



NEWSLETTER

OF THE

Estancia United Methodist Church

600 Williams, Estancia, New Mexico

<http://www.estanciamethodist.org>



DECEMBER, 2013

Pastor: Rev. Bonnie Hardesty
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Pastor Bonnie: 505-271-0486
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Your Church Staff

Chairperson of Church Council	Mel Stephenson
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	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	Jon Shively
McMurry Rep	Marcia Fitzner
Sacramento Camp Rep	Bonnie Hardesty

Bishop: Bishop W. Earl Bledsoe

District Superintendent: Rev. Jeff Lust

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

<http://www.estanciamethodist.org>



Sunday Worship 9:00 AM

From the Desk of Pastor Bonnie...

Looking for Christmas

There was a man who wanted to know God, so he said, "God, let me hear your voice."

Church bells rang in the distance... but the man didn't hear them.

The man shouted, "God, let me hear you!"

The wind whistled in the trees; but the man didn't listen.

So the man changed his tack and said, "Well then, God, let me see you."

The sun rose, shone brightly, and sunbeams sparkled on the snow. But the man didn't look.

He shouted louder, "God, show me your miracles!"

And a child was born... but the man paid no heed.

He cried in despair, "Lord, please touch me!"

His children tugged at his hands as they begged him to come and play; but the man said he was too busy.

Finally, the man prayed, "God, I need your help."

And a Christmas card from distant friends arrived in his mailbox.

God is always with us. He loves us and surrounds us with His presence in a million ways.

Too many of us miss out on the miracle of Christmas by looking at the presents instead of searching for His presence. This Christmas, may our ears be unstopped, may our eyes be opened. Let our minds be clear, our hearts soft. Let our hands be open to receive His blessings and to pass them on to those who need Him.

Hear Ye, Hear Ye !

*The Advent of Christmas is upon us...
Advent devotional booklets are available from
Pastor Bonnie. Please consider taking an extra
copy for a friend or neighbor.*

Don't forget to invite a friend to church.

*The Estancia Worship Committee has planned
some exciting additions: Advent Candle-lighting,
special music (anyone know a flutist or an
accordion player?!)*

What's Your favorite *Personal* Story of Christmas?

The Estancia Worship Team would like to hear from you! We'll be compiling your stories into a special Christmas remembrance to share with the congregation. Don't be shy! Morrow Hall will be compiling the stories, so email him with your story by Dec. 8th. Morrow's email address is morrowhall@q.com

Christmas Eve Communion Service of Carols & Lessons:

⌘ **6pm in Estancia**

⌘ **A Special Time for King's Kids**

⌘ **Bible Guppies will perform 'Silent Night' on Choir Chimes**

SAVE THE DATES !

Saturday, Dec. 14, 6pm – Estancia Twinkle Light Parade (& Estancia UMC Float)

Sunday, Dec. 15, 2pm – Mountainair Christmas Cantata

Tuesday, Dec. 17, 4pm – Mountainair Food Distribution

Tuesday, Dec. 24, 6pm - Christmas Eve Service

Looking forward - in January, we'll be celebrating

⌘ Epiphany

⌘ Wesley Covenant Service

Bible Guppies:

Thursdays, 3:15 – 4:30

If you've never been to Bible Guppies, now's a great time to start!

We have a **snack**, **sing**, **pray**, **practice choir chimes**, **read the Bible**, **have fun**, and **pray** again! And in Advent, **we'll also build a Jesse Tree** – come learn with us as Pastor Terry shares the hope of Jesus!

If you prefer gluten-free Communion elements, please let Pastor Bonnie know.

Estancia UMC is trying hard to update its congregational contact information. You can help by recording your name, address, phone number(s), and e-mail information on the registration pads (in the church pews) next time you're in worship!

The Manzano Mountain Community Chorus will present their Christmas cantata, "Seasons of Wonder", on Sunday, December 15, at 2:00pm at the Mountainair Assembly of God church. (Go to the gas station on the west end of Mountainair and turn north. Go one long block and one short block and you are there!) Singers include Julie Griffo, Elaine Darnell, Kent Potter, Keith Loepere, Anna Hopping, Jan Cool, with Patty Mahoney as director. Rev. Bonnie Hardesty will play flute.

CHRISTMAS TRUCE OF 1914

During World War I, on and around Christmas Day 1914, the sounds of rifles firing and shells exploding faded in a number of places along the Western Front in favor of holiday celebrations in the trenches and gestures of goodwill between enemies.

Starting on Christmas Eve, many German and British troops sang Christmas carols to each other across the lines, and at certain points the Allied soldiers even heard brass bands joining the Germans in their joyous singing.

At the first light of dawn on Christmas Day, some German soldiers emerged from their trenches and approached the Allied lines across no-man's-land, calling out "Merry Christmas" in their enemies' native tongues. At first, the Allied soldiers feared it was a trick, but seeing the Germans unarmed they climbed out of their trenches and shook hands with the enemy soldiers. The men exchanged presents of cigarettes and plum puddings and sang carols and songs. There was even a documented case of soldiers from opposing sides playing a good-natured game of soccer.


Some soldiers used this short-lived ceasefire for a more somber task: the retrieval of the bodies of fellow combatants who had fallen within the no-man's land between the lines.

The so-called Christmas Truce of 1914 came only five months after the outbreak of war in Europe and was one of the last examples of the outdated notion of chivalry between enemies in warfare. It was never repeated—future attempts at holiday ceasefires were quashed by officers' threats of disciplinary action—but it served as heartening proof, however brief, that beneath the brutal clash of weapons, the soldiers' essential humanity endured.

During World War I, the soldiers on the Western Front did not expect to celebrate on the battlefield, but even a world war could not destroy the Christmas spirit.



December, 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9 AM Worship 11 AM -Mtair	2	3	4	5 3:30 PM BIBLE GUPPIES	6	7
8 9 AM Worship 11 AM -Mtair	9	10	11 NO TRUSTEES MEETING IN DECEMBER	12 3:30 PM BIBLE GUPPIES	13	14 6 PM Twinkle Light Parade
15 9 AM Worship 11 AM -Mtair 2 PM Mountainair Christmas Cantata	16	17 4 PM Mountainair Food Distribution	18	19 3:30 PM BIBLE GUPPIES	20	21 NO MEN'S BREAKFAST MEETING IN DECEMBER
22 9 AM Worship 11 AM -Mtair	23	24 6 PM Christmas Eve Service	CHRISTMAS DAY 	26	27	28
29 9 AM Worship 11 AM -Mtair	30	31				

DECEMBER



Sent with a prayer to:

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P. O. Box 126
Estancia, NM 87016



Christmas Carol Points to the Gift Christ Wants—Our Hearts

In 1872 the poet Christina Rossetti wrote a poem that only appeared after her death. About thirty years later the poem was set to music and titled "A Christmas Carol." Today, we know it as "In the Bleak Midwinter."

According to Rossetti's poem, there is one thing that all of us can give Christ—no matter who we are. She wrote:

If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb,
If I were a wise man
I would do my part,
Yet what I can I give Him,
Give my heart.

Regardless of our tainted past or our present struggles, there is one gift that Christ wants more than anything—our hearts. No matter who you are or where you've been you can give him your heart.