



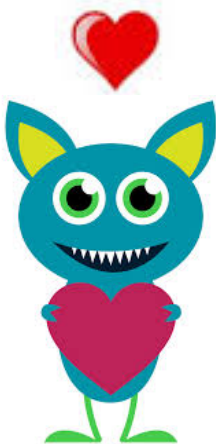
NEWSLETTER

OF THE

Estancia United Methodist
Church

600 Williams, Estancia, New Mexico

<http://www.estanciamethodist.org>



FEBRUARY, 2015

Pastor: Rev. Bonnie Hardesty
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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	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*

If you've been gone from church recently, you've missed the first four of our **52 Messages of Hope**. I don't want anyone to be left out, so here's a *very brief synopsis* of those messages. Feel free to look up the Scriptures and read more about God's promises for You!

1/4/15	Eccl. 3:1, 12-13 'For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven... I know that there is nothing better ... than to be happy ... it is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil.'	Work is not just a 4-letter word! Here's the Good News: God wants us to be happy in all we do and in everything.
1/11/15	Gen. 1:3-4 'God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.'	God draws order out of chaos, light from darkness, and separates one from the other. God draws US out of sin and into sanctification (holy living) thru Jesus!
1/18/15	I Sam. 3:1-20 <u>The Lord</u> speaks to Samuel and Samuel HEARS , he LISTENS , he RESPONDS , he COMMITTS himself to God's plan.	In Samuel's day, the priesthood had become corrupt. The nation Israel was young and distracted. No one went to synagogue. Few prayed to the Lord or offered sacrifices to Him. The word of the Lord was rare in those days & visions were not widespread. We have the same problems today... we're distracted & unfaithful to God's plan. But here's the Good News: God Still speaks. Are we listening?

1/25/15	Jonah 3:1-5 & <u>10</u> The Lord speaks to Jonah a 2 nd time (after Jonah first ran away and ended up in the belly of the great fish!) and Jonah goes to Nineveh. The people repent & God relents. Nineveh is spared!	There's a little bit of Jonah in all of us. There are places & people we just don't want to save. But God still calls us to go – to Bosnia, to hospitals, to grocery stores and schools and places of employment – to tell His Good News. And God still sees and hears and blesses those who are faithful – both us AND them.
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And for good measure, here are some inspired rules to live by:



1. Give people more than they expect and do it cheerfully.
2. Marry a man/woman you love to talk to. As you get older, their conversational skills will be as important as any other.
3. Don't believe all you hear, spend all you have, or sleep all you want.
4. When you say, 'I love you,' mean it.
5. When you say, 'I'm sorry,' look the person in the eye.
6. Be engaged at least six months before you get married.
7. Believe in love at first sight.
8. Never laugh at anyone's dreams. People who don't have dreams don't have much.
9. Love deeply and passionately. You might get hurt but it's the only way to live life completely.
10. In disagreements, fight fairly. No name calling.
11. Don't judge people by their relatives.
12. Talk slowly but think quickly.
13. When someone asks you a question you don't want to answer, smile and ask, 'Why do you want to know?'
14. Remember that great love and great achievements involve great risk.
15. Say 'bless you' when you hear someone sneeze.
16. When you lose, don't lose the lesson.
17. Remember the three R's:
Respect for self; Respect for others; and Responsibility for all your actions.
18. Don't let a little dispute injure a great friendship.
19. When you realize you've made a mistake, take immediate steps to correct it.
20. Smile when picking up the phone. The caller will hear it in your voice.
21. Spend some time alone with God. If you read the first 4 messages of Hope, you know He's waiting to talk with you!

With blessings for Renewed Hope in Your Life,

FROM YOUR WORSHIP COMMITTEE

First of all, I would like to thank all of you who helped decorate the sanctuary for Christmas. So many of you took part in making our church beautiful for our celebration of Christ's birthday and then worked to take down the decorations after the holidays. I really appreciate your help and dedication.

