

HISTORY OF EL BUEN PASTOR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Albino R. Pineda – Church Historian

ACCORDING TO THE BOOK OF ACTS - FROM THE FLAMES AT PENTECOST, THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH WAS BORN AND IT HAS STRUGGLED AND PREVAILED FOR OVER THIRTY TWO CENTURIES PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST TO THE WORLD THROUGH ITS MANY DENOMINATIONS.

AND ACCORDING TO LOCAL HISTORICAL RECORDS – FROM THE FLAMES OF A FIRING GUN THAT TOOK THE LIFE OF A LOCAL CITY MARSHAL, THE CONGREGATION OF WHAT IS NOW EL BUEN PASTOR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH WAS BORN, AND IT HAS ALSO STRUGGLED AND PREVAILED FOR ONE HUNDRED YEARS PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST TO THE COMMUNITY OF SANTA PAULA AND THE WORLD.

On November 13, 1913, the local City Marshal Henry N. Norman was fatally shot a block north from this church building. At that time this area was the Mexican barrio known as “Las Piedras” (The Rocks), for there were many large rocks all over this area. In fact, today one can dig anywhere in the vicinity and find big boulders a foot below the surface of the ground and that’s because during the early years the Santa Paula creek, which runs a few blocks east of here, used to overflow when it rained and its waters would spread flooding this area.

Now, because the crime was committed in this area, the blame was on the Mexican people although it was later proven that outsiders were the criminals. A few days later during an Ecumenical Thanksgiving Day Service at the Presbyterian Church, the preacher Rev. George B. Cliff who was a Methodist, during sermon he blamed himself for not doing any work with the Mexican people. At that point Mr. Nathan W. Blanchard, one of the city pioneers stood up and asked, “What can we do about it?” The answer was, “We can provide Christian education to the Mexican people.”

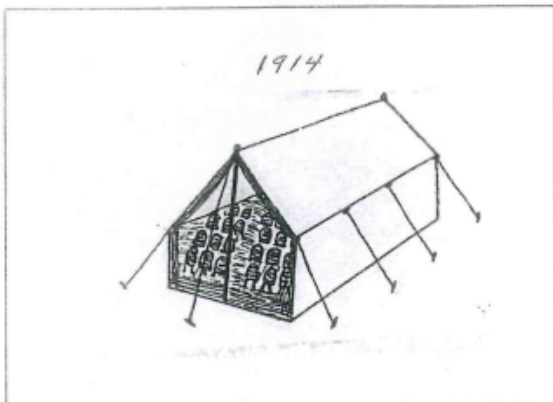
At the conclusion of the service, a committee was formed made up of representatives of five local denominations, Presbyterians, Methodists, Unitarian, Baptists and the Church of Christ. After consulting with superintendents of Spanish work, the field was given to the Methodists who through the district superintendent in charge of Spanish work, appointed a part-time pastor Rev. Miguel Narro from Los Angeles. He would serve three days a week with a salary of fifty dollars per week. A tent was set up which would serve as his quarters and a meeting place. (Rev. Narro served for one year.)



Rev. Miguel Narro, 1914-1915

The tent was placed in the lot where this building stands. The lot was bought for \$555.00 and plans to build a small wooden chapel were initiated with Mr. Blanchard committing himself to pay one quarter of the essential cost. His benevolence prompted many other citizens to follow suit and gradually the new chapel emerged. Much of the work being volunteered and the materials donated. The Methodist church donated the pews and the first service was held in the early summer 1915. The total cost of the building was \$75,000.

Only July 30 1915, a committee made up of one pastor and one layperson from each of the five denominations, was duly incorporated under the name "The Union Spanish Mission Association of Santa Paula," thus becoming the first protestant Spanish mission ever to incorporate in the State of California.





FIRST BODA – WEDDING HELD IN THE CHAPEL – JUNE 1915

UNA BODA - Patricia Torres' marriage to Jose Guzman. The wedding party posed in front of the Spanish Union Mission chapel, present site of El Buen Pastor United Methodist Church. Attending the wedding were: Front row, L to R; (boy, three ladies and baby unknown), Soledad Vilovos, Rev. Miguel Narro, Alfonso Dominguez and (two ladies and little girl unknown). Second row, L to R; First three gentlemen unknown, Remedios Vilovos and Jose Angel Huerta. Back row, L to R; Noah Cisneros, Andres Rangel, Gabino Guzman, Francisco Torres, Rosalio Huerta and Cesario Huerta.



Rev. Antonio Jimenez, 1915-1920



Deaconess, Celia Flores 1912-1920?

In an old publication known, as "The Sun Rise" appeared the following two stories: The first about Rev. Jimenez.

"At sunrise in the year 1919, the pastor of the Mexican church, Antonio Jimenez, was kneeling on a hilltop overlooking the city of Santa Paula. He cried, ' O God, I will speak to thee. Speak thou to me. Speak to my heart of hearts. Before I go down to our poor, sinful, lost people, I would listen to thy word'. After that transfiguration day, forty-three souls were converted. I was sunrise vision and sunrise power from God which did it."

The second, about Deaconess Cecilia Flores who had a two year training in San Francisco together with Rosa Narro before joining past Jimenez in the Mission circuit work which covered Santa Paula, Ventura, Fillmore, Sespe, Piru, and Nordhoff. There's the story that "One day stepping from the train in Fillmore to do her work, Celia handed a tract to a nice looking Mexican woman. Some weeks afterward, this woman, who proved to be the wife of a merchant, sent her maid over several times to find Celia, the missionary lady, to call her to her home when she thanked her for the tract, and said 'I have found faith and salvation through Jesus Christ which came to me through the reading of the tract that you handed me on the train steps.' The story ends saying, the lady is now a faithful Christian and attends Sunday School regularly" BEAUTIFUL STORIES THAT CAN STILL BE REPREATED. MAY GOD HELP US!

Celia Flores later married Alfonso Dominguez a young man from Piru, a small community a few miles east of Santa Paula. He became a minister, they raised a beautiful family after their retirement, they moved to Santa Paula until their final days.



Rev. Alfonso Sanchez, 1920-1925

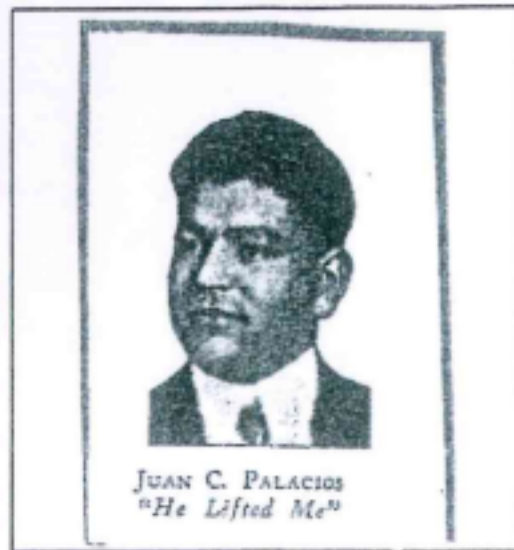
Rev. Alfonso Sanchez (1920-25) continued the work in the circuit and many letters from local merchants were received praising the work of the mission.

