



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



April, 2007

Pastor: Rev. Gary Eggart

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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
Chairperson: Worship Committee	Julie Griffo
Chairperson: Education Committee	Vicky Dile
Chairperson: Missions	Marcia Fitzner
Chairperson: Prayer Evangelism	Nick Griffo
Chairperson: Care and Outreach	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.gbgbm-umc.org/estancia>

From Pastor Gary

Every now and then someone does something really kind, something you weren't expecting, but it was kind. You may even say it was sweet. And you may have no idea why the person decided to do it. This happened to Amanda and I this last week. On Tuesday Nathan came into our room and told us he had a surprise for both of us. I really didn't want to get out of bed and was thinking why can't he surprise us a little later in the morning. When we got to the kitchen, he had several dish towels covering something. He removed the towels and there on two plates was a slice of toast (no butter-he likes plain toast so why should he butter ours). Amanda turns to me and said, "you know, we have to eat this." Cold, plain toast, but what do you expect a 6 yr old to make. He was excited to show us that he made breakfast for us. For some reason, he decided to make us breakfast. As we were putting honey on our toast, he went off to play.

I am still not sure why he made us breakfast, but he thought of his mommy and daddy. He did something sweet, something kind. Kindness always seems to have a positive effect on most people, but some people remain ba-hum-bugs no matter what.

Being kind was God's idea. Romans 2:4 says, "Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness

Prayer Concerns

- Rev. Terry Hanig
- David-to accept Christ as Savior
- John and Jen to accept Christ
- Shane Brue---colon cancer stage 3
- Tish McMichael
- Kelly Darnell
- James Soloman
- Roxanne Montoya - Danny's cousin
- Elenor Sanchez
- Missy Short - lung cancer
- Joe
- Irene Armstrong
- Ruth Brindle
- Donald Berry
- Ruth - Mel's sister
- Peter Sanchez
- Shirley Solomon
- Mary - stroke (Pam's Sister)

Adult Sunday School 10:00 AM
Sunday Worship 11:00 AM

leads you toward repentance?" We have Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter coming up this next week. Each of those days have their own theological importance.

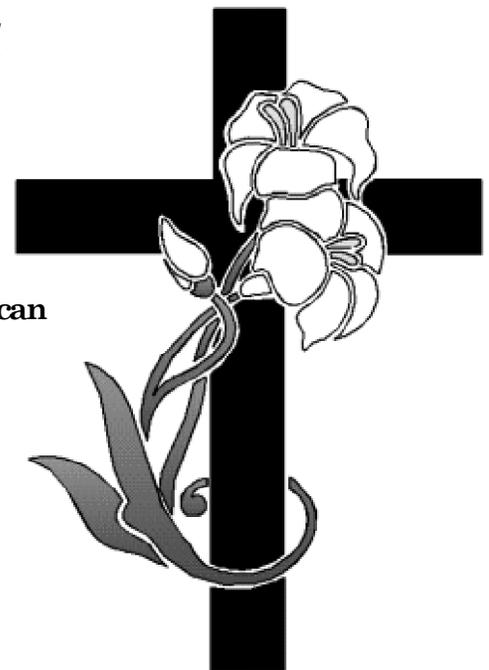
However, it all comes down to the loving kindness of God. We didn't deserve the mercy. We didn't deserve the grace. As a matter of fact there was no reason for God to be kind to us, but he was, and through Jesus we saw the kindness of God.

"The kindness of God leads you to repentance." It is important to show kindness to others. Last month when I took Andrew to the allergist, we stopped at Arby's for lunch. This older lady came in and ordered. Turns out she was a \$1 short. As the lady turned to go out to her car for more money, I stepped up with a dollar. It didn't have a huge effect on the lady, but the girl behind the counter was impressed. It was only a dollar but it made her day. I don't know why the girl behind the counter was so impressed, but I prayed that it caused her to think of God. If God's kindness leads us to repentance, do acts of kindness in the hope God will use your kindness to turn the hearts of others towards Jesus.

-Pastor Gary

EASTER WEEK SCHEDULE

- April 1st - Palm Sunday
- April 5th - Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 p.m.
- April 7th - Men to make pre-make Breakfast Burritos for Sunrise Service 9:00 a.m. If you are unable to help make and/or bring the necessary food items, you are welcome to give a donation so the men can purchase the food. (see Nick Griffo)
- April 8th - EASTER SUNDAY Community Sunrise Service at Estancia UMC at 7:00 a.m.
8:00 a.m. Breakfast. UMC to host breakfast
12:00 p.m. Easter Egg Hunt (parents bring a dozen or more of plastic eggs filled with candy)



