



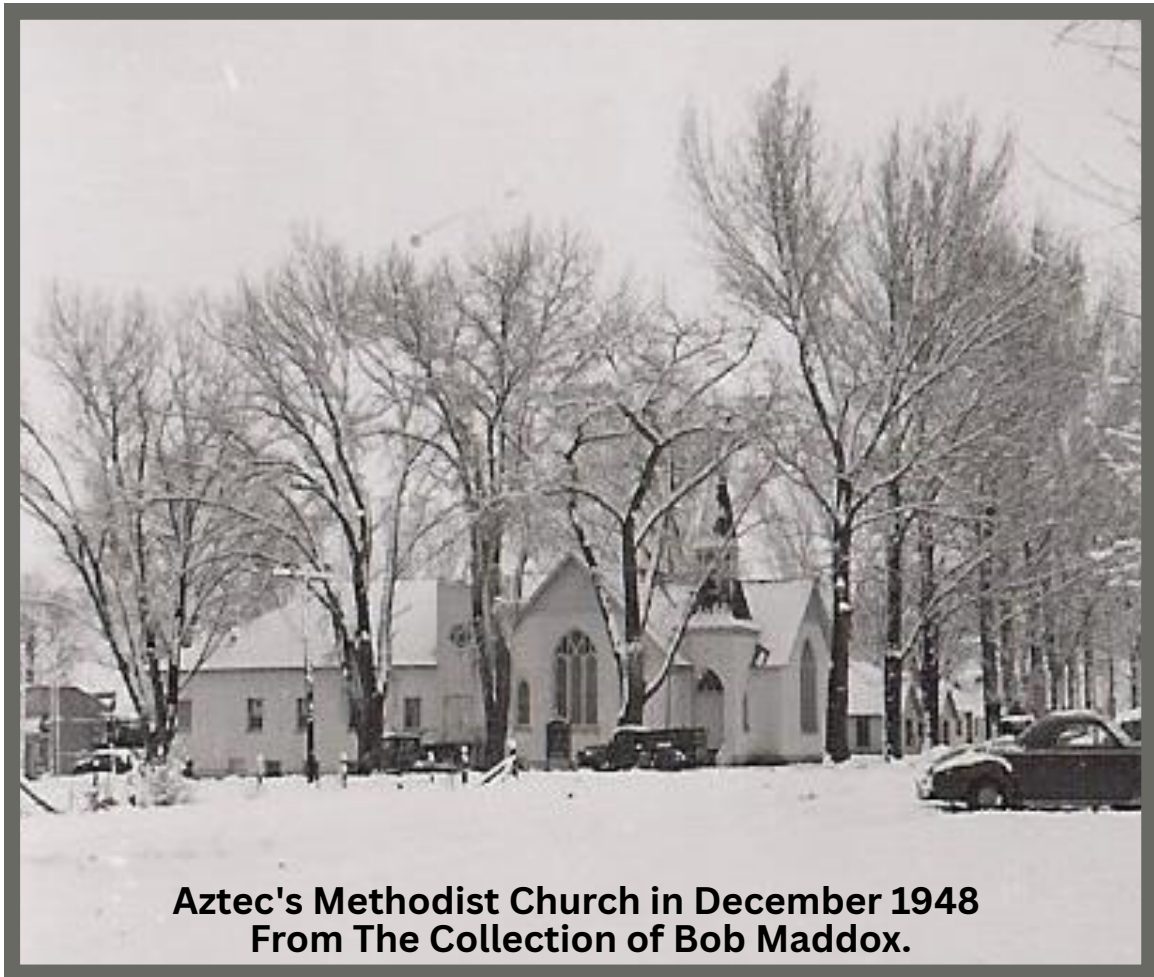
# Methodist Church of Aztec

123 E. Chaco St.  
Aztec, NM 87410

1879-2026



# CHURCH HISTORY



**Aztec's Methodist Church in December 1948  
From The Collection of Bob Maddox.**

***By Virginia Whitney (with minor updates by Shannon Lynch and a look to the future by Pastor Jay Armstrong)***

Hugh Griffin entered the San Juan County, N.M. area in 1878 and preached in at least eleven places regularly. Hugh was born August 15, 1851, in Union County, Arkansas. He was sent by the Denver Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Mr. Griffin's circuit included Upper La Plata, Lower La Plata, Hay Gulch, Cedar Hill, Flora Vista, Center Point, Cunningham, S.H., Cox Station, McHenry, Aztec, and Farmington in the early 1880's. In 1881, W.W. Welsh was the Presiding