



NEWSLETTER

OF THE

Estancia United Methodist Church

600 Williams, Estancia, New Mexico

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



NOVEMBER, 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

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>

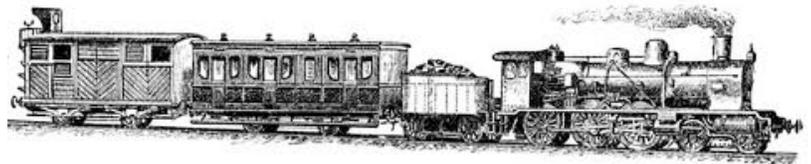


Sunday Worship 9:00 AM
Adult Sunday School 10:15 AM

Life's a Journey Not a Destination

(You Don't Always Need to Know Where You're Going!)

Life offers directions that one may take according to goals being set for oneself. The fact is, limited they may be, there are always ways that lead somewhere regardless of one's clarity of purpose or not. And when such ways are lacking, they can be invented or discovered depending on one's creativity and courage. The stronger the intent to



reach the goal, the more intense is the search for means to achieve the goal. As the saying goes: If there's a will there's a way. Obviously, clear directions should normally match with clear goals. Like when I know exactly what I want in life, I should logically know or at least understand the ways towards its fulfillment. Although it is possible, and even common to know the destination without exactly knowing the way to it, it is equally possible and not uncommon to know various ways that lead to an unknown destination.

We want security and clarity. It is safer to be where we normally want to be or where we or others have already been. Life's journey seems to require life guarantee.

However, in life's journey illumined by faith and hope, you should be open to take another direction. When God fulfills His mission through you and needs you to journey to unknown depths and heights, then be ready to let go and let God. This kind of journey is a leap into God who is our sole life guarantee. You don't know where to go but you go. You should go. You may not know exactly where you are going but you know whom you are journeying with. You may feel afraid and insecure but you go anyway. Someone takes care of you along the way. That's faith! Your God knows the way. And if there's no way, God makes the way for you to tread on and live your life to its fullest. That's hope! Then, you see that life is indeed a journey. It is in journeying that life happens wherever it goes and until when it ends. By the way, life's journey in this life is just a prelude to a longer journey beyond. Wherever you go, God will always journey with you. A journey filled with God is life. That's how it was with Abraham, Moses, Mary, Jesus, Paul etc.

As you journey through life, pray this Psalm (139): *O LORD, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I stand; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O LORD. You hem me in-behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain. Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.*

Stained Glass Project

There was significant progress in October and some of the more significant accomplishments include: 1) Installed the "Donkey" window; 2) Completed the design of the two windows for the north-west window; 3) Continued the assembly process of the north-east window; 4) Completed the trim for the installed windows on the South side of the church; 5) Gayle, Marcia, and Butch completed a number of ornaments for the church Christmas tree. Della devised a money making plan, for the stained glass project and also to help decorate the Christmas tree, by allowing the congregation or others to give a donation for a specific type of ornament and their name would be placed on the ornament and hung on the tree. If the ones giving the donation would like their own ornament they may commission one of the above people to make an ornament for them.

The window-trim installation workday is anticipated for early November.

-Mel Stephenson



Marcia and Della working on projects and future windows



Recently Installed



Under Construction

The window project is currently about three fourths completed and the Trustees are starting to think about a grand celebration. We would welcome any input you may have. Our window project has been documented from the very first day on our church's website. Please go to <http://www.gb-gm-umc.org/estancia/Windows> to read about the project and see pictures from the beginning. Hope you noticed Thursday's Telegraph article about the glass shop!

Stretching!

Winter is beginning to set in, and I have been thinking about things happening in our church both past and present. I also began to think about myself and how it is time to start stretching my mind and do more research on "Grace". What does it mean, and how am I using this wonderful gift that God has given me? Once in a while, it's important to challenge ourselves to think out of the box.

I am also thinking about how our church can stretch, and how we are already stretching. The EUMC men are reaching out beyond our church boundaries to help others in our community. The glass shop is always stretching out as we learn new ways of doing things, and finding ways that we can work together more efficiently. There are always new experiences around the bend as we strive to follow God's plan.



"Stretching" is the name of the game! I never imagined that I would learn to work in stained glass. And,

even though I am certainly not the best worker there, I certainly take pride in the end results and find myself stretching to learn more and more about the process.

The music lessons being offered in our church are also a stretch for some of us, but as I think about it, I believe that God wants us to stretch and stretch all the time otherwise we'll become stagnant, and who wants that!

The opportunity is there for all of us all to go forward beyond our capabilities. We need to remember that with God's help, there are no limits, as long as we are willing to listen.

