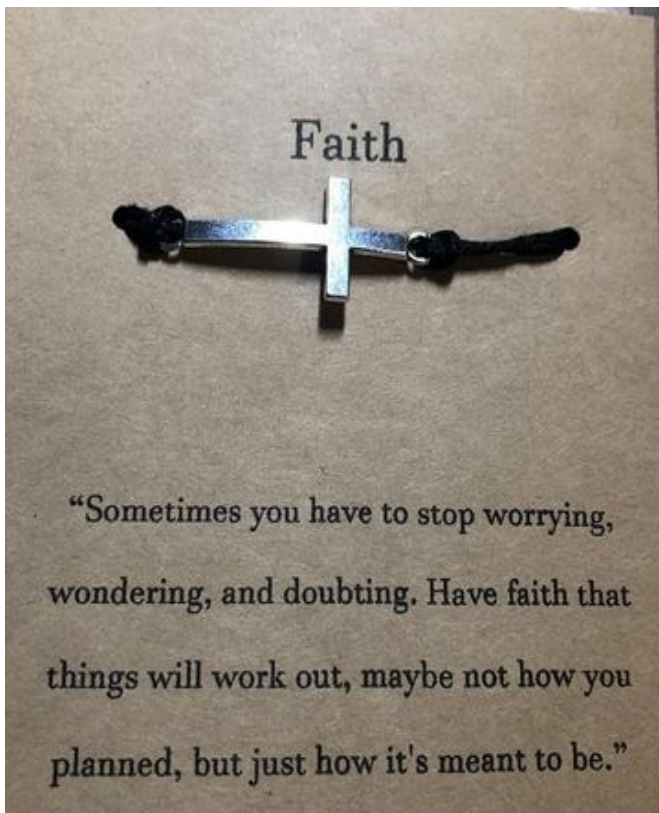
The Arellanos
11th



Anniversaries

Phil Logan	3rd
Randy Edwards	7th
Eric Brosha	9th
John Blaylock	10th
Erica Rock	11th
Rick Hinckley	11th
Paul Anderson	19th
Brian Smith	22nd
Steve Bublitz	24th

Look here each month for the special days of our church family. If you're not here, send me your family member's dates and I'll add them to our list. Everyone loves to share special days together.



Cover Commentary

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I've always enjoyed ground-hog day. I've never been able to pronounce "Punxsutawney," and I know that Phil's predictions are not reliable. But there is something about this annual prognostication that amuses and intrigues me. If I wanted a reliable forecast, I'd consult a weather service. Most of them are fairly accurate these days.

I read a book recently on the development of our current weather forecasting capabilities. I found it interesting that one of the most accurate predictors of weather is simply keeping a record of what actually took place on the same day each year in a given location, and using that information to recognize trends for that area. It is only when a prediction based on other information about the weather is constantly more reliable than these established trends that the weather forecasting community considers it an accurate forecast. At this point, the weather services are only able to predict the weather accurately for about two weeks. But as their information gathering capabilities grow, they keep adding days to their accurate forecasting capabilities.

They do provide us with something to talk about. "I heard it was going to snow today." "Really, I didn't know a storm was coming?" And on we go our merry way. I haven't seen any statistics, but I feel that most of us talk about the weather as much as we do about anything else. It is a safe topic, and most of us are interested. These conversations might simply pass the time, but they might determine whether we take a jacket or an umbrella or go roll up our car's windows.

Talking about the weather is differently safer than talking about God, even if you know exactly what He's going to do. Take Noah for example. He warned his community of an approaching killer storm, but since his prediction was based on what God had revealed to him instead of reliable meteorological observations, no one took him seriously. And since his prediction was made so far in advance of the storm's arrival, 100 years, those who would be impacted negatively by it, ridiculed Noah for taking the necessary precautions for himself and his family (not to mention all the animals).

Peter, in the first letter that goes by his name in the Bible, noted that only eight persons were brought safely through the storm. That is not very many compared to all those who were lost. Peter compared the ark Noah built to baptism, which prepares us to survive another coming storm. Like Noah, we've been talking about that storm's arrival for a long time. We know it is coming, but like Noah, we don't know exactly when it will arrive.