Elder and in 1882, S.W. DeBusk, who reported to Conference, "San Juan Circuit embraces a large extent of country, consisting of mountains and a beautiful valley, the mountains rich in mineral and the valley most productive in vegetables, grain and fruit." Hugh conducted a camp meeting in the fall of 1882.

Mr. Griffin worked hard and traveled extensively, and his perseverance enabled him to organize Aztec, Cedar Hill and Flora Vista into active churches, which he served on horseback. A yearly salary of \$97 was his pay from ten churches in 1882-1883. Records in the Court House show he married people from 1880 to almost 1900, shortly before his death. He preached at Aztec from 1878 to 1896.



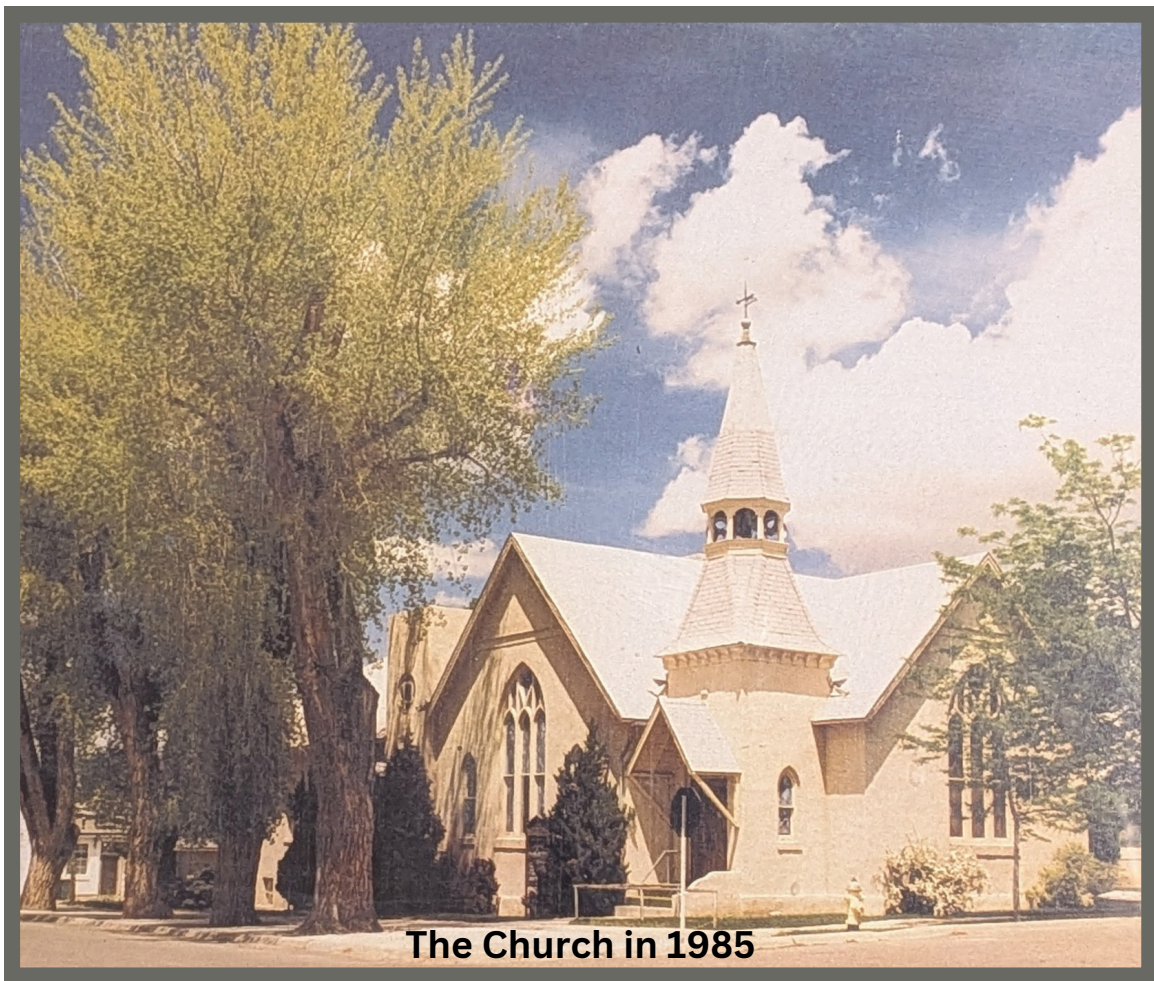
Aztec met in the schoolhouse and courthouse buildings as well as local homes.

