



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



**FEBRUARY, 2008**

**Pastor: Rev. Gary Eggart**

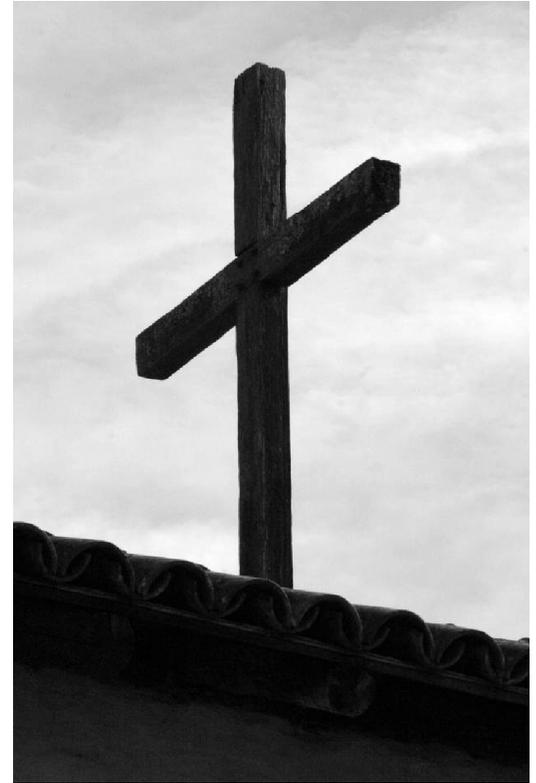
600 Williams, P. O. Box 378, Estancia, NM 87016  
 Church Office 384-5215 Parsonage 384-2710  
 email: garye\_1@q.com

**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       |
| Worship Team Leader                      | Pam Lambert      |
| Education Team Leader                    | Leslie Fastnacht |
| Chairperson: Missions                    | Marcia Fitzner   |
| Chairperson: Evangelism                  | Nick Griffo      |
| Care and Outreach Team Leader            | 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**

Imagine driving through the canyon and your steering goes out. You would be a passenger in a vehicle that is out of control. Nothing you tried to do would have an effect. Your life and safety would be in the hands of fate. It is a scary feeling to be in a vehicle that is out of control.

On January 14, 1985 at 5:30 in the afternoon, I was driving down 4th of July Pass and my dad's Wagoneer started to fish tail; then I was sliding down hill backwards. Then, before I knew it, the guard rail jumped out and grabbed the vehicle pulling it over on its side (I was still sliding down hill backwards but on the side.) After rolling down the embankment, the Wagoneer came to rest next to some trees which kept me from rolling even further. If I were to point out the spot to you, you would wonder how I, not only survived, but just had a couple of bruises on my hip. Being in a vehicle that is out of control is scary!

Sometimes life seems like it is out of control, but most of the time we feel in control. Not only do we feel in control, but we are directing where our life is going. We choose our careers and step out in to the world to fulfill our dreams. That is exactly what King Nebuchadnezzar did in the book of Daniel. By the time chapter 4 comes around, the

king is in his golden years. As the king was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, he said, "Is not this the great Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty?" (vs. 29-30). He has conquered his enemies and built one of the seven wonders of the world, the Hanging Gardens of Babylon. He feels in control. He thinks he has been in control of all that has happened and thinks he is still in control.

In verses 31-33, King Nebuchadnezzar learns the hard way that he is not in control. So often have our hands been on the steering wheel of our lives. Like Nebuchadnezzar, we think we are in control. We are cruising through life and then all of a sudden life starts fish tailing and pretty soon life is out of control. At that point, life can be scary when we don't know what is going to happen next. At those points in our lives, we get on our knees and seek God. Because life feels out of control, we look to God and trust Him with our life, with our future.

