



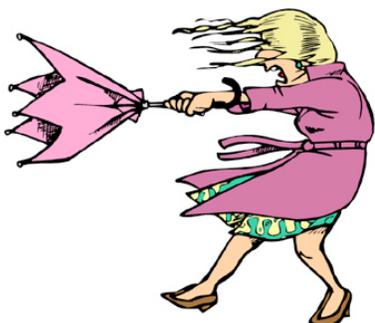
# NEWSLETTER

OF THE

**Estancia United Methodist Church**

*600 Williams, Estancia, New Mexico*

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



## MARCH, 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](mailto: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**

### **Why Does the Date for Easter Change Every Year?**

Since the days of early church history, determining the precise date of Easter has been a matter for continued argument. For one, the followers of Christ neglected to record the exact date of Jesus' resurrection. From then on the matter grew increasingly complex.

Have you ever wondered why Easter Sunday can fall anywhere between March 22 and April 25? And why do Eastern Orthodox churches celebrate Easter on a different day than Western churches? These are all good questions with answers that require a bit of explanation. In fact, there are as many misunderstandings about the calculation of Easter dates, as there are reasons for the confusion.

In Western Christianity, Easter is always celebrated on the Sunday immediately following the Paschal Full Moon date of the year. It was previously, and somewhat erroneously stated, "Easter is always celebrated on the Sunday immediately following the first full moon after the vernal (spring) equinox." This statement was true prior to 325 AD; however, over the course of history (beginning in 325 AD with the Council of Nicea), the Western Church decided to establish a more standardized system for determining the date of Easter.

As Astronomers were able to approximate the dates of all the full moons in future years, the Western Christian Church used these calculations to establish a table of Ecclesiastical Full Moon dates. These dates would determine the Holy Days on the Ecclesiastical calendar.

Historically, western churches used the Gregorian Calendar to calculate the date of Easter and Eastern Orthodox churches used the Julian Calendar. This was partly why the dates were seldom the same.



## *Marti Gras Party*

On Saturday evening, February 20, in the education building a wonderful celebration was hosted by Pastor Charlie and his wife June. June has many decorations she has made for various parties at other churches where they pastored through the years. Marti Gras was the theme of this party and if you did not know otherwise, you would have thought you were in New Orleans. The menu included a peasant “sack of chicken”, cold slaw, beans, rolls and pineapple up-side-down cake. Each person took home a small “king” cake with a note attached explaining its history. King Butch was crowned as he more than garnered enough loot in his can to acquire the title of king. That job includes cleaning the church for a month! Proceeds from the event totaled \$261 and were donated to the Stained Glass Window Project.... A lovely evening! — THANK YOU JUNE AND CHARLIE !!!!





King Butch

## **Administrative Council**

The Church council has met and several events are being planned for spring. As plans develop, you will be hearing about them, and perhaps even contacted to participate. Julie Griffo is working on a community dinner. Barbara Simms is working with the Middle School for a luncheon to honor students that have excelled. This is an effort to be a better witness to our community. The windows are attracting a lot of attention and now we need to put action into our place in the community.

We are blessed to be doing well with our finances, thanks to all of you who are so faithful and reliable. We are able to pay our bills , give our fair share to the "shared ministries" (giving beyond the local church.) Many of you have never seen the results of the "shared ministries" or missionary giving. I have been very fortunate to witness the good that this money does in spreading the Word of God and actually helping many folks to survive.

Plans are in the making for Vacation Bible School. This is always a major undertaking and requires time and effort from many people. The blessing is the results that eventually show up with the children. My children always attended our VBS as did others in the community and they were truly blessed by the love and care they received. We are blessed in that we are able to offer this gift to our community.

As we go forward with new opportunities this new year I leave you with this prayer I came upon : *"May your troubles be less, may your blessings be more. And nothing but happiness to come through your door."*

*-Marcia Fitzner*

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## **Stained Glass Project**

There has been very good progress in February in the primary job of making windows for the Church. The three windows depicting the Lord's Supper that will go into the three large lower windows on the South side of the Church are progressing very well. The center window's three heads and hands have been cut out of glass and painted. All of the heads have been installed and the other stained glass for the window is about 75% installed. Jan Cool is doing a good job as the lead on these windows. Della has designed and cut the pattern for the left side window panel and the five heads and their hands have been painted and some of the other stained glass has been installed. The right side window panel has been designed by Della and Silva and the pattern is being cut. To be able to work on all three windows at the same time, we needed additional large project boards. This was solved by Bill Simms modifying two of the smaller project boards into two longer project boards needed to assemble these larger windows. These large project boards will also be used to assemble the four remaining pointed upper windows on the North and South sides of the Church. Several members of the crew continue to make special projects.

*-Mel Stephenson*



Lord's Supper panel



Plans for next Lord's Supper panel



(Gail)



(Butch)

Glass Projects

## **UMCOR Haiti Update February 19, 2010**

### **The Church Responds**

Thanks so much for the outpouring of support for UMCOR's Haiti relief efforts - the generosity is amazing! As we work with the people in Haiti to address the long term recovery and development needs, we are thankful to move forward with the confidence that the people of the United Methodist Church will continue to partner with UMCOR in the years to come. Especially as Haiti prepares for the rainy season, and then hurricane season, please be in prayer with the people of Haiti and know that your support is critical.

### **As of February 18, 2010**

\* \$12 million has been received for UMCOR Haiti Relief

\* Hundreds of thousands of kits have been received at UMCOR Sager Brown and are being verified for shipment to Haiti.