Reverend James Lewis was pastor in Aztec in 1906 when the present brick sanctuary was built. Charles G. Brewer and son Truman helped construct the building. They quarried the stone for the foundation, made and baked the brick, burned them, and placed them on the foundation. The windows and door frames were ordered in July and bricklaying began in August. The first quarterly Conference was held in the church in October.

The pews were purchased early in 1910. They were selected by the pastor, Mr. Marvin Johnson, and Mr. and Mrs. O.O. Owens. The pulpit was made by C.G. Brewer and his name is engraved upon it. The organ was selected by Mr. and Mrs. E.S. Whitehead and is on loan to the Aztec Museum Association. Mr. Whitehead, an attorney, was the organist and also a trustee. Mrs. William Gillam made butter, sold it and eggs to pay for the bell. Mr. Glen Ramsower helped bring the bell from the depot to the church.

The cement walk in front of the church was built in 1915 by the late Jim Dial and was considered the best walk-in town for over sixty years.

In 1925, the Cedar Hill Church united with Aztec. The church building was eventually moved to the Aztec Museum & Pioneer Village.



Finally in 1928, financial steps were taken for an annex, as the congregation had grown until there was an extreme need for Sunday School classrooms. Under the leadership of Reverend E.J. Reeves, an annex was built with a large basement which held four classrooms, a kitchen, dining room, and auditorium where the Ladies' Aid Society gave ice cream suppers and served dinners.

In 1935, the Flora Vista Church closed its doors and joined Aztec.

In 1939, the merger of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, the Methodist Episcopal Church, and the Methodist Protestant Church created The Methodist Church, ending the 1844 split over slavery.

Then in the '50s the Young Adult Sunday School Class needed a place to meet, and it was decided to build a chapel to the north of the main building. The construction spearheaded by Bud Hancock and Clement Koogler resulted in a lovely chapel with a fireplace called the Asbury Chapel (now the office of the pastor).

The 1960s saw the addition of the Sunday School Building (now called the Education Building) with eight large classrooms.

On April 23, 1968, the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church merged to form the United Methodist Church.



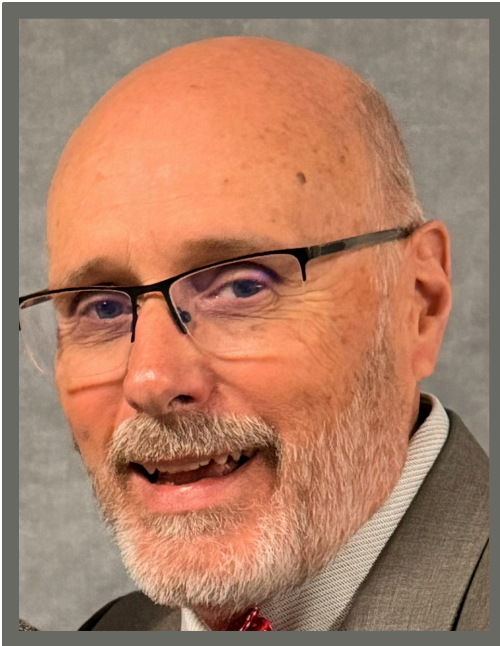
**The Methodist Church of Aztec in April 2026**

The main sanctuary stained-glass windows were made by Marvin Johnson's granddaughter in the 1980's.

