



# NEWSLETTER

OF THE

Estancia United Methodist Church

*600 Williams, Estancia, New Mexico*

<http://www.estanciamethodist.org>



## MARCH, 2012

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. Jeff Lusk

To see this newsletter in color, visit our website at:  
<http://www.estanciamethodist.org>



**Sunday Worship 9:00 AM**

## ***Notoriety Comes to the Little Church on the Prairie***

Over the past three years, our stained glass window project has received quite a lot of publicity. Soon after we got started the news traveled fast and in December, 2008, writer, Laura Nesbitt from the East Mountain Telegraph Newspaper, wrote an article headlined, ***“Volunteers Tackle Church’s Stained Glass, Replacing all 53 windows will likely take 4 years.”*** She went on to praise Mel and Della Stephenson for daring to take on such a daunting challenge.



Then in March of 2010, Susan Passi-Klaus, a Public Relations Specialist/Writer at United Methodist Communications wrote a very complimentary feature article for the UMC.ORG website. She described the miracles that took place making it possible for the project to move forward. The title of her article was ***“Church Finds Miracles in Stained Glass.”***

In April of that year, UMC Communications continued the attention by shooting a short video of the window construction process to be offered to local TV stations for “local interest” spots. This video can be viewed on our EUMC website at <http://www.estanciamethodist.org>.

In October, 2010, Elizabeth Rapf of The East Mountain Telegraph, did a follow up article entitled “**New Church Panes**”, again praising Della and Mel for overseeing the large undertaking.

Last year freelance writer, Karen Kirsch, heard about our project from her friend, Gayle Clark, one of our glass project volunteers. She made a trip out to visit the project, as well as her friend, Gayle, and began her research. Last October, Karen wrote us an excited email, saying that the Enchantment Magazine, a publication of New Mexico’s electric cooperatives, had accepted her EUMC stained glass story to be the cover story in the February issue! The article, entitled, “Many Hands Make Light Work”, featured a beautiful picture of the church exterior showing the nativity scene window, as well as numerous photos of the glass shop window construction.

Then, to our surprise, the Albuquerque Journal called us right after the Enchantment article came out wanting to do their own story. Journal writer, Leslie Linthicum, came out the next week to visit with the glass workers and see the church. The following week, a Journal photographer came out to interview, photograph and video the window group and the sanctuary. The article came out on the **front page** of the Sunday Journal last Sunday (Feb. 26th). The article entitled “*Fixing Up a Little Church on the Prairie*” was one of the best yet. If, by chance, you didn’t see the article, you can still go to Albuquerque



Journal website to see the videos and all the photographs that were taken during their visit. The best way to get there is to visit the EUMC website and follow the link to the Journal article.

Since the Journal article was published, things have been happening. Alma Wimsatt noticed several people gathered outside the church and asked them if they were here to see the windows. They said they were, so Alma gave them a guided tour of the church windows. They were from Albuquerque and southern New Mexico. Some time after that, Pastor Charlie walked in the back door of the church and found a note exclaiming about the windows along with a \$20 bill. I suspect there have been others. So if you see someone outside, admiring the windows, ask them inside.

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### **Stained Glass Project**

The month of February was fairly productive. Some of the major accomplishments included: 1) Completed the assembly process of two windows for the partition; 2) Continued working on one of the two remaining windows for the partition; 3) Started the assembly process for the remaining partition window; 4) Completed the structural repair of the East Vestibule window but much finish work remains; 5) Completed the final “Rose Petal Window”;

6) Completed the design and started the assembly process for the new *Walk to Emmaus* window, which will replace the family Thanksgiving Dinner window.

Two local papers, Enchantment and ABQ Journal, published write-ups and pictures of the stained glass project. Both papers started the write-ups on the front page. It was very nice and we appreciated the recognition of everyone's hard work and the support of the church. One of our group was approached by another local church to ask if we could make some stained glass windows for their church. No commitment was made.

If we count all the individual window segments, like the two Rose Window's 16 petals and the two Vestibule Window's 6 segments, we will have made 85 individual windows and segments. The breakdown of the individual window frames is as follows: 55 in the church walls, 9 in the partition, 2 in the vestibule, and 2 in the bell tower for a total of 68 windows.

