



NEWSLETTER OF THE

**Estancia United Methodist Church
600 Williams, Estancia, New Mexico**

<http://www.estanciamethodist.org>



JANUARY, 2018

Estancia United Methodist Church

www.EstanciaMethodist.org

600 W. Williams, P.O. Box 126, Estancia, NM 87016

Rev. Keith Smith Ph 505-234-4959

Email smithkw@gmail.com

Church Council Chair	Melanie Chavez
Comptroller & Trustees Chair	Bill Simms
Finance & Worship Chair	Julie Griffo
Kitchen Crew	Alma Wimsatt
Lay Leader Ann. Conf. Delegate, Recording Sec.	Elaine Darnell
McMurry College Representative	Raymond Moore
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Membership Rolls	Carolyn Moore & Marque Sturges
Music	Morrow Hall
Outreach & Food Vouchers	Butch McGee
Staff Parrish Relations Chair	Lee Widner
United Methodist Men Chair	Nick Griffo
United Methodist Youth Fellowship	Alexandra Chavez

Mountainair United Methodist Church

211 S. Sunset, Mountainair, NM 87036

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Church Council Chair, Lay Leader,	
Worship Chair & Recording Secretary	Patty Mahoney
Finance Chair	David Dixon
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Staff Parrish Relations Chair	Bertha Warner

FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Are you going on to perfection? There are several frames of reference present in this question. In Matthew 5:48 Jesus instructed us, *"Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."* The apostle Paul wrote in Philippians that he had not yet achieved perfection, but pressed on toward that goal. And from John Wesley we as United Methodists are challenged with that historic question, as are all candidates for United Methodist ordination.

Our relationship with God has been termed a *"faith journey."* This is an excellent way of thinking about it. We might take our first steps without much thought because we were raised in the Church. Or perhaps we came to Christ through a friend, without much knowledge of the Bible. But, as we progress in faith, we read the Bible and the writings of those who have journeyed before us, and we see the work of the Holy Spirit in our own lives and the lives of others. We see fewer "coincidences" and more of the hand of God. Brothers and sisters further along in their journey have a responsibility to teach less mature Christians, and lead by example.

Although we occasionally stumble along the journey, it's important that we don't stand still. We should never be satisfied that we know enough, do enough, love God and our neighbors enough. The concept of Christian Perfection is not simple, and is the subject of many books and articles. Even if we reach a point of Christian perfection for a time, we are all the more responsible to teach and love others. Lack of motion isn't stability, it's stagnation.

At this change of years, it's common to plan change in our lives, losing weight, stepping away from habits that are unworthy of treating our

bodies as temples of God. And these are excellent ideas for exactly that reason - we should honor our bodies as the gifts from God that they are. Even though we know that they will one day fail, we have replacements waiting, and in the mean time we should care for these. The suggestion that comes next won't surprise you: Continue the journey; don't be stagnant. Every Christian is at a different point along the journey. The important part is not where you are, but where you are today compared with where you were yesterday, last week, and where you will be tomorrow. An idle mind is the Devil's playground, let's keep our minds filled with the Word and the will of God, and keep *going on to perfection.*

- Pastor Keith



Sydney reading from the book of Luke during Kings Kids



Sanctuary on Christmas Eve morning 2017

Sunday December 17th

Christmas Eve Morning



Contact Information, Please...

2018 called, and requested your current updated contact information. To put the bottom line up front, please email your preferred contact information to smithkw@gmail.com, or text or phone it to 505-234-4959. Also, please include a mailing address. If your preferred method is phone, please indicate whether you have an answering machine/voicemail.

Background

We need a failsafe method to communicate with the church. Prayer chains and our robo-call system are far from perfect... SO, we need a mailing address, physical address, email address, and phone number(s) for the entire church. This allows contact appropriate to the message. Less time-critical messages, such as a copy of this newsletter (if requested) could be emailed. More important information, such as hospitalizations or imminent funeral services, could be phoned or texted. Any help you can provide in moving EUMC toward 2018 will be mutually beneficial, i.e., please do this now, while you're thinking about it. This is one thing we all can do to help our church get started in the new year!