The Global Methodist Church officially launched on May 1, 2022, as an orthodox alternative following a significant schism within the United Methodist Church. While the split was highlighted by a disagreement over LGBTQ+ ordination and marriage, at the core of the schism was whether the nature of the ministry of the church was to be transformational and sanctifying, or to preserve and affirm individual world views. The dispute centered on whether Jesus is the absolute truth or individuals define their own truth. Thousands of conservative congregations disaffiliated from the UMC to join the Global Methodist Church, which upholds Biblical theological and biblical ethical standards. In 2023, the Methodist Church of Aztec became one of the thousands that disaffiliated from the United Methodist Church.

The future is something we try to shape and while we might have some influence many other factors will also have their influence. As we work to shape our future, we must be flexible enough to work with those things that surprise us in our journey. At this moment Aztec is at an inflection point. It has weathered the storm of disaffiliation, we are well along in the healing process, and we are looking forward with optimism. A vision committee is at work considering the future we want to create. The details are not clear, but a vital and growing ministry is the framework in which we are looking to paint the Aztec Methodist Church of the Future.

# LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

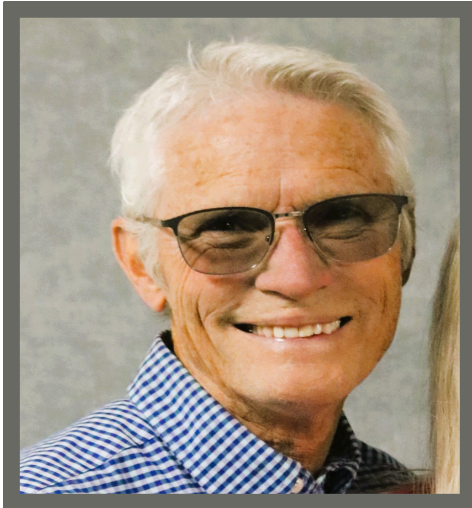


**Pastor Jay Armstrong**

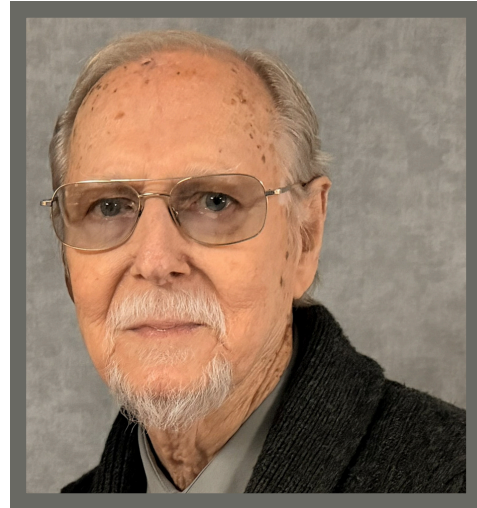
*"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God."  
Colossians 3:16*

Friends,  
Picture directories are funny things. As soon as you publish one, they are out of date, but the wonderful thing about them is that they give you a snapshot in the timeline of a church. Who was there and what was happening at that moment. If you want to have a little fun, then get a directory that is 20 years old and look up the people who were in the church and are still in the church. You will have a good laugh, perhaps at your own expense, as you realize how things have changed. Being outdated when it is published reveals that the church, our church, is a living organism. People joined together to be the body of Christ that acts as the arms and legs, hands and feet, and mouth and ears of Jesus Christ. As a living body we can shrink or GROW, remain silent or SPEAK, and spread darkness or LIGHT. If we choose to GROW, SPEAK, and spread LIGHT then in five or ten years a new pictorial directory will reveal the fruit of our work.  
In Christ's Service

