



NEWSLETTER
OF THE
Estancia United Methodist
Church

600 Williams, Estancia, New Mexico

<http://www.estanciamethodist.org>

SPRING



MARCH, 2015

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Your Church Staff

Chairperson of Church Council	Melanie Chavez
Recording Secretary	Vickie Coburn
Organist	Morrow Hall
Lay Member of the Annual Conference	Elaine Darnell
Lay Leader	Elaine Darnell
Chairperson: Board of Trustees	Bill Simms
Worship Team Leader	Julie Griffo
Education	Julie Griffo & Melanie Chavez
Care and Outreach Team Leader	Barbara Simms
Chairperson: Pastor Parish Relations	Nick Griffo
Food Pantry	Butch McGee
Financial Secretary	Vickie Coburn
Church Treasurer	Vickie Coburn
President UMM	Nick Griffo
McMurry Rep	Julie Griffo
Sacramento Camp Rep	Melanie Chavez

Bishop: Bishop W. Earl Bledsoe
District Superintendent: Rev. James E. Large
Visit our website at:

<http://www.estanciamethodist.org>



Sunday Worship 9:00 AM

From the Desk of... *Pastor Bonnie*



We've got the JOY, JOY, JOY, JOY... It was wonderful to have 34 in attendance at our first ever FLASH MOB at Bella Notte on Valentine's Day!

And the pancakes on Fat Tuesday (held on Ash Wednesday!) were Yummy...

And even the Service of Ashes was an occasion for JOY in my book, with all those children singing their hearts out!



Thanks for the Blessings!

And we're OFF !!!

The Healthy Church Initiative (HCI) is in full swing at both Estancia and Mountainair Churches. Our leadership approved participation in HCI in January. The initiative is an effort to improve church vitality and relevance in our communities, and includes:

1. *Leadership Development*
2. *Church Self-Study Assessment*
3. *Weekend Consultation*
4. *Congregational Discernment*
5. *Implementation of Recommendations*
6. *Monthly On-Site and/or Phone Coaching*

What can a congregation expect to get from participating in the Healthy Church Initiative?

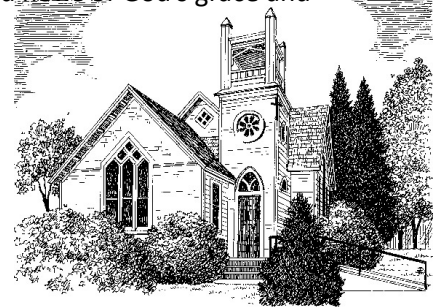
- **Focus** on what is essential to being a relevant, passionate, life changing church.
- **Increased momentum and enthusiasm** for embracing the changes needed to be more effective in ministry, outreach, faith development, and financial stability.

What can each person expect to get out of participating in the Health Church Initiative?

- Personal spiritual growth
- Development and enhancement of leadership skills in a church setting
- Increased ability to be more effective at partnering with God to share the good news of God's grace and saving love through Jesus Christ.

We began in January by reading 2 books by Rev. Robert Farr:

- *Renovate or Die*
- *Get Their Name*



Our first HCI joint meeting was held Sunday, February 8:

To help get us focused, our facilitator, Cheri Lyon, asked us 2 questions:

1) What do you really want for yourself and your family?

We responded - Firm foundation in God, Family members come to know Christ, Good Health, Peace, More compassionate, Healthy Relationships, Wisdom/Understanding, Support for filling our purpose in life, Go to heaven, Sense of community.

2) What do you really want for your church?

We responded – Passion for God and compassion for his people, Be a vital part of the community, Grow and bring more people to Christ, Want to “go to” and not “have to”, Bold and obedient disciples, Spiritual growth, More commitment, More attractive to young people/engage youth and young people, Opening and welcoming, Life application of spiritual principles, Relevant.

How would you have answered these questions?

'Next Steps' we've been asked to work on include:

- 1) **Understanding Our Present Reality** – compiling a community self-study and providing a church description to HCI facilitators.

Information provided by Mission Insight (an amalgamation of census, marketing, and other data mined by the Conference Office) indicates some of the reality for Estancia and Mountainair UMCs, within a 5-mile radius of our churches, as follows:

Estancia:

- A significant majority (>35%) of residents are currently in their autumn years, seeking a 'rural escape'
- The neighborhood population is expected to decline by ~7% (140 people) over the next 9 years
- One age segment of the population expected to grow (by ~2%) is that of 25-34 year olds, along with their new children
- 50% of households with children here are single-parent families.

Mountainair:

- A significant majority (>71%) of residents are ‘Blue Sky Boomers’ looking for ‘homemade happiness’
- The neighborhood population is expected to decline by ~7% (99 people) over the next 9 years
- Two age segments of the population are expected to grow (by ~7% each): 25-34 year olds along with their new children, and retirees > age 65
- 29% of households with children here are single-parent families.