Whether life feels out of control or not, **we are never in control**. God is in control and that was a hard lesson for Nebuchadnezzar to learn. It took seven years, but finally he looks to heaven and praised God acknowledging His sovereignty. Our security in life is much more solid when we acknowledge that God is really in control. So when life does feel out of control, remember, He will never leave you and since it is His hands on the steering wheel of your life, let go and trust Him.

-Pastor Gary

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### ***Safe Sanctuaries Training***

On Wednesday, **February 6th at 5PM**, Dara Shipp, our New Mexico Conference Youth Ministries Director, will be conducting a training session on Safe Sanctuaries **for everyone in our church**. This training is necessary for everyone that will have anything to do with the children of the church. This includes Sunday School, Children's Church, Vacation Bible School and child care during events or activities. We plan to start at 5:00 PM in order to have a quick supper prior to the training. **Child care will be provided** during the training.

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### ***Christian Discipleship Conference***

February 23rd 2008 is the Christian Discipleship Conference at St. Stephens UMC in Albuquerque. The theme this year is "*Living a Resilient Life*." At a young age, Gordon MacDonald recognized that he had inherited a "quitter's gene," and because of this—and an influential track coach—he began a lifelong quest for answers. "Why," he had to ask, "do some people finish what they start, persevere in moments of adversity, push themselves in the direction of their potential, and often make their greatest contributions in the latter half of life? This will be a great one day seminar. Plus, with every three registrations, the fourth is free, so we can save money on registration with every four people. Don't miss it!

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

The Finance Committee was very concerned following the third quarter of last year when the financial balance on-hand had shrunk to just over \$6,000.00 and expenses continued to be higher than the income. I shared this concern with the Administrative Council in October 2007 and it was decided to try and curtail expenses and increase our income. In the fourth quarter, much to our relief, the income really accelerated to over \$10,055.00 in October, almost \$5,400.00 in November, and over \$6,200.00 in December. This resulted in a total income for the quarter of almost \$21,700.00 and the quarterly expenses were just under \$15,600.00. Therefore, the balance to start 2008 was just over \$12,225.00, which is about \$208.00 less than we started 2007. The total income for 2007 was about \$67,950.00 with total expenses of about \$68,158.00 resulting in a negative of \$208.00. The church budget for 2007 was \$63,940.00. So overall the church did very well, even though there were some anxious times before October.

The most significant activity this year was the Administrative Council approval to close the money market account at Wells Fargo and transfer the funds to the Methodist Foundation where we expect a much higher return while benefiting the Foundation. The church put \$7,500.00 in the Wells Fargo money market account approximately two years ago and the return has been very small, less than 1% per year.

*-Mel Stephenson, Chairman*

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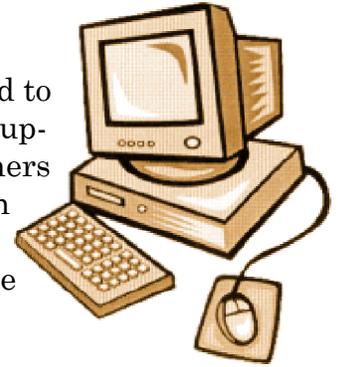
## **CIRCUMSTANCES**

- “The ideal man bears the accidents of life with dignity and grace, making the best of circumstances.” - Aristotle, Greek philosopher
- “Big pay and little responsibility are circumstances seldom found together.” - Napoleon Hill, American writer
- “We can let circumstances rule us, or we can take charge and rule our lives from within.” - Earl Nightingale, American entertainer
- “If you will call your troubles experiences, and remember that every experience develops some latent force within you, you will grow vigorous and happy, however adverse your circumstances may seem to be.” - John Heywood, English dramatist,
- “The people who get on in this world are the people who get up and look for the circumstances they want and if they can’t find them, make them.” - George Bernard Shaw, Irish dramatist
- “Your present circumstances don’t determine where you can go; they merely determine where you start.” - Nido Qubein, American businessman

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| <p><b>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.</b></p> |
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## ***In Case You Hadn't Noticed...***

As more and more people in our church are using computers to communicate and to access information about the world around us, we are trying to keep our church up-to-date by putting the latest information about our church on our website for others to see. It is common for visitors and newcomers who may be looking for a church home to browse the websites of community churches in order to make an informed choice. In order to keep the appropriate information on our website, we need your input and suggestions. But first, if you haven't been to the EUMC website, you need to **log on** and have a look.