We sound the alarm as we make preparations for ourselves. We encourage friend and foe to do the same. Those we warn may make fun of us. They may ridicule us. They may think us crazy for basing our prediction upon God's Word. But it is a 100% accurate prediction.

I am certain that many more than 8 will be saved. I base that feeling of certainty on observing that many more people are preparing themselves as Peter encouraged for the coming storm. But there are still those who don't know about it, and it is up to us to talk to them about the weather.

May we see and respond to the world with God's unfailing love

Doug

Who's Who in the Pews



Michael is originally from Minnesota while Meko is from Japan. They came to Los Alamos from the DC area in 2018. Michael had a post-doc at the University of Maryland.

They came here for work at the LAB and because Los Alamos is a great place to start a family. They spent 5 years in the inter-mountain west before moving to DC. They enjoy the swing of life out here. They particularly enjoy hiking and spending time at the state and national parks in our region.

They lived in 4 different states in the decade before coming here, so they look forward to not having to move anytime soon.

They enjoy our church because it has the same style and feel as their former churches from previous states. They also like the children's program and pastor Doug's sermons.

They have one child, Jay. Age 2. (Not pictured)

The Frame Game Who Is This?



Last Month Was Jill Gross

From the mouths of Little
Ones

"I'm not gonna wipe off your
kiss Mama

I'm gonna take it with me to
school."

Like Steve, I would also like to post a thank you to the congregation for the generous pastor appreciation gift:

I began serving the Christian Church on January 1, 1998. Since then, this congregation has blessed me and my family in countless ways. The recent gift of appreciation was another blessing for us, Thank You. Serving alongside you this past year has presented a number of new challenges. I have done my best to lead our congregation through them by teaching, counseling, praying, worshipping, serving, and communicating. While we have been more distant socially than we like, I feel that God is using this time to draw us closer to Him spiritually. I look forward to serving with you as we look to Jesus to lead us through another year of His favor.



Have you taken advantage of this discipleship resource yet?

NEW BIBLICAL BASED VIDEOS, QUESTIONS, AND MEMORY VERSES FOR ALL AGES POSTED EACH WEEK.

Check it out!

You can watch this LiveStream Concert on several dates during the last two weeks of February from home or you could join us in the Sanctuary for a watch party on Friday, Feb. 19th at 6PM. Go to their website and you can buy a ticket that will give you access to the concert. The cost is

by donation (If you don't have the extra funds, they will give you access free!). If you plan on joining us at the church, we are suggesting a \$10 per person donation (But what you give is up to you). All proceeds will go to sidewalk prophets.

www.sidewalkprophets.com. Please RSVP to Pastor Doug at ccpastor@msn.com (Or respond to the Faithlife Calendar link) **If your preference is for another style of Christian Music, nearly all of the bands are offering some sort of LiveStream Concert, and I encourage you to find one that you like, maybe invite a friend over, and enjoy it together.**

Deacons

Help in all kinds of ways... from helping the Elders and the MACs to Usher responsibilities

Cathy Hadley



Your

2021
Deacons

Joe Nasise



FEBRUARY EVENTS

[Thank you!](#)

Thank you for the pastor appreciation gift at the end of 2020. I am grateful and honored to have served along with you this past year. With the many challenges of fulfilling the call to make disciples during a pandemic, I am thankful for your patience as I learned how to embrace technology and provide safe learning environments in order to connect and encourage you.

Lord willing, I look forward to serving with you in 2021!

Steve Bublitz

[Parents: As members of the body of Christ, we need each other!](#)

We as a church want to partner with you as the primary caregiver and spiritual leader in your house, as well as engage you to be invested in the kingdom of God here at The Christian Church. Through our church's online platform:

[Parents of Children Discipleship Chat \(Infant – 6th Grade\)](#)

Meet 2nd Wednesdays of the month. Next: **February 10, 6:30-7:30 p.m.**

[Parents of Youth: Discipleship Chat \(Middle and High School\)](#)

Meets 3rd Wednesday of the month. Next: **February 17, 6:30-7:30 p.m.** A time to meet other parents as we encourage and pray for one another. Topics related to spiritual growth, discipleship, and parenting will be discussed.

