



100th Anniversary - July 31, 2005

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



FEBRUARY
2004

Your Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Linda Mizell

P. O. Box 378, Estancia, NM 87016

Church Office 384-5215 Parsonage 384-2710

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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

Chairperson: Worship Committee

Chairperson: Education Committee

Youth Representative

Chairperson: Missions

Chairperson: Prayer Evangelism

Chairperson: Care and Outreach

Chairperson: Pastor Parish Relations

Chairperson: Finance Committee

Financial Secretary

Church Treasurer

President UMW

President UMY

President UMM

Mel Stephenson

Pam Lambert

Tracy Hemke

Morrow Hall

Carolyn Moore

Marcia Fitzner

Mark Lambert

Roci Galyn

Angela Creamer

Kelsey Sours

Marcia Fitzner

Nick Griffo

Julie Griffo

Barbara Simms

Marcia Fitzner

Sylvia Levy

Jim Wyman

Ethel Floyd

Ashley Welch

Nick Griffo

Bishop: D. Max Whitfield

District Superintendent: Dr. Larry Hall

Please visit us on the web:

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

Prayer Concerns

- Mackenzie Corlis
- Fanny Morgan
- Verner Query
- Bess and Marty Young
- Jim and Tish McMichael
- Bill Bass and family
- Bill Simms and family
- Elizabeth Sims
- Carolyn Hill
- All who do not have a relationship with Jesus
- General Conference representatives and resolutions
- This congregation and its leaders & finances
- The men and women of the armed forces
- National leaders and the leaders of the world
- Teachers, administrators and students
- Our town government and the youth center
- New library and swimming pool
- New project for the NOMADS

Pray each Thursday at noon for the United Methodist Church to experience a revival like in the days of John Wesley! Pray for this church to be flooded with the Spirit of Christ!

Sunday Worship 10:00 AM
Nursery Provided

FROM PASTOR LINDA



As the new year begins, our calendars begin to get filled with events. Our Conference has many wonderful events planned over the next few months. The Religious Educators have a training in Albuquerque on the 8th of this month. Please seek out the information on the Methodist Foundation's 40th anniversary bash. It begins at 3 PM with workshops offered on personal and church finance issues. There is also a dinner and other special programs planned for the day.

The foundation was begun when the Conference sold the hospital that belonged to the UMC to the Loveless Foundation. The Bishop has scheduled a visit with the clergy and laity on the 14th. There is a lay speaker's school in Roswell Feb. 20 – 22nd, and a dinner for perspective McMurry students on the 28th. The Spiritual Formation training event at St. Stephen's on the 20 – 21st is another great event. I know we can't participate in all of these wonderful events, but don't just ignore these opportunities to learn and have fellowship with other Christians. For further details on these events contact me.

Recently I became aware of the statistics regarding the rate of marriage failures in our country. It made little difference whether the couples were members of a church or not, all marriages failed at a similar rate. This has weighed heavily on my heart, since I feel the greatest thing the church has to offer is the transformation of lives. This should include family life. I am excited to be enrolled in the upcoming premarital counseling training through the Samaritan Center. My hope is to help couples talk about the issues that are most likely to lead to divorce before they say their "I dos". Healthy marriages are the foundation of a healthy family and community.

February brings the next-to-last step in my process of being ordained as a full member (Elder) of our Annual Conference. My interview will be at 9 AM on Feb. 19th. It will be an all day affair with the results of the Board of Ordained Ministries decision being announced after dinner that evening. The final step comes at annual conference when the clergy vote to accept clergy members applying for new status with the Annual Conference.

Roci and I are on a Kairos team. Kairos is an ecumenical program that takes the experience of a “Walk to Emmaus” or a “C ursillo” 78-hour event and applies those principles to a program for prisoners. Kairos has been active in the women’s prison at Grants for a number of years and has made a noticeable change in prison life for that institution. Agape is a big part of the program, but the ways agape can be expressed are limited in the prison. Roci and I each need 30 dozen cookies, twelve to a bag, for the prisoners and the guards for the weekend. Please let us know if you can help us with this task of love. The cookies can be frozen; we have special directions, as not all cookies are allowed in the facility. The actual event begins March 11th and goes through March 13th. We also need people who have attended an Emmaus weekend, to attend the closing at the Grants facility. Applications for the closing must be in soon for you to be able to enter the prison. Please see one of us for details. I am hoping that this experience will prepare me to be more aware of the needs of prisoners and how we can reach out to the guards and prisoners at our own facility here in Estancia.

