



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



FEBRUARY, 2014

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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	Alma Wimsatt
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...

The Gospel of Luke 24:13-35 tells a story of two disciples who, three days after Jesus' crucifixion, thinking that all their Messianic hopes had been dashed, set out walking from Jerusalem to a dusty little town about seven miles from there... Emmaus:

"Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him. He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, their faces downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?" "What things?" he asked. "About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see." He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures

concerning himself. As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread."

How ironic! On the *very day* of the greatest event in history, **JESUS' RESURRECTION...** these two disciples had lost all their hope and were headed back to their sleepy little village, ready to take up their same old routines and habits, perhaps more jaded than ever over the miserable condition of their lives. Jesus had walked right beside them for 7 miles; and yet they did not recognize Him until dinner that evening!

How often has Jesus walked with us... and yet we failed to notice? Even life-long Christians can sometimes feel alone. **Are you in need of a long walk, talk, and dinner with Jesus?** Is it time for your eyes to be re-opened to His presence with you? If so, I have good news! A spiritual retreat called **The Walk to Emmaus is being offered in Gallup this spring!** **The Women's Walk is scheduled for March 13-17, and the Men's Walk is March 27-30.**

I'm inviting YOU to experience this life-changing encounter with Jesus!

What happens on the Emmaus Weekend?

The objective of the Walk to Emmaus is to inspire, challenge, and equip local church members for Christian action in their homes, churches, communities and places of work. You will enjoy three days of singing, learning, laughing, worshipping, reflecting, praying and participating in small groups. Discussions center around fifteen talks given by laity and clergy. These talks present the theme of God's grace, how that grace comes alive in the Christian community and how it is expressed in the world. You'll also discover how grace is real in your life, how you live a life of grace, and how you bring that grace to others.

You'll participate in the daily celebration of Holy Communion and come to understand more fully the body of Christ. You will experience God's grace through the prayers and acts of anonymous service offered by the Emmaus community. You will leave with an experience of Christian love in action that will equip you for new levels of grace-filled service and leadership.

Mission:

Empowering Leaders to be the hands and feet of Christ

"I continue to dream and pray about a revival of holiness in our day that moves forth in mission and creates authentic community in which each person can be unleashed through the empowerment of the Spirit to fulfill God's creational intentions."

-- John Wesley

Our church has been praying for a renewal of God's Spirit in our midst... and here is His response: 'Come, take a walk. Let's talk and share dinner.' The registration deadline is June 1. I would love to sponsor your time with Jesus. Please let me know as soon as the Spirit has convinced you to, "Go..."

Blessings,
Pastor Bonnie

Guppies lead the way.....

As many of you can testify, going from working a full time job to not working is a hard transition. Plus, with all jobs there are different aspects that you miss doing and some you do not. I was so bummed, because I especially missed working with kids. Then I was invited by Pastor Bonnie, Julie Griffo and Melanie Chavez to come teach a short segment to the Guppies. I was so excited, yet so nervous. I had visited the after school program we have on Thursdays and had fun. This time I was going to be teaching, for four Thursdays in a row. My thoughts ran from would they like me... to, will I stay limber enough to do it? I sure did waste a lot of time worrying.....for you see, those kids were great!

I went there to teach them about “*the Jesse tree*,” which entails putting hand painted decorations on an old tree limb—while telling the stories of the bible. I ended up learning so much more from these kids, because they love the Lord, they love the program and they show it. That says a lot about the influences of parents, family and friends, and this program.

The truth, that day, like many, was that I was not feeling that good but wanted to go, so I did. The kids were great and it was fun to be there. However, three of them noticed that I was not doing well and as we gathered around for prayer at the end, they all knelt before me each saying a prayer. I believe they then got up and joined in a prayer circle. Let me tell you that each one of the kids in the room and the adults prayed a line or two out loud.

The kids showed me that they could be, and are, leaders in their program and followers, too. I would encourage you to come and visit the program and bring your kids, grand kids or neighbor kids. This group helps in worship (were not the chime players and singers awesome on Christmas Eve???) And be sure to tell them, “*thank you.*”

And a child shall lead them....many do here. May we continue to share with them every Thursday in Guppies and at other times.

-Terry Ann Moore

FIRST CONFIRMATION CLASS IN YEARS

History in the making as this is the first Confirmation class that has been taught at the Estancia UMC in a few years.

