



NEWSLETTER
OF THE
Estancia United Methodist
Church
600 Williams, Estancia, New Mexico
<http://www.estanciamethodist.org>



OCTOBER, 2014

Pastor: Rev. Bonnie Hardesty
600 Williams, P. O. Box 126, Estancia, NM 87016
Church Office 384-5215 Parsonage 384-2710
Pastor Bonnie: 505-271-0486
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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 Griffio
Education	Julie Griffio & Melanie Chavez
Care and Outreach Team Leader	Barbara Simms
Chairperson: Pastor Parish Relations	Nick Griffio
Food Pantry	Butch McGee
Financial Secretary	Vickie Coburn
Church Treasurer	Vickie Coburn
President UMM	Nick Griffio
McMurry Rep	Julie Griffio
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

I'm so excited to have Estancia youth assisting in Sunday morning worship! A special, 'THANK YOU!' to those parents (and grandparents!) who've gone the extra mile to help prepare the children and get them to church on time to participate in this faith-building experience. An EXTRA SPECIAL, 'THANK YOU!' to those who've stepped UP & stepped IN when others were absent!

Every once in a while I run across something, in the virtual bombardment of incoming e-mail, church-related magazines, and pastoral newsletters I receive every day, that brings assurance that I and WE are on the right path. Praise God! Recently an article entitled "*Sunday School is Killing the Church*" caught my eye. My initial reaction was, *WHAT?! That can't be true – if anything, we need MORE opportunities to study the Bible!* But I couldn't resist reading the article... and I'm glad I did.

The point the author made was that TAKING CHILDREN OUT OF WORSHIP in order to quiet the sanctuary and cater to their age-specific needs in a segregated Sunday School setting (meeting at the same time parents are in worship) disconnects them from critical faith-building opportunities. And THAT has contributed to today's exodus of young adults from church worship.

The author stated:

"...churches have drifted increasingly toward a model of separating parents and children on Sunday mornings. Usually, this model offers a one-hour commitment, sending the adults to a worship service [while] corralling the kids in Sunday School where they sing "kid-friendly" music

to a recorded track, do hands-on activities, and listen to a quick lesson on their own learning level. After an hour of separation, everyone goes home and gets on with their lives. ... **but kids are leaving the church faster than ever before.** Why?"

"In the name of making church relevant, we have made it completely irrelevant. Kids are growing up and leaving the church because we've stopped expecting enough out of them."

"There's nothing inherently wrong with kids singing "kid friendly" songs. I certainly did when I was a kid, although they were shorter and usually acappella ("Deep and Wide," anybody?). But we've forgotten **that an important component of education is exposing kids to things they can't yet understand in order to build important connections later on.** So, while a traditional Sunday service might be boring and essentially meaningless at times to small children, if we teach them the discipline of the routine, the time will come when that will no longer be the case. ...[children] need to learn to interact with new ideas, concepts, world views, even if they seem foreign. Even if they are boring. They may not immediately get it, but down the line, they will be better for it. They will be more equipped to meet the world as adults. We need to expect kids to participate, to sit (reasonably) still for a little while, to say the words and sing the notes as best as they are able. Even 17th-century hymns. Even communal prayers that have tough words, like "slavery," "resurrection," and "covenant." Even when they are years away from fully understanding what they're doing. *Of course, there's also the possibility that they understand more than we think.* **We need to expect them to do things that are difficult, because in the end, they're so worthwhile."**

Just so no one gets the wrong idea... I think Sunday School is a great thing! Guppies is a GREAT THING. Family Night is a GREAT THING! But WORSHIP is a corporate event where all the children of God (young and old!) need to be gathered TOGETHER in His Name.

I remember so distinctly when I was first appointed to this Estancia-Mountainair Charge, that initial meeting where your leadership emphatically informed me, "We have NO CHILDREN here." I wanted to cry. But I ALSO remember that on my very first Sunday with you, a scad of children joined me for the Children's Sermon, and Butch McGee told them, "Now you go on & give our new preacher a hug!" Thanks, Butch, you made my day. Even more importantly, you made God smile! And we've had children MOST Sunday mornings in Estancia ever since. So I thank you again - children, youth, parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents - for being the body of Christ, for hanging together, for setting the example. **We will continue to expect youth and children to participate in our worship services. We're on the right path. And it's OK to expect them to do things that are difficult, because in the end, they're so worthwhile.**

Blessings All

-Pastor Bonnie

POLICE

It was the end of the day when I parked my police van in front of the station. As I gathered my equipment, my K-9 partner, Jake, was barking, and I saw a little boy staring in at me. 'Is that a dog you got back there?' he asked. 'It sure is,' I replied.

Puzzled, the boy looked at me and then towards the back of the van. Finally he said, 'What'd he do?'

