

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



JANUARY, 2008



Pastor: Rev. Gary Eggart

600 Williams, P. O. Box 378, Estancia, NM 87016
 Church Office 384-5215 Parsonage 384-2710
 email: garye_1@q.com

Your Church Staff

Chairperson of Administrative Council	Marcia Fitzner
Recording Secretary	Carolyn Moore
Lay Leader	Francis Winn
Organist	Morrow Hall
Lay Member of the Annual Conference	Nick Griffo
Alt. Lay Member of the Annual Conference	Marcia Fitzner
Chairperson: Board of Trustees	Bill Simms
Worship Team Leader	Pam Lambert
Education Team Leader	Leslie Fastnacht
Chairperson: Missions	Marcia Fitzner
Chairperson: Evangelism	Nick Griffo
Care and Outreach Team Leader	Carolyn Moore
Chairperson: Pastor Parish Relations	Melanie Chavez
Chairperson: Finance Committee	Mel Stephenson
Financial Secretary	Vickie Coburn
Church Treasurer	Sylvia Levy
President UMW	Alma Wimsatt
President UMY	TBA
President UMM	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 Gary

January 1, I've got a lot of things on my mind. Ah, the New Year. What to do with it? I like new years, new days, new cars, and new toys. I like new things. Don't you? One day I hope to actually have a brand new car that no one has owned before. Financially, it may be more economical to let someone else own it that first year with all the depreciation, but I like new things. I grew up with used cloths (hammy downs), used skis, used bikes, and later used cars. Car companies have gone to great lengths to get that new car smell just right. Some things however, are just meant to be new.

This past year hasn't been the best year for me and I certainly don't want my next year to be a used one. Then, again, the idea of a used year sounds silly. But what do you want your new year to be like? If you browse the magazine racks, you will find a bunch of magazines offering a variety of articles that may represent what you are wanting in a new year. You will find people who want to be on *People* and be the "person of the year" or maybe *Newsweek* with "big ideas." Then again you might like *Fortune* and to be one of "the powerful 25". Or maybe comfort is what you are all about and *Men's Health* is up your ally with "fat belly food." It was interesting standing in line waiting to buy snack food in the airport...all those



magazines with candy and chip racks interspersed.

Some people liked the junk food with a coke and some bought health food and water. Some bought money magazines, and some bought entertainment ones. We approach life the same way. Some want to get ahead and some want comfort and entertainment. We all want various levels of comfort, entertainment, and getting ahead. However, we can miss the big picture. *U. S. News and World Report* was about “Sacred Places.” Where is God in the world today? Where is God in the midst of my life? The really bad stuff used to happen every now and then. Now it seems as though school shootings happen more and more often. Shootings have happened at churches. Even though we may not understand why God lets these things happen, the key is not to lose sight of the big picture, God is in control.

God says that he has plans for us; good plans, plans with a future and a hope. God says he gives new mercies every morning. God’s love is new every morning (Lam. 3:23.) God is not in the “hammy down” business (Isaiah, 42:9 & Isaiah, 43:19). Even though this wasn’t the best year for me (in my opinion), I am not so sure God would say that. He taught me lessons through difficult times, and for some of you, it has been the same. Difficult times happened this past year and God has been working in you. On your worst days this past year, God’s love has been there and new every day. God also has future plans for you and your life. God’s word in Isa. 43:18-19, says “Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?” I believe God wants to do something new in your life, something new in my life, and something new in the life of our church. However, if we hang on to the past, it is hard for God to do new things. We need to let go of last year and look forward to tomorrow and to the future. I want something new, and I am praying for God to open my eyes so that I may see what He is doing.

The New Year is a great opportunity to forget the year’s hard times, the painful times and the stuff I didn’t like. No matter what your year has been like, God is giving you a new one. You can spend it on junk food, comfort, and entertainment, or you can take the talent God has given you and use it. Take this New Year and do the good God wants you to do. Forget your past and focus on the future hope God is giving you. He is doing a new thing. I pray that you will “perceive it.”