Kick off to Confirmation had it’s own kicks and twists and turns. First: burnt pizza in the oven accidentally sets off the fire alarm. Second: Wonderful town employees and volunteers come and check on us after Pastor Bonnie called 911 to get the alarm turned off. Third, wonderful volunteers came to help and the parents, aunts and kids came to the first class. They played some fun games and then got down to some serious business as you can see in this picture. Then once again, proving that doing an event really helps you bond, Pastor Bonnie



and one of the new "Confirmands" are laughing and smiling as she begins her trust walk.

Confirmation is on Sundays from 3 to 5 p.m. every Sunday until Easter Sunday.

Please Pray for our Confirmands and their Parents!

Melanie & Danny Chavez - Alexandra Chavez

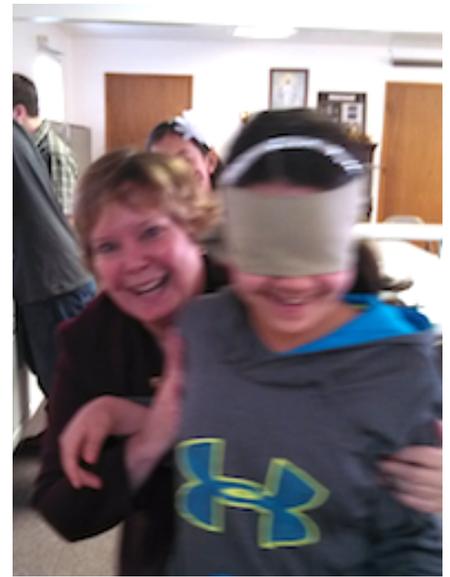
Cheryl & Robert Chavez - Jesse Chavez & Sydney Chavez

Julie Morales - Julius Chavez & Michael Chavez

Michelle Coe - Zachary Coe & Jasmine Coe

Leslie & Jason Fastnacht - Jaxon Fastnacht, Lainey Fastnacht, Lucas

Fastnacht, Jaimey Fastnacht & Jenna Fastnacht



Thanks to the Neish family for their contribution of snacks for the confirmation class!

If you can donate softdrinks or snacks (or come and set/clean up on Sundays) it would be very much appreciated. Fruit juice, Bottled water, Koolaid, String cheese, Crackers & Dip, Fresh veggies & Fruit, Pizza & other finger foods are just the ticket! Set up at 2:30, clean up at 5pm.

MENTORS NEEDED

Our confirmands need to hear that you are truly interested in their faith walk. They need to know that you wrestled with (and maybe STILL wrestle with!) some of the same questions and issues that they face today. If you can remember being a teenager - if you can remember YOUR Confirmation experience - if you can offer a word of encouragement - if you care about the success of these young folks - NOW is the TIME to SHOW IT. Confirmation Class meets 3-5pm each Sunday until Easter. Please call Pastor Bonnie (505-271-0486) to discuss how YOU can help!



FROM OUR ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Happy 2014! I am excited to begin my role as Administrative Council Chair. I prayed over and over, asking God why I was asked to be Chair, wondering what I have to offer, and asking for lots of guidance. In response I heard, "heal," sometimes I heard "discomfort," other times I heard "conflict," and many times I heard "change." I kind of wish He would just plain old tell me with simple sentences so I know I understand correctly. No such luck.

The following is how I interpret His answers to my petitions and my perspective about change. We are at an exciting yet tenuous point in the life of our little Methodist Church in Estancia. We are being forced to examine what we are doing, why we are doing it and if what we are doing is working for everyone, especially for God. These are tough issues and the answers may require each of us in the congregation to shift and change. Personally, I feel that we learn more about who we are and our purpose while we are in conflict and

when we experience discomfort. Both conflict and change are uncomfortable and many try to avoid it. However, without conflict, many times we don't take the opportunity to ask tough questions. Without conflict or discomfort, we have no incentive to change. Without change, we cannot experience growth.

We, as a church family, have the opportunity to listen to the voice of Jesus and do His work. Yes, it probably means we need to do things a bit differently. When we put God first -- not ourselves, not our own agendas, not our own assumptions, and not the world -- we have a clearer picture of our purpose. No, not our purpose but God's purpose. By asking for God's guidance, we trust that the change, growth and even the conflict can be healthy and productive. I truly believe we lose hope and our frustration gets the best of us when we forget to look upward. He will lead us if we choose to follow Him.

With this, my goal is to help our Church and our Administrative Council do God's work. We are a team. Our meeting agendas will reflect God's model more and a business model less. We will meet monthly to help "stay the course," to keep informed, and to solve problems when they are ant hill-size and not mountains.