Second, the Worship Committee recently met to discuss how we can improve our Sunday morning service. We would like your input about what you want to see changed during our time of worship together – anything you would like added or taken out. We value your opinion. It's your church and we want to make our worship time valuable to you, as well as pleasing to God. We would also like to begin having more congregational participation during worship. Please let Pastor Bonnie or me know if you would be willing to be a greeter, usher, scripture reader, or worship assistant.

In Christ's Service,



Justice Chavez just got home from the hospital last Sunday and couldn't attend church. So Pastor Bonnie had the wonderful idea of bringing Justice to the **King's Kids** part of the service by "Conference Phone". Justice answered right away, and was able to participate with Pastor Bonnie and the rest of the kids... Pretty neat!

A Word about Wimpy Prayer:

Do our prayers tend to be about ourselves: our health, our safety, our comfort? If so, author Rebekah Simon-Peter says we may be guilty of having a WIMPY PRAYER LIFE!

Of course, no concern is unimportant to a loving, caring God. All of our individual worries, cares, and fears are burdens equally shared by God. That's not the issue. That's not what makes us wimpy.

BUT:

If we say that we are the hands and feet of Christ, who came for the whole of creation, but our prayers reveal that we only care about us— our health, our safety, and our comfort; how can we be effective as the Body of Christ in this world of need? When did we last pray for the earth's creatures? Or people groups we have never met?

If we say we want young people in our churches, but our prayers are void of concern for them and the serious issues they face (drug use, bullying, teen pregnancy, absentee parents, etc.) are we sincere in that desire? When did we last pray about the causes of teen suicide or the things that bring youth joy?

If we say we follow Christ, but our prayers don't sound much like His, do we really want unity, strength under duress, God's will above our own, God's kingdom to come, right-sized sustenance, forgiveness for sins and debts as well as the ability to forgive others, guidance to resist temptation and increasing faith? Other than in the Lord's Prayer, do we ever really pray for these things?

Tips for Robust (non-Wimpy!) Prayers:

1. Ask the Holy Spirit for words and courage to pray boldly and in God's will.
2. Weave personal requests among broader prayers that reflect the needs of all of God's creation.
3. Don't be afraid to pray for the desires of your heart... no request is too big or too small to take to God!

Church, if we get these things right, our prayers will no longer be WIMPY. Instead, they'll make us stronger, braver and more confident! Then watch out. **The word is likely to get out!**

Hear Ye, Hear Ye!!!!

Family Night is Back!

Starting Wednesday, Feb. 4

4:30 – 6:30 pm



Bible Video!

Food!

Minute-to-Win-it!

Bring your Friends!

Overheard...

Wouldn't it be great if we could put ourselves in the dryer for ten minutes and come out wrinkle-free and three sizes smaller!

For you tech-savvy young folks...

What Would Jesus Say on Social Media? by Karen Ehman

What to Say, How to Say It, and When to Say Nothing at All

Have you ever read through comments on social media and been stunned by the meanness? Have you ever wanted to engage and zing someone back or offer your own criticism or negative remarks? Have you ever found yourself in a battle online and been shocked at what you were willing to say? How do you think Jesus would interact with others on social media? What would He say and not say?

If you play the fool and exalt yourself, or if you plan evil, clap your hand over your mouth! - Proverbs 30:32

Here it is, translated for social media: “If you are tempted to slam someone online or brag on Facebook or send off a nasty tweet, turn off the screen and walk away!”

Maybe we should jot down these questions on a sticky note or two and post them near the computer to remind us to ask:

- Is this comment wise?
- Will writing this comment help me display God’s love to outsiders?
- Is this comment full of grace?
- Is this comment seasoned with salt?
- Have I asked God if this is the best response?

That’s it in a nutshell, but maybe we should spell out some rules of thumb that might keep our thumbs and fingers from wandering off into slander, arrogance, or combativeness. Here are six that work for me.

