



NEWSLETTER

OF THE

Estancia United Methodist Church

600 Williams, Estancia, New Mexico

<http://www.gbgm-umc.org/estancia/Home.html>



DECEMBER, 2009

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 Church Council	Mel Stephenson
Recording Secretary	Vickie Coburn
Organist	Morrow Hall
Lay Member of the Annual Conference	Marcia Fitzner
Chairperson: Board of Trustees	Bill Simms
Worship Team Leader	Melanie Chavez
Education Team Leader	Leslie Fastnacht
Chairperson: Missions	Marcia Fitzner
Care and Outreach Team Leader	Barbara Simms
Chairperson: Pastor Parish Relations	Jim Wyman
Chairperson: Finance Committee	Marcia Fitzner
Financial Secretary	Vickie Coburn
Church Treasurer	Sylvia Levy
President UMM	Jon Shively
McMurry Rep	Charles Spooner
Sacramento Camp Rep	Cheryl Chavez

Bishop: D. Max Whitfield

District Superintendent: Rev. Thomas Nagle

To see this newsletter in color, visit our website at:

<http://www.gbgm-umc.org/estancia>



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

Luke 2:1-14

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and 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 heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

[When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.]

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE



- December 13.....Joyous Singers Special**
(Morning church service)
- December 13.....Mountainair Cantata 4:00 PM**
- December 20.....Children's Program**
(Morning church service)
- December 22.....Team & Wagon Caroling**
6:00 - 8:00 PM Bring cookies and hot chocolate to share
- December 24.....Christmas Eve Service 7:00 PM**
(Joyous Singers Special)
- December 27.....Joyous Singers Special**
(Morning church service)



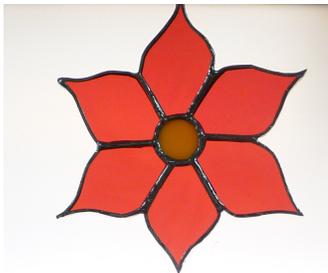
Stained Glass Project

November was fairly productive even though the full crew was not able to work the full month because of other commitments, and we decided not to work on windows until after the first of next year. We installed three windows, the miracle window, Jesus in the temple when He was a 12 year old boy and Jesus with the fishermen, Peter and Andrew, at the sea shore. It appears we can complete at least two windows each month. This will be consistent with our estimate of completing the job in about two years as stated earlier. In addition, trim was installed on the East windows and scaffolding removed from that area. We plan another concerted effort to install trim on the rest of the completed windows in December.

The crew has been working on a number of small projects to sell at upcoming special events.

-Mel Stephenson

Recently Installed



Fund Raising Projects

(Remember: to see all these pictures in their original color, go to the church website listed on the front of the newsletter)



“BLESSED”

Here we are getting close to a New Year and wondering where the old one went. It seems like time just flies by. I don't know if that is a good thing or not. I always look back and wonder if I actually did anything that God wanted me to do. I know that our God is a forgiving God, but I do try his patience.

As we look forward into a new year of ministry here in the Estancia Valley, I am always amazed how much this little church does without asking for recognition. This is an indication of God working within us. But in spite of all of that, we, or I guess I should say "I" need to be alert for ways I can do an act of kindness. I have no problem being nice to those who will appreciate whatever I do. It's the others I have a problem with. With the economy the way it is, I am beginning to be aware of folks that need help, not physical, but just encouragement. As a small church in a small community, it is easier to be aware of those in need, if we but listen.

Our church is going into the new year in good stead. This is because our faithful congregation continues to support the work of our church in spite of personal trials. The food pantry has been a **blessing** to folks in the community as well as the volunteer work done at the church. Folks that bring refreshments each week, clean the church and support the food pantry make up a list that goes on and on. We are truly **blessed** to have all of you that do your best. I feel very proud and feel **blessed** to be here as we work together!

Pastor Charlie has been preaching about being connected and concerned for one another. I would like that to be one of our goals: keeping in touch with each other and getting to know someone that you don't know well. Your life will be blessed!

As a reminder, if you are a member of a project or committee that will need financial backing this coming year, I need to know as soon as possible in order to complete next year's budget.

May God be with us and show us the way this new year.

-Marcia Fitzner, Finance Chairman



Holiday Thoughts

Let thankfulness be your theme throughout the remainder of the year. As you gather with the family and friends to celebrate your blessings, store up those thankful feelings to carry you through to New Year's Day. Even make a pact between yourselves or with one special family member or friend to keep reminding each other through calls or cards of the focus on thankfulness.

Make a true effort to be fun and loving and to include as many people as you can in your holiday fun. Avoid the events, thoughts and situations that you know will counter this effort. If you lose a day of joy to stress, let it go and start again with the new day. Resolve to be kind, courteous and respectful during the holidays and into the new year. Look for spontaneous opportunities to share an act of kindness. It will delight you!



The New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts recently announced that **DON FITZNER** was the winner of the Land Stewardship Award. Congratulations, Don!

