

RENOVATION OF THE EMBUDO CHURCH MANSE

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When the old Brooklyn Cottage Hospital (est.1914) moved to the larger Embudo Presbyterian Hospital in 1940, the old building was given to the Embudo Church for use as a manse. It served in this capacity for many years and then was rented. Eventually, the building came into disrepair and could no longer be used. The church agonized over whether to sell this historic site or to keep it. No one wanted to get rid of it, but the congregation could not afford to fix it either. A manse committee had explored many options, none of which seemed viable. Then, in November, 2009, an angel appeared in the form of an anonymous gift of \$50,000 through the Santa Fe Community Foundation to be used specifically for manse repair. A report of accountability was to be given to the Foundation in a year.

With praise and thanksgiving, the church got to work. Several members, Ben Valdez and Irene Smith, became instrumental in handling funds, engaging a contractor and overseeing the work. In a year's time and within the \$50,000 framework, much work has been accomplished. A septic system was completed, a partial new roof was built, new double-paned windows installed and the exterior completely re-stuccoed. A new bathroom and laundry rooms were formed, new bathroom plumbing, lighting and heaters installed, a wall was opened to make an archway and the interior was plastered in a diamond finish. With additional funds, a cement garage floor was poured and a new garage door installed. The old stonewall in front was replaced with an adobe wall.

The \$50,000 has been spent and the church is now raising \$15,000 to complete the project. This money will be used for kitchen cupboards, kitchen stove and refrigerator, washer, dryer and water heater, as well as bathroom fixtures.

Because the building was originally used for community purposes as a hospital, the congregation was hoping that it could again be used for the community. However, the small land size prohibited it from being used commercially. As an alternative, it was decided that 35% of the rental income would be donated for community projects.