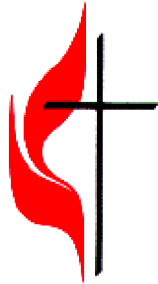




NEWSLETTER
OF THE
Estancia United Methodist Church
600 Williams, Estancia, New Mexico



November - December 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>



Oh Holy Night

Sunday Worship 11:00 AM
Nursery Provided

From Pastor Gary**Waiting**

Yesterday as I was traveling to Albuquerque to have Thanksgiving Dinner with the Wilson at Susan's mother's house, I thought I was going the quickest way with the least traffic lights. Who likes waiting at stop lights? They say patience is a virtue. Being patient is a wonderful characteristic to have but who wants to wait for it, and it is almost gone from our society. Everything is fast paced. Today, the day after Thanksgiving, Sylvia stopped by to drop off some stamps before heading to the Big City. I mentioned something about beating all the traffic because the mall shoppers won't be out before 10:00 a.m. She said, "The stores opened at 5:00 a.m." "5 o'clock", I said! Who knew 5 o'clock came twice a day? That means to be at a store at 5:00 a.m. one would have to get up at 4:00. I can hardly comprehend that - to get up that early to shop? Those toys will wait; those clothes can't walk out by themselves, those flat panel TV's can't tell time. Those things don't mind waiting at all. Sleep in a little or take the time for a 2nd cup of coffee. It's a holiday.

We have an obsession in our culture when it comes to Christmas shopping. We can't wait to get the best deals and find the best sales. And then we can hardly wait till Christmas for our special someone to open the gift we bought them. There is a fun anxiety to Christmas-maybe more of an exciting anticipation to the Christmas season.

Why that exciting anticipation begins at 5:00 a.m. the day after Thanksgiving, I will never know. I don't even know what I want or what I want to give Amanda-besides that 36" flat panel TV which I can't afford and which we probably don't need. But it would be fun to give.

The Jews were anticipating the birth of their messiah, but very few were all that excited about it. In fact when we read Matt. 2 the chief priests weren't even concerned about the messiah. When they heard the king of the Jews was to be born, they wouldn't even travel the 5 miles to go see baby Jesus. The fact that they wouldn't even go look reveals they were not making preparation for their new king. More than that anticipating the new king was the farthest thing from their mind. The only one concerned about this was Herod and he wanted to kill baby Jesus.

This year our Christmas tree in the sanctuary will be replaced by an empty manger scene to remind us why we are waiting and what we are waiting for. It is easy for the hustle and bustle of Christmas to get the best of us. Our culture pushes us in that direction. Satan uses our society to get our eyes off the real meaning of Christmas-a messiah who came to save and deliver us from the eternal death of hell.

As Christians we celebrate our Savior's birth by giving presents to each other, but as we celebrate we look forward to His return. We are waiting again with excitement for the best Christmas present ever (John 14:1-4). But you must be on your guard against a couple of things. First don't let the busyness of the season get your eyes off the eager anticipation of the messiah coming. Second, don't let gathering with friend and family become more important than why you are gathering. I hope you have a great time anticipating this season as you look forward to your best Present ever - Jesus coming again.... See you in Church

-Pastor Gary

Christmas Events

- **Christmas Music** by Ray Darnel's "Rye Creek" band will be playing at EUMC from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Sunday December 10th. Refreshments will follow in the Education Bldg.
- **Community Christmas Cantata** at Mountainair Baptist Church Sunday Dec. 17th at 4:00 p.m.
- **Christmas Open House** at the Parsonage on Monday Dec 18th from 4:30 to 6:30p.m.
- **Christmas Carolling** w/ Lowell and his team & Wagons 6:00pm., December 21st. Hot chocolate and Soup following. Everyone Invited!
- **Candle Light Service** December 24, at 7:00 P.M. The children will be providing our Special Music.



IN CASE YOU HADN'T NOTICED!

Our church is now the proud owner of an 8' X 12' storage building. Please thank our trustees for the purchase and Danny Chavez and his helpers for getting it moved.

FYI: The Trustees have spent over \$7000 this year for improvements to your church and parsonage.

Congratulations, Josh, and Welcome Home!

PLEASE NOTE: Morrow Hall's son, Josh, as his tour of duty in Iraq ended, was awarded the Bronze Star and the Army Commendation Medal for heroic and meritorious achievement.



Mountainair UMC News



Progress!

New windows for the fellowship hall are being installed this week.

Please remember the Christmas Cantata to be held at 4:00pm in the Mountainair Baptist Church on December 17th.

Finance and Stewardship Committees

The church finances continue to be very good and we expect to achieve our budget for this year. Some of the things that helped was giving has been very good and some items, such as utilities were less than estimated due to a drop in utility costs. The Administrative Council will consider our projected budget for 2007 at the next meeting scheduled for November 30, 2006.

The Stewardship Program is in full swing as you may have noticed in the church bulletin last Sunday, November 19, 2006 and the bulletin inserts over the past three weeks. The inserts will continue for the next five weeks and another church bulletin on December 3, 2006 which we have designated Commitment Sunday. The letter we sent to the congregation dated November 1, 2006, addressed the inputs from the recent survey of the congregation on what ministries they would like to see our church implement. Another letter to the congregation is scheduled for the latter part of November to include a Commitment Card to be filled out and turned in on Commitment Sunday, December 3, 2006. A new item on the Commitment Card this year is a box that you can mark to indicate you would like to give a portion of your estate to the Methodist Foundation. Remember 2 Corinthians 9:7 "Each man should give what he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." Also remember Gary's sermon last week, just put your concerns in Gods hands.

