



NEWSLETTER

OF THE

Estancia United Methodist Church
600 Williams, Estancia, New Mexico

DECEMBER, 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

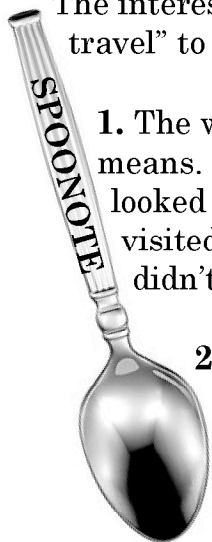
Please visit us on the web:
<http://www.gb-gm-umc.org/estancia>



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

Wise-Shepherds

The interesting thing about the birth account are the *visitors*. Both “know about, decide, and travel” to visit the scene of the event.



1. The wise men and the shepherds come to know something of the happening by different means. The magi were “scholars”, people who studied, who examined, thought about and looked about for the unusual and suggested. The shepherds were doing their job and were visited by angelic sightings and were informed about the event. That’s not to say they didn’t know about expectations of the Messiah

2. Both, from their base of knowledge, had to choose to travel to the site and confirm the happening. The wise men from a far distance and the shepherds a relatively short distance.

3. The wise men differed because they brought gifts.

4. The visitors both left changed. For what they knew, how they traveled, and what they perceived had to have an impact on their remaining lives.

Cont’d

5. Who are we for what we know, what we need, what needs changing, and how we might perceive? What I learn from the scene visitors, there is no set of standards about knowing, deciding, or perceiving. It comes to each of us differently - to seek, feel, observe, and experience the Christ event.

6. So! What about you this season? Will you go about life different because of the visitation of God through the Christ Child?

Stained Glass Project

The stained glass project is progressing very well.

Ruth Moon and I have just completed a stained glass painting class and completed the face, hands, and one visible foot of Jesus in the garden window. Other major accomplishments are:

- Bill Simms has built two work tables and three project boards (all are currently in use). He is now working on a third table.
- Don Fitzner and Gary are replacing two eight-foot light fixtures that did not work as well as a light switch in the restroom. Don also provided a small refrigerator.
- Jan Cool bought a new microwave oven so we can heat water and snacks. Della provided a coffee maker and small refrigerator.
- The "Methodist Cross" window is about 50% complete. This means all the glass is cut and half of the glass and came has been assembled. The window should be ready for installation in about a week or so.



Mel Stephenson, Della Stephenson and Jan Cool measuring for new windows

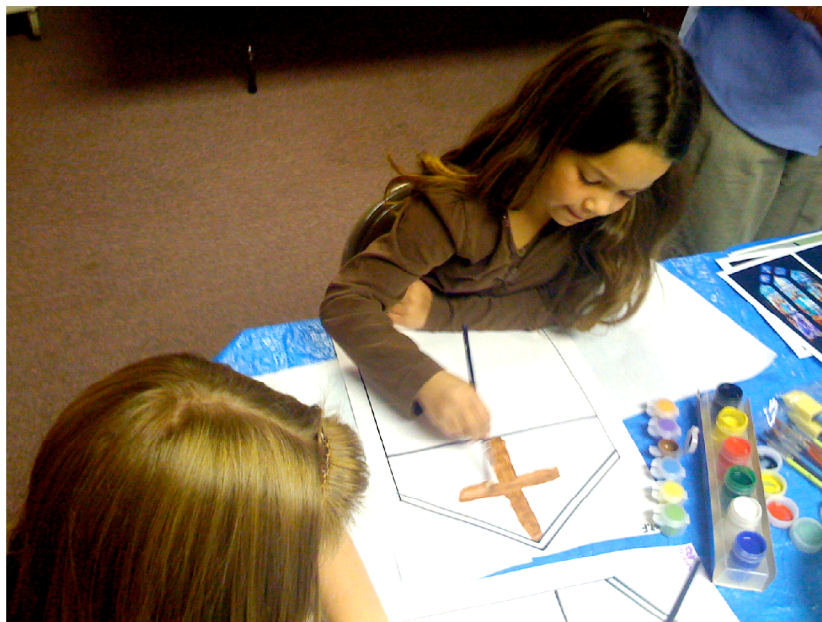
- The Nativity scene window, being worked on primarily by Jan Cool, is about 25% complete. We are trying to have this window complete by Christmas. Jan thinks this is a very ambitious schedule, but I like to set goals high for us and with God's help we can do it.
- Della has just started the "Jesus in the Garden" window.
- Phil Levy has finished stripping and staining the "Methodist Cross" and "Jesus in the Garden" window frames and is well along on the Nativity scene windows.
- The faces and hands (14 total pieces) of the Nativity scene have been sketched by Ruth Moon and I have cut all the glass so Ruth can start painting the pieces.

