



NEWSLETTER

OF THE

Estancia United Methodist Church

600 Williams, Estancia, New Mexico

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



FEBRUARY, 2010

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>



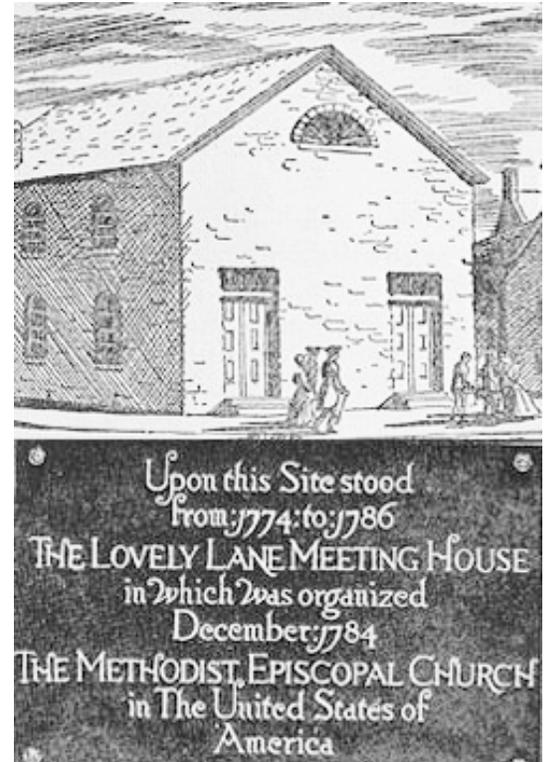
Sunday Worship 9:00 AM
Adult Sunday School 10:15 AM

American Methodist Anniversary: From Baltimore into the Life Blood of a Nation

They rode from Baltimore in the first few days of 1785, around 60 mostly young preachers infused with missionary zeal and moving confidently into the lifeblood of a new nation. Over the previous nine days, they had organized the first national Protestant denomination in what was becoming--but was not quite yet--the United States of America.

The Methodist Episcopal Church, the forerunner of The United Methodist Church, came into being 225 years ago, at an event that adjourned on either January 2 or 3, 1785 (reports vary). The First "General Conference," beginning on the previous Christmas Eve, had set an independent course for American Methodism.

Sixty-four of 84 Methodist preachers in the former British colonies attended the "Christmas Conference" at the Lovely



Lane Chapel, a small church long since relocated. They arrived as lay leaders of "Methodist societies," formally within the Church of England; when they left Baltimore, a dozen had been ordained as clergy. Their number would grow to 678 in 1813, when the Methodists numbered 214,307.

With an emphasis on God's free grace and human free will, Methodism was uniquely suited to the emerging democratic country. The Methodist Episcopal Church was the largest American Protestant church for decades and exerted a powerful influence on the national character. It set the standard for a correspondence between personal and social holiness--a vision linking individual responsibility, social religion, and public morality.

Celebrations of the 225th anniversary of the Christmas Conference were scattered this year, perhaps ironic at a time when The United Methodist Church in the US is seeking its way into the future as a dynamic force. The West Virginia Annual Conference did organize for the birthday, holding a conference observance on December 12. Some West Virginia districts marked the occasion. The Baltimore Washington Annual Conference had observed the anniversary at its 2009 session last summer. The Desert Southwest Annual Conference also commemorated the date.

