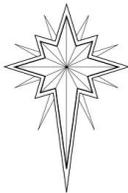




NEWSLETTER
OF THE
Estancia United Methodist
Church

600 Williams, Estancia, New Mexico
<http://www.estanciamethodist.org>



DECEMBER, 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
email: bjharde1@msn.com

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...

As we anticipate once again our celebration of the birth of Christ, I look forward to the awe, the wonder, and the mystery of it all. **God loves us!**



On our best days as well as our worst – God loves us!
When we sing His praises and when we shout at Him in anger – **God loves us!**
In our joy and in our despair – **God loves us!**
Whether we are full or empty – **God loves us!**
Old or young – **God loves us!**

Generous or miserly – **God loves us!**
In our lying down and in our rising – **God loves us!**
In the midst of our brokenness – **God loves us!**
When our loves fails – **God loves us!**

God loves us SO MUCH that He sent His Son, the Word made flesh, Immanuel – God with us – to teach us, to bless us, and to redeem us.

Thanks be to God!



A Message from Bishop Bledsoe:

Greetings!

I have learned a lot as a bishop of the church. I have visited many of your churches and I have heard some of the concerns of the people called Methodists. My hope and prayer is that we in the New Mexico and Northwest Texas Conferences will not let one issue divide us or distract us from the mission of the church. Our congregations are striving to fulfill the mission of the church and are working to enable their outreach to be relevant, passionate, and life-changing in their communities. I hope that we would stay focused on the mission.

However, the one issue that seems to be on the minds of many people at the moment is human sexuality. This letter comes in response to the statement many of you may have received recently from the Council of Bishops, which states:

As bishops of The United Methodist Church, our hearts break because of the divisions that exist within the church. We have been in constant prayer and conversation and affirm our consecration vow “to guard the faith, to seek the unity and to exercise the discipline of the whole church.” We recognize that we are one church in a variety of contexts around the world and that bishops and the church are not of one mind about human sexuality. Despite our differences, we are united in our commitment to be in ministry for and with all people. We are also united in our resolve to lead the church together to fulfill its mandate—to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. As we do so, we call on all United Methodists to pray for us and for one another.

Please know that this is a true statement concerning where the Council stands as a whole on the matter of human sexuality and not a position statement with regard to the issue. The Council of Bishops is made up of active and retired bishops from around the world. Each Episcopal Area is very different. In other words, one statement will not satisfy the needs and concerns of all the diverse areas where The United Methodist Church exists in the world. Thus, I wanted to speak directly to the churches in our conferences concerning the matter.

Please be aware of external groups working to try and influence the decision-making process of The United Methodist Church on this issue. These groups are autonomous and receive their support from those willing to donate directly to their specific causes; they are not official decision-making groups of the church and they are not supported by shared ministries. The only group that can speak for The United Methodist Church or change the position of the church on this matter is the General Conference, which meets once every four years. General

Conference will be the decision making body that will officially determine the UMC's position on many issues in 2016 and beyond.

In the meantime, I would hope we would not be deterred by any external group wanting to influence the outcome prior to the church actually making a decision – let's keep focus on disciple-making. Those who choose to violate the Book of Discipline and those who choose to withhold financial support from the church, because of positions outside the bounds of the Book of Discipline, do harm to the church. My prayer is that we do no harm.

Finally, I would encourage us to not judge or condemn one another because of differences on this issue of human sexuality. I am of the opinion that nothing can separate us from the love of God made known through Jesus Christ. I look forward to addressing these issues as we work to accomplish our mission. Please continue to pray for the church and for its leadership!

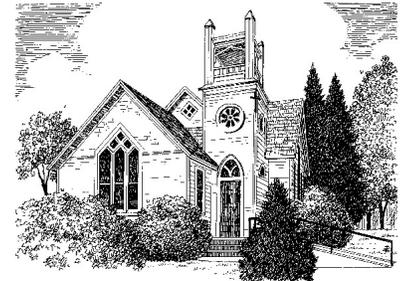
In Christ's Name,

-Bishop W. Earl Bledsoe

**Shawn Hart, former member of Estancia UMC, will be visiting
and bring the message December 14:**

Hello church,

It has been a very long time since I visited my childhood home. For those who don't know me, I graduated from high school in Estancia back in 1990. I was a member of the United Methodist Church and was very active in the youth group. However, after graduation I moved to eastern New Mexico and then to finally to West Texas. My parents are Charles and Susan Hart.



I have felt the call of the Holy Spirit to come and visit with the church. I spoke with Pastor Hardesty and we have decided on December 14, I will be sharing what God is doing in my family's lives. Just to give you a hint of the exciting things he has given for us to do, we will be moving to Sioma, Zambia as full time missionaries with Overland Missions. The Spirit has shown me that I needed to come back to where most of the influence in my Christian faith started and share how He is using us now to further the Kingdom of God. Pastor Hardesty asked me to speak during morning services on that date. I look forward to seeing old and new faces that morning.

Please join me that morning in worship of our Lord and sharing in the vision that he has for my family.