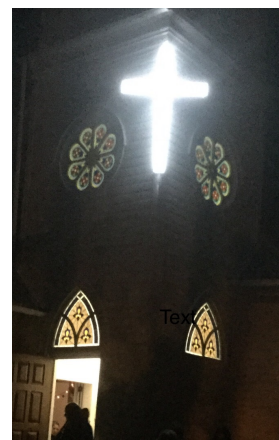
-Pastor Keith

SIX MONTH UPDATE!

A little birdie told me that we have been worshiping together for 6 months. Okay, it wasn't a little birdie- I received the bill for my PO box. During this time one question comes up more than any other, "How do you like it?" Since this half-year mini milestone comes at a time when people typically look both back and forward, here's my version of that Janus approach.

(But first, a side note. Encyclopedia Britannica says that January was named for the Greek god Janus but Wikipedia says, "It is conventionally thought that the month of January is named for Janus (Ianuarius), but according to ancient Roman farmers' almanacs Juno was the tutelary deity of the month." Technically, citing *one* source that says Juno was the tutelary deity (Think of it as the patron god) of the month doesn't make any claim about who the month was named after, and both could be true. Why am I spending time on trivia like this? Because I see the same thing happen in discussions and claims about God's will and Word. Hopefully you know that "God will never give you more than you can handle" is *nowhere* to be found in the Bible. What does that even mean? When Job was sitting in ashes scraping his sores with a piece from one of Alma's rejects, did he have more than he could handle? What do these "helpful" people think is the dividing line between what we can and can't handle? The point of this is, please do not accept anything I or anybody else tells you about God's Word and His will as revealed in His Word without confirming it for yourself. You have a Bible and a brain. And I am *always* willing to explain why I say what I do, and the *Biblical* (not personal) justification behind everything I say from the pulpit. I respect and follow John Wesley in being a "homo unius libri"- a man of one book. I will make no claim that is inconsistent with that collection of 66 writings and challenge you to require that of any religious claim.

Now where were we? Looking back, the men are meeting again, and we got *most* of Mary Alice's stoop done. It needs another step, which hopefully "we" will get to sooner than the original project was in the works. The heated concrete is essentially stalled. Thankfully (from just that standpoint) two months without rain/snow/hail/sleet have kept the steps and ramp from being a hazard. Our cross can be seen at night from space (more importantly, from 5th street), and should be maintenance free for years. The greens got hung, and unhung, we convinced some kids on All Hallow's Eve that the big white building is a scary place (we're rethinking that!) and confirmed that if you grill hot dogs, they will come. The sanctuary lights are (EUMC) or will soon be (MUMC) LEDs, and the Estancia lighting controls no longer have black tape or "don't use" notices. The EUMC chandeliers are now on a dimmer, and the furnace works now that the little birdie has been removed.



How do I like it? I *love* that people are willing to step forward and be the hands and feet of God. Jobs get done with no arm twisting. I *hate* hearing "they used to be members here." This is especially distressing when it's not clear that whoever left has found another Christian Church home. I am delighted with the welcoming warmth I have experienced, and the various ways it has been expressed. Every day here I love it more, and try to avoid trips to the city unless it's unavoidable.