In Fillmore members of the First Methodist Church were making plans to help build a church building from the Mexican work there, and on March 19, 22, ground breaking ceremonies were held, and by September 22, 1922, the work was completed and the building was dedicated with many supporters present. (See History of El Salvador Episcopal Methodist Church in a separate folder).

Meanwhile around the same time, the Spanish Union Mission Corporation of Santa Paula began planning for a parsonage and by September 16, 1922, a two-bedroom parsonage home was built and occupied on a lot west adjacent to the chapel. Cost of the building was \$3,023.18.



At the 1924 Annual Conference, the following report was given; Mission Member 134, Sunday School 183, Average Attendance 97, Junior League 31, Sewing class 20.



Rev. Juan C. Palacios, 1925-1931

Rev. Juan C. Palacios who served the Mission from 1925 to 1931, continued ministering to the Ventura, Limoneira, Ojai and Santa Paula Circuit.

In Ventura, the services were held at home of a Valenzuela family. Later on a house was rented to hold the services but eventually the house was torn down to make way for the Freeway. In Limoneira the services were held outdoors. In Ojai, the services were held in the yard of the Ojai Methodist Church. In Santa Paula, the Palacios brought Mr. Vargas who spent a lot of his time in cock fighting. He later said that he no longer needed to attend cock fighting and became very involved in the mission. He was serving as Sunday School Superintendent when I first joined the church. Ponciano Echavarria was one of the leaders at the time and Juan G. Salas was well known for his singing. The Green House that was behind the chapel was acquired when Palacios was pastor of the Mission. Later on the house became known as "La Casita Verde" and was used as the pastor's office and for Sunday school classes.

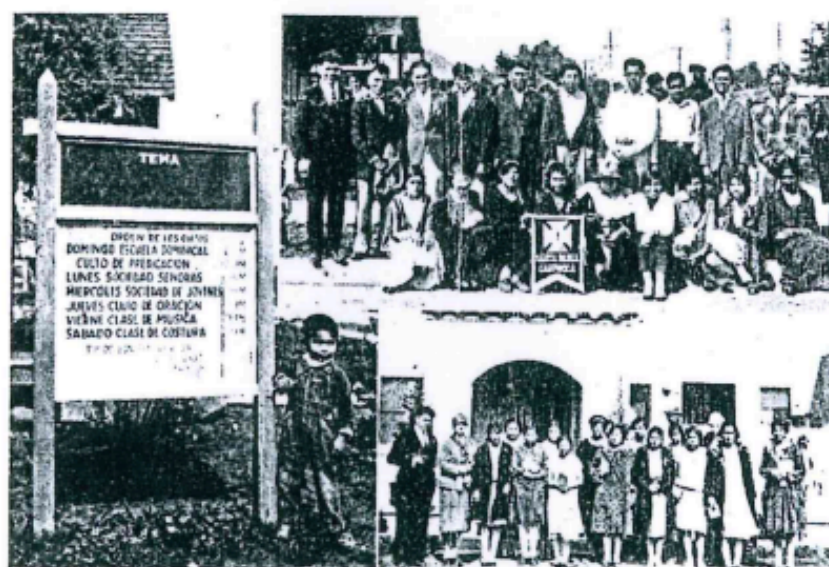
It was during the Palacios' (Juan and wife Ethel) time that the 1928 Francisquito Dam flood took place wiping a good number of homes in the lower part of Santa Paula. The previous year the Palacios had royally entertained the Latin American Conference in the Santa Paula Chapel. Juan and Ethel helped many families that had lost their homes and loved ones including a mother and two daughters of the congregation. Mrs. Palacios sent these stories to me many years ago.



Ninth Annual Meeting AT THE Latin American Mission

BISHOP WILBUR P. THIRKIELD, D.D., LL.D., *Presiding Bishop*
1120 Hamilton Bank Bldg., Chattanooga, Tenn.

REV. VERNON M. MCCOMBS, D.D., *Superintendent*
1109 Amador Ave., Berkeley, California, and
125 Marchessault St., Los Angeles, California



MEXICAN COMMUNITY CHURCH, SANTA PAULA, CALIF.

REV. JUAN C. PALACIOS, *Pastor*
Telephone 301X1

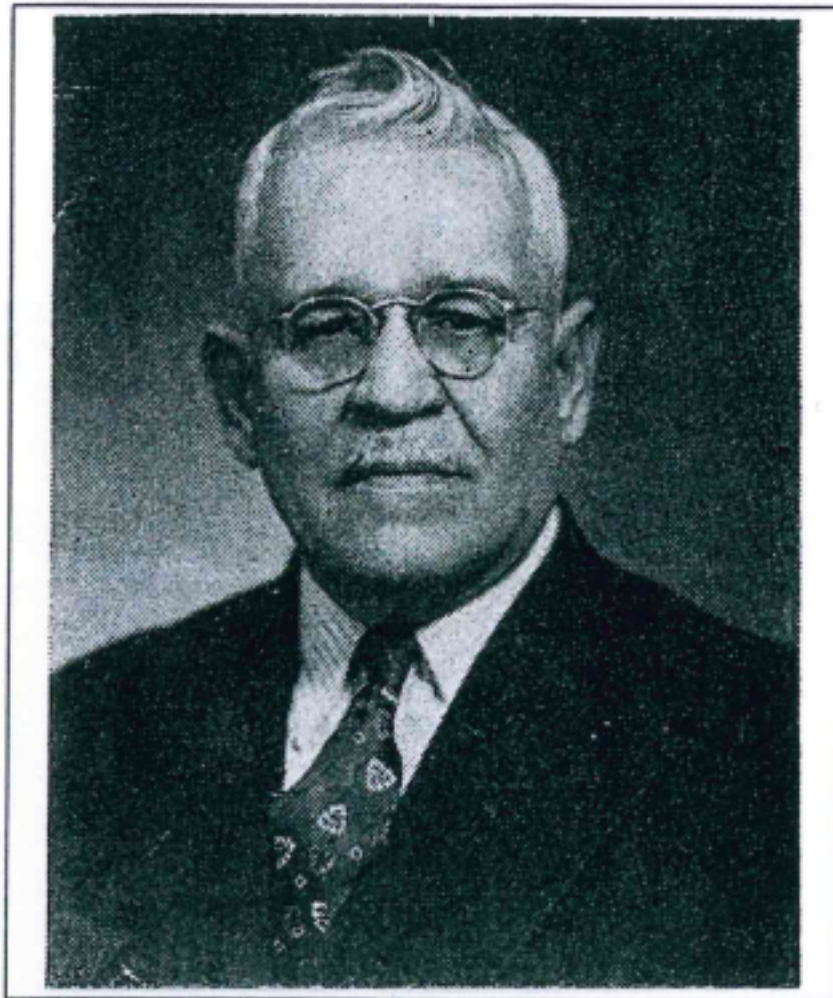
FRED SMITH, *President Santa Paula Latin American Board*

MEXICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
SANTA PAULA, CALIFORNIA

February 16th to the 19th, 1928

PRELIMINARY SESSIONS ALL DAY WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1928

Latin American Mission
Harp Musical Group with
Rev. Palacios and wife
Ethel at extreme right.



Rev. Luis P. Tirre, 1931-1944

Rev. Luis P. Tirre was one of the “little people” who labored in the shadows. If one can judge from impression he left on those who knew him and of his services to others, he was a man whose stature approached greatness. So many in this area, from the men who pick citrus from the tree to the top executives of large corporations, felt personal loss at his passing. At his death there was the birth of the legend of Rev. Luis P. Tierre.

He was the pastor of the Fillmore Mexican Methodist Church at this time but his flock was one which knew no bounds of race or creed. At his funeral there were representatives of the District Attorney’s office, the County Probations Office, the City and Township Courts, churches and civic groups. Young people decked out in their Sunday best helped swell the crowd of mourners.

Rev. Tirre was more than just a member of the clergy. He was an unofficial ambassador of good will linking the Spanish-speaking segment of the community with the Anglo-Saxon neighbors. He did this good will in a number of practical ways during his pastorate at the Santa Paula Spanish Union Mission. He acted as interpreter in the City Courts as well as the Superior Courts in Ventura. He interpreted the customs and laws to his people and interpreted their traditions and outlooks for our magistrates. In this, he brought about more understanding and tolerance than can be measured. Further, he was the “unofficial” probation officer, giving advice and supervision to young people who would have probably become cases for the courts later. He worked with and was an invaluable aid to the Red Cross, the County Welfare Department and other agencies. All of this, of course, without compensation.

“He didn’t just preach a sermon on Sunday he worked all week long” according to the late Judge Alice T. Magil who also disclosed that she had called on him “innumerable times” for advice on different cases. Prior to his last appointment at Fillmore El Salvador Methodist Church, Rev. Tierre served as North District Superintendent of the then Latin American Provisional Conference.

During his ministry in the Old Spanish Mission, Rev. Tierre was a well-known personality in the community. Mexican people were always seeking him for help to fill different kinds of forms or to help them with advice. People would say, “If you need help, go to el Tierre.” I was one of them. When I came back from up north with my Army summons, my brother-in-law told me to go to el Tierra, he would help me fill the forms. He did help me like he helped many other community people. In fact, he was so well known to Santa Paulans that a street

was named after him. Tierra Court is just south of Teague Park.



Epworth League

Front row, L to R; Sabina Vera, Martha Vera, Virginia Escarcega, Vera Sornora, unknown, unknown, Paz Marquez, Virginia E. and Mary Lou Tirre, Stella Colmonera and Toni Salas.

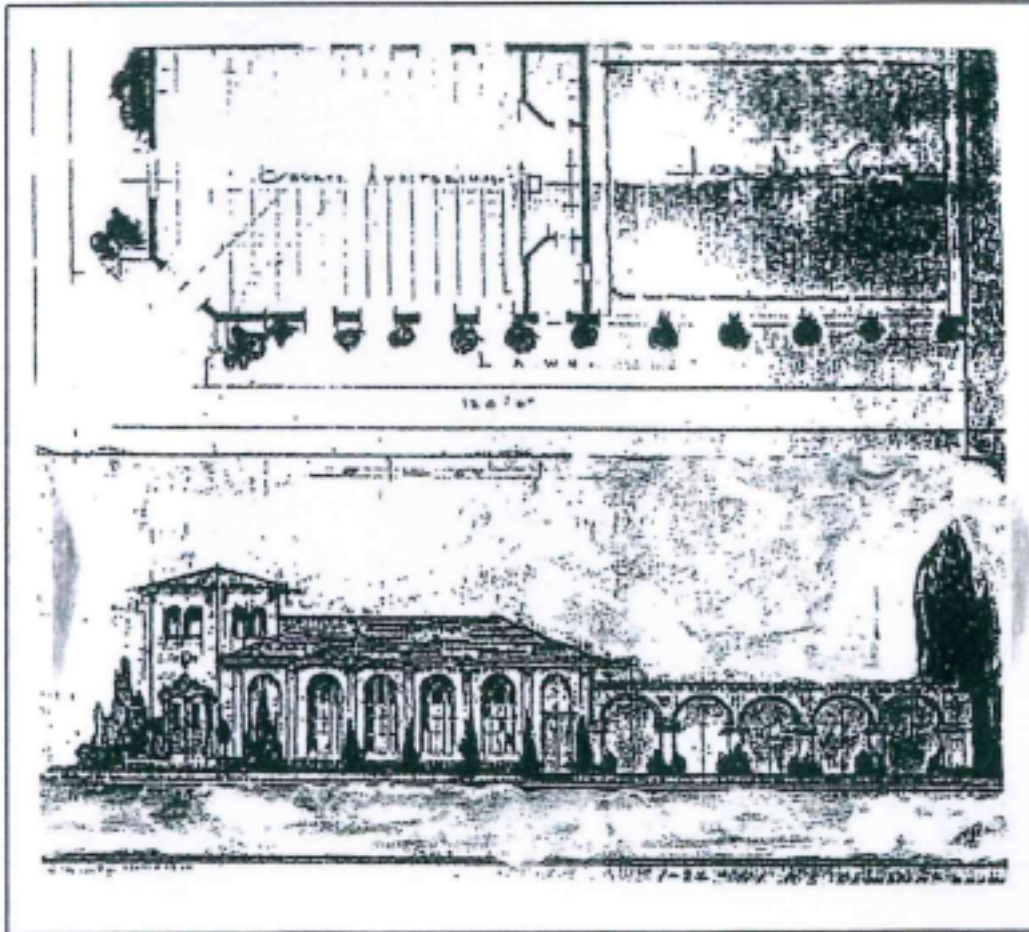
Second row, L to R; Sabino Echavarria, Camilo Delgado, Chonita Delgado, Mrs. Maria Tirre, Eveyln Cisneros, Stella Salas and Lucy Escarcega.