Please contact Pastor Bonnie (505-271-0486) if can help...

- ★ Trunks & Treats (decorated car trunks & truck beds – we need 14 more)
- ★ Advertising (can you deliver flyers around town?)
- ★ Cake Walk Supervisor
- ★ Official Photographer
- ★ Set up / Decorations
- ★ Game Masters
- ★ Clean Up

Sunday, Nov. 2 – All Saint's Service of Remembrance

If you've experienced a death of friends or family members this past year, please contact Pastor Bonnie (505-271-0486) for details.

Sunday, Nov. 16 – Charge Conference @ 4:30pm in Estancia.

Spiritual / Educational Retreats... is God calling you?

Emmaus Walks:

10/30 – 11/2 Thursday thru Sunday: Men's Walk, Madonna Center in ABQ (Handicapped Accessible)

11/13 – 11/16 Thursday thru Sunday: Women's Walk, Madonna Center in ABQ (Handicapped Accessible)

Lay Servants' School:

11/7 – 11/8 Friday evening thru Saturday: First UMC ABQ; Hotel Hardesty is available for layovers in Albuquerque!

Church Ladies With Typewriters

The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

Scouts are saving aluminium cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Don't let worry kill you off – let the Church help.

Missions: Estancia / Mountainair – do you have a great Mission-related ministry idea? The Albuquerque District has Grant \$\$\$ available!

Application Deadline is Oct. 24

Support the District Mission to Demonstrate God's love and presence in the world through evangelism, service, advocacy, or community development.

Any UM Church or related nonprofit in the ABQ District is eligible to apply. Recent funding supported

- ¥ direct services to the hungry and homeless
- ¥ care for young children
- ¥ older adult services
- ¥ Hispanic and Native American ministries
- ¥ women's shelter
- ¥ prison recovery
- ¥ secondary education

See details on the NM Conf. website, www.nmconfum.com Click on Conference Services & Boards >Grants and Scholarships for Applications & Guidelines or contact Rev. Reuben Thomas at rnjthomas@msn.com or 505-293-5366.

What's the United Methodist Church doing in Mission work around the world?

UMCOR (the United Methodist Committee on Relief) is bringing God's mercy to those suffering the Ebola outbreak in west Africa. Our South Central Jurisdiction Mission Advocate, Becky Harrell reports: UMCOR is working with United Methodist Health Boards to identify needs and respond as quickly and efficiently as possible. More than \$380,000 has been granted from International Disaster Response to alleviate this disaster. For example

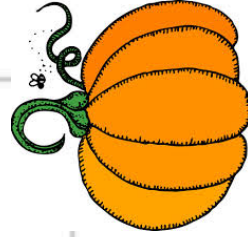
- ¥ Health Board of Sierra Leone is receiving Medical supplies and construction of an Isolation Unit (\$25,905)
- ¥ ACT Alliance in Liberia is receiving containment support (\$50,000)
- ¥ 4 pallets of Personal Protective Equipment are being airlifted to Sierra Leone and Liberia (\$8,600)
- ¥ Rapid deployment Isolation Units are on their way to Global Medic in Liberia (\$92,410)
- ¥ Isolation and Body Disposition are being provided at Ganta Hospital (\$66,055)

Missionaries: All West Africa missionaries have been offered the option to leave. Those who are staying have a plan of action worked out so that if the situation deteriorates they will be prepared. But Methodists are a COMMITTED bunch. **The following are staying in Liberia, and appreciate your prayer support during this crisis:**

- ¥ **Dr. Albert Willicor** – Missionary in his home country of Liberia, Dr. Willicor is the Chief Medical Officer at Ganta United Methodist Hospital. He was scheduled to visit the NM Conference this autumn; but felt more greatly needed in Liberia.
- ¥ **Victor Taryor** – Missionary in his home country of Liberia, Victor is hospital administrator for Ganta Hospital.

October 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
			5:00 - 7:00 pm Family Night			
5 9 AM Worship 11 AM -Mtair	6	7	8	9	10	11
			5:00 - 7:00 pm Family Night	6:00 PM TRUSTEES		
12 9 AM Worship 11 AM -Mtair	13	14	15	16	17	18
2: PM AD COUNCIL Mountainair			5:00 - 7:00 pm Family Night			
19 9 AM Worship 11 AM -Mtair	20	21	22	23	24	25
			5:00 - 7:00 pm Family Night			
26 9 AM Worship 11 AM -Mtair	27	28	29	30	31	
			5:00 - 7:00 pm Family Night		TRUNK OR TREAT!!	





Sent with a prayer to:

Estancia United Methodist Church
P. O. Box 126
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Justice and Sydney helping with the service and
showing off their new Acolyte robes