



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



MARCH - APRIL
2006

Pastor: Rev. Gary Eggart

600 Williams, P. O. Box 378, Estancia, NM 87016
 Church Office 384-5215 Parsonage 384-2710
 email: garye@zianet.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	Mark Lambert
Chairperson: Worship Committee	Julie Griffo
Chairperson: Education Committee	Susan Wilson
Youth Representative	Brian Wilson
Chairperson: Missions	Marcia Fitzner
Chairperson: Prayer Evangelism	Nick Griffo
Chairperson: Care and Outreach	Kristie Brown
Chairperson: Pastor Parish Relations	Melanie Chavez
Chairperson: Finance Committee	Mel Stephenson
Chairperson: History	Ethel Floyd
Financial Secretary	Marcella Reynolds
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.gbgbm-umc.org/estancia>

Prayer Concerns

- Ruth Brindle
- Donald Berry
- Sally Teasdale & Grace Kerr
- Carolyn Hill
- Butch McGee
- Erma Ann McGee
- Ruth-Mel's sister
- Mary Garcia
- Peter Sanchez
- Sue Dile
- Shirley Solomon
- Pam's Sister
- Billy & Dustin Newsom
- Debbie Gallegos and Mildred Gringo
- The men and women of the armed forces
- National leaders and the leaders of the world

Sunday Worship 11:00 AM
Nursery Provided

From Pastor Gary**THE SECRET DOORWAY**

What is in your wardrobe? I would guess everything from casual to work clothes, to dress clothes. Nathan loves it when he can put on play clothes. He gets excited when he doesn't have to put on school clothes or church clothes, but gets to put on play clothes. You can tell what is on his mind by what he wears.

But do you have a secret compartment or secret doorway in your wardrobe. Now I am not talking about your clothes but your closet. The Lion, The Witch, and the Closet doesn't have the same ring to it as "The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe." C. S. Lewis wrote a classic when he wrote the Chronicles of Narnia. By the way, did you see the movie Narnia. It was a great movie, and if you haven't seen it you need to.

Narnia to so many was a make believe movie. A good movie, but make believe. And many think that "The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe" is a children's book. It may be a good book, but still a children's book. But it's not. Narnia is not a make believe world. It is the world in which we live. Both you and I live in Narnia in a real and physical way. We go to bed and we wake up in the land of Narnia. We didn't walk through a wardrobe to get there, we were born in Narnia.

Narnia is where Satan tries to rule and tries to destroy the sons of Adam and the daughters Eve. The movie Narnia and the book is all about spiritual warfare. You may think spiritual warfare is what Satan does behind the scenes, but really it is what he is doing now. It was what he did with Adam and Eve. It is what was happening when Daniel was thrown into the lion's den. It is what happened to Judas. It is what he did by persecuting the early Christians and those in Russia and now in China. And it is what he does in Brazil when Marcia shared about the children, disappearing when they round up the street children to sell some into slavery, forced prostitution, or just kill them to get rid of them. Satan is the deceiver and he deceived Adam and Eve. He deceived Judas. How is he trying to deceive you? *Because he is trying!*

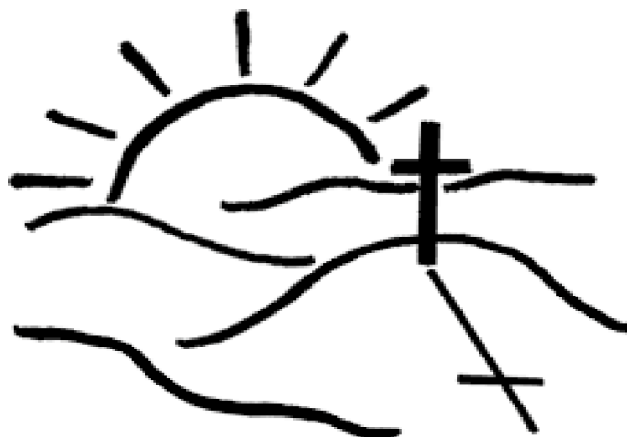
Satan is described as a roaring lion seeking someone to devour. He tried to devour Daniel in the lion's den, and he tried to devour Jesus at the cross by having him crucified. But there was something Satan didn't know, just as there was something the white witch didn't know about Narnia, "that though the Witch knew the Deep Magic, there is magic deeper still which she did not know. Her knowledge goes back only to the dawn of Time. But if she could have looked a little further back into the stillness and darkness before Time dawned, she would have read there a different incantation. She would have known that when a willing victim who had committed no treachery was killed in a traitor's stead, the Table would crack and Death itself would start working backwards."