I hope that you will find a way of stretching as we begin the winter season, and let us share some of our stretching adventures. Stretching is good for the body and even better for the mind.

I look forward to seeing how far we can stretch in doing our Lord's work and we will celebrate it in the new year!

-Marcia Fitzner

The Methodist Men's Breakfast Meeting

The Methodist men met with fellows from Immanuel Baptist Church and from First Baptist Church. The churches have established a working relationship to serve people in the Estancia area with minor repairs to their homes who are not able to take care of them themselves. The combined men's group worked this month on repairing leaks in a room addition.

Following the breakfast prepared by Phil Levy and Butch Magee, the men had a short devotional time and sang "In My Heart There Rings a Melody". There were 12 participants in the meeting after breakfast. Don Fitzner gave short description of the activities of the Methodist home for orphaned and abused children. There was a round table



Multi-Church Men's Breakfast

discussion about what we can do together and how we can work together to serve people within and outside of the church community. The group consensus was that we will limit our activities to minor home repairs and landscaping work such as weed abatement. The men from each church will talk to their pastors about letting people in the congregation know about the men's service group.

Guitar Classes

Guitar classes have resumed. The beginner's class has 10 students and the intermediate class has 7 students. Classes will continue next month of the first and third Wednesdays.

The Estancia Church Singers

The singing group is working on two songs for next month. We will meet again on November 10th.

-Jon Shively

MEN'S MISSION PROJECTS



MEN'S MISSION PROJECTS

On Friday, October 15th, four of our Men's Missions workers worked on Novie Keith's roof. It took about 5 hours for Donn Gallahue from Immanuel Baptist along with Phil Levy, Pastor Charlie, Jon Shively and Bill Simms from the Methodist Church to finish the job. The roof was tested with a big rainstorm a few days later... no leaks!

On Friday Oct. 22nd, Don Fitzner and Bill Simms finished a light fixture installation in Novie's bathroom.

GOOD JOB, GUYS!

The Lessons of Autumn - *The Rev. Joshua Mason Pawelek*

Autumn tells a beautiful story. The nights are longer, the air is colder. The breeze has a distinct bite to it. The apples have almost all been picked. Nature follows its own internal directive: "Slow down, it seems to call. Ponder the inward, rather than the outward. Return. Be quiet. Take rest. Autumn is telling us something important. Autumn fires something in our imagination that can sustain us as religious people, as religious community. With its blustery days, its dropping temperatures, its slowly freezing ponds and rivers, its long, dark nights, and its beautiful, falling leaves, Autumn tells us the story of Nature's way, in which all individual lives wind down, and return, each in its own time, each in its own way, to the earth. This is a difficult story, and though it is the leaves who tell it-and they are truly eloquent-it is a story for all souls. It reminds us that our lives are not whole if the story we tell is only about holding on. If our story does not allow us to let go gracefully, then we do ourselves a spiritual disservice. For, in the end, we are just like leaves, swirling in Autumn wind, gently bound for spinning earth.



Let us express reverence for our ancestors as crimson, gold, and auburn leaves, fall from the trees. Let them remind us of the cycles of life: the times of birth and the times of death. And let us heed the lessons of Autumn, that, in the end, all life winds down, and *all souls* are beautiful leaves, swirling in Autumn wind, gently bound for spinning earth.

November 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 9:am Glass Shop	2 9:am Glass Shop	3 10:30:am Quilters	4	5	6 9:am Glass Shop
Halloween						
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	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	15 9:am Glass Shop	16 9:am Glass Shop	17 10:30:am Quilters	18	19	20 9:am Glass Shop 7:am Men's 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	24 10:30:am Quilters	25 THANKSGIVING DAY	26	27 9:am Glass Shop
28 9 AM Worship 9:15 Childrens Church 10:15 AM Adult SS 11 AM Worship -Mtair	29 9:am Glass Shop	30 9:am Glass Shop				



NOVEMBER



Sent with a prayer to:



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Near the Cross (Hymnal #301)

Fanny Crosby was born in Putnam County, NY, in 1820, and was blinded in infancy through the malpractice of a doctor. In 1835, she enrolled in a school for the blind in New York City, staying there twelve years, first as a student then as a teacher. On November 20, 1850, at an altar call during a revival meeting, she found Christ as her Savior. Shortly thereafter, Fanny turned her poetic skills to hymn writing. Many of her songs focused on the theme of The Cross. This hymn was composed after a Cincinnati businessman, William Doane, gave her the melody. Fanny, listening to it, felt it said, "Jesus, keep me near the cross". She wrote approximately 8000 hymns! Thank you, Fanny.



Fanny Crosby