



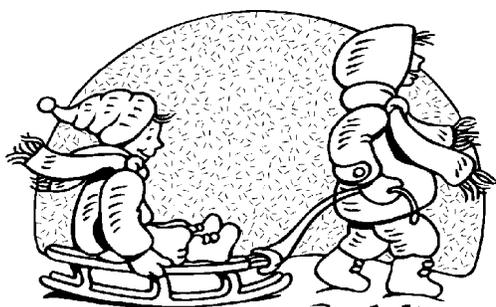
Estancia United Methodist Church,
600 Williams, Estancia, New Mexico

Church School 9:00 AM
Sunday Worship 10:00 AM
Nursery Provided



Rev. Linda Mizell, Pastor
P. O. Box 378, Estancia, NM 87016
Church Office 384-5215
Parsonage 384-2710
email: revlinda2@juno.com

OUR MISSION: To honor God by leading people to become devoted followers and ministers of Jesus Christ.



January, 2003

SUNDAY SERVANTS FOR JANUARY

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Lay Assist: Carolyn Moore
Ushers: Alice & Roy Daniel
Acolytes: Rose Daniel
Greeters:

YOUTH SCRIPTURE READERS

Jan 5: Brian Wilson
Jan 12: Ashley Welch
Jan 19: *Needed*
Jan 26:

KINGS KIDS

Jan 5:
Jan 12: Morrow Hall
Jan 19: *Needed*
Jan 26:



One of my favorite books of the Bible is **James**. Even though **Luther** thought it to be a “book of straw,” because, to him, it stressed works righteousness. I find it to be a book that helps me understand what it is to be truly Christian.

Recently I was in Albuquerque and ran across a Christian tract that fascinated me. It was titled, “**Endurance: Standing Firm in a Throw-Away World.**” Just the day before I had received a very thorough, provoking e-mail regarding the refining of silver (elsewhere in this newsletter). When those coincidences happen, you know that **God** is speaking to you.

All too often, Christians think that their lives should be trouble free, but that isn’t what scripture indicates. **God** does not promise Christians easy passage through life. **James** makes this clear in the opening of his letter. “Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything” (*James 1:2-4*). All of us live with pressures, the saved and

unsaved alike. **God** has a unique purpose in exposing His children to trials and challenges. **God** intends to bring us to maturity in our faith by refining us in the fires of trial. Only pressure can bring about the growth and development that **God** desires for us. The best example in nature that helps us understand this process is the *refining of gold and silver*.

It is important for us to understand the proper response to trials and the reason we face them. One of the first thoughts in our minds when trials come along in our life is: "Where did I get off track?" **James**, and others like **Paul** and **Peter**, teach us that testing is not a result of wrongdoing; it is simply part of **God's** plan. Neither is **God** interested in applying pressure so that His people give up, "Well, what can I do? I guess I will just have to learn to live with it." There is an active quality to endurance. We are called to a tenacity of spirit, which holds up under pressure while waiting **God's** time for reward or dismissal. This is sometimes easy for us to do for a week or even a few months, but when it goes on for years, that's another story. Yet this is when true endurance comes into play. Endurance and staying power is a trait we admire in others but not something we seek for ourselves.

While we live in a world that tries its best to avoid any kind of pressure and works to get rid of any difficulty, whatever the cost, the Bible teaches us that we should expect troubles and challenges as a part of Christian maturation. Many of us understand the necessity of exercise for a health body. The exercise builds endurance and the body is healthy and strong only as it is kept fit. Why do we have such a hard time seeing the necessity of spiritual training? In the same way we must learn to appreciate what God is carrying out in us as individuals and as the body of **Christ** to build us into a strong and mature spiritual body. God knows what we need to become mature Christians and what His church needs to become the true *Body of Christ*. So when things look impossible and when we feel stretched beyond our capability to endure, let us remember that **God** has a plan. It is time to turn to Him and seek his will and strength to move through the current time of testing so that we might become mature and strong in spirit and in truth. **James** goes so far as to say, "**Consider it pure joy...**

Refiner of Silver

Malachi 3:3 says: "He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver."

This verse puzzled some women in a Bible study and they wondered what this statement meant about the

character and nature of **God**. One of the women offered to find out the process of refining silver and get back to the group at their next Bible Study.

