



**NEWSLETTER**  
**OF THE**  
**Estancia United Methodist Church**  
*600 Williams, Estancia, New Mexico*  
<http://www.gbgm-umc.org/estancia/Home.html>



**SEPTEMBER, 2009**

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	Mel Stephenson
Recording Secretary	Vickie Coburn
Organist	Morrow Hall
Lay Member of the Annual Conference	Marcia Fitzner
Chairperson: Board of Trustees	Bill Simms
Worship Team Leader	Melanie Chavez
Education Team Leader	Leslie Fastnacht
Chairperson: Missions	Marcia Fitzner
Care and Outreach Team Leader	
Chairperson: Pastor Parish Relations	Jim Wyman
Chairperson: Finance Committee	Marcia Fitzner
Financial Secretary	Vickie Coburn
Church Treasurer	Sylvia Levy
President UMM	Jon Shively
McMurry Rep	Charles Spooner
Sacramento Camp Rep	Cheryl Chavez

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

## “Church Business”

On September 23, we are having a Charge/Church Conference with our District Superintendent, Tom Nagel. Just what is this about? I like to think, it's our annual business meeting. This is the time in the life of the church when we elect our leaders, set the pastor's compensation, and acknowledge our Fair Share asking, turn in reports from the Trustees, Finance Committee, Pastor, and Information about our membership and ministry. We also celebrate the things we have accomplished by taking care of our property and our ministry.

We as a United Methodist Church are part of an organization with all the Methodist Churches in New Mexico and the big bend part of Texas. Additionally, we are connected with the larger body of the United Methodist Church. As a result we are asked to help pay for retired preacher's benefits, administrative leaders in our conference and denomination, Methodist schools and colleges, mission work and workers, and provide support for the institutions and ministries in our state and jurisdiction. For instance, our conference jointly owns McMurry University, Waco Children's Home and others. This asking at one time was called an apportionment. We now call it *Fair Share*. A portion of our local budget is factored against all the local churches in the denomination to establish our percentage of the New Mexico Conference and National Church Budget we are asked to pay.

I am proud to be a United Methodist and have the accountability and support it provides for the church and its ministry!

-Pastor Charlie



## **CHURCH PICNIC Sept. 20**

On Sunday, September 20, after church, the Methodist Men's Breakfast Organization is hosting a church picnic at **Grace Park** in the Manzano Mountains from 11am to 4pm.

The park is located on Route 337 (Old South 14) north of Ponderosa (fire station). Directions to Grace Park are given below.

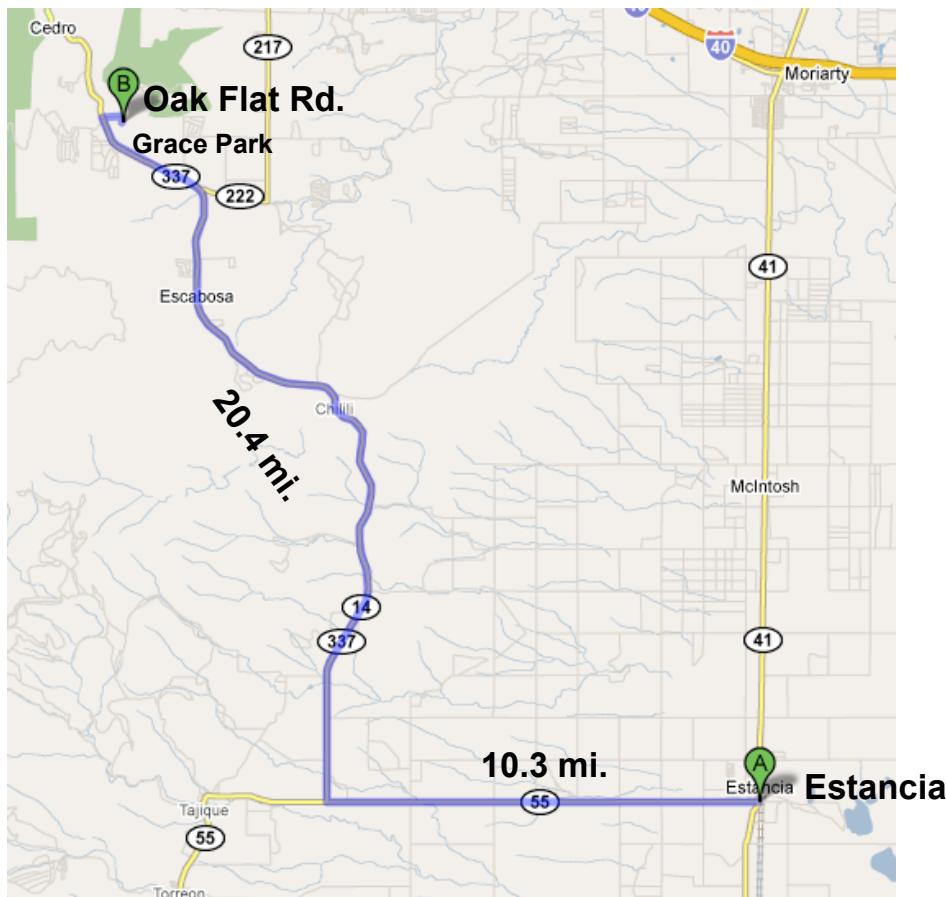
Grace Park is owned and operated by the Methodist Church Albuquerque District Office. The park is fully equipped with charcoal cookers, picnic tables, electrical power, water, flush toilets, and a huge fenced playground area and is located in a very scenic spot. There is a large canopy area in case of rain. The Men will supply and cook hamburgers and hot dogs. Each family is asked to bring a dish or dessert to share with others. The park is a "smoke free area." The Men will also take care of cleanup activities and secure the camp at the end of the picnic. Plan to attend this family fun event by putting it on your calendar today.

