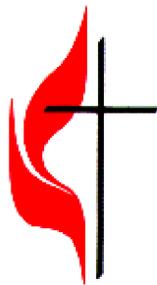




**NEWSLETTER**  
OF THE  
**Estancia United Methodist Church**  
*600 Williams, Estancia, New Mexico*



**JANUARY, 2009**

**Pastor: Rev. Charles Spooner**

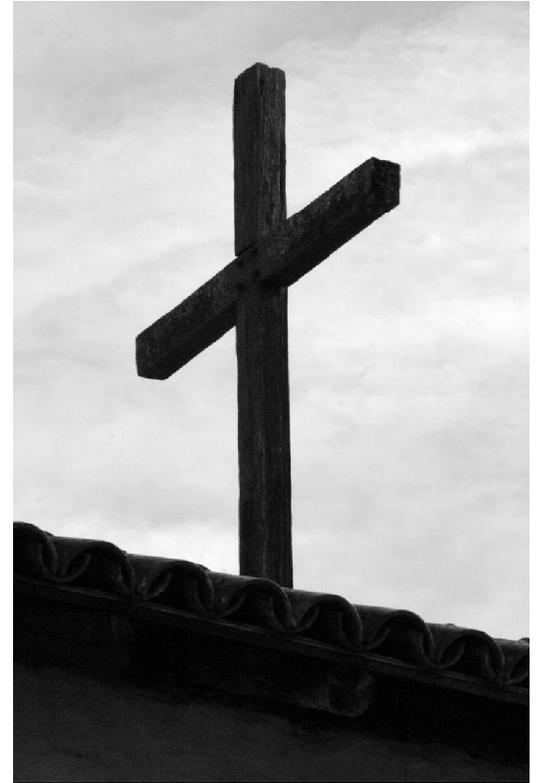
600 Williams, P. O. Box 126, Estancia, NM 87016  
 Church Office 384-5215 Parsonage 384-2710  
 email: spoonernote@gmail.com

**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	Pam Lambert
Education Team Leader	Leslie Fastnacht
Chairperson: Missions	Marcia Fitzner
Care and Outreach Team Leader	Jan Winn
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. Jim Hawk

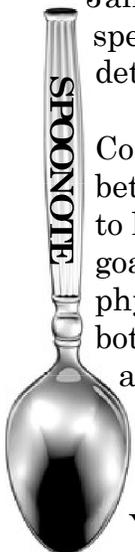
**Please visit us on the web:**  
<http://www.gb-gm-umc.org/estancia>



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

**Question: "What sort of New Year's Resolution Should a Christian Make?"**

**Answer:** The practice of making New Year's resolutions goes back over 3000 years to the ancient Babylonians. There is just something about the start of a New Year that gives us the feeling of a fresh start and a new beginning. In reality, there is no difference between December 31st and January 1st. Nothing mystical occurs at midnight on December 31st. The Bible does not speak for or against the concept of New Year's resolutions. However, if a Christian determines to make a New Year's resolution, what kind of resolution should he or she make?



Common New Year's resolutions are: to quit smoking, to stop drinking, to manage money better, and spend more time with family. By far the most common New Year's resolution is to lose weight, in conjunction with exercising more and eating healthier. These are all good goals to set. However, 1 Timothy 4:8 instructs us to keep exercise in perspective: "For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come." The vast majority of New Year's resolutions, even among Christians, are in relation to physical things. This should not be.

Many Christians make New Year's resolutions to pray more, to read the Bible every day, and to attend church more regularly. These are fantastic goals. However, these New Year's resolutions fail just as often as the non-spiritual resolutions, because there is no

power in a New Year's resolution. Resolving to start or stop doing a certain activity has no value unless you have the proper motivation for stopping or starting that activity. For example, why do you want to read the Bible every day? Is it to honor God and grow spiritually, or is it because you have just heard that it is a good thing to do? Why do you want to lose weight? Is it to honor God with your body, or is it for vanity, to honor yourself?

Philippians 4:13 tells us, "I can do everything through Him who gives me strength." John 15:5 declares, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." If God is the center of your New Year's resolution, it has chance for success, depending on your commitment to it. If it is God's will for something to be fulfilled, He will enable you to fulfill it. If a resolution is not God honoring and/or is not in agreement in God's Word, we will not receive God's help in fulfilling the resolution.