That week, the woman called a silversmith and made an appointment to watch him at work. She didn't mention anything about the reason for her interest beyond her curiosity about the process of refining silver. As she watched the silversmith, he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver in the middle of the fire where the flames were hottest as to burn away all the impurities. The woman thought about **God** holding us in such a hot spot then she thought again about the verse that says: "He sits as a refiner and purifier of silver."

She asked the silversmith if it was true that he had to sit there in front of the fire the whole time the silver was being refined. The man answered that yes, he not only had to sit there holding the silver, but he had to keep his eyes on the silver the entire time it was in the fire. If the silver was left a moment too long in the flames, it would be destroyed.

The woman was silent for a moment. Then she asked the silversmith, "How do you know when the silver is fully refined?" He smiled at her and answered, "Oh, that's easy - when I see my image in it."

If today you are feeling the heat of the fire, remember that **God** has His eye on you and will keep watching you until **He sees His image in you**.

Christmas is a time of year that brings its own kind of stress and joy.



This year was particularly difficult for many because of illness and loss. Yet, in the midst of personal challenges, many of you gave or yourselves in many ways. I thank all those who dropped off "goodies" at the parsonage. Everything was delicious. I thank all those who filled

the Christmas wreath with "green stuff" and for the lovely wreath that **Angela** made. I thank those who reached out on Christmas Eve to help the **Burr family** in their loss, especially **Bonnie Thomas** and **Dawn Chaplin** who coordinated the gifts for the family and baby sitting. I thank those who gave extra to help pay toward our apportionments. I thank **Francis Winn** for keeping us focused on

God's Word in his weekly Bible questions, and for **Elaine Darnell's** clever grapevine in the rear of the sanctuary. I thank all those who gave of their time and talents for the special services and events during the busy season of Christmas. I especially thank **Lowell and Gail Clark** for bringing their horses and wagons down for the night of caroling. If you have never watched them hook up the team you can't appreciate all that is involved. All those who made the Christmas Eve service a night to remember: **Nick and Julie Griffo, Bill Simms, Tracy Hemke, Paul Mizell, Ashley and Julieanne Welch, Brian, Susan, and Sam Wilson, Melanie Chavez and family, Angela Creamer, Ethel Floyd, Marilyn Seddon, Sylvia Levy, John John and Jacque Creamer**, a special thanks as they braved the snow and cold so that we might celebrate the birth of **Christ** in a special way. I always hesitate to write a thank you like this because I always leave someone out, so I apologize in advance for any omission due to feeble-mindedness on my part. As we learn and grow together as a family, my hope for all of you is peace and joy during this New Year.

Through our fervent prayer, **God** will bless us as we serve Him to the best of our abilities. His plan is perfect

Confirmation

Christmas is over and it is time to think about **Lent** and **Easter** time. This is the traditional time for our young people to enter confirmation classes. To be ready for Easter, classes would begin either on Sunday, January 19 or Wednesday, January 22. If you know youth who are interested please let **Pastor Linda** know.

UMY

The core youth have finished a leadership training session and are beginning to plan events, elect officers, and invite other youth to become active in the United Methodist Youth group. This is one of three organized groups that are "required" by the United Methodist Discipline. The other two are UMW and UMM. UMY has a service fund to support conference projects and will also be active in the community. They will be planning events to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandment that will include aspects of worship, fellowship, discipleship, evangelism, and ministry. Pray for our youth as they take on these important leadership roles in our church.

LOGOS Appreciation

While the **Logos** program was smaller this fall than it had been in the spring, there were still many who donated their time and talents to the program this fall. We would like to invite them to join us for a

dinner, fellowship, and an inspirational talk by one of Logos former trainers, **Ann Edenfield**. **Ann** was one of the first representatives to take Logos to Russia. She is now involved in prison ministry with an organization based on Logos principles, called Wings. Come enjoy the evening with us on January 13, at 7PM. **Pastor Linda and Paul will host.**

Wednesday Blessings

A number of adults have talked to me about having a **Bible study**, about a prayer group, and about a time for a simple mid-week praise and worship time. Since Wednesday has already been established as a time together, it seems only natural to make Wednesday night a time to gather for study, prayer, and worship. This would be more of a family time where all ages will have activities planned. There would be a time of gathering as a group and time to break out into smaller study/prayer groups. The proposed start date is **January 22**. The time and agenda will be set after the Council meeting on Jan. 12.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

from General Mills products, including Yoplait, has been extended until March 2003!

