



NEWSLETTER

OF THE

Estancia United Methodist Church

600 Williams, Estancia, New Mexico

<http://www.estanciamethodist.org>



August 25, 2012
4:30 PM



AUGUST, 2012

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	Marcia Fitzner
Recording Secretary	Vickie Coburn
Organist	Morrow Hall
Lay Member of the Annual Conference	Marcia Fitzner
Chairperson: Board of Trustees	Bill Simms
Worship Team Leader	Sylvia Levy
Education Team Leader	Butch McGee
Chairperson: Missions	Marcia Fitzner
Care and Outreach Team Leader	Barbara Simms
Chairperson: Pastor Parish Relations	Mel Stephenson
Chairperson: Finance Committee	Marcia Fitzner
Financial Secretary	Vickie Coburn
Church Treasurer	Vickie Coburn
President UMM	Jon Shively
McMurry Rep	Charles Spooner
Sacramento Camp Rep	Charles Spooner

Bishop: D. Max Whitfield

District Superintendent: Rev. Jeff Lusk

To see this newsletter in color, visit our website at:

<http://www.estanciamethodist.org>



Sunday Worship 9:00 AM

From Bishop Max:

This was an unusual and at times a very painful Jurisdictional Conference. It took twenty-three ballots to elect three very fine clergypersons as new Bishops. The delegates cast five ballots before the first Bishop was elected on Thursday. The delegates voted electronically, and this allowed a rather quick turnaround between ballots, with pauses for other Conference business.

The Jurisdictional Episcopal Committee reached a very painful and difficult decision to recommend involuntary retirement for Bishop Earl Bledsoe, an active Bishop. The Committee brought their recommendation before the Conference for approval. The conversations were conducted with the utmost dignity and professional manners by all delegates participating. The Conference then affirmed the recommendation from the Committee. Bishop Bledsoe indicated his desire to appeal the decision of the Jurisdictional Conference to the Judicial Council (as clearly allowed by *The Book of Discipline*). It is anticipated the appeal will be heard by the Judicial Council at their October meeting. Bishop Bledsoe is considered a retired Bishop of the Church, effective August 31, 2012. This was an unprecedented action, and no one was certain of the procedures to be followed.

The College of Bishops and the Jurisdictional Episcopal Committee felt it was unwise to elect a fourth Bishop until the Judicial Council rendered their decision in October. Therefore, one Episcopal Area was not assigned an active Bishop. The New Mexico/Northwest Texas Area was chosen as the

Area left temporarily vacant, for missional reasons. On Saturday morning, the South Central Jurisdiction College of Bishops met and recommended to the Executive Committee of Council of Bishops to jointly assign Bishop Dan Solomon and Bishop William (Bill) Hutchinson to the New Mexico/Northwest Texas Area, beginning September 1, when I complete my Episcopal responsibilities.

A vast majority of the conversation within the Jurisdictional Episcopal Committee is privileged communication. Members of the Committee were very, very clear with me. This was not because of the size or importance of this Episcopal Area. They based their recommendation on missional issues. This is my interpretation of some of those *missional issues*.

These Annual Conferences have clarity about their mission and vision. They have the clergy and lay leadership in place to continue the Conferences' initiatives and strategies. The clergy and lay leadership of these Conferences will respond to outstanding Episcopal leadership and will become even stronger and more fruitful in the coming months. Some of the other Annual Conferences in the Jurisdiction did not have these strengths working for them. In some locations, outstanding Episcopal leadership was not readily available for an Interim assignment by the Council of Bishops. Perhaps there were many other reasons, but these indicate the respect and confidence the Jurisdictional Episcopal Committee has in you.

Let me state clearly, that I am and will continue to be the resident Bishop of the Northwest Texas and New Mexico Conferences until August 31. We will be moving, but I will remain in constant contact and availability until my tenure has ended. Bishops Solomon and Hutchinson will begin September 1. You are not and will not be without Episcopal leadership.

This is very much like some of the interim clergy appointments we have made to local churches. Some congregations entered this period of transition with reluctance and later discovered it produced positive results far exceeding their expectations. Instead of being "bad", they discovered they had been given a gift that enhanced and strengthened their congregational ministry. I strongly believe that Bishops Solomon and Hutchinson are extraordinary gifts these conferences will treasure for years to come.

A few people have asked about what will happen if Bishop Bledsoe's appeal is sustained by the Judicial Council. It is my understanding that the assignment of Bishop Bledsoe will be returned to the Jurisdictional Episcopal Committee. That body will then make what they believe are the most fruitful and effective decisions possible for the Kingdom of God.

