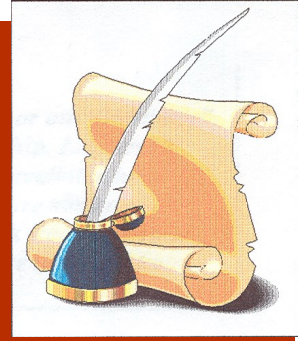


The Holy Post



FEBRUARY 2022

Addiction is one of the behaviors we are most judgmental about. Most of the time it is because we have no reference to or experience with it. There are as many addictions as there are flowers in the garden. Some are just seen more than others and most all of us like to think we are above or better than those who struggle with the worst.

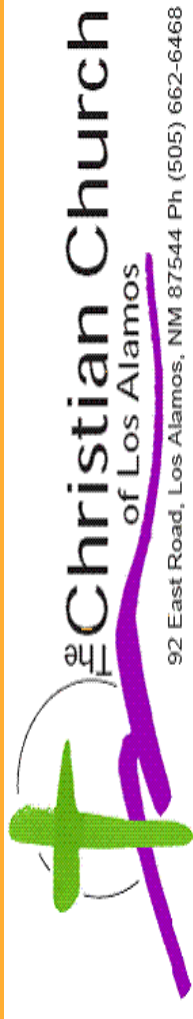
The first thing that has to happen for those who bear addiction is to admit that they have one. In whatever way they feel most comfortable they need to seek help. **This may seem easy to most people, but it is NOT!** They have all kinds of fears about treatment.

The first thing the rest of us need to do is give them a break, especially if they are taking steps to get better. Whether we want to admit it or not, there are few of us without some kind of addiction. We have addictions of wanting the latest version of everything, so we can feel that we are better than others through our toys, cars and clothing... the houses we live in... the schools we send our kids to. We spend ourselves into bankruptcy to make those things happen. Some of us swear like coalminers, mostly when few others are around... We eat ourselves into obesity and bad health... We judge others constantly... sometimes not even realizing it at the time. These are just some of the common addictions that we share and we often don't even see them. I could go on and on and on. So the next time you judge someone like this, think of the addiction that you carry and overlook or hide so well...

People don't continue addiction because they like what is happening to them. They have no control over their behavior. That's the problem! In some cases they are suicidal, because they can't control their behavior.

In most of the cases, that I have been involved with, one of the first steps is to receive the Lord into their lives. They admit that they need a higher power to help them overcome. We could do them a great service to be there for them as a servant of His love, rather than the Devil's spokesman for condemnation! Surely they need to be accountable for their actions, but they also need to be forgiven in grace, as the Lord does for us.

Phil



The weather man is predicting that Phil, the ground hog, if he were to live around here, would not see his shadow because of an approaching storm, so spring is just around the corner; but, in Punxsutawney, where Phil lives, it is supposed to be a mostly clear morning. So, Phil will likely see his shadow, indicating that there will be six more weeks of winter. This is not the best way to predict the weather.



The weather is something that we talk about, making predictions, all the time. If a storm is on the way, we want to know about it so we can prepare to withstand it. Fortunately, weather forecasting has been greatly enhanced over the years, and we are given a better idea about what might transpire. We are warned well in advance. It is a whole lot better than using something like “Red sky at night, sailors’ delight; Red sky at morning, sailors take warning.” An old adage, which is true, within limits.

It is true, most of the time, because weather patterns move from west to east with the prevailing winds. At night, we look west to see the setting sun, and how its rays refract on the dust and moisture particles. Red is the result them being suspended in a high pressure trough with stable air. And we can see it because no storm clouds are building up to block the sun’s rays, indicating that good weather will likely follow. But, looking east to the sunrise and seeing red indicates that the high pressure trough has already passed and a low pressure trough is likely on its way, which usually brings storms. It is not always accurate, but is often enough to be a reliable way of predicting the weather.

Jesus even talked about it this phenomenon. It was when some Pharisees and Sadducees were “testing” Him to see if He really was the Christ, or not. It took place immediately after He had miraculously feed 4000 people with seven loaves of bread and a few fish (Mt. 15:32-39). Not seeing this as a sign, they asked Jesus to show them a “sign from heaven.” He said, “You see a red sky in the evening and say, ‘It will be fair weather,’ but you can not discern the signs of the times?”