That is the miracle of Easter and that is just what happened. Jesus who had committed no sin took the place of those who had sinned. He was raised from the dead and our debt was paid. Satan didn't know that "The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe" is an Easter story. It is the story about how Satan tries to deceive and destroy the sons of Adam and the daughters Eve. But mostly it is a story about how God gave his life to save his creation. A story about you and me and our Savior-Jesus.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

- Sunday, April 9Palm Sunday Services 11:00 AM
- Wednesday, April 12.....Encounters With Jesus Bible study 9:00 AM
- Thursday, April 13.....Joint Maundy-Thursday service at Mountainair 7:00 PM
- Sunday, April 16.....Easter Sunrise Service at Assembly of God 7:00 AM
- Sunday, April 16.....Easter Sunday Services 11:00 AM

Easter Egg Hunt for the children (Parents bring a dozen eggs)



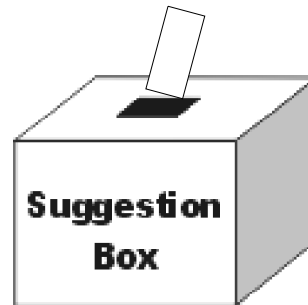
SUGGESTION BOX !!!!

Yes folks, we did get some mighty good suggestions from our members - please give some thought to these, and perhaps we could express our agreement or amendments some Sunday during church. (Just a suggestion!)

Suggestions are in three categories - recommendations, requests and new ideas:

Recommendations:

- Taping the sermon each Sunday for our shut-ins OR for someone who missed the service and would like to hear what they missed.
- Have fellowship after church in the sanctuary.
- Sing familiar songs that have some “pep”.
- Have a meal with our service. (Potluck?)
- Coordinate services with other Methodist churches as well as our sister church in Mountainair to see what they are doing.
- Our worship service needs to be about 1 hour long - It’s not necessary to do everything, every time! When certain segments take too long, the pastor should regulate the remaining time.
- Emphasis on getting the basement DONE.
- Have Sunday School - ?
- More pot luck dinners - barbeques and pancake breakfasts - once a month??
- Each month deliver a food basket (maybe on communion Sunday) to a family in our community. Our pantry is well stocked. Recommended that we have a food drive mid-summer (not necessary to wait for Thanksgiving and Christmas, you know.) Who would like to be in charge of this???????
- Fifth Sunday - a service of songs (Like Mountainair?)
- Select a mission project outside of our church, i.e. help with a project for the Youth Center or Senior Center; help out at the Health Center, Library or Fire Dept.
- Preach a sermon on “How to Be Above Reproach”.
- Importance of Tithing for children - either have the children stay for church offering, or have offering in Sunday School.



Requests:

- Please call me to let me know when someone is ill or needs a card - can’t send one if I don’t know about it. If I am not home, please leave a message. Thank you, Renee M. Richards @ 384-6060

- Please pray for our Sunday School teachers and our youth.
- Better attendance at our church service shows others we have the spirit in our hearts.
- The Joy of Christianity - I think this is often forgotten as we think of repentance and regret and sin and strife and...and...and.

New Ideas:

- The idea of exchanging church times with Mountainair was mentioned more than once. On the practical side, during the winter months, the pastor's trip to Mountainair could be improved by traveling later in the morning for an 11:00 o'clock service. Daylight savings time is divided into two parts - 6 months each. Perhaps we could discuss with MUMC the possibility of trading times every 6 months.