Don’t forget to join us in reading and meditating on *The Purpose Driven Life*!!!

Daniel Chavez Baptized

As a joyful congregation looked on, Pastor Linda Mizell administered the Baptismal Covenant for Daniel John Chavez, son of Melanie and Danny Chavez, on January 11, 2004. Melanie introduced the many members of her family who had traveled to Estancia for the occasion. Sandi Smith of Colorado stood with the family and, on behalf of herself and her husband, Craig, pledged their commitment to nurture Daniel’s faith and guide him to lead a Christian life.



Melanie and Daniel Chavez

Sandi Smith

Danny Chavez

Pastor Linda

Welcome Susan Samuels!



On Sunday, January 25, we were privileged to accept a new member into our EUMC congregation. **Susan Samuels**, who lives in Macintosh, comes to us from the Carlisle Plaza UMC in Albuquerque. After meeting some of our members at Emmaus activities in Estancia and Moriarty, she visited our Sunday services for several weeks, and chose to become a permanent part of our family.

A Pharmacy Tech at Walgreens, **Susan's** family roots have been in Torrance county for some time. Her grandfather, **Phillip Speckmann**, established the Estancia Herald—the first newspaper in Torrance County—in October, 1904. Our own **Morrow Hall** lived in the **Speckmann** house at one time, and last week he pointed it out to **Susan**, who until then had not known its location.

Susan has two grown children, including a son who is in flight school in Pensacola, Florida, three grandchildren, four dogs and a cat. One of her primary interests is needlecraft, and she enjoys showing and selling her items at craft shows. As a new member of the Estancia UMC,

Susan says she looks forward to helping out on a “fill-in” basis with the different worship assistant roles.

Welcome, **Susan!** We look forward to getting to know you as a new sister in our local family.

Worship Committee Seeks Agape

Agape, everyone! Do you know what *Agape* means? It is the Greek word used for the love God wants us to show one another. This kind of love is given only for the good of the one we love, without thought for our own good or what we might get out of it. When the Worship Committee met in January, we talked about *Agape* and how we can make worship at EUMC a time where all can feel the love of God and share other-centered love with one another.

In the interest of promoting time of family sharing, we agreed to restore the “Joys and Concerns” time on alternate Sunday mornings when Communion is not part of the service. To help make visitors feel welcome, we will seek to get their contact information for follow-up, and will give each first-time guest the gift of a small wooden cross in appreciation of their presence. We will give the congregation more opportunities to bond with our little ones by offering time for holding or touching newly baptized infants.

The Committee discussed ways to make use of more members' talents during worship. Under the leadership of **Morrow Hall** and **Pastor Linda**, there will be services making innovative uses of music in the upcoming months. We will seek to creatively include a variety of ways of celebrating our faith by drawing on the skills and interests of all our church family.

Both **Pastor Linda** and **Pam Lambert** will represent the Worship Committee in working with the Outreach Committee and **John Shively** (who provided guitar accompaniment for our Christmas Caroling evening) to develop a special Sunday evening worship/fellowship time in the Education Building. This weekly gathering will have specific goals, including providing services for families who find it difficult or impossible to attend on Sunday mornings, and giving church members a setting suited to inviting friends, neighbors and family members to come along.

The Worship Committee of 2004 consists of **Roci Galyn**, **Morrow Hall**, **Tracy Hemke**, **Pam Lambert**, **Linda Mizell** and **Marilyn Seddon**. We look forward to some exciting and enriching worship opportunities over the next year. Our prayer is that in them you will receive from others, and be able to offer to others the blessing of God's way of love...the blessing of *Agape*.