In his gospel, John highlighted seven signs that can be used to determine that it was the right time for God to send His Son to save the world, just as He promised. They were: Changing water into wine, Healing the royal official’s son, Healing a paralyzed man, Feeding the 5,000, Walking on water, Healing the man born blind, and Raising Lazarus from the dead. Jesus offered more signs than these, but John felt like they were enough to convince anyone who could “discern signs.” He didn’t list the only sign that Jesus told these Pharisees and Sadducees that He would show them: The Sign of Jonah. It was a veiled reference to His death, burial, and resurrection. And is the only sign that anyone really needs to ‘see’ in order to predict the ‘weather’ (spiritually speaking).

We are enjoying the good weather of God’s favor. A season when we can respond to God’s offer of grace. But the storm of God’s judgement is approaching. It is on the horizon. We can prepare ourselves for it by trusting God to save us. Those who do don’t have to worry about that storm, whenever it arrives, for God’s grace will bring us through it unharmed.

Who's Who in the Pews?



Mark & Karen Miller Mark came to Los Alamos in 1987. Karen came from Albuquerque in 1989. Mark worked at the Lab and Karen came when they got married. Mark is a hunter/fisherman and competitive shooter. Karen loves gardening & reading. They hope to live happy, healthy, productive lives and reach heaven.

They like that our church family is filled with good Christians and welcoming people. They think Pastor Doug is a good shepherd and has excellent messages. They have a son Matthew, 25 who attends NMSU on a criminal justice degree.

The Frame Game Who is this?



Last Month Was Andrew Green



In The Old Days

Lloyd & Sue Dunn and two boys arrived in L.A. in 1964 and stayed until 1968. At that time the Church had nearly completed work changing a two-story barracks building into a sanctuary and other wooden buildings into classrooms. We were using old folding chairs and school seats for seating. Some things still needed to be finished, but turnout for work parties was low.

Finally, we were getting ready for pews and carpet. I presented several pictures of possibilities, and someone asked why only "red" carpet was shown? My reply, "I show what I like, if you want something else, come up with your own pictures!" There was a big discussion about carpet static and pad problems with our altitude. They ended up putting in "wool carpet" which was exceptional quality, but the installer said the pad choice would cut the carpet life in half. Well, you win some & lose some. The carpet color was "red."

When the new pews arrived, the installer started his work and then took a supper break. There was some meeting scheduled that night at the Church. One of the men sighted down the pew ends and observed they were not evenly spaced. Front to back it was off just a fraction of an inch, but they had him start over. Welcome to Los Alamos.

Nona Stone painted the beautiful baptistry picture, which is now in Rayburn Hall. I wanted a copy so bad, but by the time I gathered enough courage to ask, she had reproduced that scene all she was willing to do, so I lost out. One funny story about the baptistry, I was counseling a couple about to be married. The girl was a member and the boy decided to accept Jesus Christ and to be baptized. All of his family came to the worship service to witness this important step. As we stood in the water, I raised my hand and pronounced, "Dearly Beloved..." Everyone else thought it was hilarious, but I was mortified. However, it certainly wasn't the only time the congregation had a good laugh at my expense.

Memories of Lloyd Dunn



FEBRUARY EVENTS

Join us at the church for the

Big Game

February 13th

Big TV in the Fellowship hall

Bring the whole family

Red/Green Cookoff

Make your best Red/Green
Chile dish and we will vote on
whose is the best.



Kick off is at 4:30 PM

Light travels faster than
the speed of sound.
That's why some people
seem very bright until
you hear them speak.



Valentine

Family Fun Night on Wednesday , February 9th

We will enjoy a "Love Feast" at 5:45 pm, then spend some time together playing games and activities that focus on the various kinds of Love that bind our lives together.

See our website at:

www.lachristian.org



Triple Treats

Triple Treats at the Logan's home on January 22nd included Kim & David Hollowell and Barb & Steve Hanson. This meal's theme was Australian food and fixins. Games (no brainers) followed.

If you'd like to be on our list for Triple Treats, just call 920-7367, email me at philanddii@msn.com or let us know when we see you at church. This is a "Parents Night Out" event. We try to mix it up with new members and old. Dorii and I will supply the main course and ask the other friends to bring a salad or dessert to share.

