

SOMBRA DEL MONTE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
THE SHADOW NEWSLETTER
MAY 2018



Cut The Pharisee Some Slack

The Pharisee was standing alone by himself and he was praying these things: "God, I thank you that I am not like other men: extortioners, oppressors, adulterers, and not like this Tax Collector." Luke 18:11 (Aramaic Bible in Plain English). These passages come from the famous parable of the Tax Collector and the Pharisee.



Jesus, typical of many rabbis, often cited cases in the extreme to make his points about a person's external expressions of their faith versus their heartfelt relationship to God.

In Luke's honor-shame culture, the Pharisee is the epitome of the honorable and righteous person, while the tax collector is labeled a social deviant, dishonorable, and thus an unrighteous man.

This Jewish tax collector understands that he can make no pretense of merit before the God of Israel given his occupation and offers only his sincerest regrets that he doesn't seem to measure up. Yet he goes down to his house more righteous in his humble contrition than the pious, devout Pharisee standing in the Temple reciting his acts of devotion and piety.

The first century audiences would have been familiar with the ostentatious displays of piety by some of the Pharisees, and I think this lies behind Jesus' parable. However, I encourage us to cut the Pharisee some slack. I say this because I am sure that many of us have publicly thanked God and bragged about being raised in families and communities of faith that taught us and encouraged us to be morally upright, charitable, and devout in the practice of our faith. Please, see in this parable Jesus' understanding of a person's deepest and sincerest relationship to God, not a condemnation of the Pharisee.

~Pastor Logan

2525 Vermont St. NE Website: www.sombracc.com
 Albuquerque, NM 87110
 Phone: 505-298-6707
 Fax: 505-298-4667
 Email: sombracc@qwestoffice.net



May BIRTHDAYS

Blake Azuela, 5-1
 Al Harvey, 5-17
 Adaline Lucero, 5-19
 Bobbie Bailey, 5-28

Steve & Sandy Parrish, 5-16

May ANNIVERSARIES

UPCOMING EVENTS

Church Women United
May Friendship Day Luncheon
Friday, May 4 at 10:30am

St. John's United Methodist Church
 2626 Arizona St. NE



Coffee fellowship will begin at 10:00am followed by the worship service at 10:30am. The theme for the service is "Reaching for Wholeness in Gratitude for God's Presence". May Friendship Day focuses on our gratitude for God's presence in all things and especially as we respond to human needs, such as childhood hunger. A luncheon will follow the service for \$10. Reservations may be made with Sharon Hamilton at 620-0223 or sharonh0223@yahoo.com.

Special Congregational Meeting
Sunday, May 6, after Worship

The SDMCC Board calls for a special meeting of the congregation for the purpose of electing Elders Emeritus.

The **Christian Women's Fellowship** will have their monthly potluck lunch and meeting on Wednesday, May 9, at noon.

The **Christian Men's Fellowship** will have their monthly breakfast meeting on Saturday, May 12, at 8:00am at Vic's Daily Café (3600 Osuna).

THIS 'N THAT

We are currently updating all information for a new church directory. A form is provided in the bulletin for your changes or corrections. This year we are also asking that you provide updated emergency contact information. Please return forms to Ilona by May 23. You can also call her during office hours or email her at: sombracc@qwestoffice.net with your updated information. Thank you!



Thank you to everyone for your donations of tuna for the Storehouse. We were able to donate 12 cases of tuna fish for their "Each One - Feed One" campaign!



The Christian Women's Fellowship will be collecting the following items for women and children of Barrett House through May: paper goods (i.e. paper towels, toilet paper, tissues) instant coffee, tea bags, and toys. Please put your donations in the green box in the church office. Thank you for your generosity!

WE ARE PRAYING FOR...

Continued prayers for Dorothy Beckner's cousin, Deanne Groube, as she continues cancer treatments.

Ongoing Prayer Concerns: Faye Domeney (Nadine Hoff's niece), Jack Eyster, Susan Sawyer & Bill Slough (Charlie Hays' friends), and Fred Shoemaker

Our shut-ins are: **Joanne Colvin and Abigail McVeety**