- The Church Fantasy Bazaar resulted in over \$600.00 for the project. The team made a number of stained glass items that sold-out at the Bazaar.
- Pastor Spooner continues to help out in many ways from cutting out patterns, helping select glass, and assembling tools.

As you can see a lot is going on and a lot of people need to be thanked for their participation and contributions to the project.

Also be watching for a write-up in the East Mountain Telegraph in the next couple of weeks. A journalist is coming next Monday, December 9, 2008 to do a story on the project. This will give us an opportunity to tell our story that this a community project and everyone is encouraged to contribute in some way.

-Mel Stephenson



Children making “Stained Glass Windows” in Sunday School



Children of the church practicing for the Christmas program



Christmas Schedule



Sunday, December 21st

Children's Program.....During morning worship 9:00 - 10:00 AM

Pot luck to follow worship service at 11:00 AM. Everyone please bring their favorite dish.

Children's Program for community 6:00 PM (Please call 384-5215 to reserve tickets.

No charge; however, tickets are necessary due to limited seating.)

Carolling around town following Children's Program - Lowell and Gail Clark will take us in their team drawn wagon to carol to shut-ins around town.

Hot chocolate and cookies at the Ed Bldg. afterwards!

Christmas Eve, December 24th

Christmas Eve Service.....6:00 PM EUMC Sanctuary

Administrative Council News

The end of the year is near and some of our members will be doing different jobs next year. Some, of course, will continue doing what they have been doing in a very fine way.

I want to thank all that have worked so hard to keep our church going. When you come on Sunday you might not be aware of all the activities that go on behind the scenes. Someone has to clean the church; someone has to provide the refreshments that we all enjoy; and someone has to be sure the bills are paid on time. It is easy to take all of this for granted. I could not mention all the people it takes to keep the church going simply because I would probably forget someone. I am just very thankful that so many step forward whether they are appreciated or not. We know that God takes notice and that is enough for us.

Those of us that work with the inner workings (paperwork etc.) are so grateful for all the special gifts of money, time and energy that all of you put forth.

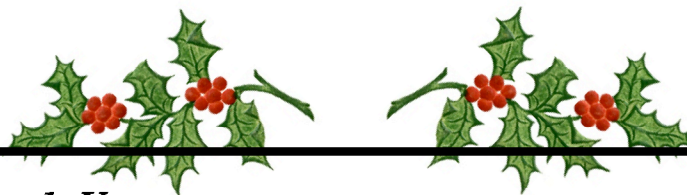
Lots of excitement about the window pane project! This is something that will bind us together and I know closer to God. Future members and visitors will look at them and think of God and be thankful for those that were willing to give of their time, talents and money to leave such a glorious memorial for others to enjoy. It reminds me of planting trees for others enjoyment.

We welcomed a new pastor and his family to our family and they have been a delight to work with. We look forward to a new year with them as we work together for the community, ourselves and most of all God.

With so much distress in our world, it is so comforting to go to church on Sunday and thanks to all of you, we feel the comfort and love our church offers.

Remember...God does not necessarily want our abilities, but he wants our ***availability***.

-Marcia Fitzner, Ad Council Chair



A big ***Thank You*** goes out to everyone who participated, contributed and were generous customers of the “Fabulous Fall Fling” bazaar. Over \$800.00 was made to help defray costs of making the stain glass windows.

- June Spooner, a bazaar chairman.