Always following His direction,

-Shawn Hart

“Thank You!”

Pastor Bubba (aka Rev. Dave Blackwell, First Farmington) sends the following: Thanks to you and your churches for the prayers and the cards I have received from them. I am improving a little more every day. No word on the brain tests yet--I have one more test and then a consultation with my PCP next Friday. Changes in medication have helped increase my alertness, memory, mood, and appetite. I appreciate your care ... praying for you and your flocks. God bless! D.



Mountainair UMC News



As we gaze into the

On Sunday, December 14, the Manzano Mountain Community Chorus will present its annual Christmas cantata at 2:00pm at the First Assembly of God Church in Mountainair. This year's cantata is entitled, "Canticles in Candellight." and features many of the most popular Christmas songs. The cantata is composed by Jeff Lust, the composer, and features many of the most popular Christmas songs. Jeff Lust, the composer, comments, "With great expectation we gather close to the hearth of Christ for strength for our journey to dawn. We warm our spirits at the hearth of the glow of prayer and devotion and discover the illumination of truth and the warmth of fellowship. As we gaze into the dancing gold we discover a deeper truth; we are the candles! . . . Jesus, the Light of the World has come and we are His children of Light." Cool, huh!

Welcome New Members:

Congrats to David and Maribeth Dixon who joined Mountainair UMC on Nov. 9 and Michael Dile who joined Estancia UMC on Oct. 26 !! Please take a moment to welcome them into our fellowship and include them in your prayers.

Way to Go, Mountainair!

David and Maribeth Dixon coordinate the efforts of Promised Land ministries and Roadrunner Food Bank to distribute food commodities in our community. They report that over 100 households were served in November! Food distribution takes place the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 3pm at the Mountainair Church. You're welcome to come and help!

"The next right answer" —This simple sentence got my attention many years ago. You might have seen the video. It was a video on leadership and change that had as its narrator a professional photographer who frequently contracts with National Geographic. He stated that in a typical photo spread for one story in the magazine, he would take thousands of photographs. Thousands of attempts for maybe 20 photos to be used!

The photographer illustrated in this video by taking photos of everyday things. After each photo he would ask, "What's the next right answer?" By moving to a different location or including another element in the composition of the photo or changing the lighting he would create another view that would be different from the previous one. He pointed out that one was not good and the other bad - they were just different, but hopefully improving each time. Sometimes he would take dozens of photos of the same scene, but with each one moving toward the next right answer.

This seems to be a really great way for us to view our journey in faith and our church life together. Too often we frame conversations about who is right and who is wrong, or we think that an initiative or program that worked in 1992 should work just as well now. Truth is, we are all in process. **God is not finished yet.** Each of us has another next right answer regarding our own faith development. All of our churches have another next right answer for its ministries and operations. Our Annual Conference has other next right answers in our pursuit of the vision of "relevant, passionate, life-changing churches."

Healthy Church Initiative (HCI) is re-started. On November 8 teams and pastors from First and Kingswood UMC's in Clovis met for a half-day with Cheri Lyon, Martha Benn, Gloria Hutchins, and myself to embark on a journey that will continually ask, "what's the next right answer." The newly formatted HCI is shorter and involves pastors and laity in much more intentional conversation. A group of churches in the Albuquerque area will begin HCI in January. Plans are underway to start a group in the El Paso area. This is a very intentional effort to engage local churches where they are to bring insight and support. Our Annual Conference will gain strength only when our local churches are healthier.

Cheri Lyon is spearheading the effort to train laity and clergy to be "coaches." The first training last summer had about 50 participants - 30 of which were laity! That training continues to expand in a couple of ways. First, Cheri is working to get certified as a coach. That is a long-term and intense effort. But we believe it is a very constructive way to engage laity and clergy in our common ministry. Also, in December we are hosting a training event about how to coach groups. Many of us are involved in committees and task forces and the like. This training helps us know how to help these groups be most productive to efficiently and effectively accomplish their purpose.

These examples show "the next right answer" to invest in local churches, laity, and clergy. With gratitude and joy, we continue to move forward, knowing that God is already there, paving the way with grace and power.

Blessings, Jeff

-Rev. Jeff Lust, Provost

Don't forget Wednesday Family Nights in Estancia, 4:30-6:30pm:

12/3 – Dinner, Bible Video, Ornament Making, & Choir Chime practice

12/10 – Dinner, Bible Video, Wreath Making, & Choir Chime practice

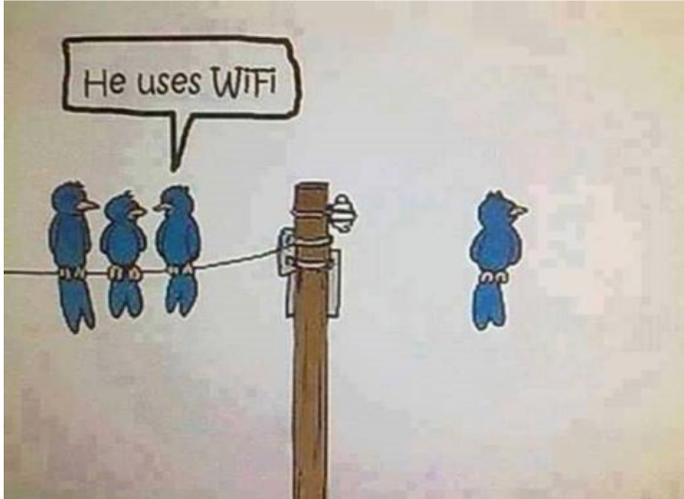
12/17 – Dinner, Bible Video, Rehearsals for Sunday 12/21 & Wednesday 12/24
Worship Services

12/24 – Meet at 5:30pm to prepare for 6pm Christmas Eve Worship.