ELDER BOB NOLEN

WELCOMES YOU

Bob is from Dallas, Texas and went to the University of Houston for his Ph. D. He married his wife Sally in 1967. He got his first job in Ann Arbor, MI . Their first son, Charles was born there in 1978, then Russell in 1981. They then moved back to Texas in 1981 where Blake was born. They came to Los Alamos in 1985 and he worked at LANL for 23 years, before retiring in 2008. They have

10 Grand Children, 7 of them live here in Los Alamos.

They have been teaching Choreographed Ballroom Dance since 1975. They teach in Los Ala-



mos 2 nights a week in Rayburn Hall. They travel extensively teaching and dancing. They are recognized the world over for some of their choreography.

Bob began serving with the Christian Church of Los Alamos in January of 1998.



Memories of This Faith in Christ are those received God's grace. In that grace we stand. We are full of joy because we expect to share His love with you.

Meetings will take place every two (2) months at the Christian Church (or other specifically announced location) determined by the Chairman. A quorum of

50% of the Board is required to take any official action. The October meeting of the Church Board will follow the annual election of the Elders and Deacons. Spe-

cial Meetings may be called periodically. All Board members will be notified in advance of "Special Meetings."



Young Men's Breakfast

Thanks to Joe Arellano for providing delicious breakfast burritos.

At our breakfast we got to know each other a little better and talked about being the spiritual leader for our families.

Conversation included involving our families and ourselves as men in and through our church.

We all agreed to get together again, despite the obstacles we all face: busy schedules; the need to ensure quality time with our families.

Future ideas in getting together include doing a red and green chili cookoff; Valentines fun with our families; service project; local hikes and Colorado 14er (14000') mountain; a men's retreat in the summer.





During this stressful time we are living in, we should acknowledge that some of us need a little counsel to get us through. That someone may be you. Counseling is available through Pastor Doug or he can refer you to more professional assistance. *Help is on the way!*



Cowboy Up International Ministries (CUIM) is a non-profit corporation established to encourage and support Western Heritage Church Planting as "We Go Across America With the Gospel".

CUIM's immediate goal is to launch 15 high impact Cowboy Churches across our Nation over the next 3 years.

What is a high impact Cowboy Church? Cowboy Churches are being used of God in a fruitful way to evangelize and make disciples of thousands upon thousands of western minded men, women and families who already had a belief that God existed but had no saving knowledge of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

CUIM is currently in the process of launching a cowboy church in Dona Ana County (Las Cruces), NM.

Ron Nolen, Executive Director for CUIM, will be visiting Los Alamos Christian Church on Sunday, February 13.

He will present information about CUIM during the Sunday School hour and will preach during worship. Come and hear the exciting things that God is doing to further his kingdom.

Kathy





Weekly Church Prayer Gathering

All are invited to seek God and pray for our church and community,

Sundays at 10 - 10:15 a.m. in the church "library."

Facilitated by Janice Gross and Pastor Steve



HEY MEN!

Looking for a chance to do some fun, healthy, and possibly some challenging hikes once a month?

Starting maybe in March we will look to do some local hikes. Then as we move towards the summer, we will look to do a few taller peaks.

Then we will travel and do a "14er" (14,000 foot) mountain hike in Colorado for our ultimate goal!

Note: you are welcome to jump in/out of the local hikes. If a 14er is on your list to do, there is an expectation that you will have done at least two hikes in preparation for the 14er.

Interested? Contact Thad Hasselstrom and Pastor Steve who has summited seven "14ers" Let them know of your interest.

Upcoming meeting to discuss hike possibilities, 14er preparation/selection and **NEW!** "Men's Gold Rush Retreat" in Silverton, Co. (July).



Pastor Doug, Pastor Steve and Bert Mertz sat discussing the best positions for prayer, while Roy Kierstead worked nearby on the sound system at the church.

"Kneeling is definitely the best way to pray," Pastor Doug said.

"No," said Pastor Steve. "I get the best results standing with my hands outstretched to Heaven."

"You`re both wrong," said Bert.

"The most effective prayer position is lying down on the floor."

Roy could not hold back any longer and added:

"Ya know, fellas "The best prayin` I ever did was when I was caught in a gust of wind and hangin` upside down from a telephone pole."

They all agreed that Roy had it right!

Has Pastor Doug learned something new for prayer?
Is Roy a part-time circus trapeze artist?
Will the two Steves try it Roy's way?
Look for the answers next month in Mayhem with the Mertzses

