



NEWSLETTER

OF THE

**Estancia United Methodist
Church**

600 Williams, Estancia, New Mexico

<http://www.estanciamethodist.org>



JULY, 2016

Estancia United Methodist Church

www.EstanciaMethodist.org

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Comptroller & Trustees Chair	Bill Simms
Finance & Worship Chair	Julie Griffio
Kitchen Crew	Alma Wimsatt & Karen Rahm
Lay Leader Ann. Conf. Delegate, Recording Sec.	Elaine Darnell
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Membership Nurture	Barbara Simms
Membership Rolls	Carolyn Moore & Marque Sturges
Music	Morrow Hall
Native American Ministries	Rev. Bonnie Hardesty
Outreach & Food Vouchers	Butch McGee
Staff Parrish Relations Chair	Lee Widner
United Methodist Men Chair	Nick Griffio
United Methodist Youth Fellowship	Alexandra Chavez

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Church Council Chair, Lay Leader, Worship Chair & Recording Secretary	Patty Mahoney
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From the Pastor's Pen:

Greetings in the name of our Lord. I do hope this news article finds each of you healthy and well. It is good to be here at Estancia UMC and Mt. Air UMC. My news letter articles will usually be written to and for both church's, appearing in both new letters. After all we are all "The One Family of God" simply worshipping in two locations.

A little housekeeping information. Work schedule will be developed and shared with you next month. I do enjoy getting out and visiting. If you hear of someone in the hospital or ill please let me know, my cell number is 505-301-4100.

Now on to other matters and thoughts. Here we are facing the middle of Summer, with July just around the corner. Before we know it school will be opening with back to School shopping and off to college good-byes for some families.

The one constant event in our lives is change. I have come to understand this word called change. There are times I extremely dislike change. Then times when I embrace it with joy and celebration. In the mist of change there is one thing which remains solid, never changing, reliable and dependable. This one thing gives me strength and courage to face our world with its never-ending unknowns. That one thing is Jesus Christ our Lord. He is the solid rock upon which I can stand. I find myself standing there most of the time these days.

I embrace change through prayer. We do not

have to look very long to realize the need for prayer. Prayer is the source of our strength and our life line to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Just about the time I think my struggles are leveling off, guess what? I find myself still struggling with spiritual tug of wars. The needs, the issues, the pains and hurts of broken lives and dreams. Yet in the mist of depression, sadness, and pain we can see the "Light of Gods" love and his hand at work. Always remember, God brings hope, celebration, healing, and strength of spirit where it is needed. I do not always understand why some things happen. But this I do know: "God is the one who holds tomorrow in his hands" and when we are faithful and trusting in Him all of our "tomorrows" will turn out alright.

Eight Things The Church Needs to Say

I read this article in Religion News Service written by Mr. Tom Ehrich. He, in my opinion has hit the nail on the head, as my old grand dad use to say.

If Christians stopped bickering about church, presenting sex as a first-order concern, telling other people how to lead their lives and lending our name to minor-league politicians, what would we have to say? We need to figure out, because we are wearing out our welcome as tax-avoiding, sex-obsessed moral scolds and amateur politicians. In fact I think we are getting tired of ourselves. Who wants to devote life and loyalty to a religion that debates trifles and bullies the outsider? So what would we say and do? No one thing, of course, because we are an extraordinarily diverse assembly of believers. But I think there are a few common words we would say.

1. We would say the name "Jesus." We might mean different things by that name, but He is the center, the reason we exist.
2. Allowing ample room for our diversity, we would say what we mean by Faith in God. Not how right we are and how wrong others are, but an I- message: Here's why I believe in God .
3. We would tell stories about God's impact on our lives. Not grand doctrines, not airtight theories, not definitions of who's inside the circle and who's outside, but stories of personal encounter.
4. We would listen to other stories, respectfully, not defensively, eager to hear what our fellow Christian has to say.
5. We would each tell as honestly as we can how we are trying to lead our lives in the light of our encounters and stories. We would sketch the bridge between faith and action.
6. We would tell what we see in the world - not in the woe-is-me, sky-is-falling, Satan-is-winning manner people expect from us, but just what we see and how we think God cares about it.
7. We would speak of hope, a durable, solid-rock hope that God is God, and God can use us to make a difference.
8. We would talk of joy. Not giddiness, not even happiness, as the world understands happiness, but that deeper response to God that feels whole and peaceful.