# MEET OUR STAFF



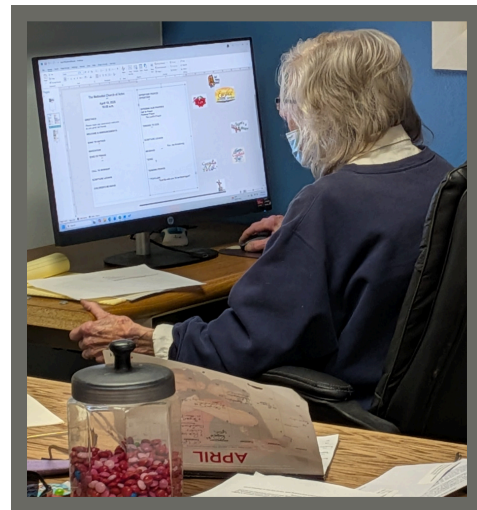
**Associate Pastor  
Lee Fiske**



**Associate Pastor  
Paul West**



**Worship Leader  
Laura Armstrong**



**Secretary  
Caroline Smith**



**Financial Secretary  
Natalie Marx**



**Children's Ministry  
Rebecca Long**

# MEET OUR STAFF



**Multimedia  
Joan Fauteaux**



**Youth Leader  
This Could Be You!**



**Armstrong, Jay & Laura**



**Bernard, Leona**



**Berry, Marlene & Andy**



**Brannan, CanDee & Rick**



**Bross, Valerie**



**Campos, Debbie**



**Carruthers, Barb & Mike**



**Connors, Janice**



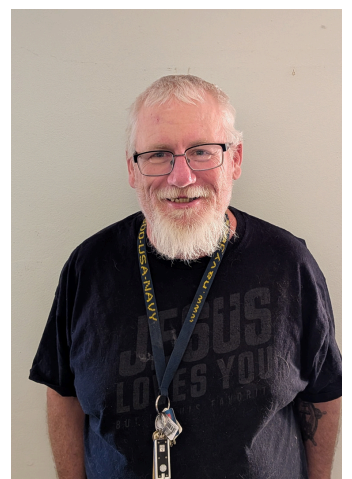
**Dighiera, Linda**



**Dusenbery, Sue & Bob**



**Englehart, Judy**



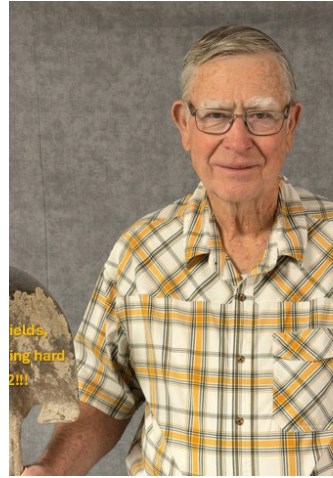
**Fager, Leonard**



**Fauteaux, Joan**



**Fields, Dianne**



**Fields, Doug**



**Fiske, Lee & Jackie**



**Hall, Diane & Mira  
& Ian**



**Hancock, Rod &  
Sue**



**Hayes, Mary**



**Holmes, Debbie &  
Donnie**



**LaRue, Mary**



**Lawson, Artresia**



**Lightner, Melissa  
& Dan (Kids in  
directory)**



**Lindner, Guy**



**Long, Ronald & Rebecca**



**Lynch, Karen**



**Lynch, Shannon & Mariel**



**Marshall, Brooks & Dorie**



**Marx, Jerry & Natalie**



**McClure, Gary & Graham**



**McCullough, Heather**



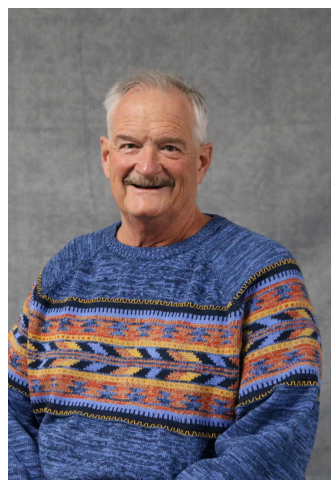
**Noland, Bill & Debbie**



**Pawley, Bob & Byrd, Donna**



**Phipps, Ann**



**Poe, Bryan**



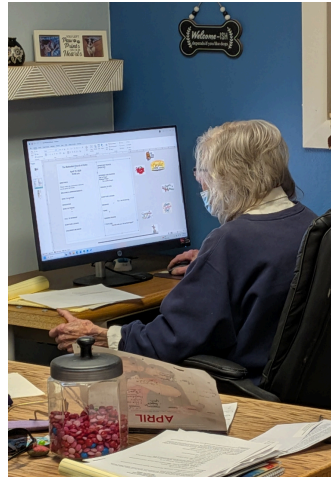
**Putman, Fran & Melinda & Legend**



**Ragsdale,  
Rosalind**



**Revesz, Miranda**



**Smith, Caroline**



**Snowbarger, Beth  
& Marty**



**Snowbarger,  
Gordon**



**Snowbarger,  
Rachel & Jake &  
Bruce & Adeline**



**Spencer, Sandi**



**Thompson,  
Earline & Jop**



**Thomas, Doug &  
Joetta**



**Taylor, Roy**



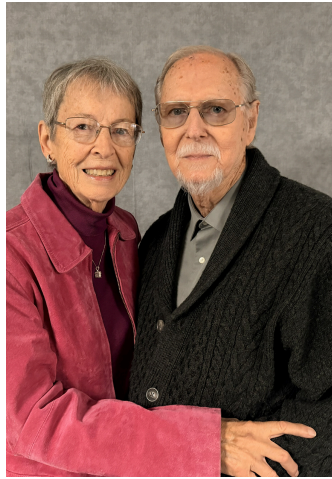
**Townsend,  
Sandra**



**VanDiest, Sandy**



**Walls, Dale**



**West, Paul &  
Dorcas**



**Zieger, Andrew**

## **Not Pictured**

**Margaret Atkerson  
Blancett, Twitti & Linn  
Dodge, Sharon  
Feil, Judy  
Greenwood, MaryAnn  
Hemmerich, Carla  
Johnston, Janice  
Jones, Charliss  
Lee, Richard & Ashley & Connor  
Young, Walta**

