

NEWSLETTER

OF THE

Estancia United Methodist Church

600 Williams, Estancia, New Mexico

<http://www.estanciamethodist.org>



DECEMBER, 2011

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

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

The Christmas Card

Christmas cards originated in England over 150 years ago. "You cannot reach perfection though you try however hard to there's always one more friend or so you should have sent a card to," wrote Richard Armour. Sir Henry Cole knew exactly what Armour was saying. The founder of the Victoria and Albert Museum in London had so many Christmas greetings to send that handwriting them was impossible. Yet he wanted to make his friends aware of the need to help the destitute on that holiday.

The answer. In the year 1843, Sir Henry commissioned John Calcott Horsley to paint a card showing the feeding and clothing of the poor. A center panel displayed a happy family embracing one another, sipping wine and enjoying the festivities. (So much for good intentions. The card drew criticism because showing a child enjoying a sip of wine was considered "fostering the moral corruption of children.") "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to You" was printed on that first card. Legend says Sir Henry didn't send any cards the following year, but the custom became popular anyway.

Holiday cards designed by Kate Greenaway, the Victorian children's writer and illustrator and Frances Brundage and Ellen H. Clapsaddle, were favorites in the late 1800's and early 1900's. Most were elaborate, decorated with fringe, silk and satin. Some were shaped like fans and crescents; others were cut into the shapes of bells, birds, candles and even plum puddings. Some folded like maps or fitted together as puzzles; other squealed or squeaked. Pop-up Cards revealed tiny mangers or skaters with flying scarves gliding around a mirrored pond.



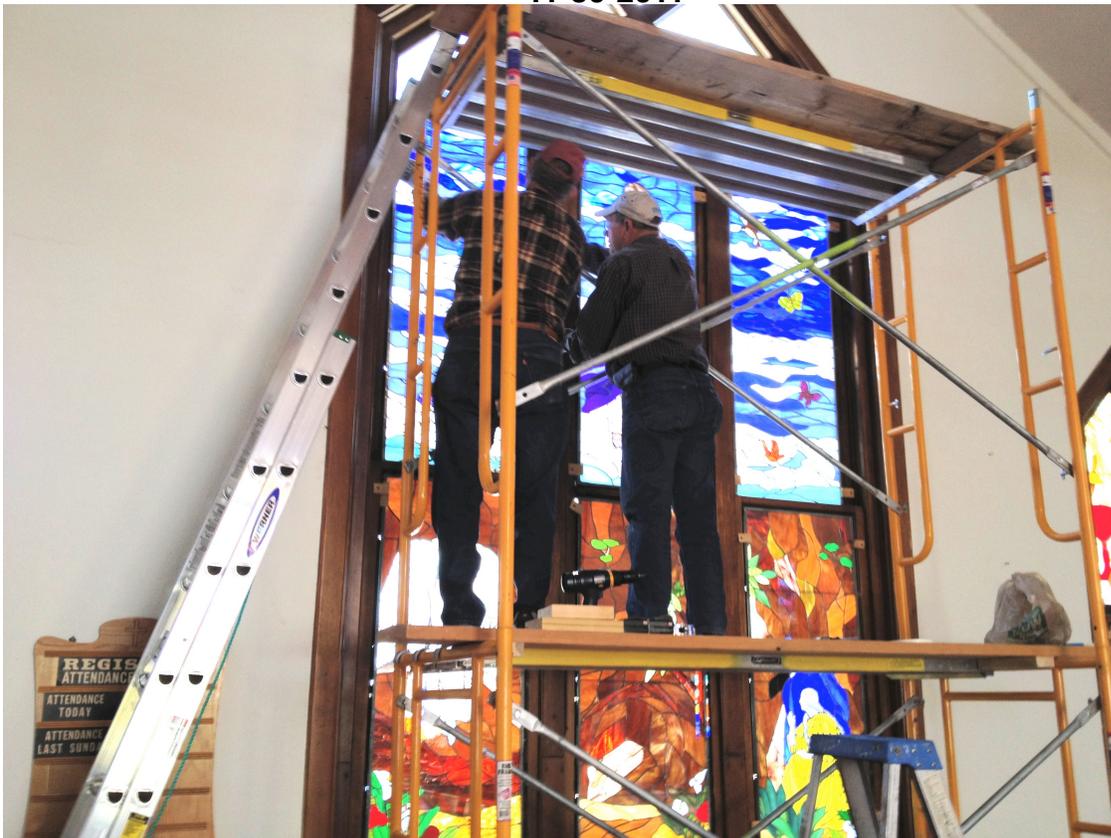
For more than 30 years, Americans had to import greeting cards from England. In 1875, Louis Prang, a German immigrant to the U.S., opened a lithographic shop with \$250 and published the first line of U.S. Christmas cards. His initial creations featured flowers and birds, unrelated to the Christmas scene. By 1881, Prang was producing more than five million Christmas cards each year. His Yuletide greetings began to feature snow scenes, fir trees, glowing fireplaces and children playing with toys. His painstaking craftsmanship and lithographic printing have made his cards a favorite of collectors today. Christmas Cards have changed since the days of Sir Henry and Louis Prang. They now sport comics, jokes and clever verses. But those that picture timeless and simple settings such as excited children around a Christmas tree, Nativity scenes, nature scenes and carolers singing in the snow are still in the highest demand today.

