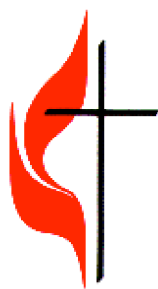




NEWSLETTER
OF THE
Estancia United Methodist Church
600 Williams, Estancia, New Mexico



AUGUST, 2008



Pastor: Rev. Charles Spooner

600 Williams, P. O. Box 126, Estancia, NM 87016

Church Office 384-5215 Parsonage 384-2710

email: spoonernote@gmail.com

Your Church Staff

Chairperson of Administrative Council

Recording Secretary

Lay Leader

Organist

Lay Member of the Annual Conference

Alt. Lay Member of the Annual Conference

Chairperson: Board of Trustees

Worship Team Leader

Education Team Leader

Chairperson: Missions

Chairperson: Evangelism

Care and Outreach Team Leader

Chairperson: Pastor Parish Relations

Chairperson: Finance Committee

Financial Secretary

Church Treasurer

President UMW

President UMY

President UMM

Marcia Fitzner

Carolyn Moore

Francis Winn

Morrow Hall

Nick Griffo

Marcia Fitzner

Bill Simms

Pam Lambert

Leslie Fastnacht

Marcia Fitzner

Nick Griffo

Carolyn Moore

Melanie Chavez

Mel Stephenson

Vickie Coburn

Sylvia Levy

Alma Wimsatt

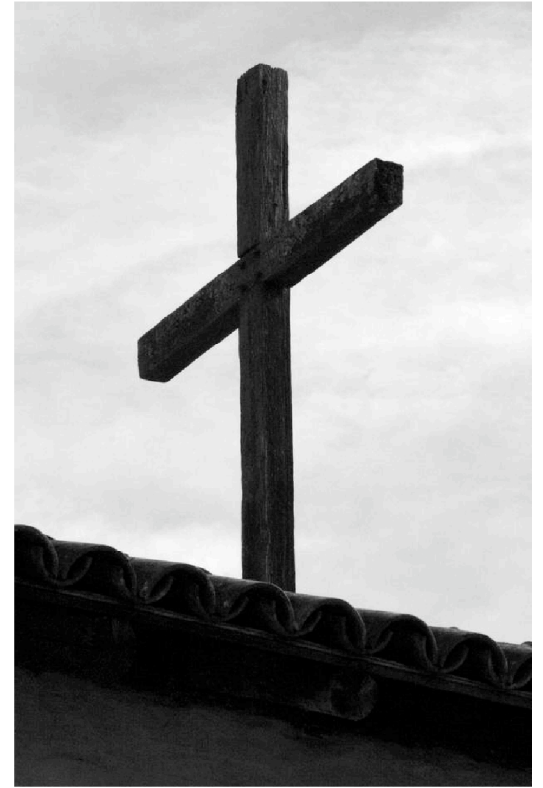
TBA

Nick Griffo

Bishop: D. Max Whitfield

District Superintendent: Rev. Jim Hawk

Please visit us on the web:
<http://www.gb-gm-umc.org/estancia>



Sunday Worship 9:00 AM
Adult Sunday School 10:15 AM

From Pastor Charlie

Vacation Bible School was excellent! What an exciting week we had last week. We served over 70 children and had a great, great, great time. We are a church blessed with talented and committed adults. If you missed being around the church you missed the display of talent, VBS oriented material and the joy of the activities. Thanks to ALL who made the experience memorable and meaningful.



Now is the Time! Now we should examine our needs, study programs, and make plans for the fall. The purpose should be to honor the faith we have been called to!

Through our corporate worship, educational events, and shared experiences we should be honoring our triune God and be active in sharing the gospel to our family, friends and neighbors. As your leaders plan for the fall express your interests, offer your services and join in making the Estancia Church vital and alive.

In Christ's Service,

-Charlie Spooner

God's Big Backyard

God's Big Backyard was our VBS theme this year. We reached out to 73 Children this year and had a great time doing it. Vacation Bible School was a BIG success and a lot of fun because of all the people dedicated to doing God's work.

Mel Stephenson got us started by registering the children for God's Big Backyard. The children were divided into groups. In charge of each of these groups was: Pre-K - 1st: Barbara Simms, Danaca Vigil, and Nathan Cowan, 2nd - 3rd: Vickie Coburn and Mariah Cowan, 4th - 6th: Butch McGee and Della Stephenson. Pastor Spooner, Julie Griffo, Leslie Fastnacht, Mariah and Nathan Cowan, opened each day with music, a puppet skit, and prayer. Each group then rotated through crafts with Abby and Kallye Martin, snacks with Cheryl Chavez and Kelly Darnell, recreation with Melanie Chavez and Pastor Spooner, and a Bible story with Leslie Fastnacht. In the background was Bill Simms who handled all of our printing and photography needs. Jason Fastnacht built props and whatever else his mean old wife asked him to do. Alma Wimsatt came and cleaned up after all of us at the close of each day.

We learned to serve family, friends, neighbors, community, and Jesus. Our memory verse for the week was Mark 12: 29-31 (look it up it's a good one!) Thank all of you who helped to reach out to our children. You did an awesome job!

God Bless You, Leslie



Puppets, Cooper and Nick



GAMES



STORIES

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8



FUN



Clowns

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AMAZING KIDS



SUPER TEACHERS

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Finance Committee

The Church finances for the first half of 2008 are progressing almost as projected in the 2008 budget. The only anomalies were the lower than expected income (giving) in May (approximately one-half) and church utilities continue to be higher than estimated by about 10 - 15%. It appears, the water bill is the main problem. Last months bill was about \$400. We have talked to the Board of Trustees in an attempt to find out why the water bill is so high.