-*Jon Shively*

### **DIRECTIONS:**

- 1 Head **west** on **NM-55** for **10.3 mi.** to **NM 337**
- 2 Turn **right** (north) at **NM-14/NM-337**  
Continue to follow NM-337 for **20.4 mi.** to **Oak Flat Rd.**
- 3 Turn **right** (east) at **Oak Flat Rd** for **0.4 mi.** to **Carlisle Rd.**
- 4 Turn **right** (south) at **Carlisle Rd** through **locked gate**  
**Go 0.1 mi to Grace Park on right**

Total distance about 31 mi. Time will be about an hour.



## **WINDOW PROJECT NEWS**

August has been another very productive month, even though the crew has been partially absent due to vacations and other commitments. We have one window complete and ready to install and another window nearly complete. It appears we can complete at least two windows a month. This will be within our estimate of finishing the job in about two years as stated last month. It also appears that we may get the scaffolding board for the upper windows on the east side very shortly. This will allow us to finish the trim on the upper windows.

In addition, some of the group are still making special projects to take to the County Fair and other events. At the Sunflower Festival in Mountainair, we made \$120 on the sale of five glass pieces. The three pieces taken to the County Fair won a 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize. This spotlights the abundant artistic talent we have in our church. Some have already started other projects for the next seasonal events such as Halloween and the Balloon Festival.

