



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



DECEMBER, 2007

Pastor: Rev. Gary Eggart

600 Williams, P. O. Box 378, Estancia, NM 87016
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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.gb-gm-umc.org/estancia>

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

From Pastor Gary

It's Christmas time again and we are thinking of the holiday. Will we get everything done; how many more presents do we have to buy and how are we going to afford it? Take a moment and think back to what the first Christmas was like. Of course, there weren't any wrappings and tinsel and no one was buying presents.

What thoughts go through an expectant mother's mind (especially a first time mother)? Will I be able to take care of a baby and will I be able to provide for my baby? Will I be a good enough mother? Will my baby be a good person? Mothers want the best for children, want them to be happy and want no one to ever hurt them. Mary probably had all the same thoughts and anxieties as mothers today. She may have been terrified of the labor. She may have wondered if she would do all the right things or if she would be a good mother. No matter what worries or anxieties she had about her child or about her ability to be the mother of the Messiah, she was looking forward to her baby being born.

Once again, we are anxiously looking forward to her baby boy coming again. Are you anxious for Jesus to come again? Life has a way of getting our eyes off of

Jesus and off of His return. At this time of year it is easy for us to get tangled in the tinsel. But Christmas for us is about waiting and looking forward to a better day. A day when we won't have the anxieties and cares of this world; a day when we can walk the streets of gold with Jesus.

Christmas is more than a day to spend with family and eat more turkey and ham. Christmas is more than a day to give and receive presents. Christmas is more than a day to celebrate Jesus' birthday. Christmas is about waiting for the promise to be fulfilled. The Jews waited for the promise of the Messiah, and now we have the forgiveness of sins and the promise of a resurrected body. Christmas takes our eyes off ourselves, our lives, and the cares of this world and reminds us we are waiting for a better day. It reminds us the first promise is fulfilled and the second promise will come soon and so we look forward with anticipation. Don't become tangled in the tinsel this Christmas, but be encouraged that Jesus is coming soon - watch expectantly for His coming.

“Until one feels the spirit of Christmas, there is no Christmas. All else is outward display-so much tinsel and decorations. For it isn't the holly, it isn't the snow. It isn't the tree, not the firelight's glow. It's the warmth that comes to the hearts of men when the Christmas spirit returns again.”

– Anonymous

MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO MADE DR. CROWSON'S VISIT SUCH A SUCCESS!!!

The letters, phone calls, prayers and special meals all were done in such a wonderful spirit that it was heartwarming to see. This is what it takes to make things happen! You can see that this church can do wonderful things when it sets its mind to it.

Dr. Crowson made us aware of many things that, perhaps, we had not thought of. As we look around our community and church, we can see with new eyes and hear new things that we had over-looked. In this way we can be open to many new opportunities. As ideas come to you, I urge you to share them with members of the Administrative Board so that they can be considered and perhaps implemented.

As we go into a new year, I know we all thank God for the many blessings He has given us; the fellowship of good friends and a beautiful church where we are free to worship.

Let us remember to keep our church and each other in our daily prayers, and commit to continue these prayers during the new year.

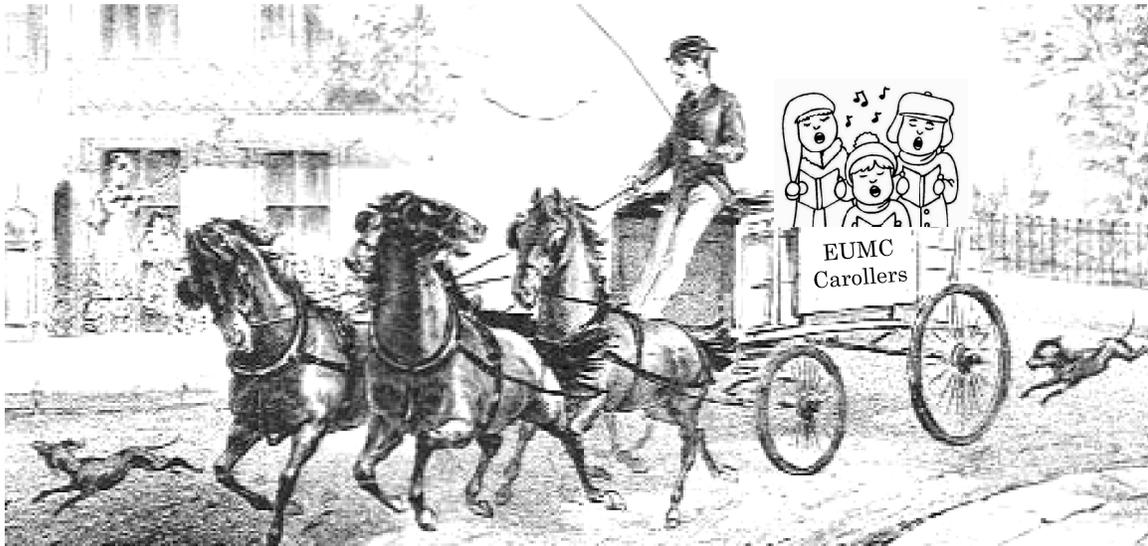
Let us remember **“Growing together while being together.”** None of us is smarter than all of us, and when you add God to this mix, you have a powerful and unsinkable force.

