



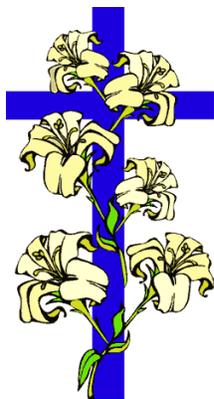
NEWSLETTER

OF THE

Estancia United Methodist
Church

600 Williams, Estancia, New Mexico

<http://www.estanciamethodist.org>



APRIL, 2015

Estancia United Methodist Church

www.EstanciaMethodist.org

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

Pastor Bonnie Hardesty Ph. 505-271-0486

Email bjharde1@msn.com

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From the Desk of...

Pastor Bonnie

*Happy
Easter!*

A teacher recently asked a group of Christians what the word 'reconciliation' meant to them. Being a former accountant, one notion that immediately came to my mind was related to a BANK RECONCILIATION – you know, where all the debits and

credits (or for most people 'deposits and withdrawals') listed in the checkbook – or the online account – are matched to those reported in your bank statement. In the old days, I reconciled my bank account TO THE PENNY, every month! Things that appeared in my bank statement, but not in my checkbook needed to be accounted for... like bank service fees or checks maybe I forgot to record! And things in my checkbook that were NOT on the bank statement needed to be accounted for... like the check I had just written that hadn't yet cleared the bank. In other words, the value of both sets of figures HAD to MATCH in order to be 'RECONCILED.'

Another, and much more important notion of 'reconciliation', is lifted up at Easter. You see, God also keeps a set of books. In His books there is a value assigned to each of us – **IMMEASURABLE WORTH! The PERFECT CREATION of GOD!** But, when we look at our own lives; if we're honest, most of us would have to say we're not quite that PERFECT CREATION God intended. But God's books also must be RECONCILED.

JESUS is the ONE who MAKES UP THE DIFFERENCE – so that WE ARE RECONCILED to GOD – by the gift of atoning grace through faith in Jesus Christ our Lord and His sacrifice for us.

Jesus is Risen! Hallelujah!!

Good News!

All Christians have a lot to celebrate and be grateful for this Easter! Consider the following:

- You are loved by Jesus and He has forgiven your sins. (1 Jn.1) The past is left behind. Today is a gift from God (that's why they call it 'the PRESENT'!) Don't waste it.
- God is on your side. In Him you are more than conqueror! (Rom.8)
- You are blessed. Your value is not found in possessions; but in your relationship with God. (Mt.6)
- Jesus wants you to think about things that are honorable, just, pure, pleasing, commendable, and worthy of praise. (Phil. 4, Col.4) So minimize your contact with people who are gossipy, negative, and bring others down.
- God's timing is perfect; so you can be patient. (Ecc.3)
- You have your own unique contribution to make – there's no one like you! (1 Cor.12)
- Success does not come without failure – but resolve to fail *forward*, learning from your mistakes. (2 Cor.13)
- Our God is a God of abundance – there is always more grace in Him than there is sin in us. (Rom.5)
- You are fearfully and wonderfully made. (Ps.139) Claim a right relationship with God through Jesus today!
- God has a wonderful plan for your life. (Jer.29) Your future is brighter than you can even imagine! As long as you are breathing, God has a purpose for your life.
- God will comfort you in your sorrow so that you will know how to comfort others in theirs. (Isa.49)
- Wise decisions are rarely made in a vacuum. Seek the wisdom of Godly mentors. (Prov.3 &4)
- Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. (Mt.5)
- God is in control. Quit worrying! (Mt.6)



Happy Easter!

Healthy Church Initiative update: Next Meeting - April 12 @ 1pm in Mountainair.

Come join the discussion about the future of our churches!

Rev. Bob Farr talks Anointing & Renovation

Reverend Bob Farr is the Architect of the Healthy Church Initiative (HCI) and author of *Renovate or Die: 10 Ways to focus your Church on Mission*. He began his talk on Feb 8 with, "I will probably offend you at some point in the day." There were about 40 clergy and laity ready to hear some blunt practical truth. We got a lot of information but here are **4 take-aways:**

1. Some people wonder whether the day of the local United Methodist Church (UMC) is done. Rev. Bob thinks that judging by our history; **we are right where we need to be.** (He has consulted with 121 churches and revitalized congregations in the Missouri Conference.) In the past, we were born or married into the UMC but more and more, it is about personal choice. To position ourselves to be vital congregations, we need to be more of a "missional outpost" than an institution. We have "developed good church people but not good disciples/missionaries." We also need to be open to new ways to convey our message like online interactive Bible studies.