To log on to our website, just type **[www.gb-gm-umc.org/estancia](http://www.gb-gm-umc.org/estancia)** into the URL blank on any web browser and our front page with a picture of our church will come on your monitor screen. On the front page are links to all the other pages on the website which include our pastor's welcome letter to the community, information about our Sunday services, our weekly activities, a full copy of our latest newsletter, our mission and outreach projects, information about our 100-year history and our 100th anniversary celebration, who we are and how we fit into the Methodist Church as a whole, a map so that anyone can find our church, and other links that take you to different sections of the Methodist Church.

**Another item** of news you might not have noticed is that your Trustees (thanks to Jason Fastnacht) replaced the defective furnace in the parsonage.

## **EUMC Home Page**

### **Estancia United Methodist Church**



*100 Years of Service 1905 - 2005*

#### **More about us:**

[Pastor's Letter](#) [Sunday Services](#) [Activities](#) [Latest News](#) [History](#) [Youth Activities](#)  
[Mission & Outreach](#) [100 Year Celebration](#) [Who We Are](#) [Where We Are](#) [Links](#)

## **Mountainair UMC News**



Pastor Gary will start a Lenten study in Mountainair this year. It will be a weekly study starting on Feb. 10th. It will be the book “*5 Practices of Fruitful Congregations.*” Everyone is invited to attend! Oh, just a reminder that Mountainair will host the Maundy Thursday service this year for both Estancia and our congregation. Date is March 20th, 7PM. Easter comes so early this year, both Valentines Day and St. Patrick’s Day occur during Lent!! Guess that’s about all for now; hope to have more for next month.

*-Mary Jones*

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## **A Lesson in Life**

Everything happens for a reason. Nothing happens by chance or by means of good or bad luck. Illness, injury, love, lost moments of true greatness and sheer stupidity all occur to test the limits of your soul. Without these small tests, if they be events, illnesses or relationships, life would be like a smoothly paved, straight, flat road to nowhere.

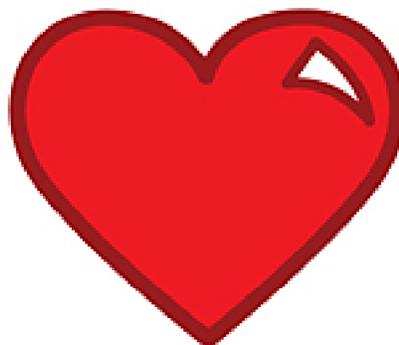
If someone hurts you, betrays you , or breaks you heart, forgive them. For they have helped you learn about trust and the importance of being cautious to who you open your heart to.

If someone loves you, love them back unconditionally, not only because they love you, but because they are teaching you to love and opening your heart and eyes to things you would have never seen or felt without them.

Make every day count. Appreciate every moment and take from it everything that you possibly can, for you may never be able to experience it again.

Talk to people you have never talked to before, and actually listen. Hold your head up because you have every right to. Tell yourself you are a great individual and believe in yourself, for if you don’t believe in yourself, no one else will believe in you either.

You can make of your life anything you wish. Create your own life and then go out and live it.