Personally, I think these eight things are what we ache to say. They are why we walked in the door of a church in the first place. They are why we stay, despite abundant reasons for leaving.

Everyone has a theory about "Why people are leaving the church," "why millennials don't come to church," "why churches are dying" and "what's wrong with society."

Personally, I think we should stop worrying about institutional outcomes - especially outcomes that we hope will prove we were right all along - and try instead just to be hopeful, joyful, active people of faith.

I think we should take our parts in the great political debates - power and wealth, after all, we're

Jesus' primary concern- but then agree that, whether X or Y gets elected, God will still grieve our cruelties and whatever the label - progressive or conservative, contemporary or traditional, denominational or nondenominational - we will each have something unique and necessary to contribute. There is more binding us than dividing us. For division comes from our small and selfish places. Binding comes from God. Amen!!!!

In closing I want to say Thank you to each and every one of you for the ministry and hard work you give and provide to Estancia UMC and to Mt. Air UMC. I look forward to serving God shoulder to shoulder with each of you.

May God Bless you. Peace and Grace.

Bro. Robert Hunt

Thanks for the GREAT Estancia Send-Off !!

My last official Sunday with you all was tremendous. Many thanks for the breakfast burritos and the chocolate cake, as well as the unexpected and fabulous gifts (\$\$, a wooden plaque, 2 beautiful wall crosses, pottery and more pottery, a movie package and gift card) and lots of thank-you's and well-wishes. And – one little miracle – a single-verse hymn! God is Good, ALL the TIME ! Blessings to you and yours. It is well with my soul, ***Rev. Bonnie Hardesty***

Mountainair Farewell

On Sunday, June 26, the Mountainair UMC bid "Vaya con Dios" to Pastor Bonnie Hardesty. We seem to be developing a practice of "Cake in Church" for very special occasions and that's what we did for Bonnie. One of her favorite hymns, "It Is Well with My Soul" was sung and we were blessed to receive communion from her for one last time. She has been a wonderful pastor for our little church and we will surely miss her. Now we are preparing to welcome Brother Bob into our midst and we pray we will be a blessing to him as he will be to us.





Report from Annual Conference:

(Courtesy Jimmy Richardson, Lay Delegate, Asbury UMC)

The 141st session of the New Mexico Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church met in Roswell, NM, June 3-5, 2015, under the able leadership of Bishop W. Earl Bledsoe, Conference Provost Randall Partin, and Conference Lay Leader Sid Strebeck. The theme of the conference was "Grow in the Fullness of Christ", reflecting Ephesians 4: 12-13, and one of the six goals(below) in our Vision 20/20, Fostering & Sustaining Vital Congregations, which was adopted at the 2011 Annual Conference and was meant to guide us in setting priorities and ensuring accountability.

In his annual State of the Church address, Bishop Bledsoe encouraged us to support Vision 20/20, summed up by the intent to form relevant, passionate, and life-changing churches, with emphasis not on the United Methodist Church hierarchy, but on the local churches, from where new disciples come. He reemphasized the Vision 20/20 goals: form engaged disciples, develop effective leaders, foster and sustain vital congregations, create new places for new people, share our stories and connect our people, and assess and refine conferences structures. He noted that although our number of baptisms and professions of faith increased in 2015, our number of churches went from 146 in 2014 to 138 in 2015, and our church membership, attendance, Sunday School groups, and giving have continued to decline. He remains convinced that any turnarounds in these trends lie in the hand of the local churches. The Conference continues to offer educational and inspirational opportunities for us - see the Conference website weekly for their resources. He announced that we had more churches pay 100% of their Shared Ministries in 2015 and pleaded for even more support for the newly-implemented tithing model for paying our Shared Ministry. Asbury UMC was woefully behind in 2015 with 25.7 % paid and continues to lag thus far in 2016.