2. Know your community. Even though Rev. Bob had a rich ancestry of Methodist leaders on his mother's side, his father was a fireman who died not knowing Jesus and that has been a driving force in Rev. Bob's ministry. At his father's death,

he wondered why no one had spent the time to reach out to him. He spends 10% of his time outside the church and much of it at the local fire house. He advocated knowing the community in detail: demographics, traffic patterns, where people hang out, history of the church, etc. Get out into the community and ask “How can we be helpful?” He also said, “Lunch is an opportunity.”

3. The 3 WOW’s – Hospitality, Children’s Ministry, Worship. These are the 3 things that if done well, will help a church gain momentum. Hospitality is the easiest to fix. It is also where new people can plug in best. In terms of adult development, when people become parents, they often look to offer their kids a similar upbringing to what they had or what they feel they missed. If the demographics support it, an excellent Children’s Ministry is worth an investment. Worship is the hardest to fix. Because people are living longer, we now have 5 generations worshipping together. This is especially difficult in small communities. Poorly done blended services just make everyone frustrated and angry. One option is to put the loudest music at the beginning and people can choose to come late. Bottom line: The focus should be on connecting people, helping people experience God and the sermon should offer relevance to life on Monday.

4. You want your congregation to look like the community but you first have to grow with people who look like you and then grow with people who do not. It is the power of critical mass that oftentimes eludes us. It is one of the trickiest but most important issues to fix and he jokingly encouraged innovation (to put it mildly).

52 Messages of Hope! Pastor Bonnie is preaching a series this year on HOPE. Every Sunday we hear about another reason for us, as Christians, to be hope-full! Following is a *very brief synopsis* of Hopeful Messages presented in March.

3/1/15	<p>Consider Jesus’ call to deny ourselves, take up our crosses and follow him (Luke 9:23.) What does it mean to lose our lives for the sake of the gospel? If we were honest, what changes would we need to make in order to succeed? What self-centered motivations would we need to release? What steps can we take today to move in that direction? How can it give us courage for both living and dying?</p> <p>God covenanted with Abram and Sarai (who were ‘as good as dead’) to birth Isaac and found the Hebrew nation. He empowered them to succeed, despite their human frailties. But it was only when Abraham and Sarah took seriously that covenant, and walked in obedience before God, that God’s promises were fulfilled.</p>	<p>And here is the reason for our HOPE: God still calls us to take up our crosses. If we sincerely desire His blessing, we first must walk in obedience. And THEN He will most certainly empower us – despite OUR human faults and frailties – to succeed according to His plan for our lives. God’s promises are true and His love is steadfast!</p>
3/8/15	<p>Every Jew and Christian knows about the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17.) Even most atheists know about these laws, if for no other reason by seeing the famous movie with Charleton Heston. If we know anything about U.S. law, we know it originated in the Ten Commandments!</p> <p>God gave these laws to bring order to the chaos of the Exodus – as over a million refugees (escaped slaves, really) leaned hard into the anarchy they so keenly desired. They were FREE! Free from the bonds of slavery! Free from the endless grueling days heavy labor in the hot sun! Free from the whip of their task-masters! Free to do whatever they wanted, whenever they wanted, however they wanted!</p>	<p>And here is the reason for our HOPE: God loved Israel SO MUCH that he gave them Ten Commandments – rules for living good lives by which they might prosper. And Jesus loves US so much that he gave his own life to rescue us from our self-centeredness for all eternity! He teaches us how to apply God’s Rules so that we can live outwardly-focused lives of abundance. He pours out grace sufficient for all the challenges we might face in this life.</p>