Another category causing some concern, is in the Team Ministries category where VBS exceeded their budget. The cause may be that they got caught-up in the rise in prices on just about everything along with the difficulty in estimating how many children would attend. For example, there were over 70 children registered but the actual was something less.

There will be a Finance Committee meeting at 7:00 PM on August 4, 2008 to primarily discuss Pastor Spooner's compensation package for recommendation to the Ad. Council for approval. The PPRC chairperson and members have been invited to the meeting. I have received an e-mail from the Mountainair UMC discussing how their portion is to be distributed as well as their payment for a portion of Pastor Spooner's moving expenses.

-Mel Stephenson, Chairman

From Bishop Max

Some of My Thoughts

Sunday, July 27, 2008, we worshipped at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Albuquerque. It was a celebration of God's wonderful gift of salvation in Jesus Christ, fifty years of ministry for that congregation, and God's way of using leaders in that congregation to raise up people for ordained ministry. Dr. Terry Anderson listed the persons he knew who had entered ordained ministry through that congregation, and the report amazed me.

In many congregations, the church's leadership cannot recall a single person who heard and responded to God's call to ordained ministry in the past fifty years. It appears they believe it is the responsibility of other congregations to create an environment where individuals listen and expect God to speak, and for them to respond to God's calling. Most of the time, God communicates with laypersons about how they carry out their ministry in their secular vocations. However, unless individuals listen and expect regular communication from God through Jesus Christ, they will miss those special calls to service and the blessing of being God's instrument of hope and peace.

One of the most powerful witnesses I can remember occurred in my first few weeks of living in New Mexico. I met with the full Cabinet and asked them to share a short version of their call from God and their spiritual journey. Bill Wood began his witness by stating. "God called me to be a lay person." It was not the first time I heard a person make such a bold and confident witness, but I knew immediately that the Conference Lay Leader knew he was on a mission from God. God called him and he responded.

Contrast that witness with one I frequently hear when introductions are being made, "I am Kevin Jones and I am just a lay person." I want to scream. "You are one of Jesus' disciples. Jesus came to this earth, lived, died, and rose again that you might have life—abundant, eternal life—here and now." No one is ever just a layperson, unless he or she is proclaiming that they just show up at church from time to time, know a little about Jesus, but have never made a commitment to follow him as Lord and Savior. God anticipates every person to utilize the talents, gifts, and resources entrusted by God. No one is an unimportant disciple of Jesus Christ.

Understanding one's call from God, demands spending time with God and listening for the very voice of God. Very few persons receive oral communication from God. No loud booming voice from heaven shouts out for one to listen. Instead, the communication from God arrives through friends, neighbors, the study of scripture and the quiet meditative prayers offered as one earnestly seeks to know and do God's will.

I expect every pastor to describe his/her call into ordained ministry as part of one of their sermons during the coming year, and I would urge every Sunday School class to set aside time for members to describe the ways God communicates God's guidance, direction and call upon their lives. The church must rekindle the excitement and joy of hearing and responding to God's great expectations on the lives of those who follow Jesus as Savior and Lord.

Grace & Peace,

Max

August 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 9 AM Worship 9:15 Childrens Church 10:15 AM Adult SS 11 AM Worship - Mtair	4 7:PM FINANCE	5 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study 7 PM Men's Bible Study	6 10:am Quilters	7	1	2 Men's Mission Work Day
10 9 AM Worship 9:15 Childrens Church 10:15 AM Adult SS 11 AM Worship - Mtair	11 7:PM TRUSTEES	12 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study 7 PM Men's Bible Study	13 10:am Quilters	14	8	9
17 9 AM Worship 9:15 Childrens Church 10:15 AM Adult SS 11 AM Worship - Mtair	18	19 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study 7 PM Men's Bible Study	20 10:am Quilters	21	15	16 7 AM Men's Breakfast
24 9 AM Worship 9:15 Childrens Church 10:15 AM Adult SS 11 AM Worship - Mtair	25	26 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study 7 PM Men's Bible Study	27 10:am Quilters	28	22	23
31 9 AM Worship 9:15 Childrens Church 10:15 AM Adult SS 11 AM Worship - Mtair					29	30

Our church has a new mail box: PO Box 126.....!



Sent with a prayer to:



*Estancia United Methodist Church
P. O. Box 126
Estancia, NM 87016*

A minister parked his car in a no-parking zone in a large city because he was short of time and couldn't find a space with a meter. Then he put a note under the windshield wiper that read: 'I have circled the block 10 times. If I don't park here, I'll miss my appointment. Forgive us our trespasses.'

When he returned, he found a citation from a police officer along with this note 'I've circled this block for 10 years. If I don't give you a ticket I'll lose my job. Lead us not into temptation.'

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There is the story of a pastor who got up one Sunday and announced to his congregation: 'I have good news and bad news. The good news is, we have enough money to pay for our new building program. The bad news is, it's still out there in your pockets.'

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While driving in Pennsylvania, a family caught up to an Amish carriage. The owner of the carriage obviously had a sense of humor, because attached to the back of the carriage was a hand printed sign... 'Energy efficient vehicle: Runs on oats and grass. Caution: Do not step in exhaust.'

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A minister waited in line to have his car filled with gas just before a long holiday weekend. The attendant worked quickly, but there were many cars ahead of him. Finally, the attendant motioned him toward a vacant pump.

'Reverend,' said the young man, 'I'm so sorry about the delay. It seems as if everyone waits until the last minute to get ready for a long trip.'

The minister chuckled, 'I know what you mean. It's the same in my business.'