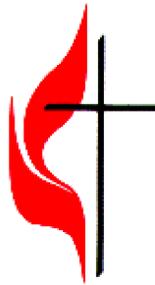




NEWSLETTER
OF THE
Estancia United Methodist Church
600 Williams, Estancia, New Mexico



March, 2007

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	Bill Simms
Chairperson: Worship Committee	Julie Griffo
Chairperson: Education Committee	Vicky Dile
Chairperson: Missions	Marcia Fitzner
Chairperson: Prayer Evangelism	Nick Griffo
Chairperson: Care and Outreach	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.gbgbm-umc.org/estancia>

Prayer Concerns

- David-to accept Christ as Savior
- John and Jen to accept Christ
- Shane Brue---colon cancer stage 3
- Tish McMichael
- Kelly Darnell
- James Soloman
- Roxanne Montoya - Danny's cousin
- Elenor Sanchez
- Missy Short - lung cancer
- Joe
- Irene Armstrong
- Ruth Brindle
- Donald Berry
- Ruth - Mel's sister
- Peter Sanchez
- Shirley Solomon
- Mary - stroke (Pam's Sister)

Adult Sunday School 10:00 AM
Sunday Worship 11:00 AM

A Theology of Discipleship

Theology is not just about God. It is also about us. We live out of our understanding of who we are in relationship to God, to one another, and to the world. The Christian faith is grounded in the love and grace of God, experienced through Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit. The Christian life is our response to God's love and grace.

The church calls our response to God Christian discipleship. Discipleship focuses on actively following in the footsteps of Jesus. As Christian disciples, we are not passive spectators but energetic participants in God's activity in the world. Because of what God has done for us, we offer our lives back to God. We order our lives in ways that embody Christ's ministry in our families, workplaces, communities, and the world.
 Loving God

When Jesus was asked what the most important commandment was, his response was: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the greatest and first commandment" (Matt. 22:37-38. See Matt. 22:34-40; Mark 12:28-34; and Luke 10:25-28.)

Discipleship is about loving God....It is more than an acknowledgment of God's existence or a statement of belief regarding God. It is total devotion, head-over-heals-in-love-with adoration. It is the deep desire to know God, to be one with God, and to worship God.

There are a variety of ways that we can develop our knowledge of and love of God. These include

- * Prayer
- * Bible study
- * Worship
- * Fasting
- * Conversation with other Christians

John Wesley, founder of the Methodist movement, called these practices means of grace. They are means for developing our relationship with God and for experiencing God's presence in our lives. These practices help us spend time with God, a significant factor in loving God.

Loving Neighbor

Jesus responded to questions about the most important commandment by quoting the Hebrew Scripture's admonition to love God with our whole being. (See Deut. 6:4-9 as well as gospel passages listed in the above section.) Then immediately he broadened the meaning of this admonition: "The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself'" (Mark 2:31).

These verses about loving God and loving neighbor as ourselves are known as the Great Commandment. Again and again, the Bible teaches us that loving God and loving neighbor are two sides of the same coin. We cannot do one without the other. Check out some of these passages for a glimpse at how prevalent this understanding of Christian discipleship is:

- * Matthew 5:43-48
- * Matthew 25:31-46
- * Luke 10:25-37
- * John 15:12-17
- * Romans 12:9-18
- * 1 Corinthians 13
- * 1 John 4:19-21



From these passages and others we can draw several conclusions about what it means to love our neighbors. First of all, loving our neighbors means responding to specific needs—hunger, illness, imprisonment, loneliness, and so forth. Love is more than a feeling; it is behavior. It is practical and concrete.

Secondly, our neighbors include many people. Within the context of the Christian community, our neighbors are our brothers and sisters in Christ. Neighbors may also refer to the contemporary understanding of those who live near us. However, from a biblical perspective, neighbors often include people whom we might not normally consider:

- * strangers;
- * prisoners;
- * people who mistreat us (who are our enemies);
- * people from other cultural and ethnic backgrounds;
- * people from different religious traditions;
- * people who irritate us and push the boundaries of our patience.

Therefore, loving our neighbors requires attention and sacrifice. We have to pay attention to what is happening around us in order to see our neighbors and to recognize their needs. We must also consider their needs to be as important as our own in order to live faithfully. Loving neighbor is more than random acts of kindness. It takes time, energy, and commitment. It is a lifestyle carefully cultivated in response to God.