-Mel Stephenson

## **SUNFLOWER DAYS**



**Stained Glass Sale Table at Sunflower Days**



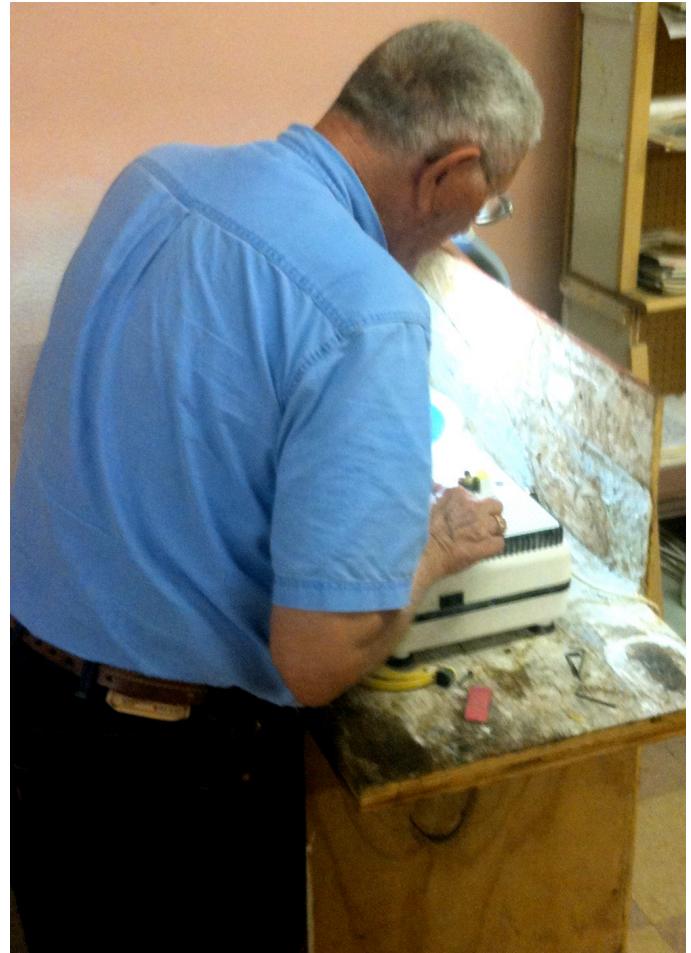
**Glass sale table** manned by Marcia Fitzner and Gayle Clark (taking photo)... The table was shared with Mountainair Methodist Church, where Patty Mahoney sold cookbooks to help defray the recent expense of fixing their roof. Sale of these special project glass pieces helps to fund the overall window project. Thanks to all who completed these projects in time for the sale.



**Gayle and Sylvia Putting it all Together**



**Woman Touching Christ's Robe  
(very intricate pattern, mostly done)**



**Mel Stephenson  
grinding piece**



**Butch Picking out Glass**



**Next Pattern Almost Done**

## **A History of Stained Glass**

Text Courtesy of the Art Glass Association

The origins of the first stained glass windows are lost in history. The technique probably came from jewelry making, cloisonné and mosaics. Stained glass windows as we know them, seemed to arise when substantial church building began. By the 10th century, depictions of Christ and biblical scenes were found in French and German churches and decorative designs found in England.

There is a mystery to glass: It is a form of matter with gas, liquid and solid state properties. Glass is most like a super-cooled liquid. It captures light and glows from within. It is a jewel like substance made from the most ordinary materials: sand transformed by fire. Before recorded history, man learned to make glass and color it by adding metallic salts and oxides. These minerals within the glass capture specific portions from the spectrum of white light allowing the human eye to see various colors. Gold produces stunning cranberry, cobalt makes blues; silver creates yellows and golds while copper makes greens and brick red.

Techniques of stained glass window construction were described by the monk Theophilus who wrote a how to for craftsmen about 1100 AD. It describes methods little changed over 900 years: "if you want to assemble simple windows, first mark out the dimensions of their length and breadth on a wooden board, then draw scroll work or anything else that pleases you, and select colors that are to be put in. Cut the glass and fit the pieces together with the grozing iron. Enclose them with lead cames..... and solder on both sides. Surround it with a wooden frame strengthened with nails and set it up in the place where you wish."

The Gothic age produced the great cathedrals of Europe and brought a full flowering of stained glass windows. Churches became taller and lighter, walls thinned and stained glass was used to fill the increasingly larger openings in them. Stained glass became the sun filled world outside. Abbot Suger of the Abbey of St. Denis rebuilt his church in what is one of the first examples of the Gothic style. He brought in craftsmen to make the glass and kept a journal of what was done. He truly believed that the presence of beautiful objects would lift men's souls closer to God.



**Joyous Noise Singers Perform Aug. 16  
(performing again on Sept. 6th)**

## **Living out “I am second”**

By Shannon Vowell, Special Contributor, United Methodist Reporter

In the city where I live, an advertising campaign has been generating considerable interest and attention: Diverse faces peer down on passing traffic from billboards, featuring faint Mona Lisa smiles and the caption “I am second.”

“Looking out for No. 1” is so ubiquitous as to be a cliché. So “I am second” really provokes people. In fact, it’s such a radical statement that this local campaign has garnered global interest (see [iamsecond.com](http://iamsecond.com)).

United Methodists presumably don’t need to hear the punch line of the “I am second” campaign. We may even feel smug as we fill in the rest: “Of course! God is first; I am second.” We get it.