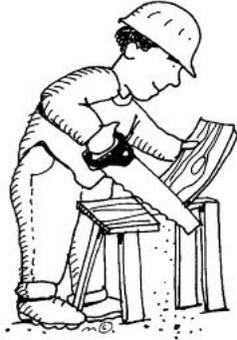
As I stated, *you have and will continue to have Episcopal leadership*. If you need to contact the Bishop, follow the normal practice of contacting your District Superintendent, or in the case of an emergency, call Diane Lippitt, Administrative Assistant to the Bishop, and she will contact a Bishop for you.

I look forward to my remaining six weeks with you and seeing how God is leading persons to come to know Jesus, follow Jesus, live like Jesus and transform the world for Jesus. God is about to open a new and glorious future.....Grace & Peace, Max

In Case You Hadn't Noticed

In an effort to spruce up the front of our church, we have been replacing the water-stained and rotted siding around the sanctuary front door.

Those who helped with the project were Phil Levy, Ladd Hagmaier, Jon Shively, Sonny Massey and Don Fitzner. Be sure to thank these folks when you get the chance.



Stained Glass Project

The month of July was a good productive month even though we were informed on July 10, 2012 that the glass shop building had been sold and we must move out by August 1, 2012. Therefore, the rest of the July was spent finishing-up projects and installing trim on the installed windows. The majority of the trim was installed and finished, the scaffolding removed, and the church pews reinstalled by July 29, 2012. The remaining small amount of trim will be installed by the end of the first week in August.

This will be the last progress report on the Stained Glass Project, since the project has been essentially completed slightly ahead of our initial estimate of four years.

-Mel Stephenson



Emptying out the Glass Shop

Big Time Preparation - August 25, 2012

This is it folks - count down to our stained glass windows celebration. Almost 200 invitations have been addressed and mailed. A large plaque has been ordered listing the people who donated money and those who donated in memory of or in honor of loved ones, friends or relatives. Also on the plaque will be the names of those who participated in the glass work, plus those who found other ways to help out. We, also, could not have done it without the donated work space. Really, our church is much too small to have tackled this magnificent project, BUT we did! Our new Pastor Bonnie recently gave a sermon entitled, "Do It Anyway. And we did!"

Estancia United Methodist Church Stained Glass Window Dedication A Celebration of Love



*The Lord's Supper
(South Wall)*

You are cordially invited to the Estancia United Methodist Church to celebrate the completion of our four year stained glass window project.

The celebration and dedication will mark the end of an intense period of love, commitment and dedication for the members of our church. We want to share our joy and delight with our friends, neighbors, community, and fellow churches.

We hope you will join us at the dedication which will take place from 4:30 to 6:00 PM on Saturday, August 25, 2012.

Methodist Men's Group

The Methodist Men's Club met on July 21st at the Old Mill. Eight members were present. After Don offered a devotional on "*why worry*", the men discussed up coming projects that will require group effort. The men plan to begin removing the old siding from around the front door of the church and installing new siding starting on Friday of next week. The siding has all been primed by Bill Simms with white paint. Mel discussed the work needed to be completed on the stained glass windows before the dedication ceremony on August 25. The time for the dedication has been moved back to 4:30pm. The men will also pitch in to help with physical arrangements for the ceremony.

Joyous Singers

The Joyous Singers have been dormant this month except for July 1, when the singers presented a version of God Bless America. The schedule of rehearsals for the month will now appear on the monthly church calendar. If you feel a quivering in your vocal chords to sing, see Jon Shively, 384-5387. We are short on alto voices. This next month we will be exceptionally busy because of a need to prepare special music for the dedication of the stained glass windows.

Choir Plans for August

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Music</u>
July 31	Rehearsal at 4pm	He Has Made Me Glad, Glorify His Name, Let's Forget About Ourselves
August 5	Church Opening Song*	He Has Made Me Glad
August 7	Rehearsal at 4pm	Glorify His Name, Seek Ye First, Let's Forget About Ourselves
August 12	Church Opening Song*	Let's Forget About Ourselves
August 14	No Rehearsal	
August 19	Church Opening Song*	Glorify His Name
August 21	Rehearsal at 4pm	Seek Ye First, We've a Story to Tell to the Nations
August 25	Dedication Ceremony-Opening	Seek Ye First
August 25	Dedication Ceremony- Special	We've a Story to Tell to the Nations
August 26	Church Opening Song*	This Is the Day
August 28	Rehearsal at 4pm	Communion Song
September 1	Special Music-Communion *	Communion Song

* Singers will meet at 8:30 AM for rehearsal

Mountainair UMC News

On Sunday afternoon, July 8, the Mountainair Community Chorus presented an hour of musical history(!) in which songs relating to the historic times of our country were sung. Costumes and dancing (by Marcia) were even involved! Singers from both MUMC and EUMC participated "and a grand time was had by all." Thanks to all who attended.