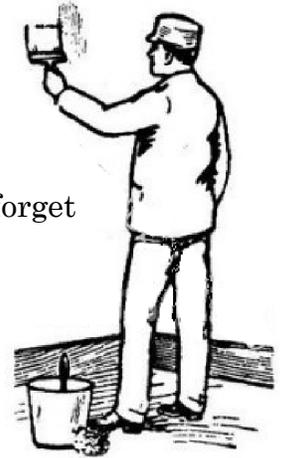
Other Announcements

- April 15th - Bishop's Visit with laity at St Paul's UMC (ABQ) 4:00 p.m.
- May 6th Time Change - Estancia UMC will begin having service at 9:00 a.m., Mountainair at 11:00 a.m.
- May 6th Special Offering - One Great Hour of Sharing. This offering is for UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief). When disaster strikes UMCOR is there to meet needs. This offering pays for administrative costs, so that gifts given for a disaster go directly to disaster relief.

In Case You Hadn't Noticed

Phil Levy has finished shelf installation and painting in the Education Building and is finishing up the bathrooms. This has been a major project and Phil, who is donating his time, has worked non-stop to get it finished.

When you see Phil, be sure to thank him for his valuable contribution and don't forget to thank the Quilters who helped fund the project.



STARTING SUNDAY, MAY 6!

**New worship times for Estancia
and Mountainair:**

Estancia: 9:00 AM

Mountainair: 11:00 AM

Marcia's Trip to Latin America

I believe our consultation with Latin America and the Caribbean was successful. Many misunderstandings were discussed openly and with much "gusto." It appears that the word *autonomy* has developed many meanings, so this was discussed thoroughly and a greater understanding, I believe, emerged.

How our boards and agencies work together with these countries was made much clearer and everyone agreed that the connections between our US Church and theirs should be inclusive, horizontal, respectful and mutual.

Communications were of great concern. It was agreed that communications should be affirmed and expanded at all levels. Opening and clarifying channels of communication will facilitate better processes of consultation and dialogue. Our committee is working on an information format to be presented to the General Conference in 2008. Unfortunately this is a long process and is, indeed, part of our problem in working with other countries that do not understand our process. Working with countries that do not understand our processes is an underlying problem which takes extra time and patience to solve.

On a personal level, I truly enjoyed being with these folks (my brain gets tired of translating from one language to the other, however). In spite of the fact that the attendees were mostly bishops and clergy with very few women and lay people, I was able to visit around and get to know them better. It is always nice to be able to visit and worship with fellow Christians. It is in these brief moments that you truly learn of their struggles. They face many of the same problems that we do, such as fighting drug abuse, poverty, violence, and abuses of women and children. One of their largest challenges is that they do not always have the freedom to worship. I met many who had been in prison for just being themselves or for fighting for human rights. Imagine being imprisoned for practicing your faith!

I sincerely enjoyed the worship. These people truly pray, sing and worship from their hearts. What a privilege it was for me to worship with them.

-Marcia Fitzner

Ad Council Report

At the last Administrative Council Meeting, we voted to contribute \$2500 to the Congo area scholarship fund implemented by Congo Missionary, Dr. David Persons. A \$2500 scholarship will send a student to seminary for three years as well as pay cost of living expenses for the student and his family.

Dr. Persons, an educational missionary from Colorado, serves as dean of the Katanga Methodist University in the Southern Congo Annual Conference.