1. Pray Before You Post

My friend Suzanne wrote a great online devotional in which she talked about how many people run to check their Facebook page first thing in the morning. She encouraged her readers to instead make sure they consulted their “Faithbook” first — the Bible. How true this is! Perhaps if we spent time ingesting words of truth before we switched on the computer, we might not write things that are unkind or hurtful. At the very least, we should whisper a prayer before we post, asking the Holy Spirit to tap on our hearts if we are tempted to post anything online that would not glorify him.

2. Imagine the Recipient Sitting Next to You

The Internet is so impersonal. We see tiny little thumbnail photos of people. We see words typed out on a screen rather than hear them spoken out loud. The pixels-and-pictures environment almost compels us to be rude because it lacks the subtle social cues — the wince, the moment of quiet — that tell us we’ve crossed the line. We feel empowered and also have a sense of anonymity as we tap, tap, tap away on our keyboards. But if a flesh-and-blood person were sitting next to us with eyes we could look into, perhaps we would state things differently. Before you post, ask yourself if you would say things differently if the person to whom you’re writing were actually sitting next to you.

3. Remember: When You’re Online, You’re Also on Stage

Unless we send a private message, our online words are available for others to see. Twitter followers see what we tweet. Facebook friends, and the friends of those on whose walls we post comments, also see what we say. And hundreds, if not hundreds of thousands, of people can see a comment we leave on someone’s blog. This reality should certainly cause us to pause before we post — especially if there is even a remote possibility we might later regret what we write. If I say something in person to a friend and am later convicted I was wrong, I can go back to my friend and apologize. However, if I post something on social media or comment on a blog and later want to retract it, I have no way to chase down all of the people who might have seen the original comment. Just this fact alone should cause us to really weigh our words before we type them out.

4. Ask Yourself If You've Earned the Right to Address the Subject at Hand

If friends on Facebook are hashing through a hot-button issue of the day, do you have any expertise in the area, or are you only slinging an underinformed opinion? We can't always be an expert on every topic at hand, so when we aren't, we might do well to refrain from commenting at all.

5. Ask Yourself If You Have a Close Enough Relationship with the Person to Warrant Offering Your Opinion

It both irks me and makes me laugh when I see who hops on my page to offer their unsolicited opinions. Suddenly, people I haven't heard from in years pop up on my screen offering their pixelated opinion about something I've posted. They give me specific instructions and pointed advice on what I should believe about a particular topic. This always surprises me because I don't have a close relationship with these folks. Why do they think I will take their advice or value their perspective on my issues when they have not been a close friend or confidant?

Would they be responsive to unsolicited advice if someone they knew years ago suddenly walked up to them on the street and started telling them what to believe and how to act? If you're tempted to dole out unsolicited advice to anyone who's not a trusted friend, then I encourage you to resist the temptation!

6. When You Do Speak, Let Your Speech Be Laced with Grace

No need for snark. No need for angry words or critical comments. Our mamas were right: If we can't say something nice, we shouldn't say anything at all. When we do speak, we can choose to be gracious rather than accusatory or negative. Our words must glorify God and not just exalt our own opinions. We should be especially mindful that there are people whom we don't know who might be viewing our online speech. Here is a great guideline from Scripture:

Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. - *Colossians 4:5-6*

Remember those Bible Sticks we helped send to U.S. Troops last year? Well, the Troops and their families aren't the only ones who benefit from this wonderful ministry... Read on:

Growing in Grace

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

– 2 Peter 3:18

There are **over 4 million Bambara people** living in Mali and they are one of the most powerful and

influential ethnic groups in the country. The women play an important role in their culture and, as their lives are transformed by hearing God's Word, families and the nation are being transformed.

The average Bambara woman has eight children and even elderly widows have suitors because the people believe having a wife increases a man's prestige. Marriage is very important to the people and it is often viewed as a type of investment. The main purpose of marriage is to have children in order to provide the family's labor force and ensure the family lineage. Though men and women share the farming duties in most families, the women usually arrive in the fields later than the men and leave earlier to allow them time to prepare the meals.