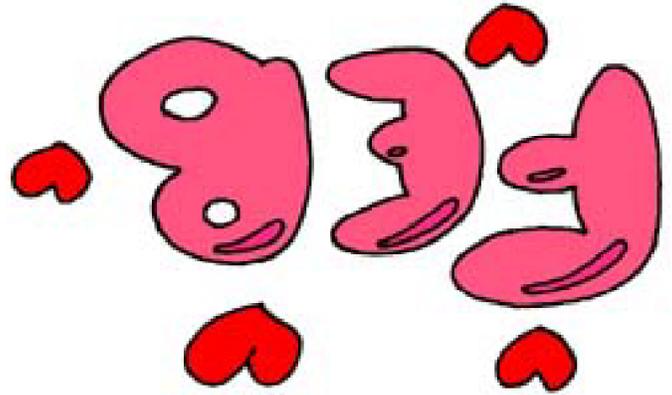
# February 2008

| Sunday   | Monday                            | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday  | Friday    | Saturday                          |
|--|-----------------------------------|---|--|---|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>3</b><br>9 AM Worship<br>9:15 Childrens Church<br>10:15 AM Adult SS<br>11 AM Worship - Mtair  | <b>4</b>                          | <b>5</b> Pastor Gary in Mountainair<br><b>6:30 PM</b> Women's Bible Study<br><b>7 PM</b> Men's Bible Study  | <b>6</b> 10:am Quilters<br><b>5pm</b> Safe Sanctuaries Training (Supper) | <b>7</b>  | <b>8</b>  | <b>9</b>                          |
| <b>10</b><br>9 AM Worship<br>9:15 Childrens Church<br>10:15 AM Adult SS<br>11 AM Worship - Mtair | <b>11</b><br><b>7:PM TRUSTEES</b> | <b>12</b> Pastor Gary in Mountainair<br><b>6:30 PM</b> Women's Bible Study<br><b>7 PM</b> Men's Bible Study | <b>13</b> 10:am Quilters   | <b>14</b>  | <b>15</b> | <b>16</b><br>7 AM Men's Breakfast |
| <b>17</b><br>9 AM Worship<br>9:15 Childrens Church<br>10:15 AM Adult SS<br>11 AM Worship - Mtair | <b>18</b>                         | <b>19</b> Pastor Gary in Mountainair<br><b>6:30 PM</b> Women's Bible Study<br><b>7 PM</b> Men's Bible Study | <b>20</b> 10:am Quilters   | <b>21</b>   | <b>22</b> | <b>23</b>                         |
| <b>24</b><br>9 AM Worship<br>9:15 Childrens Church<br>10:15 AM Adult SS<br>11 AM Worship - Mtair | <b>25</b>                         | <b>26</b> Pastor Gary in Mountainair<br><b>6:30 PM</b> Women's Bible Study<br><b>7 PM</b> Men's Bible Study | <b>27</b> 10:am Quilters   | <b>28</b>   | <b>29</b> |                                   |

# FEBRUARY



*Sent with a prayer to:*



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

## **APRIL FOOLS HOLIDAY**

In Florida , an atheist became incensed over the preparation of Easter and Passover holidays.. He decided to contact his lawyer about the discrimination inflicted on atheists by the constant celebrations afforded to Christians and Jews with all their holidays while atheists had no holiday to celebrate.

The case was brought before a judge. After listening to the long passionate presentation by the lawyer, the Judge banged his gavel and declared, "Case dismissed!"

The lawyer immediately stood and objected to the ruling and said, 'Your honor, how can you possibly dismiss this case? The Christians have Christmas, Easter and many other observances. Jews have Passover, Yom Kippur and Hanukkah...yet my client and all other atheists have no such holiday!'

The judge leaned forward in his chair and simply said, "Obviously your client is too confused to even know about, much less celebrate his own atheists' holiday!"

The lawyer pompously said, "Your Honor, we are unaware of any such holiday for atheists. Just when might that holiday be, your Honor?"

The judge said, "Well it comes every year on exactly the same date---April 1st! Since our calendar sets April 1st as 'April Fools Day,' consider that Psalm 14:1 states, 'The fool says in his heart, there is no God.' Thus, in my opinion, if your client says there is no God, then by scripture, he is a fool, and April 1st is his holiday! Now have a good day and get out of my courtroom!!"