-Marcia Fitzner

Here They Come Again

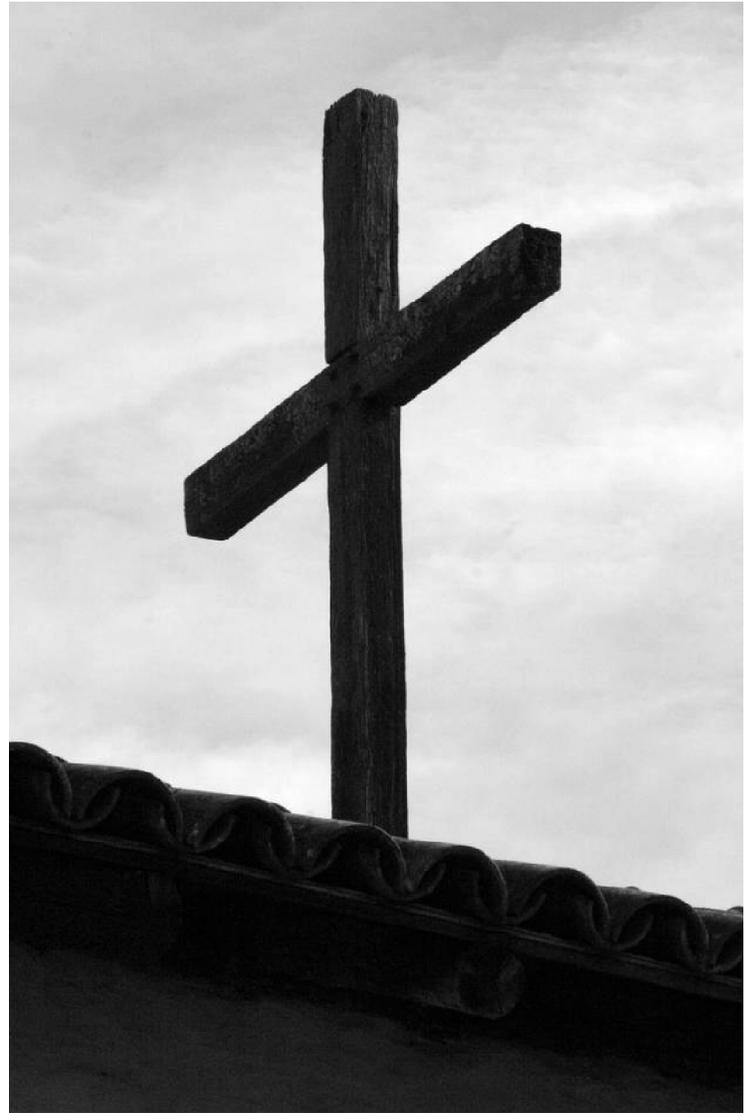
by Shirley F. Clement

It is that time of year again. Get ready to have a full church. Be prepared to set up chairs in the aisle. It is an exciting time of year, having a great celebration and filling the sanctuary with people. But some members will look down upon those who are CE (Christmas/Easter) attendees. The CE people are not faithful. They don't attend; they don't give; they aren't involved; they don't help with the work that needs to be done to keep the church going.

Now, look at Easter celebrations and CE people through a new lens. The church is the one place that exists, not for itself, but for others. While we often "blame" those who are inactive for their lack of commitment, it could be that the system in our church for welcoming, belonging, and discipling is designed for those results. What if we had a passion that the people who have not been part of the church meet God through Jesus Christ and experience the meaning of Easter? The celebration of Easter is the word of new life and hope. It is the Word that each of us, through the living Christ, can experience salvation, healing, and wholeness. That is a word for all, both inside and outside the church.

How can we make the Easter celebration inviting and welcoming to people who have been inactive or who have rarely been to church? Is everything written out in your bulletin for that day? Do you have the hymns, the Lord's Prayer, Doxology, and other parts of your service written out so it is easy to follow for people who are not familiar with your service? Visitors do not want to make a "spectacle" of themselves and be noticed for doing the wrong things. What are some ways that you can help them diminish that fear? Are there sufficient people from the congregation to welcome them and to help them find nursery care and a seat in the sanctuary? Have these hospitality people been trained? Do you have a follow-up plan in place to make contact with first-time visitors from the community?

Let us give thanks and rejoice for all who come to our Easter services. Many will come because they are visiting relatives in your community. Some who have been marginally active will come because they may have a church memory that draws them to this service of Resurrection and hope. Some will come because they are on a spiritual journey, and we have the privilege of inviting them to be on a spiritual journey, centered in Jesus Christ.



APRIL



Sent with a prayer to:

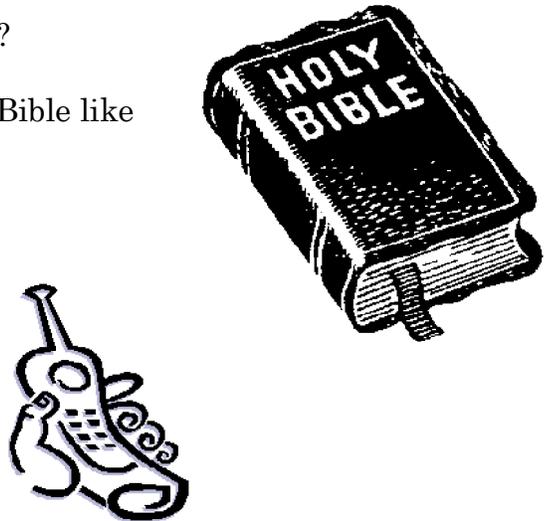
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Bible Cell Phone?

Here is something to make you go ...hmm.. where is my Bible?

I wonder what it would be like around here if we treated our Bible like our cell phone??

- What if we carried it around in our purses or pockets?
- What if we turned back to go get it if we forgot it?
- What if we flipped through it several times a day?
- What if we used it to receive messages regularly?
- What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it?
- What if we gave it to our kids as gifts?
- What if we used it as we traveled?
- What if we used it in case of emergency?



Oh, and one more thing, you'll never ever get a busy signal because God is on call 24-7. And, unlike our cell phone, we never have to worry about our Bible being disconnected because Jesus already paid the bill!

OUR MISSION

To honor God through our worship, ministry and discipleship based on God's Word; supporting one another with Christian Fellowship and reaching out to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.