Merry Christmas

-Marcia Fitzner

LIGHT PARADE AND CAROLLING

Please join us in the Clark's horse drawn wagons the evening of Saturday December 8th at 6:00 pm. We will sing carols along the parade route and then carol at selected residences afterwards as time permits. Hot chocolate and cookies at the education building afterwards.



Mountainair UMC News



The Mountainair Community Chorus will once again provide a musical celebration of Christmas. The presentation will be on Sunday, December 16, at 4:00pm at the Mountainair Baptist Church. Members of the Mountainair UMC congregation who will be participating include Patty Mahoney, Dee Tarr, Ruth Ivey, and Wray and Shirley Simmons. 

The principal work to be presented is a cantata by Joseph and Pamela Martin entitled "Season of Wonders, Celebrating the Miracle of Christmas." In the composer's words, "When we ponder the miracles surrounding the birth of Jesus we discover in abundance the lavish character of God's love. Soaring above our human understanding is an amazing grace that unexpectedly wraps divinity in swaddling clothes. Beyond our dreams we find an artful mercy that decorates the dust of a rustic stable with everlasting light. We encounter the glory of God pouring over the walls of heaven and filling darkness with angel choirs and dancing stars. We stand amazed at the mystery and majesty of God's awesome power and His infinite tenderness. Perhaps most amazing of all are the myriad ways in which celebrating these marvels of old awaken in us today a sense of the divine and fill us with a child-like wonder. In the presentation of this work, may you draw close to the manger and open your heart to the unexpected glories of this season of wonders."  

The presentation will also include original works by Kathleen Ryan Cluce,  chorus accompanist.

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.

ARK - "Acts of Real Kindness"

On November 28 at 6 o'clock in the evening members of the Estancia United Methodist Church met in the Education Building to discuss the future of our church. What a concept! Three bodacious pots of soup along with cheese and crackers were consumed before the discussion. Always good to plan on a full stomach, I say.

The big Question: What can we do in our church and community to show we CARE - that HOPE is always there through Christ. We are Christ's representatives - what can we do???? Much discussion followed. The #1 item on the agenda was "VISITATION". We need to identify people in our church as well as the community that need, and would enjoy, a visit from us. One or two church members, along with Pastor Gary, will make the visits. We might bring along something we thought they could use, but also find out what they need on the first visit. Would YOU be available for one visit every other month? Call Pam Lambert at 384-9430 to put your name on the visitors list and/or call Mary Alice Drolte at 384-2835 to put someone in need on the visitation list.

Below are some of the thoughts and also the names of folks who are investigating the ideas discussed:

VISITATION - Church members will go with Pastor Gary on the visits. Consider taking a bible to give if they want it. Talk about what is going on in their lives and what kind of help they need. Identify others in need and give their names to Mary Alice Drolte. Ask for referrals from the Estancia Senior Center.

BIBLES - Sylvia Levy has several small-print bibles that she wants to donate - who needs them? Get a basket for Gary's office and put used/new bibles in it.

CARDS AND CALLS - Carolyn Moore is in charge of Outreach, but she needs to know of people's needs. We could also send a card on our own.