MISSIONS AT WORK (Sao Pablo Brazil)

My reason for going to Brazil was to be a part of a committee appointed by the Council of Bishops 2004 to fulfill a mandate from General Conference to build better relationships between the United States and Latin America churches. While there I was able to visit three mission projects supported by General Board of Global Ministries Women's Division and Advanced Specials. We first visited a seminary that had recently built a new addition to their facilities. I was impressed by the very deep spiritual atmosphere that lingered in the school. They had actually under-spent their budget for several years in order to have the money for their addition. Areas referred to as "mercy centers" were used for prayer or meditation stations. I was particularly impressed with an Upper Room style chapel used for study, prayer and meditation. I could picture the apostles sitting around the table talking with Jesus.

Next we visited a school for young adults with special needs. Here they are taught self-sufficiency and job skills that would enable them to find employment. School days in Brazil are only four hours a day. For this reason the church has stepped in and tried to provide places where children can go morning or afternoon according to their schedules. The large downtown church I visited provides these kinds of opportunities for the children. The most impressive project we saw was the homeless shelter that is housed within a bridge in a space originally intended for storage. The facility is old but very, very clean. They house over 300 people every night and feed, cloth and help to relocate many more. There are some women and children that are helped, but mainly homeless men. They have an outstanding record for helping men get off the street and into jobs or school.

Sao Pablo is a city of 22 million people. Their greatest problem is violence. Everywhere I went there was tight security and we were asked not to go outside without someone for security purposes. Everything, even the bus etc., is secure.

The saddest thing of all were the "street children." Ragged and dirty, they were selling whatever they had found or, perhaps, doing a juggling act and hoping for a handout. Unscrupulous people take advantage of these children. Children are used as dope carriers and for prostitution. When these children become too much of a nuisance, businessmen hire armed men to round them up and harvest their organs for sale. The church has missionaries that work with some of these children, but in the end, there are too many.

Back to the original intent of this trip - the meeting we attended consisted of Bishops from Latin American and Caribbean churches. There were only two lay people, another man and myself. Fortunately, we all had the same goal. We worked together and came up with a good plan on how to proceed. We have until the 2008 General Conference to complete our plans and show results.

-Marcia Fitzner

Mountainair UMC News



The special event for our Easter season this year is the Maundy Thursday Communion Service at Mountainair UMC which will be a joint service for both congregations on Thursday, April 13th at 7 PM.

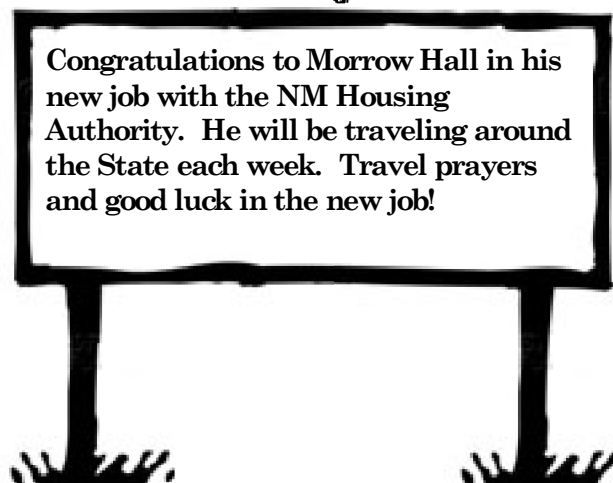
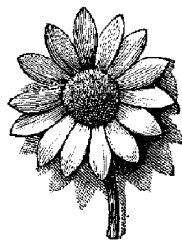
In May our town will be having a Tour, as it's being called, with the artists opening up for the season and trying to get things off to a good start. It is the weekend before Memorial Day, May 20 and 21. Lots of things to see, hear, eat, and buy....hopefully!!! But lots of fun as well. Mountainair UMC will be selling the Centennial Cookbook we made up a few years ago, and included for free with the purchase of each cookbook will be a bag of "goodies" sampled from several recipes contained in the cookbook. Price will be \$10.00 each. I'm not sure what all the artists are planning, but I'm sure a brochure or flyer will be out soon. This is just advanced notice of the up-coming special event.