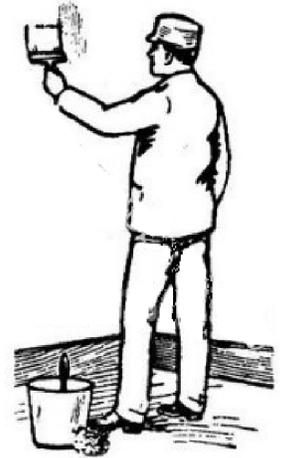
Finally, these passages emphasize that loving our neighbors is not optional; it is mandatory. It is what Christians do and what Christians are. Our lives are a testimony to our love—our love for God and our love for neighbor.

From *What Every Teacher Needs to Know About Theology* (Discipleship Resources, 2002), pp. 35-38.

In Case You Hadn't Noticed

Last Thursday, Jason Fastnaught, Mark Lambert, Francis Winn, Bill Simms and Gary Eggart gathered at the church for a workday. Some of what they accomplished is as follows:

- Installed new bathroom sink in parsonage
- Moved another sink to second bathroom
- Installed storm door on parsonage front entrance
- Installed handicap bars in Ed Building bathrooms
- Adjusted door in sanctuary basement.



Phil Levy is starting the major project of painting the Education Building as well as installing shelves in the large storage closet and installing a new toilet. The ladies of the Wednesday morning Quilting group and the Trustees are jointly funding this project and Phil Levy is donating his time and effort as well. **Please remember the Education Building will be closed to activities for a week or more while Phil is working.**

When you see these workers and/or the Quilters, please give them a pat on the back for keeping up your church facilities.

Don't Be Late for Church on Sunday, March 11

Just as sunflowers turn their heads to catch every sunbeam, so too have we discovered a simple way to get more from our sun.

Daylight Saving Time gives us the opportunity to enjoy sunny summer evenings by moving our clocks an hour forward in the spring.

Yet, the implementation of Daylight Saving Time has been fraught with controversy since Benjamin Franklin first conceived of the idea. Even today, regions and countries routinely change their approaches to Daylight Saving Time.



Beginning in 2007, most of the United States begins Daylight Saving Time at 2:00 a.m. on the second Sunday in March and reverts to standard time on the first Sunday in November. In the U.S., each time zone switches at a different time.

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.

Finance and Stewardship Committees Report

The finances for the church remain very good as I reported in the February 18, 2007 Sunday service. In 2006 we exceeded our income projections and under spent our budget by approximately \$3,000.00. There was one area we were slightly over budget (about \$75.00) but that was more than offset by the amount (over \$2,000.00) we under spent on utilities. This was due to a reduction in the price of energy. This means we may have over estimated our utilities for 2007. We already know that we under estimated property insurance by approximately \$400.00, we plan to adjust the budget for utilities and property insurance this quarter to rectify this situation. The Quarterly Financial Reports have been a good tool to keep the Committee informed in a timely manner of the status of our financial condition. At our next Ad. Council meeting, we will be recommending a gift from the church to foreign ministries.

Also as reported at the February 18, 2007 Sunday service, the commitment pledges for our 2007 Stewardship Program totaled more than \$49,000.00. This represents approximately 77% of our estimated budget for 2007. This is the highest amount and percentage of budget ever made by the church. Thanks to all of you for your financial support last year and for your pledges this year. Our committees try very hard to be good stewards of God's money.

-Mel Stephenson, Chairman

Missions - Marcia Fitzner

Just letting you know that the work of the church takes many avenues. I will be traveling to Panama City, Panama on February 28 and returning late March 5. The purpose for this trip occurred when the General Conference and Council of Bishops decided it was time to talk with the Latin America Churches and also the Caribbean Churches about issues that had arisen. Many of these churches are autonomous - which simply means they have their own Discipline, elect their own Bishops etc. They pretty much govern themselves. We do, however, as the UMC, still have connections with them. We support many of their mission projects and still send groups of people to help in various situations.

It appears that the system in place is not working well, therefore we are having this consultation in Panama. Many issues will be before us as we strive to come to an agreement on how to work together as a team of same-minded Christians.

I look forward to whatever contribution I can make. I always feel that I am there to be sure the lay people are heard. There will only be two lay people from the US, so, we will be greatly outnumbered by clergy. There will be some lay people from the various countries (if we're lucky) and there may be one or two more women (if we're lucky!) Latin American and Caribbean churches are still pretty much run by the "men folks."

You may ask why should we be there? As disciples, we are called to work together for the greater good. This is one way in which we are carrying out our discipleship. Resolutions etc. from this consultation will be brought to the 2008 General Conference. We are working hard in an effort to resolve differences and soothe hurt feelings within these churches. So I go forward with your prayers to sustain me.

-Marcia Fitzner

Last October, the Board of Trustees finalized a policy for the use of church equipment. The policy is as follows:

ESTANCIA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
POLICY FOR USE OF CHURCH EQUIPMENT
Approved and Adopted this 16th day of October, 2006

Individual(s) wanting to use equipment must appear before the Board of Trustees at a regular meeting stating date, place, and occasion, date of pickup and return.