HELPING ORGANIZATIONS THAT HELP OTHERS - Mary Alice Drolte is checking on The Sanctuary Zone to find out what we could do this holiday season for starters. Other groups??

FREE GIFT WRAP - at the craft fair on Dec. 8 in Estancia at the school gym. Call Barbara Simms or Julie Griffio if you can help for an hour or so, or have materials. Do you have any gift bags to donate for odd shaped items??

PARADE AND SING - check with Lowell and Gayle to see if they can give us a carolling ride in the parade on Dec. 8 - come back to the Ed. Bldg. for hot chocolate and cookies. Make a couple of rounds singing carols in town - invite "others" to join us.

SUMMER TIME - free hotdogs or hamburgers in the park at noon once a month or more? Donate your time and grill.

CHILD CARE AT THE CHURCH - a large concept! Several months to get up and running. Challenges: how often, how many kids, liability and insurance?? There is a Methodist child care facility in Albuquerque - a model for us perhaps. Needs lots of planning and volunteers. Too big?



HOPE IN CHRIST - THAT'S WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT

RECALL NOTICE

The Maker of all human beings is recalling all units manufactured, regardless of make or year, due to a serious defect in the primary and central component of the heart.

This is due to a malfunction in the original prototype units code named Adam and Eve, resulting in the reproduction of the same defect in all subsequent units.

This defect has been technically termed "Sub sequential Internal Non-Morality, " or more commonly known as S.I.N., as it is primarily expressed.

Some other symptoms include:

1. Loss of direction
2. Foul vocal emissions
3. Amnesia of origin
4. Lack of peace and joy
5. Selfish or violent behavior
6. Depression or confusion in the mental component
7. Fearfulness
8. Idolatry
9. Rebellion
10. Excessive Drinking

The Manufacturer, who is neither liable nor at fault for this defect, is providing factory-authorized repair and service free of charge to correct this SIN defect.

The Repair Technician, Jesus, has most generously offered to bear the entire burden of the staggering cost of these repairs. There is no additional fee required.

The number to call for repair in all areas is: P-R-A-Y-E-R.

Once connected, please upload your burden of SIN through the REPENTANCE procedure.

Next, download ATONEMENT from the Repair Technician, into the heart component.

No matter how big or small the SIN defect is, Jesus will replace it with:

1. Love
2. Joy
3. Peace
4. Patience
5. Kindness
6. Goodness
7. Faithfulness
8. Gentleness
9. Self control

Please see the operating manual, the B.I.B.L.E. (Believers' Instructions Before Leaving Earth) for further details on the use of these fixes.

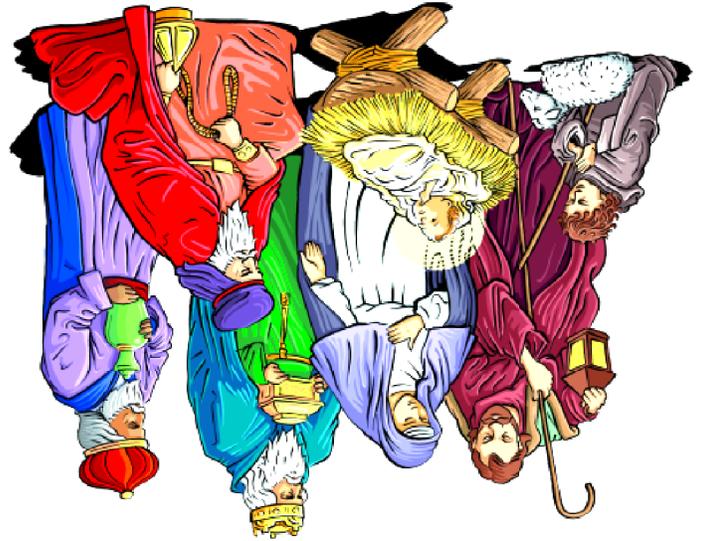
WARNING: Continuing to operate the human being unit without correction voids any manufacturer warranties, exposing the unit to dangers and problems too numerous to list and will result in the human unit being permanently impounded.

DANGER: The human being units not responding to this recall action will have to be scrapped in the furnace. The SIN defect will not be permitted to enter Heaven so as to prevent contamination of that facility.

Thank you for your attention.

God

DECEMBER



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

Sent with a prayer to:



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.