*-Mel Stephenson*



## Partition Windows

### Kids Explain Angels

Some of the angels are in charge of helping heal sick animals and pets. And if they don't make the animals get better, they help the child get over it.

-Vicki, age 8

Angels work for God and watch over kids when God has to go do something else.

-Mitchell, age 7

My angel is my grandma who died last year. She got a big head start on helping me while she was still down here on earth.

-Ashley, age 9

### **The Methodist Men's Group**

The Methodist Men met at the Old Mill for the monthly breakfast meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month, February 17<sup>th</sup>. The main topic of discussion was the completion of the stained glass window project. The group agreed that they would meet again in March at the Old Mill.

### **The Joyous Singers**

The Joyous Singers will continue to meet to rehearse on Tuesdays at 4pm. A new group musical group has formed to play hand bells. They are meeting on Saturdays at 10am. If you would like to participate in this group, contact Jan Cool. Both groups are planning special music for Easter.

-Jon Shively

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## **“Through My Eyes”**

*By Terry Ann Moore*

*Before I share with you my observations, I would like to introduce myself briefly. First of all I am a child of God! I am the daughter of Kenneth and Carolyn Moore. I was a member here from 1973 until 1989 when I was ordained a deacon in the New Mexico Annual Conference. As a member, I was active in the youth group and youth choir. For 4 years I was the Custodian and that was how I got my spending money for high school. During my college years, I attended the Encino UMC at 3 pm after getting off work at Clines Corners. I then went on to become the youth minister. From 1984 to 1987, I was an associate member as well of Mountainair UMC where I attended while on my lunch break from Salinas National Monument. After my now ex-husband and I moved to the Dallas area for his job, I worked and then transferred into the North Texas Annual Conference from 1998 until present time, where I served 4 churches including helping to form and build a new one called “The Woods UMC.” In 2007 after having symptoms for at least 10 years, I was diagnosed with Young Onset Parkinson’s disease (also called ‘pd’) and am now on disability through the church. I needed more care then first thought so my family brought me home to stay. Since pastors cannot join a church, I have attached my Charge Conference membership here meaning that I do a report through the pastor here on my activities as a part of the United Methodist Connectional System. If you have any questions or comments, please let me know. Now, here are some of my observations and I only looked at it this way as people would ask me “how has the church changed over the years?” Here are some of my thoughts and my ideas for future ministries:*

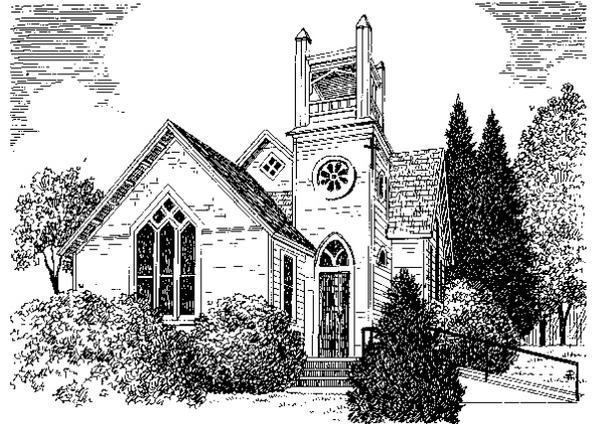
Her name was Mrs. Flossie Elliott. She was already ancient when I met her. The Sunday I gave the student sermon right after Thanksgiving, she walked up to me and said “You need to be a preacher!” I laughed and said “Me? Nah!” She said “Mark my words....” What a gift, that she was here such a long time and what a gift all of you are now! Each time you come to worship or another ministry, you never know how you might be affected or how your presence will affect others.

Historians have said to me through workshops and in their writings, that one should not look back at history or historical events with 21<sup>st</sup> century eyes. Your assessment of what has happened may be cloudy due to your own

life's experiences. I agree with this to a point. However, when it comes to churches, I do not believe this premise holds true. When you go back and look at the church's history, you may find something or someone who could influence the future.

I learned something, I believe, from Rev. Terry Anderson and my parents. That is that when you have a church program and if one person shows up, you have a success. Rev. Anderson, on a couple of occasions, thought he was going to have me as the only member of the congregation in Encino at times. I would say to him, that if he and his wife Michelle wanted to go home we could just leave and he said, "no, you came for church, so let's have church." We would start and then sure enough others would come. This is why I get excited if we have one person show up for church activities besides me.