Stained Glass Project to Install Final Windows on North Side of Church

We had a good productive month in November, even though the crew did not work Thanksgiving week. Some of the major accomplishments were: 1) Erected the scaffolding to install the remaining nine windows on the north side; 2) Completed the third (of three) Ascension windows; 3) Completed one section of the window in the vestibule; 4) Completed another window for the church partition; 5) Completed more of the “Rose Window” petals. In cleaning the north windows a plugged bullet hole and crack was found in the center window and we replaced it last Saturday. We are planning to install all nine windows on the north side on Wednesday, November 30, 2011. All the ancillary material has been fabricated and/or purchased and is at the church.

-Mel Stephenson

11-30-2011



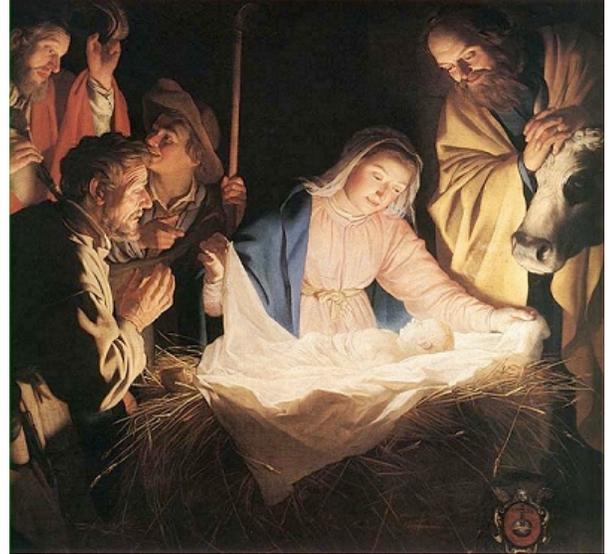
**Mel Stephenson and Ladd Hagmaier
Installing Final Sanctuary Windows!**

Luke 2:1-20 (King James Version)

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, every one into his own city.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, 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 firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.



And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them,

- Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day 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 toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

And they came with haste, and found Mary, and 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.

Mountainair UMC News



The Mountainair Community Chorus has been faithfully singing their baby hearts out since September preparing for presentation of our Christmas Cantata. This year we are presenting "The Sounding Joy" (as in "repeat the sounding joy") on Sunday, December 11, 4:00pm, in the Mountainair Baptist Church.

There will also be excerpts from The Messiah. Members of the MUMC and EUMC community participating include Jon and Joanie Shively, Marcia Fitzner, Jan Cool, Ross Carder, Keith Loepere, Nancy Karlsberger, Anna Hopping, Ruth Ivey, Kent Potter, Patty Mahoney, and Tabitha Holden.

Mountainair United Methodist Church has finally completed the long anticipated roof job over the fellowship hall. Below are some scenes from the completion.



Choir Practice



Roof Repair

Bible Guppies!

The Bible Guppies, meet after school on Thursday afternoons. These young people are led by Melanie Chavez, Julie Griffo, Cheryl Chavez and Leslie Fastnacht. The children chose their own name.

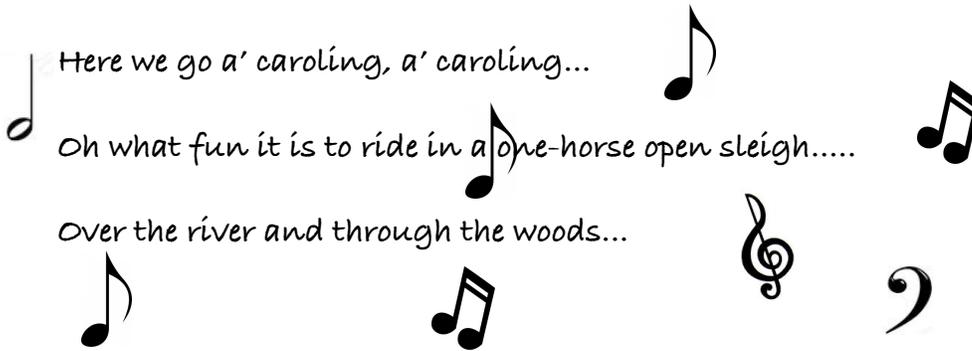


Please join us on Sunday, December 18th at Estancia Methodist when we will be singing and the Handbell Choir will perform. Photos below from Thursday Nov. 17th.



Edible Apple Turkeys!

Team & Wagon Christmas Caroling



**Wednesday Evening,
Dec 21st at 6:00 pm**

Come and join us with the Clarks and their team of horses for a fun-filled evening a' caroling! Bundle up-- it will be COLD, it always is!! Hot Soup and Hot Chocolate to follow...

Administrative Council News

Can you believe that the year is already gone?? I sit back and wonder not only where the time went but did I even come close to doing what God wanted me to do? (Odds are I did not even come close !!) This new year offers all of us the opportunity to start over. Thank you God, for being a God of "second chances".