Top row, L to R; Evelyn Vargas, Rev. Luis P. Tirre and Ruben Preciado.



LP Guillermo Tulos, 1944-1945

There is no history on Supply Pastor Guillermo Tulos, 1944-1945. However, according to stories published in a booklet known as “El Mexicano” his wife was a very active missionary in Mexico supported by individuals such as Maria Osuna from Santa Paula and members of El Buen Pastor.



The above plans for a Spanish style church building were drawn by Architect R.S Raymond on July 26, 1941. The approximate cost for proposed buildings was \$9,000.00

These plans were never realized. Rev. Hernandez later tried to revive the idea of a new church building but it ended up in discussion only. Perhaps it was not the time for the project.



The children in this photo are the grandparents of today's children
Church Leaders top row, L to R: Toni Salas, Viola H. Dominguez with her son Walter, Dora Chavez, Michael Hernandez, Stella Salas, Richard Acosta, and Rev. Emilio Hernandez.

After his retirement, he came to live in Santa Paula and on a trip to his native Mexico he injured one of his feet and being a diabetic, he developed gangrene and was taken to Santa Paula Hospital. My wife Naomi and I went to visit him and during the conversation he told us that the doctors had told him that he had to have his leg amputated, but he was defiant saying to us, "I'm not going to let them cut any part of my body." I asked him, doesn't it say in the Bible that if any of the members of our body is going to harm us cut it off? "That's right." He said. "I'll have to think about." With that we ended our visit and after praying, we left.

Two days later we heard that his leg had been removed and the next time we saw him, he was walking with a pair of crutches as he attended church. He spent a lot of time laying in bed but never stopped calling people. My later wife Naomi used to say: "Every time the phone rings and I hear the voice of Rev. Hernandez, I make myself comfortable because I know that there is a long sermon coming."

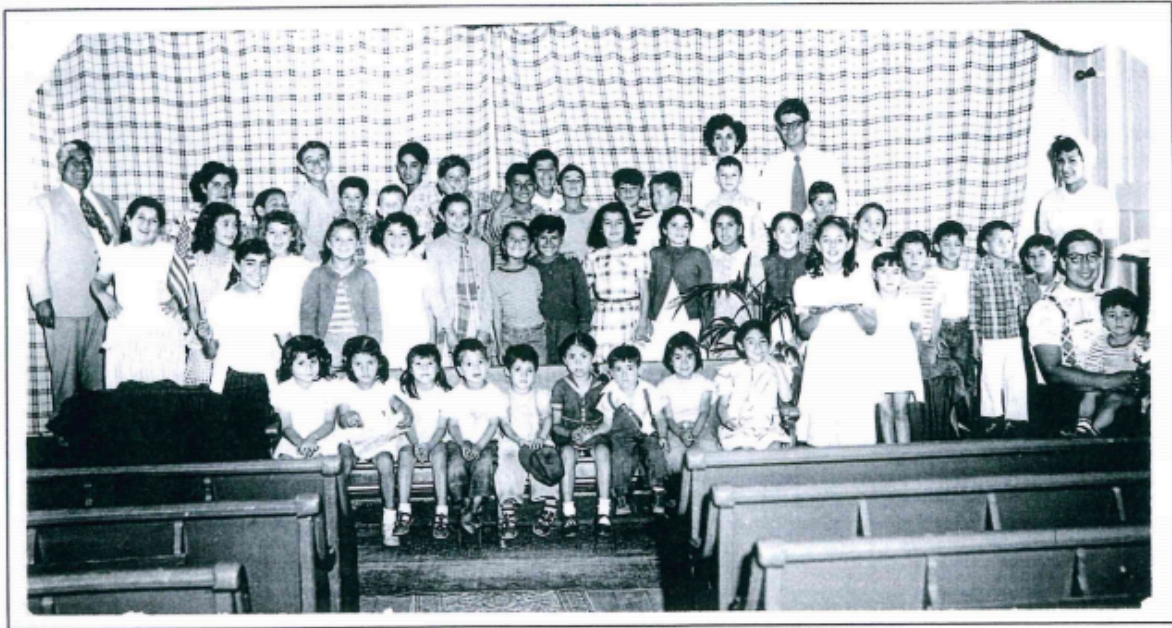
Rev. Hernandez served the Methodist Church as an Organized Clergy for 60 years. He passed away in Santa Paula on May 29, 19723 at the age of 84. "WELL DONE GOOD SERVANT, REST IN PEACE!"

PROPHET

OF THE

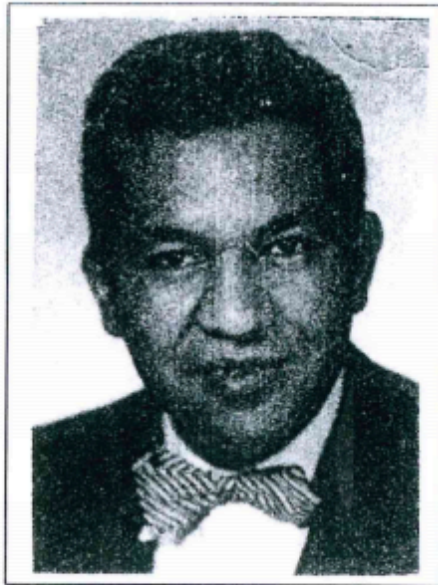
LONG TRAIL





The Santa Paula Union Mission never lacked the presence of children during Rev. Hernandez' ministry with leaders like: Back row, L to R: Rev. Hernandez, Dora Chavez, Toni Salas, Richard Acosta, Stella Salas and Michael Hernandez with baby in his arms.

On November 11, 1947, the Union Spanish Mission Association of Santa Paula disbanded and turned all its assets over to the Latin American of Missions of Methodists Church.



Rev. Mardoqueo L. Olivas, 1952-1958

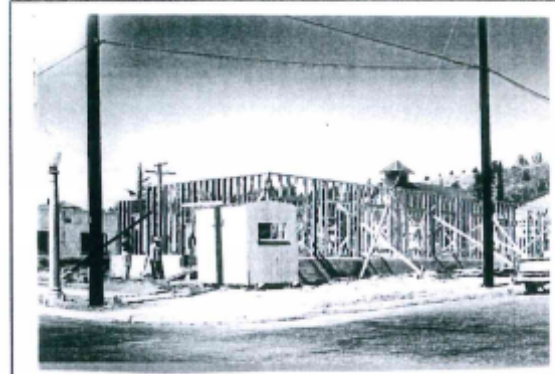
In 1952 Rev. Mardoqueo (Mardy) Olivas was appointed to pastor the Mission.