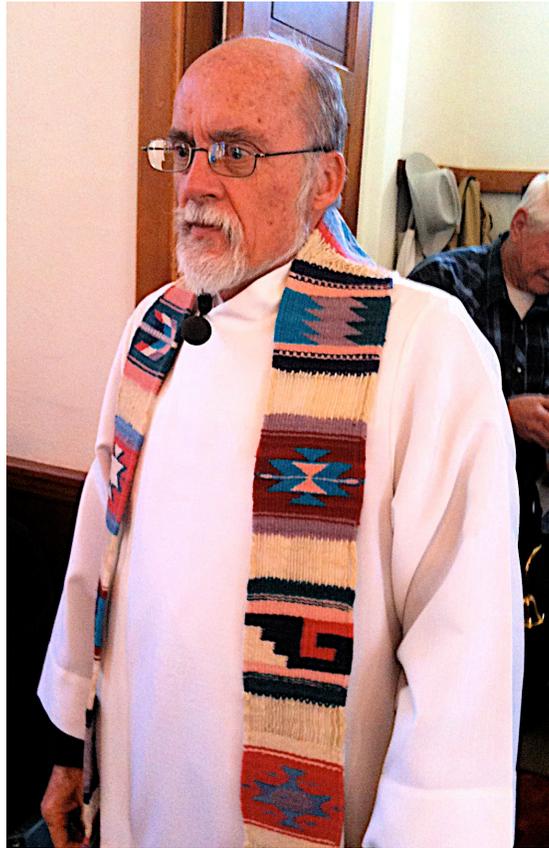
LENT AND ASH WEDNESDAY - A Time of Preparation

Millions of Christians observe Ash Wednesday and the Lenten season, while others barely know what it's about. It might be helpful to give a brief description for those that don't understand the purpose of these observances.

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent* (Lent is the 40 day period before Easter Sunday, excluding Sundays and a few minor variations in the church calendar). On Ash Wednesday ashes are placed onto the foreheads of the faithful in the sign of the cross to remind them of Christ's death, of the sorrow one should feel for his or her sins, and of the necessity of repenting, which is turning from sin and turning to God. The ashes are obtained from burned palm branches from the Palm Sunday of the previous year.

Many believe the practice of placing ashes onto the forehead began in 1091 A.D. by the Roman Catholic church. However, the custom of placing ashes onto the head as a sign of repentance dates back to Old Testament times.

Lent is a special time of reflecting in prayer and fasting upon the importance of our redemption and salvation made possible through Christ's suffering on the cross and his resurrection from the dead. Many people give up something they enjoy doing or eating during Lent as a constant reminder of how Jesus gave up his life for theirs.



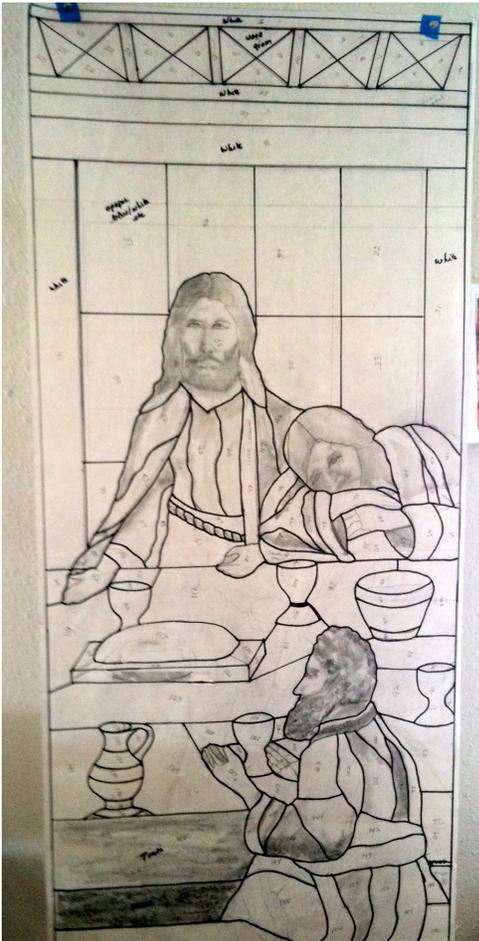
Our Pastor, Charles Spooner

Stained Glass Project

January has been spent getting back onto the primary job of making windows for the Church. Ray Darnell has drawn the three windows depicting the Lord's Supper that will go into the three large lower windows on the south side of the church. The center window is well on the way with the three heads and their hands cut out of glass and are being painted. The other stained glass for the window is about 25% complete. Jan Cool is assigned the lead on these windows. Sylvia Levy has started on another window to go above the Family Dinning window on the north side of the church. There has been a lot of other activity in getting the new place functioning and arranged to be most efficient. Several members of the crew are involved in making special projects. I think most of the crew really like the new space, especially the abundant natural light from the windows on the south and west side. It is also very nice to have hot water.