	<p>Throughout toward history, humanity has persisted in demonstrating that self-centeredness. We simply bristle at the notion of obedience. We WANT what we WANT when we WANT it! Some even claim that Jesus eliminated 8 of God's Ten Commandments when He declared that the whole of the law and prophets are summed up in these two – Love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength; and Love your neighbor as yourself. But consider this: Jesus says, in Matthew 5:17, “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them, but to fulfill them. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, (not a jot or a tittle!) will by any means disappear from the law until everything is accomplished.”</p>	<p>God's commands for our lives are really BONDS OF ETERNAL LOVE. God will never let us go or abandon us to our own folly. And THAT's Good News!</p>
<p>3/15/15</p>	<p>In the Bible, <i>a snake is NEVER just a snake</i>. Moses offered a remedy for the sins of the people as they wandered and whined in the desert – a snake lifted up on a pole (Numbers 21:4-9.) When the people looked up at it, they would be healed from the snakebites they suffered. Of course, it was God who prescribed the remedy - God was the doctor in the desert!</p> <p>There is no question that this experience was in the mind of John, the Gospel author, when he wrote, "And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that just as every sinful Israelite who looked at the bronze snake was healed, <i>so every sinful person who believes in the crucified Christ might have eternal life.</i>"</p>	<p>Here is the reason for our Hope: God is the ultimate healer. God is the one who sends the Great Physician. God is the doctor of our souls! And it is He who provides an eternal cure for what ails us!</p>
<p>3/22/15</p>	<p>John 12:20 says that, ‘some Greeks have come to see Jesus.’ In the days before they arrived, Jesus had raised Lazarus from the dead. Mary had anointed Jesus for burial. The religious authorities had determined that Jesus MUST die. But now the Greeks have come.</p> <p>Why? Have they heard of Jesus' healing miracles, His compassion, His authoritative teachings? Do they seek a miracle for themselves? Do they want to be healed from some malady of the flesh? Do they seek His wisdom? Do they seek amusement, personal favors, more water turned into wine? The Greeks have come.</p> <p>Now the whole world is represented in Jerusalem; and the whole world is about to witness the <i>judgment and dethroning of "the ruler of this world."</i> Lifted up onto a crucifix, Jesus will draw ALL the world to Himself, becoming the source of eternal life for those who follow Him. The Greeks have come. They thought they wanted to see Jesus. But in reality, HE was waiting to see them!</p>	<p>And here is the reason for our Hope:</p> <p>Jesus still waits for ALL who will follow.</p> <p><i>He has already</i> overcome the ruler of this world. He is the source of eternal life for ALL who will follow Him. No matter the reason WE come; it is HE who waits for US!</p>
<p>3/29/15</p>	<p>Palm Sunday (Mark 11:1-11) is kind of like Chicago in Spring. Being from northern Illinois, I know this. The calendar <i>says</i> spring has arrived; but March in Chicago is still very wintery. Snow boots, winter coat over pastel dresses, and waiving palm branches were the order of the day! I frequently hiked through snow in the palm processions of my youth.</p>	<p>But here is the reason for our Hope: Palm Sunday's glimpse of glory will be enough to sustain us in the dark days ahead.</p>

But on rare occasions, the sun *would* break through and a glimpse of spring *would* shine in all its glory! We knew the snow *would* eventually melt, the temperatures *would* rise above 70, and yes, the Chicago Cubs *would* eventually win the World Series! OK, maybe not THAT.

Similarly, Palm Sunday brings with it a fleeting glimpse of glory. The prophecies of the Old Testament were coming true! Zechariah prophesied that the promised Messiah would come to Jerusalem' humble and riding on a donkey, and He did! Cloaks and palm branches *were* laid before Jesus as he entered Jerusalem signifying the coming of a KING, just as in the historic processions and the religious festivals of Israel's past.

But the week ahead would bring for Jesus a betrayal of bitter cold, parching thirst, and the darkness of the shadow of death. Palm Sunday is a lot like a Chicago Spring.

Like Chicago's glimpse of spring, the promise not yet fulfilled is what enabled us to survive the 12 more inches of snow that would invariably fall the second week in April.

Palm Sunday held the promise of Eternal Glory that sustained Jesus through the trials of Holy Week. And Palm Sunday births for us the promise of Eternal Glory revealed in the Easter resurrection!

Dear church family,

After a number of years being the church treasurer, finance secretary, and recording secretary, I have decided to retire my positions at the end of the 2015 year. I will be praying that one or some of you will consider taking on this job(s). The job(s) is not a hard one to do, it just takes a little time. I will be glad to help you learn the books and will be available to fill in when and if needed. I would like to thank you all for your trust and confidence in me over the last nine years...And to Bill and Barbara Simms... There are no words for all the help and support you have given me, thank you from the bottom of my heart, I love you both.