After seeing the small chapel where he was to minister with his wife Hele, he was highly disappointed and once he acquainted himself with the congregation, he began encouraging the church membership to renew previous plans for building a new more adequate church building. On September 16, 1952, a church construction committee was organized and formed by Mrs. Carrmen Levario, Angelita Victora, Concepcion M. Salas, Jess Echavarria, Sabino Echavarria and Leon Marquez. He also went out into the community and sought the help and influence of other church pastors and community leaders and before long, he had the support of the community and a campaign to raise funds began.

A fund raising committee was organized made up of" Mr. Arthur Walden (chair), Dr. H.I.Q. Brown, John Samways, Fred Stewart, Eliot Blanchard, Max Rudolph, Jack Kline, William Cornitius, Perry Barker, Ira Bullard and Rev. Mardy Olivas.

Goal of the campaign was \$25,350.00. In the first week of the campaign \$4,755 were raised. The congregation raised \$12,970.00 by means of dinners and other projects along with the assistance from the Methodist Mission, which raised the total of the fund to \$17,725. The proposed building was to consist of, the sanctuary, an office, four Sunday school rooms, a social hall and a kitchen.

It was estimated that 140 family members would make use of the facility. The campaign continued to reach the goal established. Much of the work and materials was donated.



Soon the old chapel was wheeled to the back of the lot and using picks and shovels, church members began digging the foundations for a new building. Once the trenches were dug, concrete began filling the trenches and floors, and soon after the frames began to take form. By early 1954, the new sanctuary and its Sunday school rooms and kitchen were finished.

Dedication of the new buildings by District Superintendent Dr. Douglas Walters took place on April 11, 1954 and the church became The SPANISH COMMUNITY METHODIST CHURCH with Rev. Mardoqueo L. Olivas as Pastor.



The Official Board members

Sitting L to R; Concepcion M. Salas (Treasurer), Angela Victoria, Maria Osuna, Carmen Levario, Paz Marquez, Leandra Escarcega and Alejandra Gonzales.

Standing L to R; Jess Echavarria, Albino Pineda (chair), Leon Marquez, Valentin Gonzales and Encarnacion Escarcega.



Rev. Manuel R. Moran, 1958-1963

Rev. Manuel R. Moran was appointed to the Spanish Community Methodist church July 1, 1958. An experiencing pastor, he continued the momentum of congregational activities set by his predecessor. His charge was the churches in Santa Paula and Filmore. The church in Filmore had its own pastors for a few years but it was not back in Santa Paula Circuit. He never the less, kept both churches going. The Santa Paula congregation had started a large community Boy Scout Troop with may of our own boys joining. In fact, we had two of our boys reach the rank of Eagle Scout Rev. Moran was a sort of pioneer in starting soccer teams here in Santa Paula and Filmore. In those days soccer games were a novelty. The choir under the direction of Miss Julia Huerta was well organized and provided the anthems on Sunday morning services.



Members of Boy Scout Troop 37. Scout Leader, Joe Villa and Scout Master, Carlos Antunez

We had Sunday School classes for all ages.



Hortensia Gonzalez with her Kindergarten Class



Josie Salas and her Primary Class



Solomon Munoz, 1963-1972

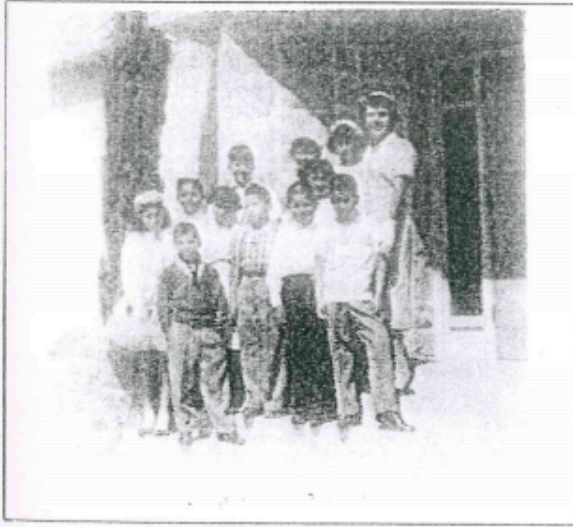
Local Pastor Solomon Munoz was appointed to the local church on July 1, 1963. That year the Spanish Community Methodist Church changed its name and it became EL BUEN PASTOR METHODIST CHURCH. The church at that point had a thriving Sunday school and by 1968 with six Sunday School Classes and only four classrooms, the pastor and the congregation decided that it was time for action. So, it was decided to make plans for a new addition to the buildings.

A building plan was developed which called for a two-story building that would house a large social hall on the bottom floor and four large classrooms on the second floor. In May 1968 the United Brethren Church and the Methodist Church united thus becoming the UNITED METHODIST CHURCH. On that year the local launched a fund-raising campaign with \$70,000 as the goal to be reached by 1973.

On November 18, 1971, El Buen Pastor United Methodist Church was duly incorporated into the State of California as a Religious Non-Profit Organization with the following persons as a Board of Trustees: Andrew Gonzales, Joseph Gonzales, Julia Huerta, Harold B. Kennedy, Antonio R. Pineda, Morris Rodriguez, Josephine A. Salazar, Rodolfo Soto (Presiding Officer) and Barbara L. Villa (Secretary).

Pastor Munoz and his wife Vivian served the church with much enthusiasm and expectation but due to his transfer to another church on June 1, 1977, he never saw the fulfillment of the building plans.

We had Sunday School classes for all ages.



Naomi Pineda and her Juniors Class



Stella Bustillos and her Seniors Class



Members of Boy Scout Troop 37. Jess Echavarria and John Pineda with Pastor Solomon Munoz



Rev. Josue Castro, 1972-1977

Rev. Josue Castro was appointed to El Buen Pastor UMC on July 1, 1972. He came with his wife Ernestina and his young daughter Tina. The church in Fillmore was still a part of the charge. He would split Sundays between both churches.

Rev. Castro was very pleased with the way the congregation welcomed him and his family. He found the church working well in all areas of ministry. Sunday morning worship services and Sunday School for all ages were taking place and an evening service as well. On Wednesdays an evening prayer and Bible study group met. In Fillmore at El Salvador UMC, two worship services were taking place on Sundays and one on Thursday evenings. Layman from El Buen Pastor led the evening services and Leo Ramos was doing evangelistic work there.