-Mel Stephenson





Window pattern for the first of the Lord's Supper series



Butch's latest creation!



New Setup

Come Help Us Celebrate



A MARDI GRAS PARTY

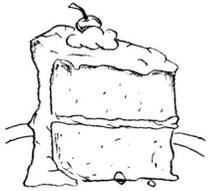
(Hosted by the Spooners)

Where: Estancia United Methodist Church

When: Saturday, February 20th

Time: 6:00 PM

Tickets: \$6.00 per person



King Cake

- **Dress:** For Merrymaking
- **Tickets:** Available at the church

The history of Mardi Gras began long before Europeans set foot in the New World. In mid February the ancient Romans celebrated the *Lupercalia*, a circus like festival not entirely unlike the Mardi Gras we are familiar with today. When Rome embraced Christianity, the early Church fathers decided it was better to incorporate certain aspects of pagan rituals into the new faith rather than attempt to abolish them altogether. Carnival became a period of abandon and merriment that preceded the penance of Lent, thus giving a Christian interpretation to the ancient custom.

A **king cake** is a type of cake associated with the festival of Epiphany in the Christmas season in a number of countries, and in other places with Mardi Gras and Carnival. The cakes have a small trinket (often a small plastic baby, sometimes said to represent Baby Jesus) inside, and the person who gets the piece of cake with the trinket has various privileges and obligations (such as buying the cake for next year's celebration).

NEW BEGINNINGS

This is a time of new beginnings as we go into a new year in the life of our church. What a wonderful opportunity is ahead of us, and how blessed we are to have the chance to begin anew. Many places in this world do not have that opportunity. I look forward to sharing our new adventure with all of you and hope that you feel free to bring to the Board any ideas you might have in order to spread God's word in our community. It may seem quiet out there, but you and I know that there are many people who need to hear our witness and the sharing of God's word.

We have been greatly blessed this past year because all of you have been so faithful in your giving, and certainly in the extra giving of your time. I can't begin to name the folks that are always there in time of crises and in times of need willing to give, not only money, but, what is even more precious, their time and talents. Financially, we have been able to pay our shared ministries (giving beyond the local church), pay our bills, help with the stained glass project and many other offerings that have been presented to us through the year. Your generous giving, especially to the Waco Home for Children, will go far in helping kids that need just a small opportunity and a chance to be loved and encouraged. You will never know how much good you have done with your money.

The stained glass project is progressing well, and I know that all of us that work with that project are so thankful for the help that was given during the time we had to move the entire project to another location. So many of you came out of the woodwork, as they say, even folks that are not members of our church in order that we might move in a short time. We could have not done this on our own. Thanks be to God for folks like you that are willing to come forward in time of need. They say "A friend in need is a friend indeed! That is certainly true. Thanks again!

I want to thank Sylvia Levy for serving as our Treasurer for these many years. We are grateful for her faithful service. Also, a big thanks to Vicky Coburn for stepping in as Financial Secretary and Treasurer. These two women are a good example of the spirit in this church and that it takes more than money to keep us progressing. Many of you help out beyond the call of duty and I know if I try to name all of you I will fail because some of you are sneaky, and we don't know until afterwards what you have done.

The people in Haiti, as all of you know, are in desperate need due to the recent earthquake. If you feel inclined to help, our General United Methodist Church is down there in full force helping thru UMCOR. You can help by making donations and/or making what they call kits. The kits need to be sent thru our local church if possible, so let us know if you wish to participate.