Hanging of the Greens

A Traditional Advent Worship Service

The Sanctuary Greens

The garlands which we hang in the sanctuary have long been a part of Christmas observances. Laurel and bay leaves symbolize victory and triumph; the yew and the cypress, eternal life; holly was a symbol of joy and peace; wreaths of holly represented the unending, timeless nature of such qualities. These greens remind us of the timeless nature of the Christmas message, and the eternal dimension of the Gospel. In our own day, when the relationships of nature and human technology seem so disruptive, the greens remind us of the need to rediscover the earth as God's glorious and delicate creation.

The Window Greens

Of all the Christmas symbols, none is more familiar than the evergreen. Its use during this season is common throughout the world, both as simple decoration and as the Christmas tree. Long before the birth of Christ, evergreens were used as an emblem of eternal life. Now, as a Christian symbol, the evergreen represents Jesus Christ, who is eternal life.

The Altar Greens

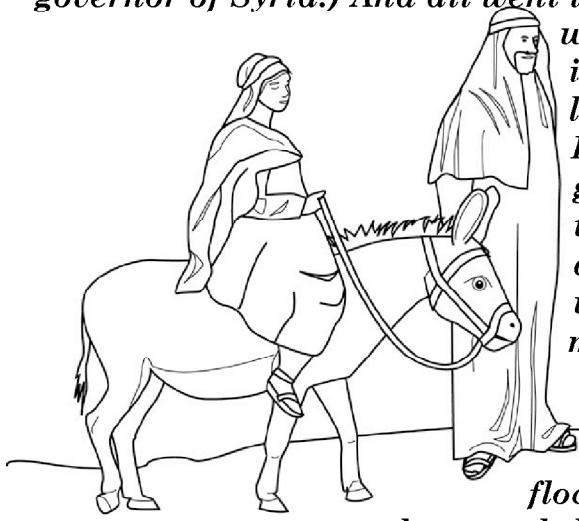
Poinsettias are the flowers of Christmas. They are growing things; their beauty is alive in splendid color. They call us to celebrate the world about us and share its beauty in the place where we worship. The poinsettia is a vivid plant, full of meaning. A cluster of small yellow flowers springs forth from among crimson leaves, which themselves contrast sharply with the remaining green leaves of the plant. The star-shaped formation of the red leaves suggests the guiding star of Bethlehem. The crown of yellow flowers reminds us of Him who was born the infant King. The blood-red leaves foreshadow the the cruel cross that lay ahead for the King of Glory. And underneath, the carpet of green, the reflection of abundant life.



"Hanging the Greens"!

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, everyone to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city called Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem: (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her first born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them at the inn.



And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone about them; and they were sore afraid. And the angel said to them,

Fear not: for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born today in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

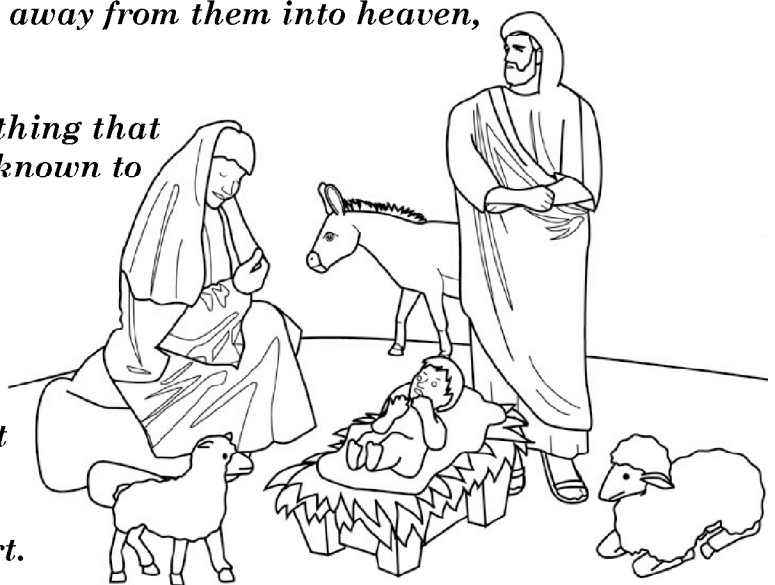
And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will towards men.