So, what sort of New Year's resolution should a Christian make? Here are some suggestions: (1) Pray to the Lord for wisdom (James 1:5) in regards to what resolutions, if any, He would have you make; (2) Pray for wisdom as to how to fulfill the goals God gives you; (3) Rely on God's strength to help you; (4) Find an accountability partner who will help you and encourage you; (5) Don't become discouraged with occasional failures; instead allow them to motivate you further; (6) Don't become proud or vain, but give God the glory. Psalm 37:5-6, "Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun."

*-Pastor Charlie*



Great fun was had by all on the Christmas carolling tour around Estancia. Huge thanks to Gayle and Lowell Clark for pulling the carollers with their team and wagon and to the volunteers who stayed behind to fix hot chocolate and cookies afterward!!

### ***Stained Glass Window Project***

The stained glass project continues to go very well. The Methodist Cross window is completely assembled and soldered on one side and should be ready to install in about two weeks. The nativity scene lower center window and the Jesus in the Garden windows are about half assembled. Perlene Lutrick and Pastor Spooner completed their Christmas gift projects and they did a really good job on them. Perlene also donated \$100.00 to the stained glass project. It was a real joy to see how they took to doing a stained glass project. Perlene made a beautiful lamp shade and Charley made a Fan Lamp featuring a hummingbird.

Ruth Moon completed painting and the required firing of the faces and hands for the total nativity scene (14 pieces).

Phil Levy has now stripped the north and east windows in the back of the church and will start on the southeast windows in early January.

Marcia Fitzner and Della have been working together to assemble the Garden window. Marcia has really taken to the grinding of the glass to get a good fit.

Bill Simms and I will be fabricating a stained glass window installation tool and the wood trim for some of the windows in early January.

*-Mel*



**Methodist Cross Window**

#### ***The Feast of the Epiphany - January 6, 2009***

Please come and join June and Charlie Spooner at 4:30 P.M. to commemorate the visitation of the Magi to the Child Jesus on this 12th day of Christmas. A light supper will be served.

### ***Church Council News***

Well folks, another year has come and gone and if you are like me, I wonder what I did that was worth mentioning . I know they say that as you get older time seems to fly by quicker, but younger folks that I know say that is not true!!

As we go into a new year with new things to anticipate, I would like you to take some time and think about where you suppose our church will be at this time next year. Will we still be wishing that more folks were coming to church on Sunday morning? Will we still be waiting for God to tell us what to do and how to do it ? I hope not!! Nothing happens in this church or any other if someone is not willing to step forth and share talents etc. with us and God! A look around our community will tell you that there is always a lot to do.

I am so very thankful that some have given their time and monies to provide Christmas baskets for folks that need our help this time of the year, packages to those in the military and many other things that go unnoticed. I am very good at feeling guilty about not volunteering to do things going on in the church (I always have a good reason) but, as my mother used to say, "this is not buying the baby any clothes."

As we go into a new year of opportunity let us everyday ask: God what do you want me to do today? And then be willing to listen to the answer even though it may not be what we particularly want to do, but if God wants it and we listen, it will work our for all of us.

I will be working with the finances again this year with full confidence because all of you are so generous and I know that you will continue to be. Remember, I said last month that God does not always want our abilities, but our *availability*. So listen to those whispers from God.

*-Marcia Fitzner - Chair*

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### ***Report of the Methodist Men Makeover Activities:***

The Methodist Men met on December 13 to share a tasty breakfast prepared by Phil Levy and Mel Stephenson. Nick Griffo led an excellent devotional time at the start of the meeting. At the business meeting, Phil presented two new makeover projects to the members and a plan of action was formulated. Additional work at Gaylyn's home will be deferred until later this spring. The need for additional tables for the stained glass project was presented and discussed. Bill Simms outlined a plan to supply the additional tables. The Methodist Men elected Jon Shively to serve as president and Nick Griffo to serve as treasurer/secretary. The Methodist Men also discussed the current financial situation of the organization. They decided to send \$100 to the Methodist Children's Home in Waco Texas and to put the remainder in a checking account for future makeover projects. The next meeting will be held on January 17th at 7am. Jon Shively and Don Fitzner will be doing the cooking. Jon will lead a time for devotions.