Women's Bible Studies to Begin

Leslie Fastnacht is beginning a bible study for women on Wednesday morning in the Ed. Building. The Class begins on February 4th, at 9 – 10:30 AM. Nursery will be provided. The Study is called, “*Fruit of the Spirit: A Bible Study Project for Women's Groups*,” by **Sherri Harris** and is from Group Publishing. It includes time for scrapbooking along with the Bible study. Please contact **Leslie** regarding the book, complete with scrapbooking stickers and templates.

Julie Griffo is organizing a Bible study on *the Women of the Bible* for Saturday mornings. Please contact **Julie** for details.

Valentine's Potluck

On February 15 we will celebrate Valentines Day with a pot luck after church services. The Ed building will be decorated with a LOVE theme. There will even be prizes!

Join us and bring your special someone. (Hostesses - **Pam and Angela**)

Vacation Bible School

On February 22 after church services we will have a planning meeting for VBS. This is an important outreach to our community. There are many different curriculums to choose from this year. We need volunteers to teach as well as make decorations, help with registration, make snacks, help with planning, and as always, your prayers. If you are interested in giving your time or talent to the youth of this church and community, I hope you will plan to attend the meeting. --For more info see **Angela Creamer** (505-705-0022).

NEWS FROM YOUR FINANCE COMMITTEE


The Finance Committee will be having their first official meeting on Feb 8. However, we have already begun to work and make plans for the new year. We will be having a training session with the Director of the UM Foundation, **Sanford Coons**, in February to help us understand the duties of our committee and to know the proper way to proceed as we begin our work.

We will be putting in place a voucher system for expenses and working on the budget so that it will very clear what has to be paid, and when. Hopefully, this will give us a clearer picture of our future debt.

As most of you know, the increasing pastoral salary and insurance costs have put a serious strain on our finances. These are expenses that we would have with any full time pastor. The hope is that we will have either a shared pastor or a part time pastor until, sometime in the near future, when we are able to support a full time pastoral position again.

I am confident that whatever happens, we will be able to handle it. We always have pulled together in times of need and I know that we will succeed together this time.

The finance committee will keep you as well informed as possible so that all members will know exactly where we stand financially and, thus, be better able to participate in the process.

-*Marcia Fitzner, Chair Finance Committee*

Notes From Our Homebound Ministry

Our homebound ministry to our community is going very well thanks to several members in our church. In early January **Pastor Linda** along with **Paul** took communion to **Woody Clements**. **Woody and Jewel Clements** were long time members of our congregation. **Jewel** passed away in September, 1991, and on Tuesday **Woody** joined her in heaven. We will miss them. **Tracy Hemke** and **Nick Griffo** took communion to **Frances Tyler** and **Macell Garrison**. **Frances** will be entering a nursing home soon. Please keep her in your prayers; she was a blessing to our church and community for many years. **Nick, Tracy** and **Agatha Garrison** took communion to **Tish** and **Jim McMichael**. They enjoyed coffee, cookies and some "u plifting" conversation with the **McMichaels**. This past Monday, **Pastor Linda** took communion to **Beth Roberts**. If you are interested in helping with our Homebound Ministry, please contact **Agatha Garrison** at 384-5026

Lenten Bible Study

Let's all get on the same page. Rick Warren has written a great book called *The Purpose Driven Life*. Have you ever asked yourself, "What on earth am I here for?" The purpose driven life is far more than your own personal fulfillment. If you want to know why you were placed on this planet then this Lenten study is for you. No kidding! I know it sounds like a tall order, but this book does reveal the answer.

There will be multiple opportunities to share the readings from this forty-day reading plan with others. You will want to find a few friends to share this book with. Come to worship or call **Pastor Linda** for more information on times and places, or start you own study group.

This book is available at many bookstores right now. If you would like **Pastor** to pick up one for you at Costco please bring her or **Paul** a check for \$11.50. We will begin our readings on Ash Wednesday, February 25th. Lent is the 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter (we do not count Sunday's because they are considered "little Easters"). Easter Sunday is April 11th.