12/31 – Happy New Year – Celebrate at home with your families!

All of January 2015 – BREAK – See you in February!

Help Wanted: Tractor for pulling Estancia UMC's Christmas Parade float 4-7pm Saturday, Dec. 13. If you can help, please contact Pastor Bonnie @ 271-0486. If you'd like to help decorate or ride on the float, let us know!



Truth is Stranger than Fiction

Seems that a year ago, some Boeing employees on the field decided to steal a life raft from one of the 747s. They were successful in getting it out of the plane and home. When they took it for a float on the river, they were quite surprised by a Coast Guard helicopter coming towards them. It turned out that the chopper was homing in on the emergency locator that is activated when the raft is inflated. They are no longer employed there.

All Saints Day 11-2-14



Michael Dile Becoming Member





GET CONNECTED

Sign up to receive the weekly NM Annual Conference e-Newsletter!

- Share our stories
- NM Annual Conference information
- Grants, scholarships & funding source opportunities
- Ideas for church services & ministries
- Maintain national & global perspective
- News on latest hot jobs & free stuff
- Guidance from Conference leaders
- Inspiration, entertainment & general silliness!

To start receiving the e-Newsletter, please email:

frontdesk@nmconfum.com

Quiz of the Month

For the under age 40 crowd ONLY...

Can you tell me what's going on in this photo?

First caller (271-0486) with the correct answer gets recognition in next month's newsletter!



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INTERPRETER
United Methodists Living Their Faith

Put it on your calendar:

In the mood for a Norman Rockwell / Courier & Ives / picture-perfect Country Christmas celebration? The Manzano Mountain Community Chorus presents its annual Christmas Cantata **Sunday December 14**, at 2pm at the Assembly of God Church, 600 Broadway in Mountainair.



Mark Your December Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 MMCC rehearsal 6:30 @ Mt Air UMC	2 Double YOUR \$\$\$\$ It's Giving Tuesday!	3 Family Night 4:30- 6:30pm	4	5	6
7 Second Sunday in Advent 11am Combined Worship in Estancia w/Charge Conf. @Noon	8 MMCC rehearsal 6:30 @ Location TBA	9	10 Family Night 4:30- 6:30pm	11	12	13 4pm Gather in Estancia for the Christmas Parade!
14 Third Sunday in Advent Estancia Worship Guest Speaker - Shawn Hart MtAir Christmas Cantata 2pm @ Assembly of God	15	16 Promised Land / Roadrunner Food Bank in MtAir, 3pm	17 Family Night 4:30- 6:30pm	18	19	20 6pm Estancia Christmas Caroling
21 Fourth Sunday in Advent 9am Estancia Christmas Pageant	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Service in Estancia @ 6pm (Youth gather @ 5:30)	25 	26	27
28	29	30	31 NO Family Night – Be Safe, Celebrate @ Home!	A HAPPY NEW YEAR		



Sent with a prayer to:

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

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MULTIPLY YOUR IMPACT!

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2

Your gift to mission that is made online through The Advance on UMC #GivingTuesday could be matched dollar for dollar up to \$1 million!



www.umcmission.org/give

Calling all NM Conference United Methodists!

From 10 PM MST, Dec. 1 to 9:59 PM MST, Dec. 2, you have a unique opportunity to celebrate

Giving Tuesday

and double every dollar you give to United Methodist Advance Mission Institutions. During these 24 hours Global Ministries will match gifts up to \$2,500 or \$25,000 total for any one mission institution as long as the \$1,000,000 match lasts. *In Mountain Standard Time you can begin donating at 10 PM, Dec. 1. In Central Standard Time you can begin donating at 11 PM, Dec. 1. In 2013 the match ran out at 10:03 PM MST/11:03 CST so the earlier you donate the better!* In the New Mexico Conference there are five Advance Institutions and one missionary including:

- #581540 Amigos del Valle in Española
- #581262 Covenant Education Center in Shiprock
- #581254 Four Corners Native American Ministry in Shiprock
- #531523 Lydia Patterson Institute in El Paso.
- #581479 McCurdy Ministries in Española
- #3021318 Skip Hodges, missionary from New Mexico to Bolivia
- #05773A Mulungwishi Theological Seminary in the Congo - Bishop Whitfield's Scholarship Fund

To give using Mastercard, Discovery, American Express or Visa go to umcmission.org/give on Dec. 1 or Dec. 2.