# GROUPS



**Sarah's Circle**



**SWAT Team**

# GROUPS



**Wired Word Sunday School**



**"The Chosen" Bible Study & Discussion**

**HE IS RISEN!**



# EVENTS / FUN TIMES



# EVENTS / FUN TIMES



# DIRECTORY

**ARMSTRONG, Jay & Laura**  
1900 Placitas Trl  
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**BYRD, Donna**  
(See: "PAWLEY, Bob")

**CAMPOS, Debbie**  
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**JONES, Charliss**  
1112 Rio Bravos  
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**LaRUE, Mary**  
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**LIGHTNER, Melissa & Dan**  
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Mary, Sophia, Harlo,  
Jeneca, Atticus, Paddy)  
3310 Newman Ave  
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505-427-1465  
Melissa's email:  
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Mariel: 505-402-8389  
lynch763m@gmail.com

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Jerry's email:  
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**McCLURE, Gary**  
(Graham)  
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& BYRD, Donna**  
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& Melind & Legend**  
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@yahoo.com

**RAGSDALE, Rosalind & Steven**  
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**REVESZ, Miranda**  
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**SMITH, Caroline**  
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**SNOWBARGER, Beth & Marty**  
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Marty: 505-402-1920  
snowbargerm@gmail.com

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**SNOWBARGER, Rachel  
& Jake**

(Bruce, Adeline)  
1216 Mossey Cup  
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Jake: 505-402-9266

**SPENCER, Sandi & Charlie**

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3920 Majesta St.  
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505-860-8888

**TAYLOR, Roy**

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**THOMAS, Doug & Joetta**

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**VanDiest, Sandy**

**WALLS, Dale**

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Dale: 505-330-9036  
dwalls@myctl.net