If you have any questions about setting up your Faithlife account, contact Pastor Steve!

[You are invited to come in person at the church:](#)

-Family Worship, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

-Children's Moment during worship by Pastor Steve

-Children's Church: Weekly lessons led by volunteers! More volunteers needed. Please pray!

Infant, Toddlers, and Early Walkers

Preschool-K: "Jesus Cares"; "Jesus Loves Us"

1st – 3rd Grades "Jesus Cares"; "Families"



[Meet with Pastor Steve and special guests for discipleship!](#)

Younger Elementary: Mondays 4 to 4:20 p.m. on Faithlife

Middle School: Tuesdays 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. @ the church.

High School: Wednesdays, 2:30 -3:30 p.m. TBA

Older Elementary: Wednesdays, 4:00-4:30 p.m. on Faithlife



The Missions Committee at Los Alamos Christian Church seeks to follow Jesus' command: "...You shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." - Acts 1:8

Our Jerusalem is Los Alamos. We live here and we share our faith here. But we are not alone. We support these local missions:

Hope Pregnancy Center
Young Life Los Alamos

Our Judea and Samaria is New Mexico, El Paso, and Juarez. We live near these people. We support:

Christian Church Starters of New Mexico
Cowboy Up International
(They have planted or are planning to plant churches in Valencia County, Edgewood, Cebo-la and Pecos, NM)
El Porvenir Christian Camp

Our Ends of the Earth is everywhere else. We do not live near here, but others do. We support:

Alba Mission Scotland
Cookson Hills Christian Ministries
Dallas Christian College
Emmanuel Christian Seminary
Good News Productions
Haitian Christian Ministries
International Disaster Emergency Services
Institute of Strategic Languages and Cultures

(For further information on the above noted Missions, please refer to our website under the "Missions" tab)

KATHRYN ANDERSON

For the past 30+ years, I have lived in Los Alamos, NM with my husband, Lee, who is a retired engineer from Los Alamos National La-

boratory. Lee and I have one son, Evan, who is employed at the laboratory as an engineer and is married to Angela who works as a training specialist at the Los Alamos laboratory as well. As a family we enjoy the outdoors: hiking with our dogs, skiing, snowshoeing and golfing. I am a retired speech pathologist with the public schools.

SPIRITUAL BELIEFS

I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, became man was crucified, died and rose again as the atoning sacrifice for my sin. My salvation is through Jesus Christ. I believe that the bible is the infallible word of God and I believe that there is one God who eternally exists in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. I believe in the great commission in Matthew 28: 16 - 20 to go and make disciples of all the nations.

Lee and I have attended the Los Alamos Christian Church for over 30 years. We have led the junior high and high school bible study and youth groups for many years and went as sponsors with these children to church camps in the summers.

Lee and I have also been a part of small care group/bible studies. I have taught a variety of Sunday school classes for children. I led Wee Worship for 2 - 5 year old children for many years.

I have also organized and helped with numerous vacation bible schools.

I have led and participated in women's bible study groups.

I currently serve on the Missions committee at our church.

My mission experience includes taking high school graduates to Honduras with the Christ in Youth ministry and participating in a house building ministry in Juarez, Mexico.

I have been on six trips so far to Haiti with HCM and helped with 13th year graduation, Christmas parties and gift distribution as well as food and clothing distribution.

I feel that God has called me to use the talents and gifts he has bestowed in my life to further his kingdom. I hope to be of service in whatever area God calls me.



Updates to
our Building
for 2020



Thank you to
our Aesthetics
Committee

The art department has been busy lately. We received budget approval from the board to continue with the decorative improvements for the education wing, mainly carpet and paint to coordinate with the rest of the building. Since our crowds are down, and not many activities were going on room to room, we took this opportunity to tackle this very big project.. This particular project was headed up by Steve Bublitz, our youth coordinator.