The church has had many accomplishments, the windows being the most outstanding, but there are so many other things going on under the radar. The women continue to send boxes to those in the military, and continue to gather baskets of food for those in our community that need extra help. I'm sure there are other things that I am not even aware of.

Sunday school continues due to two very dedicated folks, Butch McGee and Vicky Coburn! Women of the church are putting together a Thursday-after-school program that is open to the community and this is progressing well.

Charge Conference went well. We got to meet our new District Superintendent and we were able to present a very good report. We may be a small church, but we certainly do our part. Thanks to all of you our finances are doing quite well. We are fortunate to have folks that truly believe in giving more than their share.

I was recently reading Hebrews chapter 10, verses 24 & 25 and thought "This is "Us", *the Estancia UMC!* "Let us be concerned for one another, to help one another to show love and to do good. Let us not give up the habit of meeting together as some are doing. Instead let us encourage one another all the more since you see that the Day of the Lord is coming nearer."

I feel like we really do care for one another and most of us do gather on Sunday to praise God and to be together. I have seen great concern when someone is ill or in need of help. As we go into the new year, I pray that we continue in this spirit and I do know that God will be with us.

I wish you a Blessed New Year,

-M. Fitzner

Christmas Calendar

December (TBA).....Joyous Singers Special
(Morning church service)

December 11.....Mountainair Cantata 4:00 PM
(Mountainair Baptist Church)

December 18.....Children’s Program
(Morning church service)

December 21.....Team & Wagon Caroling
6:00 - 8:00 PM Bring cookies and soup to share

December 24.....Christmas Eve Service 7:00 PM

THE METHODIST MEN

The Methodist Men met on November 19 at the Old Mill. Eight men were in attendance. The pending stained class window installation was discussed. The men decided unanimously to give \$100 to the Methodist Children’s Home in Waco Texas so that Don Fitzner could deliver the check directly. Assistance for the Pastor at his new home was discussed. The project of removing the rubbish from Gaylyn’s yard is still underway. The men agreed that they would not meet until January next year at the Old Mill.

JOYOUS SINGERS

The Joyous singers are working on a four part anthem for December. There are twelve members participating. The choir is still in need of alto voiced singers. The rehearsals have been moved to Tuesday at 4 pm so those coming from long distances will not have to travel at night, especially in the winter weather. Several members of our choir are participating in the 80 voice community choir in Mountainair, who will give their recital on December 11 at 4pm in the Baptist Church in Mountainair.



December						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 9:am Glass Shop
4 9 AM Worship 9:15 Childrens Church 11 AM Worship -Mtair	5 9:am Glass Shop	6 9:am Glass Shop	7 10:30:am Quilters	8	9	10 10:am CRAFT FAIR EUMC Gift Wrapping
11 9 AM Worship 9:15 Childrens Church 11 AM Worship -Mtair Community Choir 4:PM Mtair	12 9:am Glass Shop	13 9:am Glass Shop	14 10:30:am Quilters	15	16	17 7:am Men's Breakfast 9:am Glass Shop
18 9 AM Worship 9:15 Childrens CHOIR 11 AM Worship -Mtair	19 9:am Glass Shop	20 9:am Glass Shop	21 6:pm Christmas Caroling	22	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 7:00 PM
25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26 9:am Glass Shop	27 9:am Glass Shop	28 10:30:am Quilters	29	30	31



DECEMBER

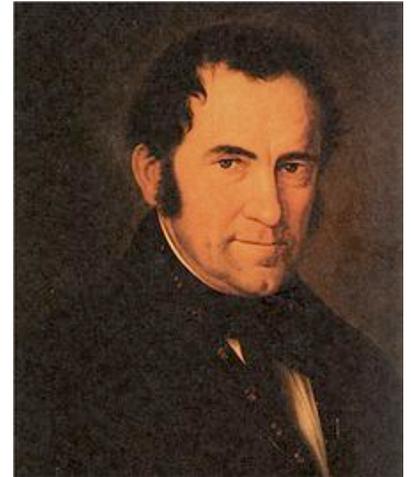


Sent with a prayer to:



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

"Silent Night" (239) is a popular Christmas carol. The original lyrics of the song "Stille Nacht" were written in Oberndorf bei Salzburg, Austria, by the priest Father Joseph Mohr and the melody was composed by the Austrian headmaster Franz Xaver Gruber. In 1859, John Freeman Young (second Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of Florida) published the English translation that is most frequently sung today. The version of the melody that is generally sung today differs slightly (particularly in the final strain) from Gruber's original, which was a sprightly, dance-like tune in 6/8 time, as opposed to the slow, meditative lullaby version generally sung today. Today, the lyrics and melody are in the public domain. The carol was first performed in the Nikolaus-Kirche (Church of St. Nicholas) in Oberndorf, Austria, on December 24, 1818. Mohr had composed the words two years earlier, in 1816, but on Christmas Eve brought them to Gruber and asked him to compose a melody and guitar accompaniment for the church service.



Franz Xaver Gruber