Each box top is worth 10¢ to a school of our choice - **McCurdy Mission**, of course.

Save your boxtops and turn them in to **Alma Wimsatt** before March 1, 2003.

More Info: www.boxtops4education.com

Sacramento Camp Online News

The New Mexico conference has always been so supportive of our ministry here at Sacramento Methodist Assembly (SMA). In the last year, we have tried to extend that ministry to the Internet by creating a web site that tells the world who we are and what we do. Our goal is to build an online SMA community. I'd like to tell you about some exciting new features on the SMA web site and I hope to see you there soon!

- eCards: Send SMA electronic greeting cards to friends, family, and church members.
- Message Board: Congregate online with others of like mind and spirit.
- Calendar of Events: See what's happening when!
- Newsletter: Read about current and upcoming events at SMA.
- Mailing List: Subscribe to receive e-mail messages for SMA news.

Access all of this, and more, at **<http://www.sacramentoassembly.org>**.



IGNITE '03 UPDATE

Just a reminder....*as of January 15,* **the ticket price for full admission to Ignite!03 will go up to \$49 ea.** Until then, it remains **\$39** (if youth are paying full price, it includes the Friday evening youth concert event with **Wayne Kerr!** We have 92 youth signed up for the full event thus far! Praise the Lord!)

Ticket price for youth who *only* wish to attend the **Friday evening concert** with **Wayne Kerr** is **\$10**. An evening snack will be included. Conference Youth Coordinator, **Dara Shipp**, is in the process of getting information/registration forms out to all youth groups of the conference.... please contact her if you have questions about this youth portion of **Ignite!03**. There is still plenty of room for youth to register for this concert event portion only. <mailto:dshippsumc@qwest.net>, or <mailto:dlynnshipp@hotmail.com>.

Don't delay....there are only **385 full event seats** left for **Ignite! 03**.



IGNITE! 03 IS FOR YOUTH

Just a note to correct a rumor that the upcoming **Ignite! 03** event is for **adults only**-- **NOT TRUE!**

This event's purpose is to rekindle the spark of passion and faith that is needed to reach out, find and make disciples in the world today. **Christ is for all ages!** We hope to create and revitalize an exciting relationship with Christ for all who attend. We believe that our young people have an intense desire to do just that!

The 5 outstanding speakers who will be in Albuquerque for this two-day event are sure to inspire and delight "adults" of all ages; but we are confident that our youth will find them and their message to us equally engaging. In addition, a variety of excellent music from choirs and praise bands throughout the event will be uplifting and refreshing.

As a *special bonus* just for the youth, on Friday night

from 10 pm until midnight we will feature the upbeat appeal of **Wayne Kerr** in concert, complete with a late night snack! Youth can attend the concert as part of the \$39 total event cost, OR they can choose to attend *just* the concert portion on Friday (\$10).

If you have any question about whether your youth should attend this disciple-making event in April 2003, the answer is YES! Don't hesitate to invite them.

Currently, there are nearly 100 United Methodist youth and 1766 adults registered for **Ignite!03**....we have **385 tickets left** before the 2300 seats will be sold out.

Let others know!

Before the Service begins... During the Prelude...

PRAY FOR:

1. Those who will lead us in worship
Preacher, Organist, Choir, Ushers

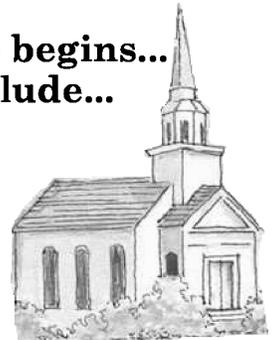
2. Those who are joining in our worship -
Our "regulars", our visitors.