Since many of these women cannot read or write, the Audio Bible in Bambara is especially important to them and local churches often offer special Bible listening groups just for them. Two women described how the Lord has used His Word in their lives:

Mariam says, "After having surgery, I was told to stay in bed for a few days to help the healing process. It was so hard because I experienced excruciating pain night and day. My constant moaning and wailing worried everyone in the house. Then, after two days, someone began playing a **Proclaimer** by my bed. *As I listened, a stream of fresh air passed through my body, the pain subsided, and I fell into a deep sleep.* When I woke up, the pain was gone and a smile returned to my face. **Today, I can testify that the Word of God is powerful. It heals!**"

Leila says, "As I listened to the Proclaimer, *I realized belonging to God would mean a profound change in my life.* I was so stubborn that I wouldn't listen to anyone when it came to changing my behavior. I took offense when corrected and had to take revenge, but **listening to God's Word changed me.** Now my pride has been broken and I have learned to seek forgiveness when I hurt someone."

Faith Comes By Hearing sent nearly 200 Bambara Proclaimers to Mali in 2014. Each one will reach as many as 90 (and sometimes more) people with God's Word. Additionally, over 30,000 people have listened to the Bambara Audio New Testament digitally through the Bible.is app and podcasts since it was released. Whether they are men, women, or children, each life transformed through hearing God's Word in audio creates a better future for the Bambara people of Mali.

We are grateful to many churches ... for partnering with Faith Comes By Hearing to help Mariam and Leila and many other Bambara speakers like them find the inner beauty and peace God gives through hearing His Word in their heart language.

Pencil it in!

- Estancia Ad Council Sun. 3/8 – Summer Youth Programs & CAMP
- **Buddy Greene (2014 SPAH Harmonica Player of the Year!) Hymnody Workshop 1-3pm Sat. 3/14 @ Mountainside UMC, 4 Penny Lane, Tijeras**
- Mountainair Ad Council Sun. 3/15
- Promised Land Food Distribution @ MtAir, 3pm Tues. 3/17
- **Easter Sun.** April 5
- Second HCI meeting Sun. April 12

Overheard...

The biggest lie I tell myself is ... "I don't need to write that down, I'll remember it."



Mark Your February Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 1pm Ad Council in Estancia Altar Color - Green	2 6pm Pastor's Bible Study, ABQ	3	4 <input type="checkbox"/> 7am Pastor's Breakfast, ABQ <input type="checkbox"/> 3:30 Estancia Trustees <input type="checkbox"/> 4:30 Family Night resumes in Estancia	5	6 Bonnie & Maribeth @SMA for HCI conf.	7 Bonnie & Maribeth @SMA HCI conf.
8 Boy Scout Sunday 1:30 HCI in Estancia Altar Color - Green	9 6pm Pastor's Bible Study, ABQ	10	11 7am Pastor's Breakfast, ABQ 4:30 Family Night, Estancia	12	13	14 <u>Kairos</u> Prison Ministry, Grants 5pm Flash Mob in Estancia
15 Transfiguration Sunday Noon-Potluck and Ad Council, MtAir Altar Color - White	16 President's Day 6pm Pastor's Bible Study, ABQ	17 Promised Land / Road-runner Food Bank, <u>MtAir</u>	18 ASH WED. <input type="checkbox"/> 7am Pastor's Breakfast, ABQ <input type="checkbox"/> 4:30 Family Night & FAT Tuesday Pancake Supper on Wednesday, Estancia <input type="checkbox"/> 6pm Service of Ashes in Estancia	19	20 6pm Emmaus Community Gathering, ABQ	21 8am-4pm <u>Kairos</u> Prison Ministry Team, ABQ
22 First Sunday of Lent Altar Color - Purple	23 6pm Pastor's Bible Study, ABQ	24	25 7am Pastor's Breakfast, ABQ 4:30 Family Night, Estancia	26 <u>Miley's B'Day</u>	27	28



Sent with a prayer to:



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

February 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
gets recognition in next month's newsletter



Alex Chavez won January's challenge!
She correctly identified this item as a camera,
complete with flash bulb attachment.

Overheard... The kids text me "plz" which is shorter than please. I text back "no" which is shorter than "yes".