MEMBER'S MEMORIES

Alma Wimsatt has been a valued member of the community and a core member of this church for many years. This is her story:

November 1942, World War II in full swing, and our family moved onto a train. This came about due to both parents working for the Santa Fe Railroad.

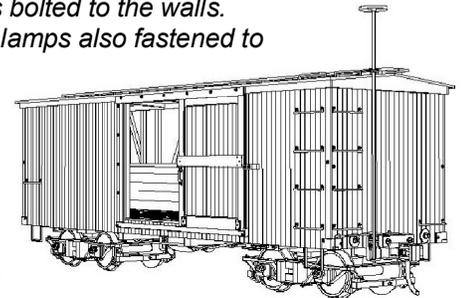


Alma Wimsatt

My dad as a "Key" man on Bridge & Builders Gang #5. They were responsible for keeping bridges, culverts, depots, etc. in safe and operable condition. They were heavy duty carpenters. Their work took them from place to place along the Pecos Division; from Clovis to Belen.

Mom was recruited to cook for the crew which should have been 16 men but they never had a full compliment. Manpower was in short supply - every able-bodied man had been drafted.

Our train consisted of about 12 cars. Supply, bunk cars for the men, water tanks, etc. Our living boxcar had originally been built for living quarters but was old, worn and full of dust. Our beds were metal bunks bolted to the walls. Lighting was kerosene lamps also fastened to the walls. No bathrooms or even running water. Heat was provided by a coal burning pot-bellied stove.



The kitchen car had a spigot from the water tanker which saved my mother a lot of work carrying what she'd need to cook for the crew (and us) and pack lunches. The kitchen was small, the stove burned coal. No amenities here!

*There were 3 of us kids, my older brother **Veral**; younger sister, **Erva**, and me. We did not go to school that year on a regular schedule. Since we were moved every 2-3 weeks we only attended school if we liked the looks of the place! I think I enrolled in Tiban, Yeso, Vaughn and Mountainair that year.*

We were always on a short siding close to the main line. There was a train every 15 minutes or so - traffic was heavy! We lived with noise and coal smoke as all engines were steam and burned coal.

However, we kids managed to enjoy it all - adventures! We made acquaintance with engineers, firemen, brakemen, conductors and depot operators. We knew the names of every railroad in the U.S. We saw all kinds of weapons on flat cars, mortars, cannons, tanks, Jeeps, personnel carriers, etc. Every car had armed guards.

*We left the "boxcars" in August, 1943 in time to enroll in school in Mountainair. I was in the 6th grade; **Lucille Matthews** was my teacher.*

I'll save the story of how we ended up in Estancia in 1977 for a later time.

-Alma

Stay Tuned: Rosy the Riveter has been a member of our church Since 1948. Next month is her story!

EUMC Well Represented at Estancia Schools Annual Luncheon

The Estancia UMC came out in force at the Estancia Schools Annual Luncheon hosted by the Estancia School Board on the last Sunday in January. The District provides this Annual Luncheon to thank the local community for their support with education-related bond votes and to students in their academic and extra-curricular activities. Since the (free) lunch was 11:00 am to 2:00 pm, it was perfectly timed for the after church "lunch bunch" to attend!

Members from the EUMC enjoyed additional fellowship time at the event, which offered roast beef or pork along with mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, roll, a salad and cobbler for dessert. **Lacy Daniel** served drinks, along with school faculty and staff preparing and serving the food.

Taking up nearly two table lengths, church members in attendance included (pictured): **Morrow Hall**, accompanied by **Judith Tamm**; **Jan and Frances Winn**; **Marcia and Don Fitzner**; **Della and Mel Stephenson**; **Alma Wimsatt** and friend; and **Susan Samuels**, (not pictured); **John, Angela, John-John and Jacque Creamer**; **Ashley Welch**; **Luke and Jaxon Fastnacht**; **Linda and Paul Mizell**; and **Roci Galyn**. In addition to visiting further with each other, EUMC members reached out to others in the community and clearly enjoyed the socializing as well as the scrumptious "vittles!"