**THOMPSON, Earlene**

**& JOPLIN, Aaron**  
PO Box 387  
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**WEST, Paul & Dorcas**

20 Roa 6790  
Fruitland, NM 87416  
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**YOUNG, Walta**

PO Box 92  
Aztec, NM 87410

**ZIEGER, Andrew**

601 Navajo Ave  
Apt 502  
Aztec, NM 87410  
Andrew: 505-686-9687

# BIRTHDAYS

Mike Carruthers	Jan 1	Marlene Berry	Jun 14
Jacki Fiske	Jan 2	Dianne Hall	Jun 17
Rod Hancock	Jan 12	Melissa Lightner	Jun 21
Graham McClure	Jan 19	Debbie Noland	Jun 23
Anne Phipps	Jan 19	Sandi Spencer	Jul 12
Bryan Poe	Jan 22	Paul West	Jul 13
Joetta Thomas	Jan 25	Jay Armstrong	Jul 16
MaryAnn Greenwood	Feb 20	Atticus Lightner	Jul 22
Bill Noland	Feb 20	Shannon Lynch	Jul 26
Gordon Snowbarger	Feb 20	Bob Pawley	Jul 27
Anothony Lightner	Feb 23	Carla Hemmerich	Jul 28
Antonio Lightner	Feb 23	Dale Walls	Aug 1
Mariel Lynch	Mar 8	Caroline Smith	Aug 5
Brooks Marshall	Mar 17	Ronald Long	Aug 21
Jan Connors	Mar 22	CanDee Brannan	Aug 27
Gary McClure	Mar 30	Achilles Lightner	Aug 27
Artresia Lawson	Apr 3	Donna Byrd	Sep 5
Judy Feil	Apr 4	Cooper Snowbarger	Sep 10
Dorcas West	Apr 4	Andy Berry	Sep 14
Doug Fields	Apr 5	Rick Brannan	Sep 15
Natalie Marx	Apr 5	Mary Hayes	Sep 16
Rosalind Ragsdale	Apr 9	Rachel Snowbarger	Sep 19
Nathaniel Bernard	Apr 14	Judy Englehart	Sep 25
Joan Fauteaux	Apr 15	Lee Fiske	Sep 27
Charliss Jones	Apr 17	Mary LaRue	Oct 2
Guy Lindner	Apr 20	Fran Putman	Oct 3
Mira Hall	Apr 26	Miranda Revesz	Oct 10
Dan Lightner	Apr 30	Sue Hancock	Oct 17
Linda Dighiera	May 17	Bruce Snowbarger	Oct 22
Karen Lynch	May 17	Joe Hubbard	Oct 23
Doug Thomas	May 19	Janice Johnston	Oct 24
Marty Snowbarger	Jun 1	Margaret Atkerson	Nov 4
Roy Taylor	Jun 1	Beth Snowbarger	Nov 5
Sophia Lightner	Jun 3	Barb Carruthers	Nov 14
Leona Bernard	Jun 7	Sue Dusenbery	Nov 15
Dorie Marshall	Jun 7	Nancy Goolsby	Nov 20

# BIRTHDAYS

Valerie Bross	Nov 23
Rebecca Long	Nov 28
Heather McCullough	Nov 28
Walta Young	Dec 4
Earlene Thompson	Dec 12
Marylou Lightner	Dec 17
Laura Armstrong	Dec 19
Sandra Townsend	Dec 25
Ian Hall	Dec 26



# ANNIVERSARIES

Lee & Jacki Fiske	Jan 1
Jake & Rachel Snowbarger	Feb 24
Sue & Bob Dusenbery	Mar 20
Barb & Mike Carruthers	Apr 6
Ronald & Rebecca Long	Apr 15
Jan & Dan Connors	May 14
Dan & Melissa Lightner	May 31
Doug & Joetta Thomas	Jun 27
Shannon & Mariel Lynch	Jul 6
Rick & CanDee Brannan	Jul 10
Rod & Sue Hancock	Aug 15
Karen & Roy Lynch	Sep 3
Andy & Marlene Berry	Sep 13
Marty & Beth Snowbarger	Sep 26
Paul & Dorcas West	Nov 8
Jay & Laura Armstrong	Dec 29