-Pastor Gary

Christian Discipleship Conference

February 23rd 2008 is the Christian Discipleship Conference at St. Stephens UMC in Albuquerque. The theme this year is “*Living a Resilient Life*.” At a young age, Gordon MacDonald recognized that he had inherited a “quitter’s gene,” and because of this—and an influential track coach—he began a lifelong quest for answers. “Why,” he had to ask, “do some people finish what they start, persevere in moments of adversity, push themselves in the direction of their potential, and often make their greatest contributions in the latter half of life? This will be a great one day seminar. Plus, with every three registrations, the fourth is free, so we can save money on registration with every four people. Don’t miss it!

PARADE OF LIGHTS AND CAROLLING

On December 8 in Estancia the Parade of Lights featured our own Gayle and Lowell Clark with their team and wagon. They won top prize in their category. After the parade, they came to the church to pick up EUMC carolers to go caroling in Estancia. Several homes were visited and afterwards hot chocolate and goodies were served at the church. Many thanks to John and Joanie Shively who came and helped with the playing and singing!





Safe Sanctuaries Policy

Last week the New Mexico Conference Youth Ministries Director, Dara Shipp came to talk to members of our church about the Safe Sanctuaries policy that has been adopted by the General Conference of the Methodist Church.

She began by telling us that every church in the Conference must have a “Safe Sanctuaries Policy” filed with the Conference office by the end of 2007 or be declared “non-compliant!” In short, a Safe Sanctuaries Policy says that we are aware of today’s risks of child abuse and we are willing and prepared to take the steps necessary to mitigate those risks. “Non-compliant” means that in the event of an incident the Conference and/or our own insurance coverage would likely be void.

Some of the steps that need to be taken are:

1. Screen all personnel that work with our children.
2. Initiate a program to train workers with children or youth to understand the nature of abuse and to recognize the indicators of abuse and finally to carry out these policies to prevent abuse.
3. Initiate a clear reporting procedure for any incident of abuse that follows the requirements of New Mexico state law.
4. Insure that we have adequate insurance coverage available in the event a complaint of abuse occurs.
5. Insure that we have a clearly defined response plan to be implemented in case an allegation of abuse is made against someone in our church.
6. Offer annual education to the parents of our children and youth about how to recognize and reduce the risks of abuse.
7. And finally that we take our policies to prevent abuse seriously and are committed to their enforcement for the safety and security of all our children, youth and the adults who work with them.

It was not immediately apparent to the members attending this meeting that our small church in this small town needed such rigorous screening and training. However, she gave us some small town examples of churches who were not ready for an incident that occurred and it was disastrous. She also suggested that we check the FBI Sex Offender Registry for our neighborhood. **We did, and found that there are 5 registered sex offenders registered in the city of Estancia (one just a few blocks from our church) and 30 registered in Torrance County!**

Ms. Shipp will be conducting a training session for our church in the near future. Please consider this 2 hour session as a necessary and important use of your time.

Sunday December 16



Birthday Party for Jesus!



NOTE: The trustees have asked that if you make a donation to our church's building fund, that you specify "New building fund" on your payment.

Administrative Council

As we go into a new year together, I hope we are truly together in whatever projects are undertaken since our meeting with Dr. Crowson. Many things were discussed and many ideas were put forth. I encourage you to continue thinking of new things we can do for our community and our church.

Please keep in mind that you may be asked to do some of these things/projects as they come up and hopefully you will be willing to at least give it a try. We are sometimes asked to step out of our comfort zone and into brand new areas. Always remember, that we are a team and not just individuals trying to do it all ourselves. Most of all, remember that GOD is always with us.

I look forward to many wonderful events this new year as we work together.

-Marcia Fitzner, Ad. Council Chairman



Free Gift Wrap at Local Craft Fair in Estancia

On Saturday, December 8, at the high school gym a craft fair was held in Estancia. Members of EUMC sat up a gift wrapping table in the lobby and wrapped gifts, any one's gift, for FREE. It was a big success. Many gifts were wrapped for children as well as for adults, FREE. This effort was our way of giving something back to our community. It was unexpected and a joyful time for all. Those seen wrapping (and donating the materials) were Charlotte Baca, Julie Griffo, Amanda Eggart and Barbara Simms. Pastor Gary and Bill Simms helped with the table set up - Thanks everyone!