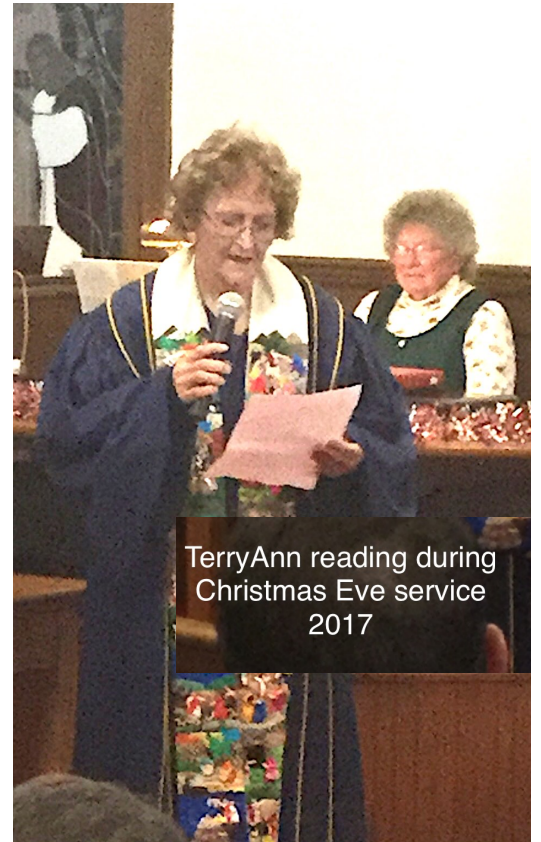
Looking forward. We really need to make some concrete plans, both in Estancia and Mountainair. Yes, that's a play on words, but it's not a joke. The Ed building needs a porch light. We need to continue the great work being visible members in the community, and think about starting or restarting additional work. Confirmation class? VBS? Choir? Regular Sunday School (adult and youth)? Caroling at Christmas (with or without a trailer)? Entry in the Christmas parade? Plans for Easter, next summer? I have a book which I haven't read, because the title strikes me as silly: "Can the Pastor Do it Alone?" It seems to me it should be Page 1- "No." End of book. I have no idea how or why they stretched "No" into several hundred pages. Perhaps if my only other option is to read the ingredients on a water bottle I'll turn to that book. You are the church. What is your vision of 2018?

- Pastor Keith

Christmas Eve Morning



Christmas Eve Service



Christmas Eve Service, December 24, 2017 At Estancia United Methodist Church and Mountainair United Methodist Church

On a beautiful Sunday evening, the members of the Estancia United Methodist Church and members of Mountainair United Church gathered in Estancia to celebrate the birth of Christ. We celebrated the One who opened the gates of Heaven and eternal life to all who open their hearts to Him. There was singing of songs and various people read from the Bible the story of Jesus' birth. The service ended with the lightening of a single candle passing from hand to hand as we departed to our homes. May his grace be with us all throughout this coming year.



JANUARY 2018

24calendars.com

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 NEW YEAR'S DAY!	2	3	4	5	6
7 Worship 9:00 AM Mtair 11:00 AM	8 ECHO Food Distribution 9:00 - 12:00	9	10	11	12	13
14 Worship 9:00 AM Mtair 11:00 AM	15	16	17	18	19	20 Men's Breakfast 8:00 AM
21 Worship 9:00 AM Mtair 11:00 AM	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Worship 9:00 AM Mtair 11:00 AM	29	30	31			

ECHO Food Distribution will be on Monday, January 8th from 9-12.



Sent with a prayer to:



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

PRAYER REMINDS US

When a believing person prays, great things happen.

James 5:16

Prayer is the recognition that if God had not engaged himself in our problems, we would still be lost in the blackness. It is by his mercy that we have been lifted up. Prayer is that whole process that reminds us of who God is and who we are.

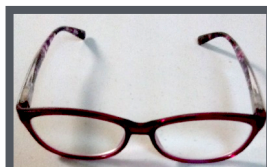
I believe there's great power in prayer. I believe God heals the wounded, and that he can raise the dead. But I don't believe we tell God what to do and when to do it.

God knows that we, with our limited vision, know that for which we should pray. When we trust our requests to him, we trust him to honor our prayers with holy judgement.

Walking with the Savior

By Max Lucado

-Contributed by Alma Wimsatt



Should that be you behind those Foster Grants? These women's prescription glasses (yes, they are Foster Grant!) were left behind several weeks ago. If they are yours, they are waiting for you in the Education building.