Mountainair UMC News**The Mountainair Community Chorus**

The Mountainair Community Chorus has been meeting since late September to prepare this year's Christmas Cantata, "**Morning Star**". Estancia and Mountainair community members comprise the chorus, which has been meeting weekly. Singers from EUMC and MUMC include: Jon and Joanie Shively, Lowell Clark, Marcia Fitzner, Ruth Ivey and Wray and Shirley Simmons.

On Sunday, December 13, 2009, at 4:00pm, we will present "**Morning Star**". This cantata was written by Joseph Martin, with lyrics by Pamela Martin. The composer describes the significance of the Morning Star, "At the moment when our lives are darkest, in the grip of our spiritual night, the Morning Star heralds the coming of dawn, a new day of rebirth."

In addition to the cantata presentation, Kathleen Ryan Clute, keyboardist, and Jerry Melaragno, cellist, will solo. Both will also accompany the cantata.

The Chorus has been presenting Christmas cantatas since 2002 and is composed of members of the Mountainair and Estancia communities. Ages of members range from 19 years to 80+!

The cantata will be presented at the Mountainair Baptist Church. There is no admission fee. In addition to being supported by the Baptist and Methodist churches, the Chorus is sponsored by the Mountainair Arts Council and the Mountainair Christian Alliance.



Mountainair UMC News Cont'd



In October the Mountainair UMC hosted about forty staff members of the Mountainair School District for lunch on their in-service day. Although the entire staff was not in attendance, the sandwiches, salads and cookies took a major hit! There was lots of laughter as those present had a jolly good time.

THE METHODIST MEN'S MISSIONS

The Methodist Men met on Saturday, November 21. As usual the meeting consisted of a breakfast which was prepared this time by Nick Griffo and Don Fitzner. Phil Levy helped by making the coffee and cooking the sausage patties. Phil demonstrated his famous test to prove that the pancakes are cooked on the inside.

The business meeting started out with the hymn, In My Heart There Rings A Melody, led by our president, Jon Shively. Jon also led a devotion time with a prayer and a short presentation based on the What Is Christian Love?

Following the devotional discussion the meeting focused on our mission to the community. We had a representative from the Immanuel Baptist Church, Donn Gallahue. We reviewed the proposal to work with other churches in community outreach. He agreed to take the message back to his church. Jon revealed that he had met with the pastor of 1st Baptist Church and Mr. Coburn who is the men's fellowship. They both gave Jon a strong indication that they would be interested in talking about forming a cooperative to reach out to the rest of the community.

-Jon Shively

THE JOYFUL NOISEMAKERS

The musical choral group for the church reviewed the music planned for the next month. Rehearsals are on Tuesdays at 6:15. The renditions that are planned are: A reading by Morrow Hall of a *Christmas Guest* with music background, *Mary Did You Know?* and *I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day*. Prior to rehearsal there is a half hour beginning guitar class. Come and add your joyful noise!

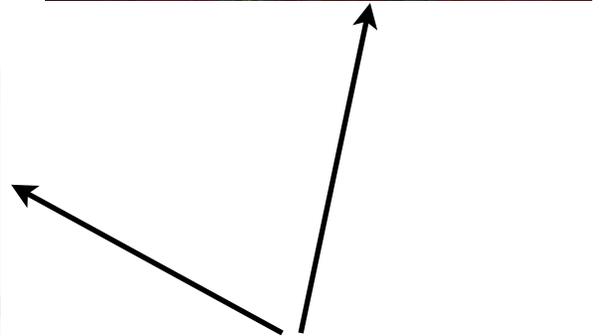
-Jon Shively



New Nativity Displayed at front of church

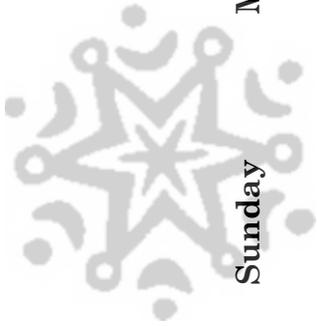


New Advent candle holder crafted by Pastor Spooner



Thanks to the Danny Chavez Family for the great job of decorating the sanctuary!

December 2009



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6 9 AM Worship 9:15 Childrens Church 10:15 AM Adult SS 11 AM Worship -Mtair	7 9:am Glass Shop	1 9:am Glass Shop	2	3	4	5 9:am Glass Shop
13 9 AM Worship 9:15 Childrens Church 10:15 AM Adult SS 11 AM Worship -Mtair 4:00 PM Cantata Mountaintair	14 9:am Glass Shop 7:pm TRUSTEES	8 9:am Glass Shop	9	10	11	12 9:am Glass Shop
20 9 AM Worship 9:15 Childrens Church 10:15 AM Adult SS 11 AM Worship -Mtair	21 9:am Glass Shop	15 9:am Glass Shop	16	17	18	19 7:AM Mens Breakfast 9:am Glass Shop
27 9 AM Worship 9:15 Childrens Church 10:15 AM Adult SS 11 AM Worship -Mtair	28 9:am Glass Shop	22 9:am Glass Shop 6:pm CAROLING	23	24 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Service	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26 9:am Glass Shop
		29 9:am Glass Shop	30	31		





Sent with a prayer to:

DECEMBER



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P. O. Box 126
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