But perhaps this is one of those instances when knowing the right answer isn’t the whole point. Perhaps understanding what it means to live in such a way that God truly is first in our lives requires a whole different order of personal commitment.

Let’s face it. Knowing why the statement “I am second” is a Christian statement is not the same as living as though God is first.

My children joke rather cynically that the right answer to almost any question in Sunday school is “Jesus!” I would submit regretfully, but equally cynically, that most Christian adults know the “right answer,” too, but that we, like my children, sometimes use the right answer to dodge the implications of the questions themselves.

Because if we truly believe that God is first and we are second, our aims and objectives will fall under one category: honoring, serving and glorifying God. The whole intent of our lives—the whole basis for our decision-making and our priorities and our pleasures—will be God. This is big stuff. This is hard. This demands attention and perseverance and sacrifice. **This costs.**

And if we truly believe that God is first and we are second, that belief will have implications for us every day of the week, not just on Sunday morning. God-first will render us dissatisfied with merely knowing the right answers in Sunday school. We will only be satisfied with God and in God, 24/7, no matter where we are or whom we are with. This is big stuff. This is hard. This demands obedience and purity and humility. **This costs.**

And if we truly believe that God is first and we are second, our stewardship of all our treasure will be held accountable to one agenda: the business of being God’s people. Our tithe will be the first check we write. Our family vacation will be planned around our mission trip. We will prioritize our family commitments around worship and service and time in the Word. Our Sabbath will be sacred. This is big stuff. This is hard. This demands a willingness to shrug off much that the world prizes and to prize much that the world shrugs off. **This costs.**

If we truly believe that God is first and we are second, actions of love and service to neighbor will be part of our daily round, not optional extras for which we feel we need to receive credit. (Scripture has many suggestions and not a few mandates on the God/neighbor connection.) This is big stuff, too, hard and demanding and costly. This changes who we are and how we exist in the world.

Even as I type this, the words feel dangerously close to a protracted scold—a long list of “shoulds” that generate the same priggish sensibility as knowing the right answer in the first place. Yuck. Not a sign of God-first-ness, ever!

Perhaps we should just remind ourselves of how God puts it: “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. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets” (Matthew 22:37-40).

“I am second.”

If that became not just the rallying cry but also the life’s work of every United Methodist in the U.S., what couldn’t we achieve in God’s name, through God’s power!

“I am second.”

**Lord, be first! Be first.**

# September 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9:am Glass Shop	2 10am Quilters	3	4	5 9:am Glass Shop
6 9 AM Worship 9:15 Childrens Church 10:15 AM Adult SS 11 AM Worship -Mtair	7 9:am Glass Shop	8 9:am Glass Shop	9 10am Quilters	10	11	12 9:am Glass Shop
13 9 AM Worship 9:15 Childrens Church 10:15 AM Adult SS 11 AM Worship -Mtair	14 9:am Glass Shop	15 9:am Glass Shop	16 10am Quilters	17	18	19 7AM Mens Breakfast 9:am Glass Shop
20 9 AM Worship 9:15 Childrens Church 10:15 AM Adult SS 11 AM Worship -Mtair	21	22 7:pm TRUSTEES	23 9:am Glass Shop	24 10am Quilters CHARGE CONF	25	26 9:am Glass Shop
27 9 AM Worship 9:15 Childrens Church 10:15 AM Adult SS 11 AM Worship -Mtair	28	29 9:am Glass Shop	30 10am Quilters			



*Sent with a prayer to:*

**WELCOME**



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

### **A NEW SCHOOL YEAR**

A new school year, a new beginning. Whether our children are just starting kindergarten, entering high school, or leaving the nest for college, our hearts and hopes go with them. Please bless your child with this prayer as he or she goes out to face the world.

**A new adventure awaits them as they prepare for school.**

**Excitement for new possibilities and fear of the unknown mingle in their hearts.**

**Thoughts of achievement and thoughts of failure slow their footsteps.**

**Bless all children this day, O God.**

**Give them inquiring minds and discerning hearts.**

**Give them courage to persevere in all they undertake.**

**Give them the gift of joy and wonder in all things.**

**Give them laughter and love to share with all.**

**Give them protection and safety as they move out of our embrace.**

**And give them sure and certain knowledge of your unfailing love.**

***Amen.***