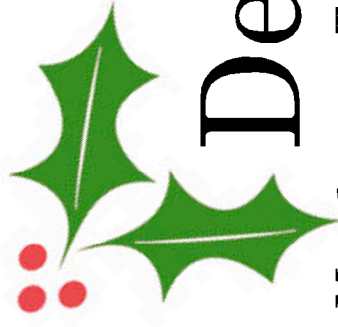
And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another,

Let us go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.

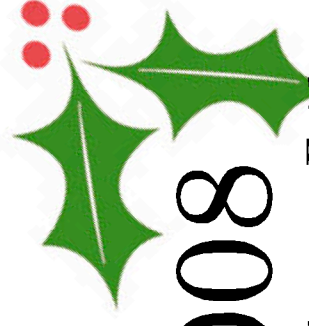
And they came with haste, and found, Mary, Joseph and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.



The Gospel according to St. Luke Chapter 2 verses 1-20.



December 2008

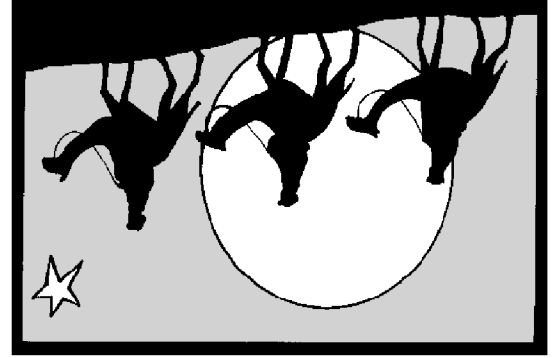


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	
7 9 AM Worship 9:15 Childrens Church 10:15 AM Adult SS 11 AM Worship - Mtair	8 7:PM TRUSTEES	9	10 10:am Quilters 6:30 PM Bible Study	11	12	13 7 AM Men's Breakfast
14 9 AM Worship 9:15 Childrens Church 10:15 AM Adult SS 11 AM Worship - Mtair	15	16	17 10:am Quilters 6:30 PM Bible Study	18	19	20
21 9 AM Worship 9:15 Childrens Church 10:15 AM Adult SS 11 AM Worship - Mtair	22 Childrens Prog 9:30am; 6:00PM ← Carolling	23	24 10:am Quilters Christmas Eve Service - 6:00 pm	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26	27
28 9 AM Worship 9:15 Childrens Church 10:15 AM Adult SS 11 AM Worship - Mtair	29	30	31 10:am Quilters 6:30 PM Bible Study	<i>Please Note: The Men's Group will meet one week earlier than usual on December 13th</i>		

DECEMBER



Sent with a prayer to:



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

The Missing Five Pound Note

Chippenham George worked for the Post Office and his job was to process all the mail that had illegible addresses. One day just before Christmas, a letter landed on his desk simply addressed in shaky handwriting: 'To God'. With no other clue on the envelope, George opened the letter and read:

Dear God,

I am an 93 year old widow living on the State pension. Yesterday someone stole my purse. It had £100 in it, which was all the money I had in the world and no pension due until after Christmas. Next week is Christmas and I had invited two of my friends over for Christmas lunch. Without that money, I have nothing to buy food with. I have no family to turn to, and you are my only hope. God; can you please help me?

Chippenham George was really touched, and being kind hearted, he put a copy of the letter up on the staff notice board at the main Fareham sorting office where he worked. The letter touched the other postmen and they all dug into their pockets and had a whip round. Between them they raised £95. [\$190 USD] Using an officially franked Post Office envelope, they sent the cash on to the old lady, and for the rest of the day, all the workers felt a warm glow thinking of the nice thing they had done.

Christmas came and went. A few days later, another letter simply addressed to 'God' landed in the Sorting Office. Many of the postmen gathered around while George opened the letter. It read,

Dear God,

How can I ever thank you enough for what you did for me? Because of your generosity, I was able to provide a lovely luncheon for my friends. We had a very nice day, and I told my friends of your wonderful gift - in fact we haven't gotten over it and even Father John, our parish priest, is beside himself with joy. By the way, there was £5 [\$10 USD] missing. I think it must have been those thieving fellows at the Post Office.

George could not help musing on Oscar Wilde's quote: 'A good deed never goes unpunished.'