Dream Team

All church leaders and those interested in being a partner in seeking God's plan and purposes for this church are invited to join the "dream team." Our next meeting is scheduled for February 6th, at 5:30 PM. **Sanford Coons** from the UM Foundation, an ordained elder in the UMC, will be coming to help us look at where we are financially and where we can be when we focus on spiritual giving. Please plan to be here. It will be an important time of looking at ministry options. Whether we like it or not money is an issue in almost any ministry decision we make.

All dream team members are urged to read *The Purpose Driven Life* as a part of preparation for our work together as we seek God's dream for this church. We will continue to work on our mission statement and develop goals. The object is to be intentional about fulfilling our purpose as disciples of Jesus Christ.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

We will kick-off the Lenten season with a traditional Ash Wednesday Service on Feb. 25th, at 6 PM. Watch the announcements for a Fat Tuesday event this year. Traditionally people make a commitment to give up something for Lent as a way of participating in Christ's suffering and passion. Lent is time for us to reflect on our life as disciples of the crucified Lord. At Easter we focus on the risen Lord. The flow of the Church year helps us to remember the life, death, and resurrection of the head of the Church. What can we learn from each lens through which we view our faith – Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost?

New Mexico Foundation

The New Mexico Foundation will begin a year-long celebration of the organization's 40 years of ministry to the NM Conference with a special event on February 12. Foundation Day activities, scheduled from 3-9 PM at the Sheraton Old Town Hotel in Albuquerque, will include two workshop sessions and a banquet featuring internationally recognized

investment manager **Jim Kaplan** as keynote speaker.

Estate Planning Today and *Building a Personal Investment Portfolio* are two of the sessions that would be of interest to laity. More information is available from **Pastor Linda** or **Marcia Fitzner**. Cost for the event is \$25.00 per person and payment is requested by Feb. 9. Contact the Foundation at 505-255-8786 or e-mail nmemfi@aol.com.

I will be making an announcement about the event at church, but feel free to call to get more information or refer to the Jan. 23 issue of NM United Methodist Reporter.

-*Marcia Fitzner Chairman Finance Committee.*

Partnership in Parenting... Providing Families Help and Hope

The Methodist Children's Home in Waco has an outreach office in Albuquerque. **Chris Mayton** is the outreach director and has been in touch with our pastor to talk about the possibility of coming to our church to assist parents with any parenting issues they have. One of the most frequently discussed issues is family conflict and getting along with teenagers. **Chris** would like to come out on a Sunday afternoon to discuss parenting issues and discern if there is enough interest to schedule some sessions with parents in our community. If you would be interested in participating in a parenting group please sign up or call **Pastor Linda** at 384-2710.

Perhaps you have issues that you need to talk to someone in confidence about. **Chris** is available, by appointment, at the Conference Office at 7920 Mountain Road, NE. You may call her at 255-8740 or if it is urgent call her on her pager 241-1285. Her office hours are Wed. – Fri. 9:00- 4:30. Counseling services are provided free of charge to families through the support of offerings such as those given by our United Methodist Men.

Message from Bishop Max

Drought conditions are evident in much of West Texas and New Mexico. This past week farmers told me of losing two and three crops that they had planted this past year. They planted each crop with the hope of sufficient rain to produce a harvest. Winds, hail, and drought came, but no harvest.

Human beings sometimes experience spiritual death due to inadequate nourishment. Some fall by the wayside because they feel regular worship and the practice of the spiritual disciplines are optional. Others die after assaults from gossip, or thoughtless, hurtful words spoken in anger. They dry up and die after cutting themselves off from the life-giving source of Jesus Christ.

Many of these individuals still believe in Jesus Christ. They know he is the Savior of the world. They know Jesus is the source of life. Yet, they function each day severed from Jesus Christ. They attempt to live as isolated Christians for a while,... but slowly wither and die.

Church conflicts frequently inflict spiritual deaths. Hopes and dreams waste away in the debris of harsh words and thoughtless accusations. Barriers erected during the conflicts prevent the love of God from reaching the suffering victims and the perpetrators.