If you have feedback - whether it is positive or negative - suggestions, or comments that will help fulfill our mission, please feel free to speak with any Council member. We appreciate you!

-Melanie Chavez

Helium Hula Hoops

How many church members does it take to lift a hula hoop? Sounds like the beginning of a joke, doesn't it? It was no joke, however, at the Administrative Council meeting on January 12th. As a team-building activity, Council Chair Melanie Chavez had us try to lift a hula hoop up as high as Pastor Bonnie's shoulders with each of us using only the back of one finger. Sounds easy, right? Well it wasn't. It took many tries and our full concentration and cooperation to finally do it.



In trying to do this task, we found out that it was important to know what was expected and to follow the guidelines. We learned that we should make a plan and seek help from others when necessary. Being respectful and listening to each other was vital, as was not placing blame on others or getting upset. And we learned that we need to work as a team.

What we experienced during this activity can apply to the Church Council, to the Estancia United Methodist Church, and to all of us who belong to the Body of Christ. We must seek God's will for us as individuals and as a church and then make a plan. We need to listen to God in prayer, meditation, and study as well as listen to each other. Loving one another as Christ loves us and working together with Him as our team leader is really important.

I pray we can all work for Christ and with Christ as we move forward to be the church that God wants us to be.

-Julie Griffo

Looking for a short-term Bible Study?

Julie and Nick Griffo will be leading 'The Story of Jesus' - a seven-week exploration into the life and ministry of Jesus. Class will meet 3-5pm on Sundays beginning Feb. 2.

The Colors in our Sanctuary

Have you ever wondered why the colors of the altar cloth and the podium banner change periodically? It's not based on my preference or Pastor Bonnie's mood. There are actually guidelines established by the Methodist Church that determine what colors we have when – and why.

The United Methodist Church website at umc.org explains it like this:

“The Christian year has two cycles: the Christmas Cycle (Advent-Christmas-Epiphany) and the Easter Cycle (Lent-Easter-Pentecost). Within each cycle are a preparatory season symbolized by the color purple and a festival season symbolized by the color white. After each cycle there is an ordinary time of growth symbolized by the color green. Thus there is a sequence of seasons using purple, white, and green in that order twice each year. (The United Methodist Book of Worship, Copyright 1992, The United Methodist Publishing House)



LENT

ADVENT

EASTER
CHRISTMAS

PENTECOST

ORDINARY

- Traditionally purple, representing both royalty and penitence, is used during Advent and Lent.
- Blue symbolizes hope and may also be used during Advent.
- White and gold are used at Christmas and Easter to symbolize joy and festivities.
- Red symbolizes the color of fire to represent the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost and times when the work of the Holy Spirit is emphasized. During Holy Week it represents the blood of Christ.
- Green represents growth and is used during Ordinary Time (the season after Epiphany and the season after Pentecost.)

-Julie Griffo

Church Mouse Says... Circle the Date - Friday Feb. 14 is Valentine's Day - Do you have Dinner plans yet with your Honey??

I received a Christmas card with the following in it which I found to be quite profound.

Some people leave Jesus in the manger . . .

Some people leave Jesus on the cross . . .

Some people, leave Jesus in the grave . . .

He came through each of these miracles
in order to live in us with great power.



A Wonderful Play for Holy Week Produced by the Worship Committee!

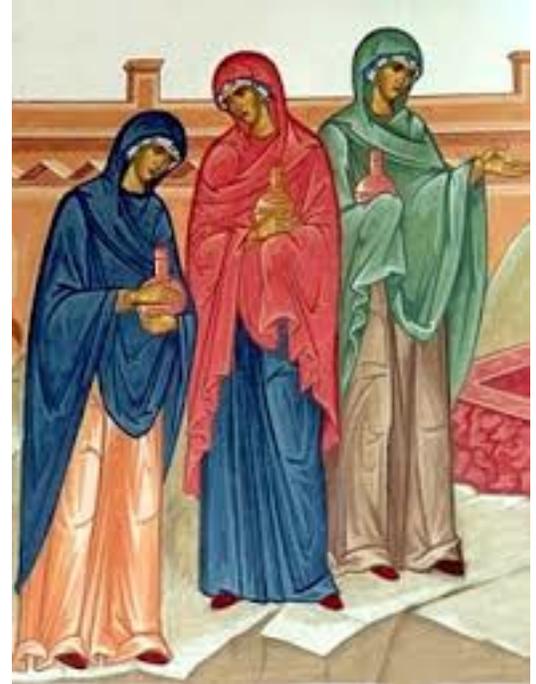
Calling all who like to act and present dramas in the church! We need 12 women and one teenage girl to be a part of our cast for the play, ***"The Other 12 Disciples"***, which was written by Rev. Charles Erwood Goodwin. The play is the stories presented in the first person of the women who worked in Jesus' ministry and followed Him. We hear the stories of those who provided food and comfort, who walked beside Him and worked with Him and who went to the tomb to anoint and prepare His body with spices and who spoke with Him in the Garden.