Our conference preacher was Rev. Bishop Cynthia Harvey, who serves as bishop of the Louisiana Annual Conference. She has served the United Methodist Church in several churches in Texas since 1992. She preached twice for us, including the Ordination Service on Saturday morning.

Hap Escue of Asbury UMC displayed an exhibit on disaster preparedness. Hap is very interested in this work and will follow up with several congregations. Each congregation of the Albuquerque District was provided a set of disaster preparedness procedures suitable for posting.

Six elders retired this year and were honored at a luncheon on Thursday. On Saturday morning two candidates were commissioned as Provisional Elders, one person was commissioned as Provisional Deacon, and one person was ordained as a Full Connectional Deacon. The prestigious Living Archives Awards this year went to retire Elder Tom Nagle (clergy) and to El Paso resident Sidney James Wade (laity). In addition, 9 people completed the requirements for "Certified Lay Ministry" bringing the total number of CLMs in the Conference to 49.

The Committee on Finance and Administration reported that after five months of experience in 2016 with the 'Tithing' approach, the required payment of 2% for Pensions and Benefits is working well; and twenty more churches than in 2015 have sent in their shared ministries at a 100% rate. However, the local church monthly operational income estimates are not entirely accurate nor sent in regularly. They pleaded for attention to detail and following the "rules". Instead of basing each church's annual proportional share on a three-year average of its non-benevolent spending, each church is asked to give an 8% tithe of their monthly ordinary operational income, plus a proportional share of the Conference cost for retiree and disability health care premiums, plus the costs for the local church's own clergy and employee pensions and health care premiums. This will total about 10% of total income. People will still be able to designate gifts to selected shared ministries; but that money will not be counted toward their church's 8% tithe. It will instead be counted as Second Mile giving for that church.

In addition to hearing reports from the various conference boards, committees, programs, and church institutions, seven resolutions were presented for discussion and vote; all passed. They were:

- " To allow up to 100% of disability or pension drawn by retired clergy to be designated as housing allowance for IRS purposes,
- " To discontinue 1st UMC of Marathon, TX, Goldsmith UMC, TX and St Luke's UMC in Odessa, TX, and sell the assets,
- " To change the words on Equitable Compensation Policy in the Conference Rules to clarify our Arrearage Policy so that designated funds shall not be used to cover a shortfall in operating costs and pastoral support,
- " To amend the Articles of Incorporation for the Four Corners Native American Ministry, Inc, and
- " To request the South Central Jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy to reassign Bishop W. Earl Bledsoe to the New Mexico/Northwest Texas Area for the next Quadrennium,

Our Conference-wide membership declined 8% to 32,362 at the end of 2015 and our average attendance at worship dropped 4.2% to 13,056. A budget of \$2,535,102 was passed for 2017 after little discussion. This is a decrease of \$47,794, or 0.185%, over 2016.

Our 2015 conference-wide apportioned Shared Ministry giving was 72.5%, up from 71.6% in 2014. Eighty-eight churches gave 100%, including Estancia and Mountainair. The conference-wide 2015 Second Mile giving was \$1,493,089, a decrease of 4.0%.

Annual Conference in June 2017 will be in Las Cruces, NM, and in June 2018, somewhere in the Albuquerque District (specific days and location to be determined).

Financial Corner:

May 2016	Estancia	Mountainair
General Account 5/1/16	\$13,800.14	\$7395.37
Receipts	3962.18	\$1367.00
Disbursements	3974.10	\$2027.93
Month-End Balance	\$13,788.22	\$6734.44
Tithe from Prior Month	306.72	\$141.26
Investment Accounts		
001	\$13,954.93	\$8,165.02
002	\$8,975.10	-----

Dog Head Fire

On Tuesday, June 14th, a wildfire broke out near the base of the Manzano Mountains. Even though fire fighters responded quickly, high winds kept the fire out of control. Wednesday there was no let up. By Wednesday night, the winds had driven the fire 10 miles toward the Estancia Valley and the town of



Chilili. Everyone west of Highway 337. and north of Highway 55 was evacuated, and all electricity and phone service was shut off. Thursday and Friday, the winds were lighter which allowed the fire to spread farther to the east and south. And by Saturday, the weather was changing, bringing an east wind, and an eventual end to the fire.