Unfortunately, On June 30, 1973, the church was forced to close. Some of the members started to attend El Buen Pastor In Santa Paula. The church served the Spanish speaking community of Fillmore for 51 years.



Joe Limon, Agnes W. Harris, Frances Limon and Rev. Josue Castro enjoying a horse carriage ride during the Country Centennial celebration at El Buen Pastor UMC. (June 1976)



Rev. Ariel Zambrano, 1977-1989

Rev. Ariel Zambrano was appointed to El Buen Pastor UMC on July 1, 1977. He came to Santa Paula with his wife Mary and their three children, John, Lucy, and Mario. The Zambranos quickly adapted themselves to the ministry of the church as well as to the community. Mary, who came from an Anglo-Saxon background, has been a missionary in Mexico where she met and married Ariel. They loved their children and they both were very effective in ministry. Mary was not only involved in the church but also in the community. As chair of

the Church's Commission on Church and Society, she was involved in programs that dealt with the homelessness, farm workers and other areas of human justice. Rev. Zambrano on the other hand kept the church active in all the areas of the ministry. The parsonage was always a welcoming place. On Sunday evenings after the service they would invite us to go and have coffee and all kinds of goodies with them. It seemed like Mary always has a table with something to eat. Many interesting events took place during Rev. Zambranos ministry in Santa Paula.



Rev. Zambrano baptizing one of our youth, Manuel Jimenez in the COLD waters of the Santa Clara River while Gary Kennedy and David Marquez wait to pull him out.

Closing Vacation Bible School 1974 and 1978

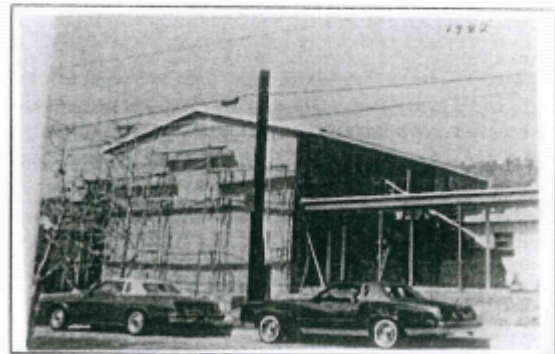
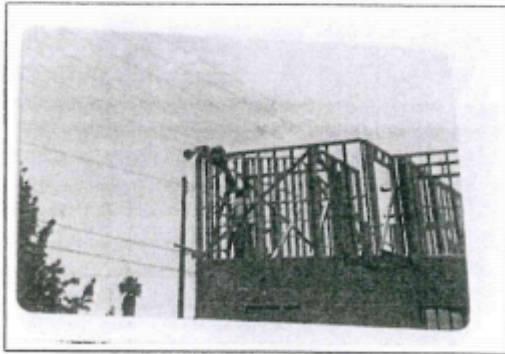


The year 1980 brought to reality the dreams of the congregation to add an educational building to the church property. The adjacent two bedroom stucco building served as a parsonage until 1971 when a new parsonage was bought and the old building was used for

Sunday School classes and other church meetings until 1980 when it was demolished. On September 12, of that same year, ground was broken for the new building with District Superintendent Dr. Robert Habersham presiding over ceremonies with other dignitaries present.



L to R: Tony Pineda, Maria Ramos, Josephine Salazar, S.P. Mayor Al Urias, William B. Bollins Conf. Global Min. Exec, John W. Kirkman. Conf. Treasurer, John Stroh, Architect, Paul Leavens, Rev. Mardy Olivas, Joe Limon (hidden), Dr. Robert Habersham, Al Pineda, MC and Rev. Ariel Zambrano.



Contractors built the floor, framing, roof and plumbing. Construction experienced church members took care of the rest of the work. The General Board of Global Ministries provided a mortgage grant loan for \$25,000 and \$ 50,000 was raised by the congregation.



By 1983, the new two-story building and beautiful patio were completed and dedicated on December 12, 1983 by Bishop Jack M. Tuell.

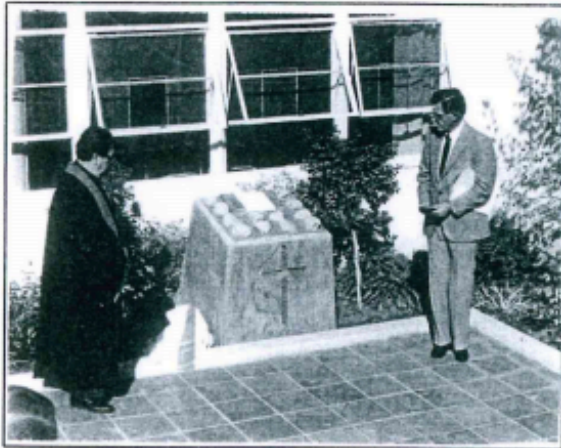


Bishop Jack M. Tuell and Rev. Ariel Zambrano pose after the Building Dedication Ceremony.



The majority of the United Methodist Men shown above, were the ones that gave the finishing touches to the new building with the encouraging words from pastor Zambrano who always stood at ground level.

On December 1, 1984, the Monument that stands by the beautiful tiled patio was dedicated in honor of the pioneers of the early Mission, community people, pastors and church members who had dreamed, built and pledged that this church may become a reality. May it always glorify God in its service to others. Different families were asked to bring a small stone from the Santa Paula Creek and were placed on top of the monument. The monument was designed and built by Al Pineda with the help of Joe Limon.



Rev. Ariel Zambrano and Al Pineda officiating during the dedication of the monument.



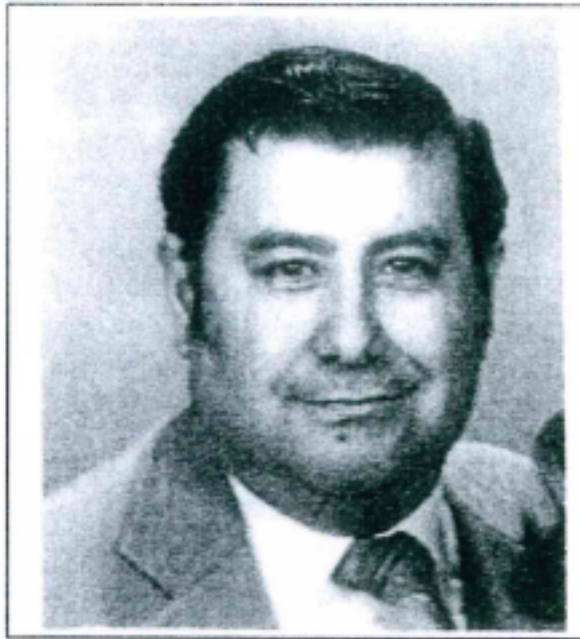
Handsome quartet: The graduates; Bengi Gonzales Teddy Ayon, Rev. Zambrano and David Johnson.