3. Those who could not come -
The very young, the old, those who are ill, our young men in the Forces, those at work...

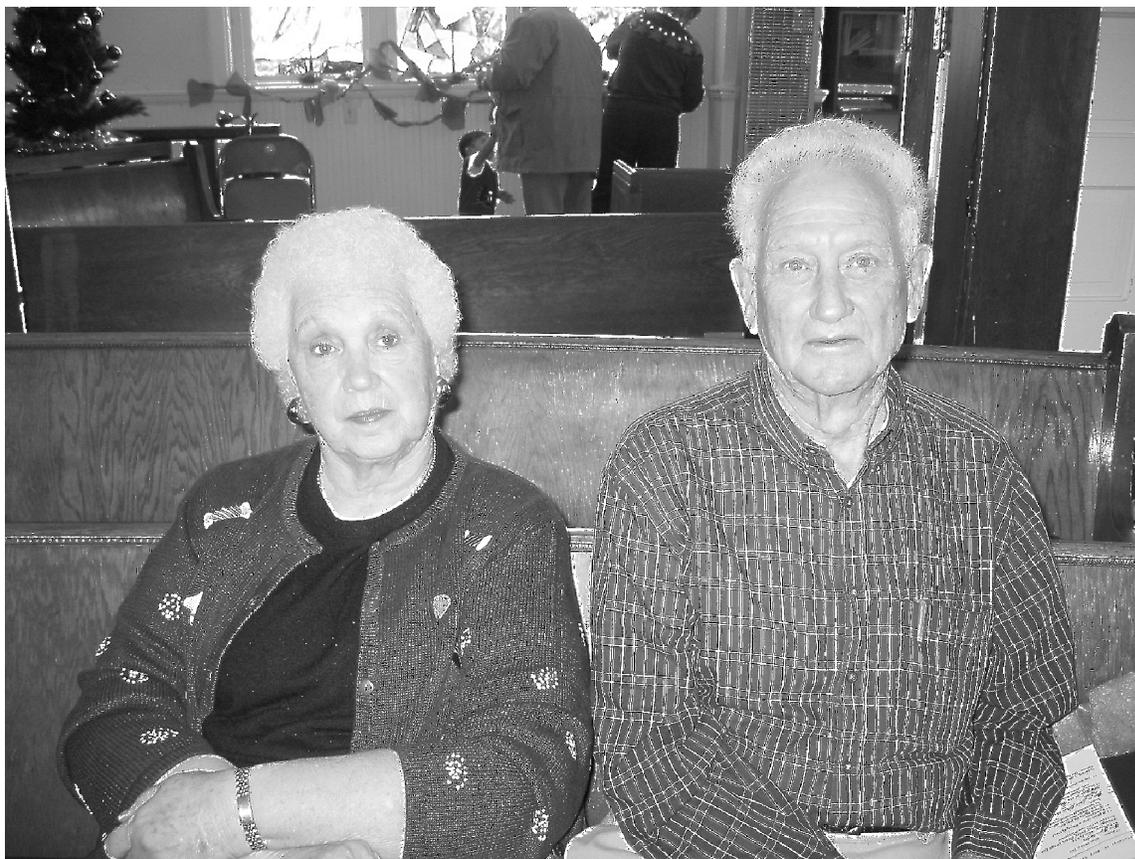
4. Those who would not come -
Especially those known to you and close to you.

5. Yourself, that you may -
Give to the Service, as well as receive from it. Listen to God, as well as speak to Him. Give your whole self to the worship. Bless others after having yourself been blessed.

"Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer".



WELCOME BACK!



We would like to welcome **Jan and Francis Winn** back to the Estancia United Methodist Church

The Winns were members of this church previously when **Francis** worked for Farm Home Administration. They moved here the first time from Colorado City, TX and were subsequently transferred from here to Socorro and then to Las Cruces where he retired recently. They were active members serving in most of the positions in the church. **Francis** served as Lay Leader for many years and **Jan** sang in the choir and served on most committees. **Francis** likes to teach the Bible and has a four week study on Revelation that he would like to teach.

Both have been on Emmaus Walks and have accepted church positions for 2003. **Francis** is on the Board of Trustees and Education committee and **Jan** is on the PPRC and Education committees.



Sent with a prayer to:

03
JAN

Estanda United Methodist Church
P. O. Box 378
Estanda, NM 87016

January 2003

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Task Force Church Mission Statement	3	4
5 Epiphany Sunday Arrival of the Wise Men 6 pm: UMY Epiphany celebration and Pizza party planning	6 Committee of Concern	7 7 pm: Weighdown	8	9	10 Report Day	11
12 Heber Miller Prayer Focus 11:30: Ad Council 7: pm: UMY Pizza Party & kick-off	13 LOGOS Appreciation Night Ann Edenfield guest speaker	14 7 pm: TRUSTEES	15	16	17	18 7am: Men's Breakfast
19 Special Offering Human Relations Day 11:30: Worship Committee	20	21	22 Proposed beginning Wednesday Blessings	23	24	25
26 Regular Worship Schedule	27	28	29	30	31	