In 2011, Sandy Rayburn and Joanna Gillespie began an organized aesthetics committee to proceed with artistic improvements in decor and room function church-wide. The idea was to continue with the efforts Joanna started prior to that in the upstairs classrooms, bringing the look into the 21st century with bold accent walls, and coordinated window shades. Both with an art background, Joanna specialized in floral and window displays, and Sandy had fine art and interior design experience. We discovered we were of one mind with direction and purpose, which aided in our efforts and also created some fun!

We brainstormed lots of ideas, and set some goals, the main one being to take our building out of the '70s. One of our philosophies was borrowed from Will Rogers: "You never have a second chance to make a first impression," meaning, what do people see when they walk through your door for the first time? Public appeal is paramount. The over-riding purpose was to coordinate the entire building, having continuity throughout. Another vision we had was the pursuit of excellence in all we do.

With those visions in mind, we made some plans, aiming toward beauty, safety, function, organization and comfort. Beautification and organization are two sides of the same coin. If you do one, to some extent you do the other.

We sponsored two all-church rummage sales to raise money for our initial lobby project, which was "neutralizing the background" so that any decor could function within it. And, we wanted to work with the wood trim color, and the sanctuary color we already had in place. So, we started with paint. Paint is the easiest and quickest (and usually the cheapest) way to make significant changes in the look of a room—or an entire building. And, it is the most forgiving. The industry theory is, "it's only paint. If you hate it, you change it." Some of our projects we did ourselves with volunteers, and some we tasked to professionals.



We wanted to give Nona Stone's oil painting of Molas Pass in Colorado a prominent place in the fellowship hall. (The jury is still out as to the background wall color behind the painting, even though it got the most votes. We may revisit that at some point.) Additionally, we wanted to focus on better seasonal floral elements to set a mood for worship, and have spent some time and money researching, and purchasing new artificial trees. Early on, we worked with Chuck Fite, the facilities coordinator at the time. Projects included sound-dampening panels in the fellowship hall, and uniform (fluorescent) lighting colors.

We had Chuck move the coat rack from its prominent place in the lobby (we decided it shouldn't be a decorative element) to opposite the mailboxes in the hallway, moved the coffee bar back to its original alcove space in the lobby so it could function as an info kiosk at the entry, planned a bold move for the sanctuary in painting the band and baptistry lofts a bright accent color, with paraphrased scriptures. Suddenly the sanctuary had character and presence. The blood-red color, to us was the quintessential "church color" having much spiritual and seasonal significance. It coordinated with the red in the stained glass nicely. Interestingly, it also got the most votes in our color samples.



We picked some neutral colors as a base for the entire building, with the intention of working some accent colors around them within the rooms.



More to come in March



For the Month of February A Church Wide Activity



You are invited to be a

Valentine's P. I. G.

(Partner In Growth!)

WHO: ALL Church members are invited! Families, couples, singles - everybody! Each of these is considered a family unit for this activity! Your family unit will be assigned the name of another family unit.

WHEN: You will use the month of February to be a P.I.G. (a Partner In Growth)

WHAT: Secretly doing something each week for your assigned family unit to express love. Do your best not to let them know that you are doing it! These same things will happen to your family unit by the family unit that gets assigned to you. So keep your eyes open for Valentine Pigs! They are so sneaky, its hard to spot them.

- 1 **WHY:** The goal is socially distanced fun and fellowship - and helping one another grow in Christ!
- 2 **If you would like to participate,**
- 3 Email theChristianChurch@msn.com by Wednesday, Jan. 27 with the following information about your family unit:
 1. Name(s) (You, your spouse, children and their ages, if applicable).
 2. Picture (remember: we're getting to know one another, and having a picture will remind your PIG to pray for you!)
 3. Physical address
 4. Mailing address (if different from physical address)
 5. Three prayer requests you have for the month of February
 6. You will be secretly assigned to another family unit by Pastor Steve and Sherri.
 7. Do the suggested family activity for each week and make it fun - but keep your identity secret!
 8. **Secretly** drop off (or mail) the item(s) your family unit has decided to use to express love for your assigned family unit each week.