During those years Rev. Zambrano was studying for his Doctorate Degree at the School of Theology at Claremont. On July 17, 1986 he graduated and received his degree thus becoming the Rev. Dr. Ariel Zambrano. Naomi and I along with his family were present during his graduation.

On June 30, 1989, Dr. Zambrano retired from the active ministry thus fulfilling the second of longest appointment serving El Buen Pastor UMC since Rev. Luis P. Tierra who served 13 years. Dr. Zambrano and Mary went to live at Pilgrims Place, a retirement community in Claremont, California. Their adopted children John and Lucy had married and were living in the Los Angeles area while Mario was in a special school. Ariel and Mary continued very active. He wrote two books based on the Psalms "Alsare Mis Ojos" and "Me Ha Tocado". He also stated painting using watercolors and did some good scenes. At the time I was Conference Director of the Hispanic Mission and I had the active support of Dr. Zambrano. He and other were very involved in the ministry I was assigned to. We did work several times with the pastors of the Northwest Conference of Mexico. He remained very active until the day he passed away on February 9, 2005. Lydia and I were there just before his passing.

Mary Zambrano remarried on February 19, 2006 and continued living at Pilgrim's Place. Unfortunately, eight months later she became seriously ill and again Lydia and I went to visit her at the Retirement Community Clinic. She was conscious but could speak. She had another couple visiting as we went in. We gently sang El Pescador to her and she held Lydia's hand as we sang to her. The following day we heard the sad news that she passed

away. It is folks like these that teach us to live happy lives and share out lives with others that they may also live happy lives.



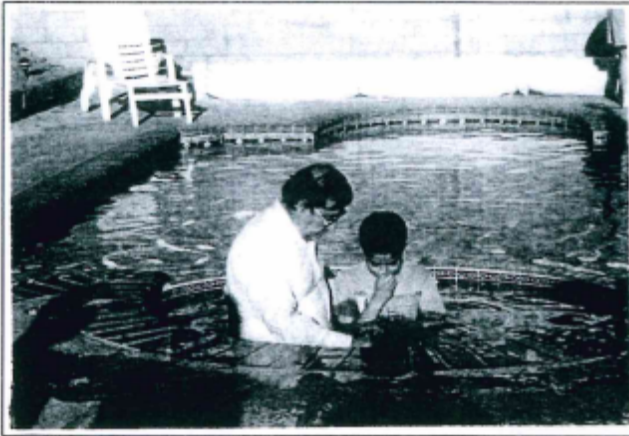
Rev. Josue P. Mora, 1989-1994

Rev. Josue P. Mora was appointed to El Buen Pastor UMC only July 1, 1989. His wife Hortensia joined him later.

A pastor in Texas had been contacted who had an interest to come to California. But for some reason our D.S decided that he was not the person for Santa Paula. Somehow Rev. Mora's name came about and we contacted him. The members of the Pastor Parish Relations Committee went to the district office and interviewed him. We then brought him to Santa Paula to check out the church and the community. He liked what he saw, so we recommended him for appointments to El Buen Pastor.

During his appointment at El Buen Pastor UMC, he maintained the high spirit of the congregation. The services were well attended and so were our Sunday School classes.

Rev. Mora served El Buen Pastor UMC until June 30, 1994. He was then appointed to a church in the Los Angeles area, His wife Hortensia later worked for a while as secretary of the Hispanic Mission before the moved to Texas.



Rev. Mora baptizing children and MYF youth at David Marquez' home swimming pool.



The Bus Ministry: Frank Osuna drove the bus while Tita Vargas, Lucy Valencia and Frances Limon helped pick up children at their homes and brought them to Sunday School.



Group of children attending Vacation Bible School

Virginia Gonzales managing
the UMW clothing bazaar.



Al Pineda sharing church stories with
Alfonso Dominguez, Jr. during the
dedication of the Church Library in
honor of his parents, Rev. Alfonso
and Celia Dominguez, July 26, 1992.



Rev. Jose Vindel, 1994-2005

The appointment of Jose Vindel to El Buen Pastor UMC in Santa Paula, was something that brought a great deal of satisfaction to me. During my years as Director of Conference Hispanic Ministries, I made several recommendations for appointments but this one was the best. Jose Vindel had called me at my office a couple of tie asking if I knew of a possible church opening for an appointment. I told him that I would let him know. It so happened that at the end of June 1994, there was no appointment for El Buen Past UMC. A prospective applicant ad not met the criteria. So on July 25, I met with Jose Vindel and told him all about the church and he agreed to preach on the first two Sundays of August. After checking out his resume and recommendation from the Long Beach District Superintendent, on July 28, the Santa Barbara District Superintendent and I met with Jose Vindel and agreed to have him serve part time temporarily until a full appointment from the Bishop upon his return from vacation. After the Bishop's formal appointment, Jose Vindel became a full time local pastor at El Buen Pastor UMC. On December 5, 1994 I met with Pastor Vindel to help him fill his Charge Conference Report. He then took the course of study and became a certified local pastor. He then began attending the seminary on a part-time basis and after graduation, he went before the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry and assed all the Boards Requirements and was formally ordained and became the Revered Jose Vindel.

Rev. Vindel had the stamina of a young adult to deal with all the needs of the congregation. His demeanor was very much accepted by young and old. He became known in the

community as he represented the church in different local civic activities. Eventually through his involvement in the local Ministerial Association, he was named Chaplain of Santa Paula Fire Department where he served with distinction as a volunteer for seven years. In the church, he carried on the vitality that characterized the congregation at that time. We had a choir, a men's group, and the women's group. Young people and children were evident in the congregation. He helped organize the program for the celebration of the church's 90th Anniversary, which took place February 11, 2004 with Bishop Mary Ann Swenson and District Superintendent Richard C. Garner participating.

Rev. Vindel made sure that local church leaders serving in different capacities of our church ministry were recognized.

After 11 years of ministry at El Buen Pastor UMC in Santa Paula, Rev. Jose Vindel was appointed to serve at St. Paul's UMC in San Bernardino, California.

Bishop Mary Ann Swenson, Rev. Jose Vindel, District Superintendent Rev. Richard Garner at the 90th Anniversary celebration on February 11, 2004.