Individuals can avoid spiritual death. Spiritual renewal and vitality awaits those who confess their sins, return to the source of life, and seek reconciliation with their neighbors.

The Everton* Church was at a critical point. Two teenage girls attended a youth retreat and exchanged harsh, slanderous accusations. Their parents picked up the conflict upon the girls return home. One member after another began to take sides. Different members of the congregation urged the pastor to intervene and pronounce judgment on one and then the other girl. The pastor refused to respond as requested and some of the more grieved families began calling for a replacement of the pastor. They expected their pastor to do what was "right".

One Sunday morning the pastor preached on forgiveness. The tone of the sermon reflected God's desire to restore rather than to condemn. The pastor issued a clear call for members to forgive others as they had been forgiven. After the pastor gave the invitation, one of the girls crossed the sanctuary and requested forgiveness for her behavior. Her action was like a crack in a dam. Slowly, one member after another crossed the room and quietly requested forgiveness. New life flooded the congregation as individuals offered and received forgiveness.

Forgiving and being forgiven are two of those events that can nourish a mal-nourished, drought-starved soul. Thanks be to God for a loving Savior who brings forgiveness and reconciliation to a spiritually dying people.

*Everton is not the real name.

Grace & PeaceMax

February 2004

Tear Off

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10 AM Worship Communion 5:pm Holy Hootanany Meeting	2 7AM Morning Meditation 8:45AM Jury Duty for Linda	3 10Am-Noon Office Hours	4 7AM Morning Meditation 9AM Women's Bible Study 6:30 Wednesday Night Blessing	5 7PM Men's Emmaus	6 7AM Morning Meditation 5:30PM Sanford Coon's Dream Team	7 14 9AM Kairos Team Meeting 9:30AM Bishop's Visit VALENTINES DAY
8 10 AM Worship 11:15 Finance 1:15 pm Religious Educators	9 7AM Morning Meditation Pastor's Day Off	10 10Am-Noon Office Hours	11 7AM Morning Meditation 9AM Women's Bible Study 6:30 Wednesday Night Blessing	12 3:PM Methodist Foundation Workshop 7PM Men's Emmaus	13 7AM Morning Meditation 7:PM Emmaus Gathering	21 7AM Men's Breakfast 7:30AM Lay Speakers School 8AM Sacred Path ways Spiritual Formation
15 10 AM Worship 11:30 Valentine Potluck 1: pm PPRC	16 7AM Morning Meditation Pastor's Day Off	17 10Am-Noon Office Hours	18 7AM Morning Meditation 9AM Women's Bible Study 6:30 Wednesday Night Blessing	19 7PM Men's Emmaus	20 7AM Morning Meditation 8:30AM Marriage Training 6:PM Spiritual Formation	28 McMurry Dinner for Students 8:AM Kairos Team Meeting
22 10 AM Worship 8:AM Speakers School - Roswell 11:15 VBS Meeting	23 7AM Morning Meditation Pastor's Day Off	24 10Am-Noon Office Hours Noon UMW	25 7AM Morning Meditation 9AM Women's Bible Study 6:PM Wednesday Night Blessing 7:PM Ash Wed Ser	26 7PM Men's Emmaus	27 7AM Morning Meditation	
29 10 AM Worship						

Pastor's day off can be changed in the event of any emergency. Please contact
Pastor Linda ASAP in the event of any emergency, sickness or hospitalization.



Sent with a prayer to:

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

Generosity

*The generous prosper and are satisfied;
those who refresh others will be refreshed.*

Proverbs 11 : 25

No matter how much or how little you have throughout your life, always be generous. Generosity doesn't come from pity or from obligation. Rather, a generous spirit comes from a heart that is overflowing with gratitude.

Some people are afraid to be generous because they fear they won't have enough left for themselves. This is utterly backward. "Try it!" God says about giving Him our offerings. "Let me prove it to you! Your crops will be abundant" (Malachi 3:10-11). What that says to us is this: God will bless us in ways we haven't even thought of - if only we will be generous.

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.