Members only, or nonmembers who attend our services regularly may borrow the equipment

A deposit of \$50.00 (fifty dollars) for up to: 25 chairs and 3 tables, must be made at time of pickup of equipment. An additional deposit of \$75.00 (seventy five dollars) must be made for any over 25 chairs and 3 tables, not to exceed a maximum of 50 chairs and 6 tables. No additional will be allowed.

Equipment must be picked up and returned by person making request for use.

An agreement stating amount of deposit, number of chairs and tables, date of pickup, date and time of return will be signed by borrower and Trustee responsible for equipment.

Upon return of equipment in good condition, deposit will be returned to borrower, who will sign a receipt for same.

Agreement and receipt shall be given to Trustee Treasurer and kept on file for a reasonable period of time.

This policy makes null and void any and all other policies concerning borrowing of Church equipment.

—Signed by board of trustees 10/16/06

Study Groups

The men's Bible group is starting a new study. We will be studying Revelation and using the Mac Arthur study book of Revelation. The study books cost \$8.00. Contact Pastor Gary if you are interested.

Power Surge is a great book on the *Marks of Discipleship*. In the near future, a study group will start up. Christ calls us to make disciples, but it seems as though the landscape for reaching people today has changed. Through studying this book, my hope is that we will be able to see the changes we need to make so that we will be able to reach our community.

-Pastor Gary

March 2007

Tear Off

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 9 AM Worship - Mtair 10 AM Adlt Sunday Sch 11 AM Worship 11:15 Childrens Church	5 7:30pm AA	6 Pastor Gary in Mountainair 9 AM Womens Bible Study 7 PM Men's Bible Study	7 10am Quilters 6:30 PM Bible Study with Nick & Julie	1	2	3
11 Daylight Savings 9 AM Worship - Mtair 10 AM Adlt Sunday Sch 11 AM Worship 11:15 Childrens Church	12 7:00pm IRUSTEES 7:30pm AA	13 Pastor Gary in Mountainair 10-4 Michael Foss Seminar St. Johns UMC 7 PM Men's Bible Study	14 10am Quilters 6:30 PM Bible Study with Nick & Julie	8	9	10
18 9 AM Worship - Mtair 10 AM Adlt Sunday Sch 11 AM Worship 11:15 Childrens Church	19 7:30pm AA	20 Pastor Gary in Mountainair 9 AM Womens Bible Study 7 PM Men's Bible Study	21 10am Quilters 6:30 PM Bible Study with Nick & Julie	15	16	17
25 9 AM Worship - Mtair 10 AM Adlt Sunday Sch 11 AM Worship 11:15 Childrens Church	26 7:30pm AA	27 Pastor Gary in Mountainair 9 AM Womens Bible Study 7 PM Men's Bible Study	28 10am Quilters 6:30 PM Bible Study with Nick & Julie	22	23	24
31 9 AM Worship - Mtair 10 AM Adlt Sunday Sch 11 AM Worship 11:15 Childrens Church	31 7:30pm AA	31 Pastor Gary in Mountainair 9 AM Womens Bible Study 7 PM Men's Bible Study	31 10am Quilters 6:30 PM Bible Study with Nick & Julie	29	30	31

Please see Marcella Reynolds to schedule meetings or activities in the Education Building, 384-2358.

MARCH



Sent with a prayer to:

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

JUST A CUP?

A group of alumni, highly established in their careers, got together to visit their old university professor. Conversation soon turned into complaints about stress in work and life. Offering his guests coffee, the professor went to the kitchen and returned with a large pot of coffee and an assortment of cups - porcelain, plastic, glass, crystal, some plain looking, some expensive, some exquisite - telling them to help themselves to the coffee.



When all the students had a cup of coffee in hand, the professor said: “If you noticed, all the nice looking expensive cups were taken up, leaving behind the plain and cheap ones. While it is normal for you to want only the best for yourselves, that is the source of your problems and stress.

Be assured that the cup itself adds no quality to the coffee. In most cases it is just more expensive and in some cases even hides what we drink.

What all of you really wanted was coffee, not the cup, but you consciously went for the best cups... And then you began eyeing each other’s cups. Now consider this: Life is the coffee; the jobs, money and position in society are the cups. They are just tools to hold and contain Life, and the type of cup we have does not define, nor change the quality of Life we live.

Sometimes, by concentrating only on the cup, we fail to enjoy the coffee God has provided us.”

God brews the coffee, not the cups..... Enjoy your coffee! “The happiest people don’t have the best of everything. They just make the best of everything.”

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.