Do you remember the Pittmans from Bethel church who came to Mountainair after Marsha died and served as lay speakers until we got Gary? They sold their house in Moriarty and traveled in their 5th wheel trailer for over a year, then settled in North Carolina, near some of Ron's family. Well, I got an e-mail from Barbara about Ron, who not doing well, healthwise. I think at the present time he's in a VA hospital in Durham, NC awaiting test results about something they found in his lungs. We just wanted to let you know so he can be on your prayer list, too.

And just one more thing....we are very grateful to Mark Lambert who on a moments notice came to Mountainair last Monday and installed a new commode just before a big group of ladies was due for a monthly meeting on Tuesday. That's truly a "friend indeed", and it is wonderful to not have more water on the floor after a flush than went down!! I don't know if this is an item for the newsletter, but just a wonderful example of a "Brother in Christ" helping his sister congregation.

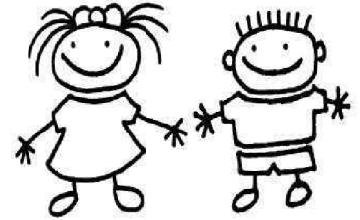
Again, we look forward to your newsletter each month. And Thanks again.

-Mary Jones



I've Got Some Growing Up To Do

How do you tell if a person has grown up? I remember one Valentines day while in seminary some friends of mine held an “unvalentines” day party—for those who did not have a date. I was a little perturbed that I wasn’t invited—not that I could not have attended. We were all fairly good friends, but I wasn’t invited and that got under my skin for some reason. So I decided to crash the party—I went as Cupid. First I needed to get my costume. I drove to Wally World and bought a pair of valentine boxers shorts with hearts on them and that read, “Red Hot Lover” and picked up a kids bow and arrow set. The kind with the rubber suction tips. I borrowed some long red long-johns, pulled the boxer shorts over the top, and grabbed my bow an arrow set. I headed across campus to the girls dorm, crashed the party, and shot ‘em with the arrows—I taught them a lesson for not inviting me! My roommate, at the time, still remembers that day. He was a little embarrassed for me. Would you say that was *all* grown up? So, what are the marks of an adult? Would you say a person is an adult because they are over 18? Legally yes, but then maybe the issue is not about being an adult. Growing up is not just an age. Amanda’s Aunt Cathy gave me a decorative stone for my birthday with the inscription, “If You Haven’t Grown Up By Age 40, You Don’t Have To”. Some of you may know someone who hasn’t grown up and we’re not talking about him or her being a little child like. We are really talking maturity.



A Christian music band, Superchick, has a song entitled “Wishes”. It is about two people in a relationship who have some growing up to do. One of the phrases in the song is “I have some growing up to do”. The lead singer realizes she hadn’t been mature. Are you aware that when it comes to relationships, there are a number of people whose maturity level remains in the juvenile state—they behave as teenagers. When it comes to interpersonal skills, rather than being mature, we sometimes play games with each other. Examine your own relationships! When have you played games and when were you mature?

The apostle Paul talks about maturity in Ephesians 4:7-16. He says the reason some have the gifts of evangelist, of pasturing, and of teaching is to prepare God’s people...to build them up in the faith “and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.” God wants us to be mature in the faith, not infants, not teenagers in the faith, but mature. Part of becoming mature in our faith is learning how a Christian is suppose to behave and act. Ephesians 4 helps with this concept. Another part of becoming mature in our faith is learning biblical principals. This occurs as we read and study God’s word. So if you were to examine your spiritual life on a scale of 1 to 10, how spiritually mature are you? At times in our life we have played games in our relationships, and at times we have played games with God. Do you have some growing up to do? A step of maturity is when we realize we have some growing up to do.

Heavenly Father, help me to become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

-Pastor Gary



Thoughts from Bishop Max.

Nothing fails like success. What a crazy, contradictory statement. Success means achieving the intended results. How can anyone consider it failure? Then I remembered some examples of things attempted in the congregations I served.

The annual Vacation Bible School moved from the morning hours to weekday evenings for the entire family to participate in a Biblical journey of faith. It was a great success. Attendance more than doubled. More children attended, recruiting teachers was an easy process, and more adults participated in a serious study of the scriptures. The planning committee repeated the process, the next summer, and the next, and the.....and it failed.