Wednesday, June 29, 2005 Santa Pau
Wednesday, June 29, 2005 Santa Pau
Fire Chaplain Jose Vindel leaving
SPFD after seven years of service



Choir members: L to R: Lydia Pineda, Fina Salazar, Frances Escarcega, Virginia Gonzales and Lucy Valencia. Back row: Rev. Vindel



Rev. Guadalupe Alonso-Redondo, 2005-2008

On July 1, 2005 Rev. Guadalupe (Lupita) Alonso-Redondo was appointed to El Buen Pastor UMC. Although confined to a motorized wheelchair, Lupita, a person with a cheerful

personality, is the go-getter type. While here, her confinement to a wheelchair didn't seem to bother her. On Sunday mornings before people arrived, she was at the pulpit ready to present her sermon. During the week when we brought a load of food for distribution, she would put a few full bags on her lap and drive her battery operated wheelchair around the church neighborhood delivering them where she knew there was a need.

Her messages were uplifting and she would visit the homebound. Her husband, Santiago who is also wheelchair bound, drove a specially fitted van that made it easier for both of them to transport themselves. Pastora Lupita, Santiago and Nicey (Missions Chairperson) used the van for a mission trip to a rural providence in Mexicali, BC Mexico. They transported donated clothes, shoes, beanies and gloves that were distributed to the children after a worship service in their newly built Methodist Church.

The peace Pole in front of the building was installed her suggestion. Bishop Mary Ann Swenson dedicated and participated in the setting of the Peace Pole with the assistance of Steve and Danny Gonzales. There were others that also participated in the ceremonies.



Pastora Lupita and husband Santiago.



Installation of the Peace Pole (April 18, 2007) by Bishop Mary Ann Swenson, Steve Gonzales and Danny Gonzales.



Rev. Lupita Alonzo-Redondo and Al Pineda unveiling a plaque naming the El Buen Pastor UMC Educational Building in honor of Rev. Ariel Zambrano for his leadership during the building of the structure.



Rev. Lupita Alonzo-Redondo and Al Pineda unveiling a plaque naming the El Buen Pastor UMC Educational Building in honor of Rev. Ariel Zambrano for his leadership during the building of the structure.

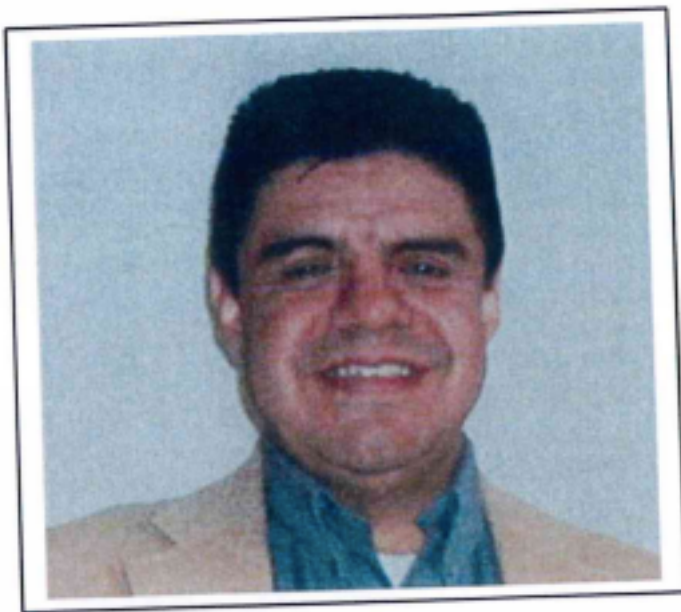


Rev. John Valles, 2008-2009

Rev. John Valles was appointed to El Buen Pastor UMC on July 2, 2008 after serving as Superintendent of the Cal-Pac Annual Conference Riverside District. John and his wife, Rev. Anita J. Valles, who was appointed to Santa Paula First UMC, came to our Conference in 1994 and served churches in the L.A and Pasadena Districts before coming here. Their appointments here were to fill a gap of one year before their retirement in Texas. During his ministry at El Buen Pastor UMC, John managed to hold a training event on the Development of a Mission Statement and goals for the church.



Front: Pamela Luna
Sitting L to R: Virginia Gonzales, Toni Kennedy, Sheila Marquez and Tita Vargas.
Standing L to R: Dora Reyes, Lucy Valencia, Marina Urias, Fina Salazar, Lydia and Al Pineda, and Rev. John Valles.



Rev. Joel Hortiales, 2009-2013

Rev. Joel Hortiales was appointed as a full time pastor to El Buen Pastor UMC on July 2009. His previous ministry was in Maywood, California where he minister to a multi-ethnic congregation. Rev. Hortiales is an excellent preacher. His messages in English and Spanish were inspiring and his ministry besides preaching was visiting the home bound. He with

Lydia Pineda would pray for people during the services anointing them would oil. During his first year at El Buen Pastor he held several trainings for the leadership of the church.

On July 1, 2010 he was assigned to both local churches, Santa Paula First UMC and El Buen Pastor UMC. During this assignment he held combined services, bible studies and a training event for the leaders and members of both churches. The sister congregation became closer and worked well together.

He was instrumental in working with The Spirit of Santa Paula and our Mission's Chairperson to host a homeless shelter at El Buen Pastor during the winter months for two years. El Buen Pastor, Santa Paula First and other churches in the community prepared and shared meals with the homeless. Pastor Hortiales and other community churches took turns leading a bible study once a week. We were all very blessed to experience this ministry with each other.

On July 1, 2013 Rev, Hortiales was appointed Associate Director of Latino/Hispanic Ministries for the Cal-Pac Annual Conference. Up to now he and his wife Carmen Julia, with their three children have chosen to continue living in Santa Paula.



Rev. Joel Hortiales, Carmen Julia and their three children, Alicia, Carmen and Joel David.



Pastor Hortiales leading Bible study with Church members and the homeless.



Danny Gonzales assisting Pastor Hortiales with Communion at the homeless shelter.



Baptizing the children at
2011 Annual Conference



Vacation Bible School 2011



Rev. Dr. Myrian Monnet, 2013 to present

Rev. Dr. Myrian Monnet was assigned to El Buen Pastor UMC as a full-time pastor on August 1, 2013. Her previous appointment was at Trinity UMC in Ontario, California. Rev. Myrian, an experienced bilingual pastor, is gradually acquainting herself with the church membership. She preaches at all three services at El Buen Pastor UMC and has continued to bring our sister congregation at First Santa Paula UMC together for an occasional combined service.

The El Buena Pastor UMC Ministry at Vista Cover Care Center in Santa Paula (formerly Twin Pines Healthcare Nursing Home) goes back many years. A group of churches members hold a worship service for patients at the facility every Saturday morning and Pastora Myrian serves Communion once a month.



In this photo, Frank Osuna is leading the service and preaching.
L to R: Grace Vasquez, Frances Limon, Frank Osuna, Chuck Socket and Victor Salas, Sr.