With God's guidance and blessings, Vickie Coburn



**Palm Sunday
Procession!**

Hear Ye, Hear Ye!!!!

Family Night is Rockin'!

Wednesdays, 4:30 – 6:30 pm

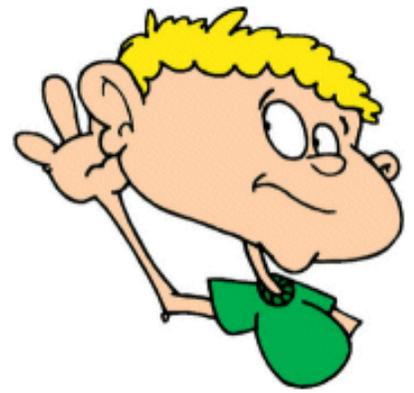
We're looking forward to playing some games, getting outside, and seeing some MOVIES – Come Join Us!

Bible Video!

Food!

Minute-to-Win-it!

Bring your Friends!



From our Bethel Representative:

Hi Everyone,

As your summer plans begin to take shape, we hope you will prayerfully consider spending some “volunteer” time working in our communities. Giving time to the Bethel Community Storehouse would be a great way to accomplish this goal. Listed below are some of the areas to consider at the Storehouse.

1. Help with food distribution – must be able to lift 50 pounds
2. Food pantry assistants – bag food & stock shelves & make boxes
3. Floor attendants – racks stocked, picking up the store & sorting movies, books and games

There is a daily intake of donations. Bethel is now accepting automobiles or other types of vehicles, and will even come and get those items if you wish. If you came for a day you would be surprised at the number of people donating daily.

Monetary donations go to buy food for distribution as well as other needs. You may go to www.bethelstorehouse.org or facebook to see what actually happens on a monthly basis.

DATE TO REMEMBER: On May 2 Bethel is having a big birthday party – 28 years and still going strong! When I was in high school, a long time ago, we met with Bethel UMC on a Saturday to hand out clothing. Today the Bethel Board of Directors includes different denominations and communities.

DATE TO REMEMBER: On June 21st Annual Father's Day Car Show from 8a.m. to 5:00p.m. at the Edgewood Walmart parking lot. Every year the gentleman who organizes this event picks a community charity to receive the proceeds. This year it is the Bethel Storehouse!! (Pastor Bonnie will be preaching that day at the Estancia City Park) Afterwards please bring your whole family to the car show – over 300 cars plus the Isotopes Mascot, “Orbit” in the a.m. I am officially inviting the Men's group and all the men to come that day. Ladies may shop while the men look at the cars! Please consider attending this event. Call 384-2616 if you have questions.

Thank you, Pastor **Terry Ann Moore**

Pencil it in!

- May 1 Sacramento Camp Applications are Due if you need scholarship \$\$\$
- Mission Mountain supplies will be collected at both churches during the month of May – let's see how much we can collect!
- May 2 – Bethel Storehouse celebrates 28 years
- June 21 – Car show at Edgewood Walmart benefitting Bethel Storehouse
- Watch for this summer's dates for Worship in the Park! We hope to meet outdoors 3 times this year, once in June, July & August.



NEW !

Mountainair UMC Book Study

Mountainair UMC members are studying **Killing Jesus**, by **Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard** on Sundays after Worship on days when we DON'T have other meeting commitments: April 26, May 3, 24 & 31. We start at 12:15 and meet for about an hour. Bring a snack and come join us! The 'Study' will run as many weeks as the conversation continues. Estancia folks & friends are welcome to join us!



On March 15 the King's kids had 10 children receive a message and blessing from Pastor Bonnie. The message was from John3:16, *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."*

\$\$ Financial Corner \$\$

In addition to those listed below, **Estancia** maintains

- a General Fund from which daily operating expenses are paid
- Restricted Funds (such as Camp Scholarships) which are used for designated purposes
- a Trustee's Account from which maintenance and facility improvement expenses are paid
- a United Methodist Men's Account from which UMM mission expenses are paid.