Changing the time and setting of the Vacation Bible School meant greater thought, preparation, promotion, and leadership involvement than in previous years. The next year, the committee deflected suggestions of innovating additions and cut their preparation time. "Why make unnecessary changes, after all, last year's VBS was such a great success? Why expend the extra effort and work?" Slowly, the committee omitted all the factors that led to the initial success. Nothing fails like success.

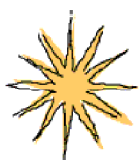
The congregational leaders planned an all church Lenten Study. They recruited study leaders, formed neighborhood gatherings, recruited families to host each of the neighborhood groups, and under girded all of their efforts with a strong prayer emphasis. A vast majority of the attending membership participated in a Lenten Bible Study. It was a great success. Therefore, the Church Council planned a Lenten Bible study for the next several years, until it was ultimately cancelled for lack of participation. Nothing fails like success.

A few weeks ago I made a major shift in my devotional practices. This was not the first major shift. I've made several changes through the years. My daily devotions as a local pastor rotated around going to the church office and spending my first thirty minutes in Bible Study and prayer. I enjoyed starting my day with my Lord. Conditions changed, my day started at odd hours. Instead of going to the office, I was on the road at 6:00 in the morning. Office hours were erratic and some weeks my office hours were non-existent. I shifted my devotional practices to a period before bedtime. Evening was a great time to reflect back on the activities of the day, give God thanks, learn from my mistakes, and pray for guidance for the coming day. I began to look forward to that quiet time with my Lord before retiring in the evening.

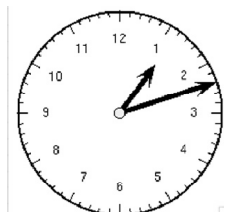
My world changed again and the thirty minutes before retiring became later and later. I was near exhaustion, my mind wandered and I recognized I needed to make another change. A few weeks ago, I moved my devotional time to the early morning, before I eat, dress, shower, read the morning paper, or leave our home or motel room to begin the daily routine. The time with my Lord is again a wonderful, enriching, joy-filled experience. I anticipate with thanksgiving my time of daily devotions. Rather than seeing my devotional practices as an obligation I need to fulfill before the day is over, they are a glorious way of starting each new day.

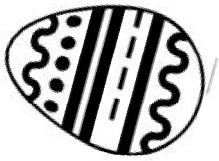
Yes, nothing fails like success. Repetitive actions and programs can produce stale, faltering, boring results. I must remain open to learn from my past, discover the small details that make the difference between success and failure, and constantly seek the guidance of God's Holy Spirit to avoid turning success into failure.