I have been reading the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Book recently. I've read many of the stories from the past and still have some to read. I have a couple of favorites. The first one is that of Mrs. Marcella Reynolds. She wrote about a lot of life and fun in the church and the second one is the one written by Mr. Morrow Hall. This all brings back memories....



When I walked in and saw the scaffolding, it reminded me of our first Sunday here when we walked in and it was up for Mrs. Jane Powers. Then there was the time that my parents worked on the opening of the ceiling. When I came in to worship the first time after the snows this year, I looked up at that beautiful work, and thought of my dad.

Things have changed but not so much as one would think. I see life here. I feel love here, for the church body and the building itself. For one thing, look at those beautiful windows. As one who grew up here staring at the windows in worship, especially if I was bored, but more so because I was looking at one that enhanced the preacher's sermon... and many do that each Sunday. I want to thank those who worked on the windows for leaving some familiar designs, and yet, changing them as well.

People here are welcoming. I cannot tell you how many times my mom and I have been invited to a church program and / or event and we were warmly welcomed. Also, Pastor Charlie came and visited soon after we got home.

I see that people still have dreams of what the church can do. I hear beautiful music, which teaches us so much about life here. I am enjoying the choir and the "Ding a lings." I have to say, I have memories of many beautiful solos sung here, but two are my favorites for different reasons. The first one is the "speeded up version" of "Why Me Lord?" sung by Mrs. Marcia Fitzner and accompanied by me on the piano. She was so gracious, even though I was so nervous and speeded up the music for her. My other favorite was when Mr. Morrow Hall sang "Let it be." It was simply beautiful. *To be continued...*

Thanks to all who attended and helped put on the wonderful Valentine's Dinner graciously hosted by June and Pastor Charlie. The party was a great success and we collected \$160, which was donated to the Stained Glass Window fund.

**Thanks, June and Charlie!!**

March 2012						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 3:30:pm Bible Guppies	2	3 9:am Glass Shop
4 9 AM Worship 9:15 Childrens Church 11 AM Worship -Mtnair	5 9:am Glass Shop	6 9:am Glass Shop	7 10:30:am Quilters	8 3:30:pm Bible Guppies	9	10 9:am Glass Shop
11 9 AM Worship 9:15 Childrens Church 11 AM Worship -Mtnair	12 9:am Glass Shop 7:pm TRUSTEES	13 9:am Glass Shop	14 10:30:am Quilters	15 3:30:pm Bible Guppies	16	17 9:am Glass Shop
18 9 AM Worship 9:15 Childrens Church 11 AM Worship -Mtnair	19 9:am Glass Shop	20 9:am Glass Shop	21 10:30:am Quilters	22 3:30:pm Bible Guppies	23	24 9:am Glass Shop
25 9 AM Worship 9:15 Childrens Church 11 AM Worship -Mtnair	26 9:am Glass Shop	27 9:am Glass Shop	28 10:30:am Quilters	29 3:30:pm Bible Guppies	30	31 9:am Glass Shop
Phases of the moon: 8:☉ 14:☾ 22:☀ 30:☾						

# MARCH



*Sent with a prayer to:*



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

**"How Great Thou Art"** (77) is a Christian hymn based on a Swedish poem written by Carl Gustav Boberg (1859–1940) in Sweden in 1885. The melody is a Swedish folk song. It was translated into English by British missionary Stuart K. Hine, who also added two original verses of his own composition. It was popularized by George Beverly Shea and Cliff Barrows during the Billy Graham crusades. It was voted the United Kingdom's favourite hymn by BBC's *Songs of Praise*. "How Great Thou Art" was ranked second (after "Amazing Grace") on a list of the favorite hymns of all time in a survey by *Today's Christian* magazine in 2001.

The inspiration for the poem came when Boberg was walking home from church near Kronobäck, Sweden, and listening to church bells. A sudden awe-inspiring storm gripped Boberg's attention, and then just as suddenly as it had made its violent entrance, it subsided to a peaceful calm which Boberg observed over Mönsterås Bay.



**Carl Gustav Boberg (1859–1940)**