What does this information say about a vision for our church over the next 5-10 years? Where and how is God calling us to bear the light of Christ in our neighborhood?

- 2. Communicating** – “Conversation is the currency of change,” per Gil Rendle. Participants will be glad to share with you what they’re learning / discussing in this process. Just ask! For more info, go to <http://www.nmconfum.com/Equipping/Five-Practices/>
- 3. Praying** – Everyone needs to be praying for God’s guidance and wisdom as we move forward.

Please join us for our next session, which will be April 12 in Mountainair:

- Read Chapters 5-10 of **Renovate or Die**
- Help us to complete the community self-study and church description – Julie Griffo is organizing a potluck March 8 after worship in Estancia to facilitate conversation there & Mountainair has already assigned community leader interviews and developed interview questions!
- Share what you’re reading / learning / discussing with others
- Pray, Pray, Pray for God’s direction!

I hope you’ll join this effort to help improve our churches’ vitality. Everyone is invited to buy the books and participate in conversations about the future of Estancia and Mountainair UMCs. Periodic process updates will be provided via newsletters and bulletins, **so please stay tuned!**

Worship Committee Article for March Newsletter:

Thanks to all of you who signed up to participate in our worship services in March. I have found that it makes worshipping our Lord so much more meaningful for me when I take an active part in the service. It also serves to make me feel like a vital part of the Body of Christ - here at our church as well as worldwide.

Here are a few tips and things to remember about the different positions you will fill during our services:

Greeters are the first people that our guests see when entering the sanctuary. Please be friendly and welcoming to everyone as you hand out the bulletins and newsletters. This should be easy since we are such a friendly bunch! Please stay at the front door until after the first hymn is sung to welcome any latecomers.

Acolytes are usually younger children who carry the Light of Christ into the sanctuary during the Prelude. Sometimes we will also have a child carry the Bible to the altar area and hold it up during the lighting of the candles. Acolytes will carry the Light of Christ out of the sanctuary during the last hymn to remind us to take Christ’s Light and Love into a dark world. Please note that acolytes should touch the lighters to the candle flame, extinguish the candles, and then carrying the lit lighters to the back of the sanctuary before putting out the flame.

The **Worship Leader** consults with Morrow to see when he is ready to begin playing the Prelude. It is important to welcome the congregation and ask them to prepare their hearts and minds for worship as the Light of Christ is brought into the sanctuary and the Prelude is played. This is a vital means of getting ready to be in God's presence and glorify Him. The Worship Leader also offers the invocation, or beginning prayer; leads the Act of Praise and the Apostles' Creed; and introduces the first hymn. The Worship Leader typically sits up front with the pastor until after the Gloria Patri and then joins the congregation. Please get to church about ten minutes before the service begins to consult with the pastor and get ready for the service to begin.

The **Scripture Readers** will be contacted by the pastor so they will have the opportunity to practice reading the scripture before Sunday. Scripture Readers and Worship Leaders who don't have loud voices will need to wear the microphone so we can all hear you.

Ushers receive the offering plates from the pastor and then wait for the offertory prayer before passing the plates to the pews. They will then wait at the back of the aisles until the Doxology begins. Ushers will sometimes be asked to direct the congregation to the rail for Holy Communion as well.

Communion Servers hold up the Elements while the pastor reads the Communion Liturgy. Then they hand out the Body and Blood of Christ while saying, "The Body of Christ broken for you," or "The Blood of Christ poured out for you." Those who serve Holy Communion need to be confirmed youth or adult members of the Methodist Church. **Communion Assistants** are typically younger children who stand at the altar and pick up the juice cups after those kneeling at the rail have been dismissed by the pastor.

Again, thanks for signing up to help. Please let Pastor Bonnie or me know if you won't be able to make it on your assigned day so we can find someone to fill in for you. Also feel free to contact one of us if you have any questions or concerns about your participation in our Sunday worship services.

In His Service,

-Julie Griffo, Worship Chair

Thought You'd Like to Know...

ALBUQUERQUE DISTRICT MISSIONS 2015 AWARDEES

APPLICANT	CHURCH	AMOUNT AWARDED	COMMENTS
Amigos del Valle	Valley View	\$500	Senior Assistance
Aztec Community Assistance	First Aztec	800	Food, utilizes, gas vouchers
Covenant's Loving Lunches	Covenant	600	Providing lunches for <u>Gilfred Chavez</u> Ministry
<u>Doulos</u> Apartment Ministry	First Farmington	500	Apartment ministry
East Mountain Food Pantry	Mountainside	800	Food Pantry
Estancia UMC Wed. Family Night	Estancia	800	Family night – meal, Bible Study, children's program, fellowship

Also - If you've been gone from church recently, you've missed more of our **52 Messages of Hope**. Here's a *very brief synopsis* of Hopeful Messages presented in February. Feel free to look up the Scriptures and read more about God's promises for You!