Grace & Peace, Max



**Daylight Saving Time Starts!
Clocks Forward One Hour
ON APRIL 2**





April 2006



Tear Off

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 9 AM Worship - Mtair 10 AM Adlt Sunday Sch 11 AM Worship	27 7-7:45 Morning Meditation 7:30pm AA	28 Pastor Gary in Mountalnair 7:00pm Mens Ministry	29 7-7:45 Morning Meditation 7:00pm Encounters with Jesus Bible Study	30 7:30pm AA	31 7-7:45 Morning Meditation	1 7-7:45 Morning Meditation
2 9 AM Worship - Mtair 10 AM Adlt Sunday Sch 11 AM Worship Martin Reeves-Peru	3 7-7:45 Morning Meditation 7:30pm AA	4 Pastor Gary in Mountalnair 7:00pm Mens Ministry	5 7-7:45 Morning Meditation 7:00pm Encounters with Jesus Bible Study	6 7:00 FINANCE Meet 7:30pm AA	7 7-7:45 Morning Meditation	8 7-7:45 Morning Meditation WORK DAY!
9 9 AM Worship - Mtair 10 AM Adlt Sunday Sch 11 AM Worship PALM SUNDAY	10 7-7:45 Morning Meditation 7:00pm TRUSTEES 7:30pm AA	11 Pastor Gary in Mountalnair 6:30pm Ad Council	12 7-7:45 Morning Meditation 7:00pm Encounters with Jesus Bible Study	13 7:00pm Joint Service AT MUMC MAUNDY THURSDAY	14 7-7:45 Morning Meditation	15 7:00 Men's Breakfast
16 7:00am Sunrise Ser. Assembly of God 11 AM Worship EASTER SUNDAY	17 7-7:45 Morning Meditation 7:30pm AA	18 Pastor Gary in Mountalnair 7:00pm Mens Ministry	19 7-7:45 Morning Meditation 7:00pm Encounters with Jesus Bible Study	20 7:30pm AA	21 7-7:45 Morning Meditation	22 7-7:45 Morning Meditation
23 9 AM Worship - Mtair 10 AM Adlt Sunday Sch 11 AM Worship	24 7-7:45 Morning Meditation 7:30pm AA	25 Pastor Gary in Mountalnair 7:00pm Mens Ministry	26 7-7:45 Morning Meditation 7:00pm Encounters with Jesus Bible Study	27 7:30pm AA	28 7-7:45 Morning Meditation	29 7-7:45 Morning Meditation
30 9 AM Worship - Mtair 10 AM Adlt Sunday Sch 11 AM Worship Pre Conf-Cent. UMC						

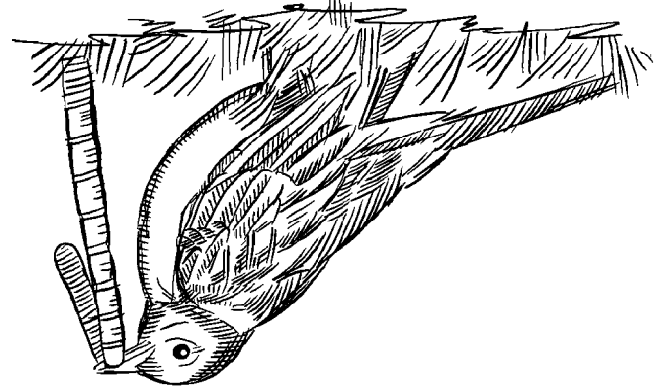


Blessed are they who can laugh at themselves for they shall never cease to be amused.

MARCH APRIL



Sent with a prayer to:



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

THE BRICK

A young and successful executive was traveling down a neighborhood street, going a bit too fast in his new Jaguar. He was watching for kids darting out from between parked cars and slowed down when he thought he saw something. As his car passed, no children appeared. Instead, a brick smashed into the Jag's side door! He slammed on the brakes and backed the Jag back to the spot where the brick had been thrown. The angry driver then jumped out of the car, grabbed the nearest kid and pushed him up against a parked car shouting, "What was that all about and who are you? Just what the heck are you doing? That's a new car and that brick you threw is going to cost a lot of money. Why did you do it?" The young boy was apologetic. "Please, mister... please, I'm sorry but I didn't know what else to do," He pleaded. "I threw the brick because no one else would stop..." With tears dripping down his face and off his chin, the youth pointed to a spot just around a parked car. "It's my brother," he said "He rolled off the curb and fell out of his wheelchair and I can't lift him up."

Now sobbing, the boy asked the stunned executive, "Would you please help me get him back into his wheelchair? He's hurt and he's too heavy for me."

Moved beyond words, the driver tried to swallow the rapidly swelling lump in his throat. He hurriedly lifted the handicapped boy back into the wheelchair, then took out a linen handkerchief and dabbed at the fresh scrapes and cuts. A quick look told him everything was going to be okay. "Thank you and may God bless you," the grateful child told the stranger. Too shook up for words, the man simply watched the boy! push his wheelchair-bound brother down the sidewalk toward their home.

It was a long, slow walk back to the Jaguar. The damage was very noticeable, but the driver never bothered to repair the dented side door. He kept the dent there to remind him of this message: "Don't go through life so fast that someone has to throw a brick at you to get your attention!" God whispers in our souls and speaks to our hearts. Sometimes when we don't have time to listen, He has to throw a brick at us. It's our choice to listen or not.

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.