*-Jon Shively*

## Church Officers 2009

### Church Council and Committees of Estancia United Methodist Church

Chairperson Church Council	Mel Stephenson
Recording Secretary	Vickie Coburn
Lay Member Annual Conference	Marcia Fitzner
Worship Team Leader	Melanie Chavez
Chairperson Trustee	Bill Simms
Education Team Leader	Leslie Fastnacht
Chairperson Mission	Marcia Fitzner
Care and Outreach Team Leader	Jan Winn
Chairperson PPRC	Melanie Chavez
Chairperson Finance	Marcia Fitzner
Church Treasurer	Sylvia Levy
Financial Secretary	Vickie Coburn
McMurry Rep	Rev. Charles Spooner
Sacramento Camp Rep	Cheryl Chavez

#### Board of Trustees

(09) Jason Fastnacht  
Della Stephenson  
(10) Bill Simms (Chair)  
Mary Alice Drolte  
(11) Harry Irvin  
Phil Levy

#### Pastor Parish Relations

(09) Leslie Fastnacht  
Jim Wyman (Chair)  
(10) Cheryl Chavez  
Jan Winn  
(11) Nick Griffo  
Gayle Clark  
LMAC Marcia Fitzner

#### Committee On Lay Leadership

(09) Alma Wimsatt  
Francis Winn  
(10) Bill Simms  
Marcella Reynolds  
(11) Mel Stephenson  
Lowell Clark

#### Finance Committee

Chairperson	Marcia Fitzner	Trustee Rep.	Bill Simms
Church Council Chair	Mel Stephenson	Treasurer	Sylvia Levy
Finance Secretary	Vickie Coburn	PPRC Chair	Jim Wyman

#### Worship Team

Melanie Chavez (Chair)  
Susan Samuels (Communion)  
Morrow Hall (Organist)  
Jon Shively (Specials)

#### Education Team

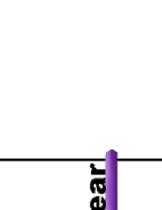
Francis Winn (Adults)  
Leslie Fastnacht (Children)  
Butch McGee (Youth)

#### Care & Outreach

Jan Winn (Chair)  
Butch McGee (Food Pantry)  
Alma Wimsatt (Soldiers)

<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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# January 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>4</b> 9 AM Worship 9:15 Childrens Church 10:15 AM Adult SS 11 AM Worship - Mtair	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  6:30 PM Bible Study	<b>7</b> 10:am Quilters	<b>1</b> 	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>11</b> 9 AM Worship 9:15 Childrens Church 10:15 AM Adult SS 11 AM Worship - Mtair	<b>12</b>  7:PM TRUSTEES	<b>13</b>  6:30 PM Bible Study	<b>14</b> 10:am Quilters	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 7 AM Men's Breakfast
<b>18</b> 9 AM Worship 9:15 Childrens Church 10:15 AM Adult SS 11 AM Worship - Mtair	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  6:30 PM Bible Study	<b>21</b> 10:am Quilters	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 9 AM Worship 9:15 Childrens Church 10:15 AM Adult SS 11 AM Worship - Mtair	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  6:30 PM Bible Study	<b>28</b> 10:am Quilters	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

# JANUARY



*Sent with a prayer to:*



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

## *A New Year Prayer*

Father, God of our yesterdays, our today, and our tomorrows.  
We praise You for Your unequalled greatness.  
Thank You for the year behind us and for the year ahead.  
Help us in Your new year, Father, to fret less and laugh more.  
To teach our children to laugh by laughing with them.  
To teach others to love by loving them.  
Knowing, when Love came to the stable in Bethlehem, He came for us.  
So that Love could be with us, and we could know You.  
That we could share Love with others.  
Help us, Father, to hear Your love song in every sunrise,  
in the chirping of sparrows in our backyards,  
in the stories of our old folks, and the fantasies of our children.  
Help us to stop and listen to Your love songs,  
so that we may know You better and better.  
We rejoice in the world You loved into being.  
Thank You for another new year and for new chances every day.  
We pray for peace, for light, and for hope, that we might spread them to others.  
Forgive us for falling short this past year.

We leave the irreparable past in your hands, and step out into the unknown  
new year knowing You will go with us.

We accept Your gift of a new year and we rejoice in what's ahead, depending on  
You to help us do exactly what You want. I say it again, we rejoice!

In Jesus name, Amen.