2/1/15	Deuteronomy 18:15-20. <u>This</u> is like reading Moses' personal diary. He fully understands the difficulties and frustrations of leadership... and he worries about his successor. God promises to provide a leader that is everything His people will ever need. Of course, Moses is thinking about his immediate successor, Joshua. But God is thinking about the Perfect Leader – Jesus!	The task of leadership is difficult. How often do we lament the faults and frailties of leaders in our midst? How about in our local government? Our places of work? Our nation? Our churches? Do we have perfect leadership in our own households? But here's the Good News: God sent us the Perfect Leader, Jesus. Are we following Him? Do we listen to his advice? Do we seek His Way?
2/8/15	Isaiah 40:21-31 Isaiah begged the people to mend their ways, repent of their sin, and return to God. But their long, slow descent to self-destruction was irreversible. The exile was upon them. They had sold themselves back into slavery! God no longer lived in their midst in the holy of holies. The nation Israel was no more! In their rebelliousness, God had abandoned them to their enemies. Into this utter desolation, Isaiah spoke Good News: "Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength and they will soar on wings like eagles."	Have you been to this place in your life? Were you tempted to trust in your own strength, your own understanding, pop psychology, big business, national security, or ??? Listen! Isaiah is speaking to us today, "Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength and they will soar on wings like eagles." Put your hope in God!
2/15/15	2 Kings 2:1-12. <u>Elijah</u> is leaving and Elisha has the dubious honor of following in his footsteps Everyone is nervous! Will God remain with them after Elijah leaves? Elisha is agonizingly aware of the responsibility that will pass to him when his teacher and mentor Elijah goes. Terrified, he begs for a double share of Elijah's spirit to sustain him in his new position. But the wisdom of Elijah prevails. Instead of 'granting his wish', Elijah directs Elisha to God - the source of all power.	God ordained that Elisha to succeed Elijah; God chose the time and method by which Elijah's ministry would come to an end; and it is God and God alone who empowers Elisha with the spirit he needs to do the work! It is God who ordains US for the tasks to which He calls us. Like Elisha, many judge themselves inadequate to the task. But here's the GOOD NEWS: When God calls, it is HE who prepares us for the work to be done.
2/22/15	Genesis 9:8-17. <u>God</u> destroyed the earth and everything is in it (but for Noah and those in the ark) with <u>water</u> . And then He put His rainbow of promise in the sky. In Mark 1:9-15, we are reminded that Jesus' public ministry began with His baptism – with <u>water</u> . Later, Peter reminded new converts that, just as God saved Noah and cleansed creation through the water, just as He expressed perfect obedience through Jesus' baptism; that they were likewise saved through WATER!	Here's the reason for our Hope: God still puts a rainbow in the sky after the storms of our lives, to remind us that <input type="checkbox"/> His promises are true <input type="checkbox"/> His covenant of love endures forever <input type="checkbox"/> He has marked all believers, including you and me, for redemption through the water of baptism!

FAMILY NIGHT 4:30 to 6:30

We're looking forward to and preparing for an AWESOME EASTER CELEBRATION – Come Join Us!

Bible Video! Food! Minute-to-Win-it! Bring your Friends!



Easter is Coming !

Easter, the most important day of the Christian calendar, offers an opportunity to tell the most important story ever told: the story of the Resurrection of Christ, the defeat of death, the victory over sin and the promise of new life for people everywhere. It defines our Christian faith and presents the ultimate message of hope. Easter is the largest attendance weekend of the year for U.S. churches. How will we celebrate?

Focus on invitation: Lifeway research shows that 56 percent to 63 percent of unchurched people are willing to receive information from friends, family or neighbors, while only 10 percent are likely to respond to advertising. Who will you be inviting to Easter Sunday services this year?

Serve others first: Spread the love of Christ by looking for people who may need help. Let's encourage everyone who attends our Palm Sunday & Easter services to donate their spare change to cover the cost of Estancia's new Food Voucher Program & Mountainair's Back-to-School Lunch.