What a future is ahead for all of us, if we will but listen to God's call. Just listen and believe what God is telling us.

Bless all of you in your new beginnings.

-Marcia Fitzner

Methodist Men's Ministry

The Methodist Men met on Saturday, January 16, for breakfast, prayer, and fellowship. The breakfast meal was prepared by Phil Levy using his special recipe for French toast. The singing was led by Jon Shively. After prayer the group discussed the forthcoming joint meeting at the 1st Baptist Church with men from the two Baptist Churches. Several excellent suggestions were made about how the Makeover Missions can be improved.

On January 23, Jon Shively and Bill Simms met with men from the two churches to discuss forming a coalition between the three churches aimed at creating a community outreach program for Estancia. Jon presented what the Methodist Men had done to organize our Mission to the Community and why we needed their help. The presentation was well received and there was considerable interest in the possibilities of a mission to the

community. There were good suggestions about the missionary work too. The Methodist Men were invited to attend the men's breakfast at Immanuel Baptist Church next Saturday to make the same presentation.

Guitar Class

The beginning guitar class has met twice this month. The class will continue to meet twice a month on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays for one hour in the Education Building. Those who are still interested in attending, it is not too late to get in on the fun. So far, the class has learned to finger three major chords in the key of G and has worked on two strumming routines. Also we have worked on two songs, Red River Valley and Tennessee Waltz. If you know anyone who has expressed an interest in attending, encourage them to come at 6:30pm. The early bird tune up is at 6:15pm. This month we will be learning to play chords in the keys of C and D and will work on new strumming techniques. The students are encouraged to name a song that they would like to learn to play and sing.

Joyous Noisemakers (aka Joyful Singers)

The Joyous Singers are invited to join the singing and to offer songs at the 5th Sunday Sing in Mountainair on the 31st. The Mountainair Methodist Church is hosting the sing along and musical groups at 6pm. All members of Estancia UMC are invited to attend. Mountainair has had a tradition of all of the churches getting together to sing songs and hymns for more than 50 years on the 5th Sunday of the month. There are 4 months which have 5 Sundays each year. The groups get together after singing for some light refreshments.

The next scheduled rehearsal of the Singers is set for Tuesday February 2nd at 6:30 in the Education Building. The group will be working on harmonization and vocal exercises.

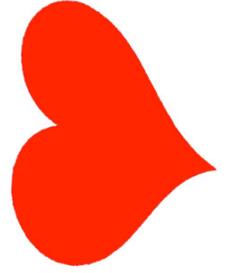
-Jon Shively



Joyous Singers Performing Last Sunday

February 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	9:am Glass Shop	2 9:am Glass Shop	3 10:am Quilters	4	5	6 9:am Glass Shop
7 9 AM Worship 9:15 Childrens Church 10:15 AM Adult SS 11 AM Worship -Mtair	8 9:am Glass Shop 7:pm TRUSTEES	9 9:am Glass Shop	10 10:am Quilters	11	12	13 9:am Glass Shop
9 AM Worship 9:15 Childrens Church 10:15 AM Adult SS 11 AM Worship -Mtair	16 9:am Glass Shop	17 10:am Quilters	18	19	20 9:am Glass Shop 7:AM Mens Breakfast	27 9:am Glass Shop
10:15 AM Adult SS 11 AM Worship -Mtair	23 9:am Glass Shop	24 10:am Quilters	25	26	27	
28 9 AM Worship 9:15 Childrens Church 10:15 AM Adult SS 11 AM Worship -Mtair						