The entire Estancia Valley was affected, either by being evacuated, by taking in friends and family, or volunteering to help care for evacuees. Around 1000 firefighters made their basecamp at the Estancia High School and many of the evacuees with animals brought them to the Torrance County Fairgrounds in Estancia, camping out there until the end of the fire.

On June 19 the folks at Estancia United Methodist Church came together and celebrated Father's Day Sunday by making burritos and taking them to the CERT volunteers helping the Evacuees at the Torrance County Fair grounds. Thanks to Pastor Bonnie Hardesty food was donated for this service by the Roadrunners Food Bank in Albuquerque. The fair grounds served as a refuge for people and animals displaced by the Dog Head Fire in the Manzanos. Butch McGee worked "like a dog" helping feed and care for the many animals housed at the fair grounds. Others who served, and worked hard, were Julie Morales, Carolyn Hill, Markee Sturges, Jo Lynda, Polly, Bill and Donna Neish, Larry Burnett, Nick Griffio and Julie Griffio, Sheryl and Robert Chavez, Elaine Darnell, Melanie Chavez, Pastor Bonnie AND many others not named. The morning of the 19th Pastor Bonnie held our Sunday morning service at the fair building after the burritos were delivered. This was a community effort in a time of need and was greatly appreciated.



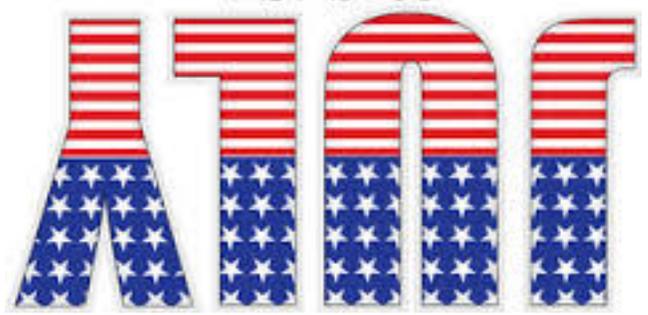
Simms' Home During Peak of Dog Head Fire

JULY!



Keep Looking Up !

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
Welcome Rev. Robert & Mrs. Kathy Hunt ! Altar Color – Green	 4	5	1:30 Prayer @ Moore's (303 N Walker)	7	8	9
10 Altar Color – Green	11	12	1:30 Prayer @ Moore's (303 N Walker)	14	15	Men's Breakfast 8AM
17 TRUSTEES 2PM Altar Color – Green	18	19 11:30am-4pm MtAir Promised Land / Road-runner Food Distribution @ Dr. Saul Bldg.	20 1:30 Prayer @ Moore's (303 N Walker)	21	22	23
24 Altar Color – Green	25	26	27 1:30 Prayer @ Moore's (303 N Walker)	28	29	30
31 Altar Color – Green						



Sent with a prayer to:

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

From Max Lucado

HEAVEN'S ON YOUR SIDE

The One who died for us....is in the presence of God at this very moment sticking up for us.

Romans 8:34 MSG

Jesus is praying for us....Jesus has spoken and Satan has listened. The devil may land a punch or two. He may even win a few rounds, but he never wins the fight. Why? Because Jesus takes up for you...."He is able always to save those who come to God through him because he always lives, asking God to help them" (Heb. 7:25)

Jesus, at this very moment, is protecting you...Evil must pass through Christ before it can touch you. And God will "never let you be pushed past your limit: He'll always be there to help you come through it"
(1 Cor. 10:13 MSG)

-Submitted by Alma Wimsatt