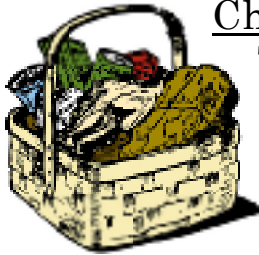
Many Thanks...

Carolyn Moore and her family want to express their deep appreciation to our church for the Christmas basket delivered over the holidays.



EXTRA Cleaning Help over the Holidays

Thank you to those people who pitched in and helped clean the church during December. Each family took a week and helped to keep our sanctuary and education building looking nice during this busy time. Those helping included Marcia & Don Fitzner and Gary Skaggs, Vickie Coburn, Sylvia & Phil Levy and Bill & Barbara Simms. Thanks Folks!



Christmas Baskets Given to Families in the Church

The quilting group in our church decided to make up Christmas baskets for some families in our congregation. Through word of mouth, many other people in the church helped with this project. Food baskets and poinsettias were delivered along with a visit and great joy. This project started quietly and gained momentum over the weeks before Christmas. Caring and giving is what it is all about.....

Thoughts for the New Year - "Remember"

Remember, spend some time with your loved ones, because they are not going to be around forever. Remember, say a kind word to someone who looks up to you in awe, because that little person soon will grow up and leave your side. Remember, to give a warm hug to the one next to you, because that is the only treasure you can give with your heart and it doesn't cost a cent.

Remember, to say, "I love you" to your partner and your loved ones, but most of all mean it. A kiss and an embrace will mend hurt when it comes from deep inside of you. Remember to hold hands and cherish the moment for someday that person will not be there again. Give time to love, give time to speak, and give time to share the precious thoughts in your mind.

Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away.

1. Throw out nonessential numbers. This includes age, weight and height. Let the doctor worry about them. That is why you pay him/her.

2. Keep only cheerful friends. The grouches

pull you down.

3. Keep learning. Learn more about the computer, crafts, gardening, whatever. Never let the brain idle. "An idle mind is the devil's workshop." And the devil's name is Alzheimer's.

4. Enjoy the simple things.

5. Laugh often, long and loud. Laugh until you gasp for breath.

6. The tears happen. Endure, grieve, and move on. The only person who is with us our entire life, is God & ourselves. Be ALIVE while you are alive.

7. Surround yourself with what you love, whether it's family, pets, keepsakes, music, plants, hobbies, whatever. Your home is your refuge.

8. Cherish your health: If it is good, preserve it. If it is unstable, improve it. If it is beyond what you can improve, get help.

9. Don't take guilt trips. Take a trip to the mall, to the next county, to a foreign country, but NOT to where the guilt is.

10. Tell the people you love that you love them, at every opportunity.

Church Officers 2008

Administrative Council and Committees of Estancia United Methodist Church

Chairperson Administrative Council	Marcia Fitzner
Recording Secretary	Carolyn Moore
Lay Leader	Francis Winn
Lay Member Annual Conference	Nick Griffo
Alternate Member to Annual Conference	Marcia Fitzner
Worship Team Leader	Pam Lambert
Chairperson Trustee	Bill Simms
Education Team Leader	Leslie Fastnacht
Chairperson Mission	Marcia Fitzner
Chairperson Evangelism	Nick Griffo
Care and Outreach Team Leader	Carolyn Moore
Chairperson PPRC	Melanie Chavez
Chairperson Finance	Mel Stephenson
Church Treasurer	Sylvia Levy
Financial Secretary	Vickie Coburn

Board of Trustees

(08) Francis Winn
 Bruce Dile
 (09) Jason Fastnacht
 Carolyn Moore
 (10) Bill Simms
 Mary Alice Drolte
 Members at Large
 Harry Irvin / Phil Levy

Pastor Parish Relations

(08) Melanie Chavez
 Alma Wimsatt
 (09) Leslie Fastnacht
 Jim Wyman
 (10) Mark Lambert
 Cheryl Chavez