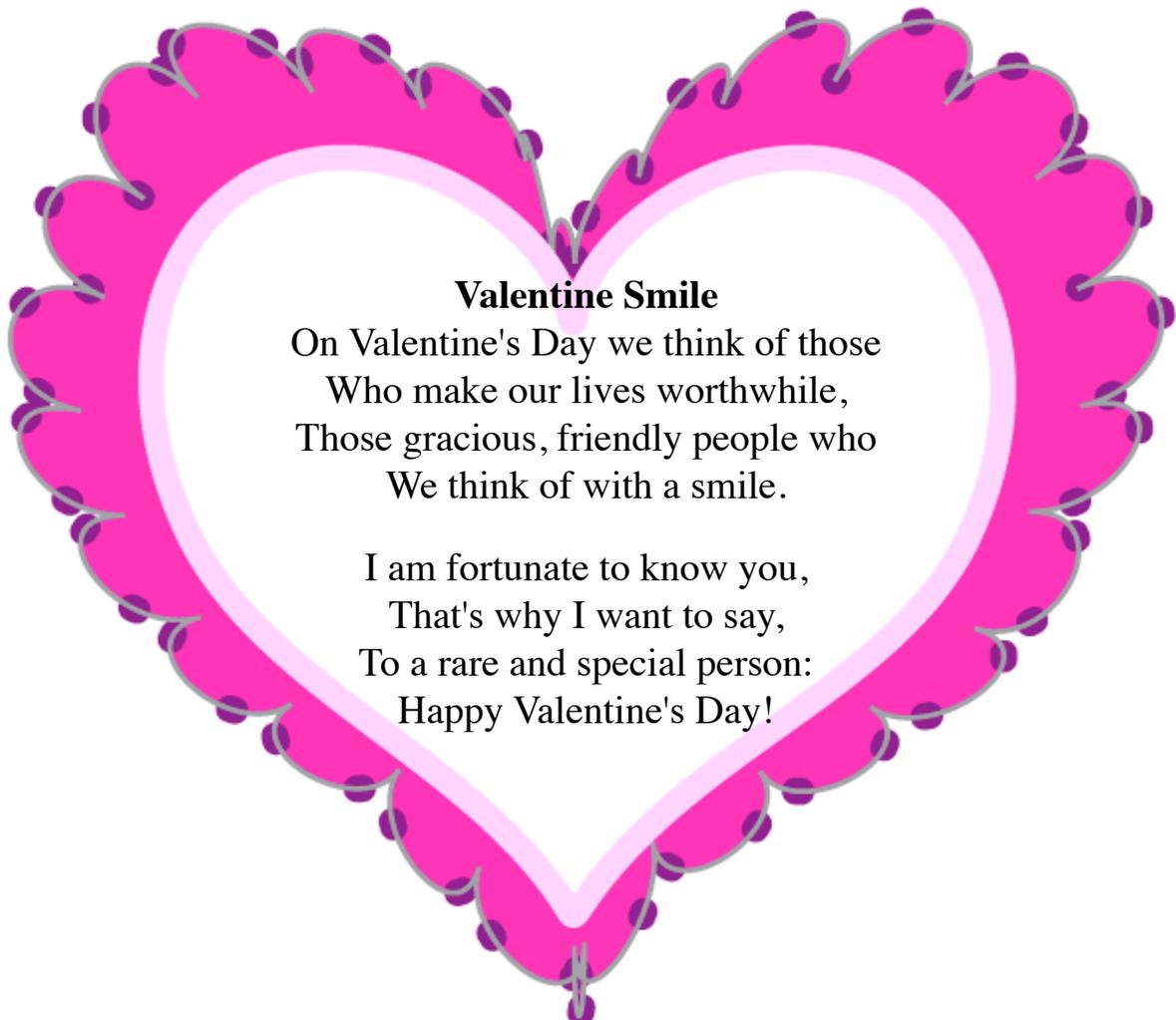
FEBRUARY



Sent with a prayer to:



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



Valentine Smile

On Valentine's Day we think of those
Who make our lives worthwhile,
Those gracious, friendly people who
We think of with a smile.

I am fortunate to know you,
That's why I want to say,
To a rare and special person:
Happy Valentine's Day!