Let the children come – ideas for the kids: Easter eggs represent Jesus' emergence from the tomb and his Resurrection. The tradition of decorating eggs for Easter dates back to the 13th century and often tells the Resurrection story. If we plan far enough ahead of time, we could give each Family Nite attendee ten plastic eggs with candy and an invitation for their friends and families to attend the Easter service. It's great to involve children as inviters – they do a wonderful job! Alma has already ordered our Palm Branches so we can re-enact Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Who will lead the donkey in our parade? Maybe the Family Nite before Easter could be dedicated to coloring & decorating Easter Eggs for an Easter morning egg hunt... who can donate some hard-boiled eggs for us to color?! Wouldn't it be great if our youth told the Easter Story in music and drama on Easter Sunday? You never know... it could happen! Get your cameras ready, grammas & grampas!! In the weeks leading up to Easter, we'll be watching a film on Wednesday nights about Jesus' passion, suffering, and resurrection; so the children will know the story well.

Calling All Artists – you know who you are! Do you have artwork you're willing to display at church that will help convey the life, death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ? We'd love to see your creations and hear your stories and perspectives!

Maundy Thursday The Mountainair Church has agreed to Host a Maundy Thursday activity. It will feature a very light meal (really a snack), a re-enactment of the Last Supper – in which all attendees will participate, and a brief service that will lead into Tenebrae (Good Friday and the Darkness which covered the earth when Jesus died.)

Yes, Easter is Coming... let us Prepare !



Did you know that fleas can jump 3 feet high? Amazing! But if you put a lid on the jar, the fleas just quit trying to jump... they give up. We don't have a "lid on our lives - we have God; therefore anything is possible... *We can soar on wings like eagles!*



Pastor Bonnie telling the story about Noah, the flood and the rainbow and God's promise. (Genesis) The kids then sang the song, "Rise and Shine" (and give God the glory). Bonnie reminded everyone that God still puts a rainbow in he sky after the storms in our lives to remind us that His promises are true, His covenant of love endures forever, He has marked all believers, including you and me, for the redemption through the water of baptism. (1 Peter 3:18-22)

Pencil it in!

- Combined Maundy Thursday Service, April 2 at 6pm in Mountainair
- Easter Sunday is April 5
- Pastor Bonnie goes to Grants Prison April 9-12
- Second HCI meeting Sunday April 12 in Mountainair, time TBD
- May 1 Sacramento Camp Applications are Due if you need scholarship \$\$\$

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Altar Color - Purple	2 6pm Pastor's Bible Study, ABQ	3	4 <input type="checkbox"/> 7am Pastor's Breakfast, ABQ <input type="checkbox"/> 4:30 Family Night in Estancia	5	6 World Day of Prayer 	7 8am-4pm Kairos Prison Ministry Team, ABQ
8 Spring Forward!  - 10:30 potluck & HCI discussion Estancia, contact Julie G. for details - 1pm Ad Council Estancia Altar Color - Purple	9 6pm Pastor's Bible Study, ABQ	10	11 <input type="checkbox"/> 7am Pastor's Breakfast, ABQ <input type="checkbox"/> 4:30 Family Night in Estancia	12	13	14 Kairos Prison Ministry, Grants Buddy Greene @ Mountainside UMC, 4 Penny Ln. Tijeras <input type="checkbox"/> 1pm Workshop <input type="checkbox"/> 7pm Concert
15 One Great Hour of Sharing – special giving opportunity for UMCOR Noon-Potluck & Ad Council, MtAir Altar Color - Purple	16 Alex Chavez's B'Day! 6pm Pastor's Bible Study, ABQ	17 St. Patrick's Day  Promised Land / Road-runner Food Bank, MtAir	18 <input type="checkbox"/> 7am Pastor's Breakfast, ABQ <input type="checkbox"/> 4:30 Family Night in Estancia TRUSTEES 3:30 PM	19	20 Spring Begins! 6pm Emmaus Community Gathering, ABQ 	21
22 Noon-Potluck & Book Study, Mt. Air Altar Color - Purple	23 6pm Pastor's Bible Study, ABQ	24	25 <input type="checkbox"/> 7am Pastor's Breakfast, ABQ <input type="checkbox"/> 4:30 Family Night in Estancia	26	27	28 8am-4pm Kairos Prison Ministry Team, ABQ
29 Palm Sunday - Holy Week Begins  Noon-Potluck & Book Study, Mt. Air Altar Color - Purple	30 6pm Pastor's Bible Study, ABQ	31	April 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 7am Pastor's Breakfast, ABQ <input type="checkbox"/> 4:30 Family Night in Estancia	April 2 Maundy Thurs. 6pm Combined Service @ Mt. Air	April 3 Good Friday	April 4 Holy Saturday



Sent with a prayer to:



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

March Quiz of the Month



For the under age 40 crowd ONLY...
Can you tell me what's in this photo?
First caller (271-0486) with the correct answer gets recognition in next month's newsletter!

[Daniel Chavez & Friend](#) won February's challenge!
They correctly identified Dippity-do as Hair styling gel.

Congrats Boys!