Estancia's investment balances, as of 2-28-2015:

Acct 001 – \$14,208

Acct 002 – \$9,202

Grants awarded Estancia UMC so far in 2015 -

\$800 from Albuquerque District Missions (for Family Night)

\$1,400 from the Conference Endowment Committee (for Worship in the Park)

In addition to those listed below, **Mountainair** maintains a General Fund from which daily operating expenses are paid.

Mountainair investment balance:

Acct 001 – \$10,849

Promised Land Ministries has applied for...

a McCreless Grant to fund Road Runner monthly food costs

Mountainair UMC applied for **and been awarded...**

a Thaxton Grant to support Promised Land monthly food distribution activities held at the Mountainair church!

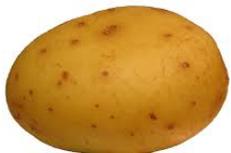
Estancia UMC applied for **and has been awarded...**

a Bishop's Vitality Award supporting three combined summer Worship in the Park experiences!

God is Good!! Now let His people use His blessings wisely!

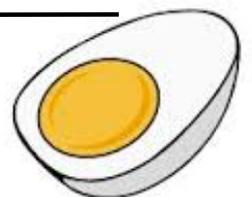


Wednesday Night -
Filling Easter Eggs



Seen on the Internet:

The same hot water that softens a potato hardens an egg.
The difference is what you're made of.



On Palm Sunday, our church was blessed by the attendance of the local chapter of the **Rainbow Girls**.



On March 29, Palm Sunday, Bonnie Thomas brought in a cross that was donated by one of the county commissioners, Julia DuCharme. Ms. DuCharme won the cross in a raffle and wanted it to go to a local church. After Bonnie T presented the cross to our church, Pastor Bonnie Hardesty anointed the cross with oil and then blessed it. The cross will be displayed in the church for many years to come. Thank you Bonnie T for accepting this beautiful cross from the commissioner and thank you Ms. DuCharme for donating it to our church.

Mark Your April Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>SPRING BREAK All Week Long!</p>			1 <input type="checkbox"/> 7am Pastor's Breakfast, ABQ <input type="checkbox"/> NO Family Night in Estancia	2 Maundy Thursday 6-7pm Combined Service @ Mt. Air	3 Good Friday	4 Holy Saturday
5 Happy Easter!  Altar Color – White or Gold	6	7	8 <input type="checkbox"/> 7am Pastor's Breakfast, ABQ <input type="checkbox"/> 1:30 Prayer meeting @ the Moore's (303 N Walker) <input type="checkbox"/> 4:30 Family Night in Estancia	9	10	11
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Pastor Bonnie is in Grants on Kairos Prison Ministry Weekend #28. Please Pray for the Team and Residents. Thanks for your <u>support!</u> </div>						
12 Preaching: 9am – ?? 11am – <u>Maribeth Dixon</u> 1pm – HCI in Mt Air Altar Color – White or Gold	13 6pm Pastor's Bible Study, ABQ	14	15 TAX DAY <input type="checkbox"/> 7am Pastor's Breakfast, ABQ <input type="checkbox"/> 4:30 Family Night in Estancia	16	17	18
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Did you ever notice: When you put the 2 words 'The' and 'IRS' together it spells </div>						
19 Noon-Potluck & Ad Council, Mt. Air Altar Color – White or Gold	20 6pm Pastor's Bible Study, ABQ	21 3pm Promised Land / Road-runner Food Bank, Mt Air.	22 <input type="checkbox"/> 7am Pastor's Breakfast, ABQ <input type="checkbox"/> 1:30 Prayer meeting @ the Moore's (303 N. Walker) <input type="checkbox"/> 4:30 Family Night in Estancia	23	24 6pm Emmaus Community Gathering, ABQ	25
26 12:15- Mt. Air Book Study (Killing Jesus) Altar Color – White or Gold	27 6pm Pastor's Bible Study, ABQ	28	29 <input type="checkbox"/> 7am Pastor's Breakfast, ABQ <input type="checkbox"/> 4:30 Family Night in Estancia	30	May 1 Sacramento Camp Registrations are Due	May 2



Sent with a prayer to:



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



April 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

Joseph Treen correctly
identified these as old time
circuit breakers or 'fuses!'



Way to go, Joseph!