Com. On Lay Leadership

(08) Mel Stephenson
 Leslie Fastnacht
 (09) Alma Wimsatt
 Francis Winn
 (10) Bill Simms
 Marcella Reynolds

Finance Committee

Chairperson	Mel Stephenson	Trustee Rep.	Carolyn Moore
Lay Member	Nick Griffo	Lay Leader	Francis Winn
Ad-Council Chair	Marcia Fitzner	Treasurer	Sylvia Levy
PPRC Chair	Melanie Chavez	Finance Sec.	Vickie Coburn
Member at Large			

Worship Leader

Pam Lambert /
 Susan Samuels

Education Ministry Leader

Francis Winn-Adult Leader
 Pastor-Youth Min. Leader
 Leslie-Children Min. Leader

Care & Outreach Leader

Carolyn Moore /
 Bonnie Thomas (?)

Organist: Marrow Hall Newsletter: Bill Simms Mc Murray Rep. Carolyn Moore

Communion Steward: Susan Samuels Food Pantry: Butch McGee / Charley Burson

January 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	31 NEW YEARS EVE	1 NEW YEARS DAY	2 10:am Quilters 6:30 PM Womens Bible Study	3	4	5
6 AM Worship 9:15 Childrens Church 10:15 AM Adult SS 11 AM Worship - Mtair	7	8 Pastor Gary in Mountainair 9 AM Womens Bible Study 7 PM Men's Bible Study	9 10:am Quilters	10	11	12
13 AM Worship 9:15 Childrens Church 10:15 AM Adult SS 11 AM Worship - Mtair	14	15 Pastor Gary in Mountainair 9 AM Womens Bible Study 7 PM Men's Bible Study	16 10:am Quilters 6:30 PM Womens Bible Study	17	18	19 7 AM Men's Breakfast
20 AM Worship 9:15 Childrens Church 10:15 AM Adult SS 11 AM Worship - Mtair	21	22 Pastor Gary in Mountainair 9 AM Womens Bible Study 7 PM Men's Bible Study	23 10:am Quilters 6:30 PM Womens Bible Study	24	25	26
27 AM Worship 9:15 Childrens Church 10:15 AM Adult SS 11 AM Worship - Mtair	28	29 Pastor Gary in Mountainair 9 AM Womens Bible Study 7 PM Men's Bible Study	30 10:am Quilters 6:30 PM Womens Bible Study	31	Please see Marcella Reynolds to schedule meetings or activities in the Education Building, 384-2358.	

JANUARY



Sent with a prayer to:



*Estantia United Methodist Church
P. O. Box 378
Estantia, NM 87016*

A Cup of Coffee



A group of alumni, all highly established in their respective careers, got together for a visit with their old university professor. The conversation soon turned to complaints about the endless stress of work and life in general...

Offering his guests coffee, the professor went into the kitchen and soon returned with a large pot of coffee and an eclectic assortment of cups: porcelain, plastic, glass, crystal - some plain, some expensive, some quite exquisite. Quietly he told them to help themselves to some fresh coffee...

When each of his former students had a cup of coffee in hand, the old professor quietly cleared his throat and began to patiently address the small gathering...

"You may have noticed that all of the nicer looking cups were taken up first, leaving behind the plainer and cheaper ones. While it is only natural for you to want only the best for yourselves, that is actually the source of much of your stress-related problems..."

"Be assured that the cup itself adds no quality to the coffee. In fact, the cup merely disguises or dresses up what we drink. What each of you really wanted was coffee, not a cup, but you instinctively went for the best cups...then you began eyeing each other's cups...."

"Now consider this: Life is coffee. Jobs, money, and position in society are merely cups. They are just tools to shape and contain life, and the type of cup we have does not truly define nor change the quality of the Life we live..."

"Often, by concentrating only on the cup, we fail to enjoy the coffee that God has provided us... God brews the coffee, but he does not supply the cups. Enjoy your coffee!"

The happiest people don't have the best of everything, they just make the best of everything they have...

So please remember: Live simply. Love generously. Care Deeply. Speak Kindly.
Leave the Rest to God.