### **From the Field**

Since the January 12 earthquake, UMCOR has carried out an initial assessment of damages and needs, developed a five-year work plan, and shored up strategic partnerships with the United Nations, NGOs and the Methodist Church in Haiti.

The UMCOR work plan anticipates three phases of recovery: emergency, recovery and rehabilitation. Currently operating in the emergency phase -- from the time of the earthquake through April and including the start of the rainy season in March - UMCOR is addressing the most immediate needs of access to food, clean water and sanitation, temporary shelter and emotional and spiritual support.

### **This weeks highlights include:**

\* While UMCOR has been working in Haiti since before the earthquake, this week, UMCOR re-opened the Haiti field office. UMCORs Kate Paik and Larry Powell have been in Port-au-Prince coordinating with the Methodist Church in Haiti and preparing the UMCOR Haiti field office.

### **\* Staff Recruitment:**

- Anthony Jones was hired as an Emergency Response Consultant and has deployed to Haiti.
- Azim Akhtar was hired as the Operations Coordinator and will deploy to Haiti in the coming weeks.
- Key local staff have been hired.
- Positions are posted for: Head of Mission, Finance Director, Emergency Shelter Coordinator, and Income Generation Coordinator.

\* Kate Paik commented on the three days of remembrance in Haiti, Feb 12-14 which was "to stop and reflect on the past month of survival. Many were dressed in white and spent the three days, usually from 6 am until 1 or 2 pm, at church singing and praying. It [was] a time to gather their strength from God to go on still once more."

### **US Mission in Action**

\* With recent reports indicating that 75 percent of the Haitian capital, Port-au-Prince, will need to be rebuilt; volunteers soon will be needed to go to Haiti. Volunteer teams are beginning to mobilize by filling out the registration form.

\* Through Justice for our Neighbors clinics across the country, UMCOR is helping Haitian immigrants register for the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) the US government has offered. A workshop was held in New York City on Wednesday to educate people about how to apply.

\* In addition to health kits, this week, volunteers began assembling and shipping layette kits and birthing kits to address the basic needs of babies born in displaced persons camps in Haiti.

### **Partner Spotlight**

\* Western Jurisdiction: Promoting Operation Resurrection 2010 - A Compassionate Response to the Earthquake from the Western Jurisdiction

\* Methodist Church in Hong Kong: Collected \$87,500 from church members to support UMCORs relief efforts in Haiti.

\* Brentwood United Methodist Church: Hosted a concert headlined by Christian artists, Point of Grace and Mark Schultz. The concert raised more than \$50,000.

\* Mission Response Center: Delivered \$102,657 in kits to UMCOR Sager Brown. NASCAR shared some shipping equipment and the trailer was loaned by Petty Enterprises.

\* United Methodist College Student, Casey Madsen: Promoted Hearts for Haiti for Valentines Day at the University of Indianapolis. Students bought paper hearts and wrote a message on them and the hearts were hung throughout the Student Center. Proceeds were donated to UMCOR.

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### **A PERSONAL THANK YOU**

Don and I want to thank all of you who held our daughter, April, in your prayers while she was in Afghanistan working for the Corp of Engineers. She was there 6 months and was encouraged by your prayers, care boxes of goodies, and knowing that all of you cared about her well being and safety.

How wonderful for us, as her parents, to know we had all of you beside us and that we were going through this time together.

We truly count ourselves blessed by being here in this place and time.

*-Marcia and Don Fitzner*

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### **UNANSWERED PRAYER**

The preacher's 5 year-old daughter noticed that her father always paused and bowed his head for a moment before starting his sermon. One day, she asked him why.

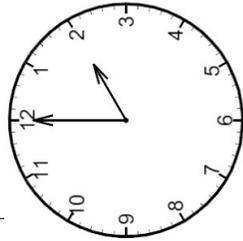
'Well, Honey,' he began, proud that his daughter was so observant of his messages. 'I'm asking the Lord to help me preach a good sermon..'

'How come He never answers it?' she asked.

# March 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 9:am Glass Shop	2 9:am Glass Shop 6:30pm Bible Study	3 10:30 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 6:30pm Bible Study	10 10:30 am Quilters	11	12	13 9:am Glass Shop
14 9 AM Worship 9:15 Childrens Church 10:15 AM Adult SS 11 AM Worship -Mtair DAYLIGHT SAVINGS	15 9:am Glass Shop	16 9:am Glass Shop 6:30pm Bible Study	17 10:30 am Quilters 	18	19	20 9:am Glass Shop 7:AM Mens Breakfast
21 9 AM Worship 9:15 Childrens Church 10:15 AM Adult SS 11 AM Worship -Mtair	22 9:am Glass Shop	23 9:am Glass Shop 6:30pm Bible Study	24 10:30 am Quilters	25	26	27 9:am Glass Shop
28 9 AM Worship 9:15 Childrens Church 10:15 AM Adult SS 11 AM Worship -Mtair PALM SUNDAY	29 9:am Glass Shop	30 9:am Glass Shop 6:30pm Bible Study	31 10:30 am Quilters	1 Maundy Thursday	2 Good Friday	3

.....**EASTER WEEK**.....



**Remember: Spring Forward March 14th**



*Sent with a prayer to:*

# MARCH



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

## Easter Prayer

Lord, You have arisen forever  
In my heart!

May the sunrise  
Remind me to shine in Your light.

May the caress of a gentle breeze  
Remind me of Your compassion.

May the fragrance of a flower  
Remind me to blossom in Your love.



May the singing of birds  
Bring a song of joy to my lips.

And in the closing of each day  
May I remember to quietly pray.

Wherever I am, whatever I do  
May my thoughts in joy return to You!