**Ad Council Report**

This is a report of several meetings that have been going on in the United Methodist Church. Our own Annual conference was held in Albuquerque this year. There was not much pending business due to the Bishop leaving and other meetings coming up. However, we did pass a budget without too many painful discussions. We were fortunate to have Dr. Doug Anderson as the guest speaker. He reminded us that we need to be willing to moved from Preference/Comfort to a Mission-driven church. His talk is available for viewing to us and we may want to view it someday. It was very informative. We will begin to work closely with the Rio Grande Conference, and there will be two years of inclusion to see how we can work together so that everyone benefits.

We said our goodbyes to Bishop Whitfield and his wife and expressed our thanks for all that they have done for us. We wished them a fond farewell, as he becomes part of the faculty at Perking School of Theology.

The General Conference of the UMC met and the following decisions were made:

- Retained the churches position regarding homosexuality, deciding not to adopt language that would have said UM's are not of one mind on this issues.
- Did away with "Guaranteed appointments" for clergy.

- Rejected a proposal for setting aside a bishop to serve as full-time president of the Council of Bishops.
- Entered into full communion with a number of historically black Pam-Methodist denominations. (other Methodist congregations)
- Approved making UMW an autonomous organization.
- Created a national ministry for Pacific Islanders.
- Decided not to divest from three companies whose products are used by the Israeli military in occupied Palestinian territories.
- Adopted a budget a \$603.1 million budget for 2013-2016

Jurisdictional Conference met and elected three Bishops for our area and merged five conferences into two. As you can well imagine, this will bring about many changes including the Rio Grande merger within our own conference.

Bishops were assigned and we ended up with two interim bishops due to some unfinished business concerning the North Texas Conference Bishop. We are assigned Bishop Dan Solomon, who lives in Abilene, TX and Bill Hutchinson, who will retire to Las Cruces, NM, but will be available to us in the NM Conference.

This is a very brief report on three important meetings. If you want more information on any of these happenings, Pastor Bonnie or I will be happy to fill you in on details or direct you to a source of information.

Remember our big event coming up on August 25!! See you there.

-Marcia Fitzner

CLEANING ALERT !!!

This is an appeal for folks to help clean the church and education building. Those of you who have already volunteered your time in the previous months, many thanks. BUT, we do need people to sign up for August, September, October and November. December is divided into 2 parts, and week 1 and 2 are taken - week 3 and 4 are open.



A clipboard will be on hand this Sunday for sign-up. Please help us keep our place of worship looking neat and clean!

August 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
9 AM Worship 9:15 Childrens Church 11 AM Worship -Mtair			1 10:30:am Quilters	2	3	4
5 9 AM Worship 9:15 Childrens Church 11 AM Worship -Mtair	6 4:pm Womens Reunion	7 4:00 PM Choir Rehearse	8 10:30:am Quilters	9	10	11
12 9 AM Worship 9:15 Childrens Church 11 AM Worship -Mtair	13	14	15 10:30:am Quilters	16	17	18 7:00AM Men's Breakfast
19 9 AM Worship 9:15 Childrens Church 11 AM Worship -Mtair	20	21 4:00 PM Choir Rehearse	22 10:30:am Quilters	23	24	25 4:30 PM DEDICATION CEREMONY
26 9 AM Worship 9:15 Childrens Church 11 AM Worship -Mtair	27 4:pm Womens Reunion	28 4:00 PM Choir Rehearse	29 10:30:am Quilters	30	31	



Sent with a prayer to:

AUGUST



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

His Eye Is on the Sparrow (Cokesbury #228)

The theme of the song is inspired by the words of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew in the Bible: "*Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?*" (Matthew 6:26) and "*Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows*" (Matthew 10:29-31).

"**His Eye Is on the Sparrow**" is a Gospel hymn. Although today it is a staple of African-American worship services, the song was originally written in 1905 by two white songwriters, lyricist Civilla D. Martin and composer Charles H. Gabriel. The song is most associated with actress-singer Ethel Waters who used the title for her autobiography.



Civilla D. Martin



Charles Hutchinson Gabriel