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Valentine's P. I. G. SECRET ASSIGNMENTS

L means Laughter January 31 – February 6 (week 1)

Be sure to create your Faithlife account beforehand. Need help? Contact Pastor Steve or Doug.

“A cheerful heart does good like medicine...” Proverbs 17:22

Activity: give the gift of laughter to your PIG!

Ideas: a letter or card with jokes or comics in it; a suggestion for a funny TV show or movie to watch; a memory you have of something funny that happened to you or them (just don't give away your identity!)

O means Overcomer February 7 – February 13 (week 2)

“I have told you all this so that you will have peace of heart and mind. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows; but cheer up, for I have overcome the world.” John 16:33

Activity: remind your PIG that they are an overcomer!

Ideas: a letter or card with verses or thoughts on being an overcomer; a suggestion for an empowering sermon or movie to watch; a memory you have of something you overcame or they have overcome (just don't give away your identity!); a poster of a strong person in their yard or on their door - think of the old-time strong man in the circus - with a scripture reference on it (secretly!); a craft they can make to hang on their fridge to remind them that they are an overcomer.

V means Valentine's February 14 - February 20 (week 3)

“Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.” 1 Peter 4:8

Special Event: Sidewalk Prophet “Reasons for Joy” (Psalm 150) Livestream Concert Watch Party - Friday, February 19 - 6 PM in the sanctuary. (Please RSVP to ccpastor@msn.com - Suggested Donation \$10 to be collected at the event - All proceeds will go to the Sidewalk Prophets)

E means Encouragement February 21 – February 27 (week 4)

“Therefore, encourage one another and build one another up, just as in fact you are doing.” 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Activity: give the gift of encouragement to your PIG!

Ideas: a letter or card with scripture verses in it; let them know how you have been praying for them this month; write out a prayer, incorporating their requests, and send it in a card or letter; give them a craft they can make that would encourage them or a Scripture they can hang on their fridge that would encourage them

The “Big Reveal” Fellowship! Sunday, February 28, 6 p.m. on Faithlife!*

Find out who your secret P.I.G. is, hosted by Pastor Steve and Sherril

The **Worship Team** had just begun to set up for practice. They had worked hard on a new piece and they knew it was a little more “Country” than they had played in the past. From the doors of the sanctuary came a commotion, as two musicians came in carrying their equipment. A baritone voice blared out with a heavy Southern drawl:

“We heard ya’ll was fixin’ to play today, Bert. We came to help ya with this Hop-pin’ Holy Hoedown.”

“Oh Jesus, save us.” said Bert with a low, painful moan in his voice. It was his cousin Cleatice and his wife, Bertha Ellen, from South Podunk, Louisiana.

Bob Holton said, “Folks we usually work alone with this kind of music.”

“Oh shucks, ya’ll just go on ahead. We’ll just fill in the empty spots.” said Cleatice. Bob just went quiet.

Bertha Ellen sang out a screechy middle “C” and they tuned from there. Phil Logan just shook his head and everyone went ahead with the music. It turned out to be a lot better than expected, as part of the service. The place began to really move and over it all you could hear Cleatice yelling:

“Do ya hearrrrr the Lord callin’ to ya brothers and sisters?”

“Yeeeeeeees,” everyone replied! With clapping hands a goin’, Gretchen Keirstead and Sandy Rayburn began to kick up a jig. Doris Logan went pale and stepped back to give them plenty of room. Pastor Doug looked up to the ceiling and cried out:

“Lord, you do work in mysterious ways!” But then he couldn’t help himself any-more and yelled out:

“Go Christians. Go Christians. Go!”

Will the church ever be the same?
Will Cleatice and Bertha Ellen become members?
Will Bob be able to live with Bertha Ellen’s screechy “C”?
Look for the answers next month in Mayhem with the Mertzses