Each woman will present a paragraph of a biography telling who they are representing. The young girl does not have a speaking part, but her presence on the set is important. We will have three practices and the presentation will be on ***Maundy Thursday of Holy Week on April 17th*** in our Sanctuary. Our first meeting for the play will be after Ash Wednesday Worship Service on March 5th. We will have practices on April 2nd, 9th and, if need be, on April 16th.

Not only do we need people for the cast, we need help with the costumes, a very simple set (we hope), public relations, advertising, as well as, sound, lighting, etc. If you would be interested, contact **Pastor Bonnie, Julie Griffo** or **Terry Ann Moore**.

Please do not worry if you are not good at memorizing. We can work something, so you can be a part of the play. All are welcome to come and be a part of this wonderful presentation.

-Terry Ann Moore



Looking to the Future - Calendar Items:

Sundays @ 3pm - Confirmation Class

Sundays @ 3pm - The Story of Jesus Bible Study

Thursdays @ 3:15 - Bible Guppies

Tuesday 3/4 @ 6pm - Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper

Wednesday 3/5 @ 6pm - Ash Wednesday Service of Imposition of Ashes

Wednesday 3/5 @ 7pm - Casting for 'The Other 12 Disciples'

Thursday - Sunday, 3/13 - 3/16 - Women's Emmaus Walk in Gallup (Please see Pastor Bonnie for applications for either the Women's or Men's Walks!)

Wednesday 3/26 @ 6pm - Rehearsal - 'The Other 12 Disciples'

Thursday - Sunday, 3/27 - 3/30 - Men's Emmaus Walk in Gallup (Pastor Bonnie is serving on this team and will be out of town these days.)

Wednesday 4/2 @ 6pm - Rehearsal - 'The Other 12 Disciples'

Wednesday 4/9 @ 6pm - Rehearsal - 'The Other 12 Disciples'

Sunday 4/13 - Palm Sunday

Thursday 4/17 @ 6pm - Seder Dinner & 'The Other 12 Disciples'

Sunday 4/20 - Easter Sunday & Confirmation Celebration

Wednesday - Saturday 6/4 - 6/7 - Annual Conference in El Paso

February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9 AM Worship 11 AM -Mtair 2PM Confirmation Class	3	4	5	6 3:15 PM BIBLE GUPPIES	7	8
9 9 AM Worship 11 AM -Mtair 3 PM Confirmation Class	10	11	12	13 3:15 PM BIBLE GUPPIES	14 6:00 PM Valentine's Dinner 	15 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast
16 9 AM Worship 11 AM -Mtair 3 PM Confirmation Class	17	18	19	20 3:15 PM BIBLE GUPPIES 6:39 PM TRUSTEES	21	22
23 9 AM Worship 11 AM -Mtair 3 PM Confirmation Class	24	25	26	27 3:15 PM BIBLE GUPPIES	28	



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Church
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If you REALLY want to make God happy... Help a Guppy or Confirmand to experience God's love!

Parents and other adults are the closest thing to 'God' that children can know. We want them to know that God is willing to take time to be with them and that He is interested in their well-being and faith development. Children get that sense of God's interest in them from parents and adults who are willing to take time to be with them and support them, especially in activities like Bible Guppies and Confirmation Classes. Are you invested in the spiritual development and well-being of our children and youth? They are the future of our church! Manifesting that interest through contributions of snacks or dollars, or even better - showing up to BE THERE with the kids, participating in visible ways that help them know that they are beloved in the eyes of God, is what REALLY COUNTS! Our Guppies meet Thursdays 3:15 – 4:30pm and Confirmands meet Sundays 3:00 – 5:00pm. If you could be there to show them a bit of God's love, it would be a GREAT EXAMPLE of faith in action. This is your big chance to leave a legacy of love and to let your own heart be touched by an angel. See you there!