-Mel Stephenson, Chairman

WELCOME!



A special welcome to Phil Levy and Sylvia's sister, Ruth Moon who joined our church last Sunday.

WHEN CHRIST COMES - - -

by Max Lucado

You are in your car driving home. Thoughts wander to the game you want to see or meal you want to eat, when suddenly a sound unlike any you've ever heard fills the air. The sound is high above you.

A trumpet?

A choir?

A choir of trumpets?

You don't know, but you want to know.

So you pull over, get out of your car, and look up. As you do, you see you aren't the only curious one. The roadside has become a parking lot. Car doors are open, and people are staring at the sky. Shoppers are racing out of the grocery store.

The Little League baseball game across the street has come to a halt. Players and parents are searching the clouds. And what they see, and what you see, has never before been seen.

As if the sky were a curtain, the drapes of the atmosphere part. A brilliant light spills onto the earth. There are no shadows. None. From whence came the light begins to tumble a river of color spiking crystals of every hue ever seen and a million more never seen. Riding on the flow is an endless fleet of angels. They pass through the curtains one myriad at a time, until they occupy every square inch of the sky.

North.

South.

East.

West.

Thousands of silvery wings rise and fall in unison, and over the sound of the trumpets, you can hear the cherubim and seraphim chanting, Holy, Holy, Holy. The final flank of angels is followed by twenty-four silver-bearded elders and a multitude of souls who join the angels in worship.

Presently the movement stops and the trumpets are silent, leaving only the triumphant triplet: Holy, Holy, Holy. Between each word is a pause. With each word, a profound reverence. You hear your voice join in the chorus. You don't know why you say the words, but you know you must.

Suddenly, the heavens are quiet. All is quiet. The angels turn, you turn, the entire world turns and there He is.

Jesus.

Through waves of light you see the silhouetted figure of Christ the King.

He is atop a great stallion, and the stallion is atop a billowing cloud.

He opens his mouth, and you are surrounded by his declaration:

I am the Alpha and the Omega.

The angels bow their heads.

The elders remove their crowns.

And before you is a Figure so consuming that you know, instantly you know:

Nothing else matters.

Forget stock markets and school reports.

Sales meetings and football games.


Nothing is newsworthy..

All that mattered, matters no more....

For Christ has come. . .

Tear Off

December 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 9 AM Worship - Mtair 10 AM Adlt Sunday Sch 11 AM Worship 11:15 Childrens Church	4 7-7:45 Morning Meditation 7:30pm AA 	5 Pastor Gary in Mountainair 7:00pm Mens Ministry	6 7-7:45 Morning Meditation 10:am Quilters 6:pm Bible Study Nick & Julie	7	1 7-7:45 Morning Meditation	2 7-7:45 Morning Meditation
10 9 AM Mtair 10 AM Adlt Sunday Sch 11 AM Worship 11:15 Childrens Church 6:00pm Ray Darnell Band	11 7-7:45 Morning Meditation 7:00pm TRUSTEES 7:30pm AA	12 Pastor Gary in Mountainair 7:00pm Mens Ministry	13 7-7:45 Morning Meditation 10:am Quilters 6:pm Bible Study Nick & Julie	14	15 7-7:45 Morning Meditation	16 7-7:45 Morning Meditation
17 9 AM Mtair 10 AM Adlt Sunday Sch 11 AM Worship 11:15 Childrens Church 4 PM Mtair Cantata	18 7-7:45 Morning Meditation 4:30 Parsonage Open House 7:30pm AA	19 Pastor Gary in Mountainair 7:00pm Mens Ministry	20 7-7:45 Morning Meditation 10:am Quilters 6:pm Bible Study Nick & Julie	21 Christmas Caroling w Lowell & Team and wagons 6:00 pm	22 7-7:45 Morning Meditation	23 7-7:45 Morning Meditation
24 9 AM Mtair 10 AM Adlt Sunday Sch 11 AM Worship 11:15 Childrens Church 7 PM Christmas Eve Service	25 7-7:45 Morning Meditation CHRISTMAS DAY! 7:30pm AA	26 Pastor Gary in Mountainair 7:00pm Mens Ministry	27 7-7:45 Morning Meditation 10:am Quilters 6:pm Bible Study Nick & Julie	28	29 7-7:45 Morning Meditation	30 7-7:45 Morning Meditation
31 9 AM Worship - Mtair 10 AM Adlt Sunday Sch 11 AM Worship 11:15 Childrens Church						



Nov - Dec



Sent with a prayer to:



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

Upper Room 9-11-06

The little book of Obadiah, the shortest book in the Old Testament, was written after the Babylonians had exiled the people of Judah. During this time, God's exiled people suffered. The prophet levels a scathing attack on Judah's neighbor, Edom, accusing those people of standing by while Judah was conquered and Jerusalem plundered. He said Edom even gloated at what was happening, joining in the plundering of Jerusalem and aiding the conquerors.

One message of this little book is that our deeds have consequences. Verse 15 says, "As you have done, it shall be done to you; your deeds shall return upon your own head." Neither nations nor individuals can ignore the suffering of others or contribute to it without encountering the consequences.

However, suffering and violence are not God's will for the world; God desires only good and peace for all creation. Even though it sometimes seems that our circumstances are as Obadiah pictures them, God brings new hope and promise to a world filled with terrorism and all other kinds of evil.

Prayer: Merciful God, save us from our own pride.
Help us to look upon those in need with loving concern as you do, Amen.

Thought for the day
God calls us to act when we see injustice. Doing nothing is not acceptable.

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.