



NEWSLETTER

OF THE

**Estancia United Methodist
Church**

600 Williams, Estancia, New Mexico

<http://www.estanciamedhdist.org>



JULY, 2015

Estancia United Methodist Church

www.EstanciaMethodist.org

600 W. Williams, P.O. Box 126, Estancia, NM 87016

Pastor Bonnie Hardesty Ph. 505-271-0486

Email bjharde1@msn.com

Church Council Chair	Melanie Chavez
Christian Education Chair	Cheryl Chavez
Comptroller & Trustees Chair	Bill Simms
Finance & Recording Secretary, Treasurer	Vickie Coburn
Lay Leader & Annual Conference Delegate	Elaine Darnell
McMurry College Representative	Raymond Moore
Membership Nurture	Barbara Simms
Membership Roll	Carolyn Moore & Marque Sturgis
Music	Morrow Hall
Native American Ministries	Rev. Bonnie Hardesty
Outreach & Food Vouchers	Butch McGee
Staff Parrish Relations Chair	Lee Widner
Summer Camp Representatives	Carolyn Hill & Julie Morales
United Methodist Men Chair	Nick Griffio
United Methodist Youth Fellowship	Alexandra Chavez & Jesse Chavez
Worship Chair	Julie Griffio



From the Desk of...
Pastor Bonnie

Fellow UMC Pastor Ron Colwell (Asbury, Albuquerque) wrote an article about vacation in his recent church newsletter. With a tip of the hat to him, I'd like to quote some of his sentiments...

"Vacation is a shorthand way of describing taking some time away from our normal schedules, usually to travel to some unusual, exotic location and enjoy

rest and restaurants. But vacations have a longer history than many imagine, and the word is actually short for the Latin phrase "*vacare deo*," to be empty before God.

Important as it is to occasionally take a break from the routine, to vacate the mind's usual preoccupation with tasks, schedule, and continuous commitments, we do well to consider how we will fill the emptiness. Nature abhors a vacuum, after all. When we empty ourselves of the usual, there is an opportunity for the extraordinary to enter. But if we fill that empty chasm with thrill rides, spicy food, or other entertainments, it may be that we will miss the greatest of opportunities."

I'll be leaving July 9 to enjoy some time away with God. I'm off to Niagara Falls, Toronto, the Trans-Canada Railway (with stops in the Rockies and a glacier hike), Vancouver, and Seattle – all places I've never been. People have asked me *what in the world I could possibly do on a train traveling the entire width of Canada*. Answer: **NOTHING**. And that's exactly the reason I'm going... to spend time away with God, to allow His presence to restore my soul! I'm emptying myself so that I can be refilled with the joy of the Lord.

Enjoy *your* vacation this summer. I'm certainly going to enjoy mine. But as we go, let's remember to empty ourselves before God, and to allow him to fill us anew with his extraordinary presence.

Blessings ... and I'll see you in August!

Pastor Bonnie



Attorney-Client Privileged... with apologies to my lawyer friends!

ATTORNEY: Doctor, before you performed the autopsy, did you check for a pulse?
WITNESS: No.
ATTORNEY: Did you check for blood pressure?
WITNESS: No.
ATTORNEY: Did you check for breathing?
WITNESS: No...
ATTORNEY: So, then it IS possible that the patient was alive when you began the autopsy?
WITNESS: No.
ATTORNEY: How can you be so sure, Doctor?
WITNESS: Because his brain was sitting on my desk in a jar.
ATTORNEY: I see, but could the patient have still been alive, nevertheless?
WITNESS: Yes, it is possible that he could have been alive...
and practicing law .

Creative Ways To Cultivate Your Child’s Prayer Life

Create a Prayer Jar: If you are looking for a way to pray together as a family, consider creating a Prayer Jar. You don’t need any special crafting skills to do this – simply find a clean jar, make a label, and place it in a central location in your home with a pen/pencil/crayon and notepad nearby. The purpose of the Prayer Jar is to allow family members to record and drop prayer requests in the jar whenever a need comes to mind. This can be a personal need – a request from a friend – or something you’ve heard about at church, at school, or in the world. If you have young children, you can ask them to share the things they’d like to record or have them draw a picture of the request and share it with you later. Then – as a family – gather regularly to pray over each request (and be sure to record how God answers your prayers!)



Write Letters To God: Another aspect of prayer is praise. A wonderful way to teach children to praise God is to encourage them to write ‘Thank-You’ letters to God. This is an especially wonderful activity for younger children who may want to fill their letters with lots of artwork. Children often have questions for God and letter-writing encourages them to share their heart and open a dialog with God that you can help facilitate.

Start a Prayer Journal: Keeping prayer journals is a wonderful way for your children to deepen their relationship with God and to learn –in a tangible way – how God cares for them and answers their prayers. You can help your child to create or to purchase a special journal of their very own. What types of information should they include in their prayer journals? Here are some ideas to get started:

- Prayer Requests and God’s Answers
- Favorite Bible Verses
- Prayers They Write
- Highlights of Their Days with God
- Favorite Hymns & Songs
- Reflections

The Praying Church...Could That Be Us?? Estancia’s [Healthy Church Initiative](#) conversation recently included the opportunity for Estancia UMC to become known as “The Praying Church” of the Estancia Valley. Watch future editions of the newsletter for information on how you can help make this happen. In the meantime, take a page from the instructions above – after all, we’re ALL Children of God & He’d dearly love to hear from us more often!

Also, remember that the Moore family hosts prayers on the second Wednesday of each month @ 1:30 at their home in Estancia – 303 N. Walker. This month's meeting will be July 8.

I saw the following article on-line recently and laughed, and then thought about crying... a sure sign that I really need that vacation I mentioned earlier! I'm including it here so you can laugh (or cry... or decide you need a vacation) too!

“What do Preachers do on their Six Days Off Every Week?”

What is it you have to do when you're not preaching?

Must be nice to only work one day a week.

I'd like to come see you this afternoon; since it's not Sunday I'm assuming you're free.

“Believe it or not, I've heard all of those. Most are simple misunderstandings. Sometimes people are just trying to be funny. I must admit. It's not always funny — But, especially when it's said as an indictment that pastors have it “easy” it can even hurt. That's probably true even more for my pastor friends in smaller churches where they carry the weight of multiple staff positions.

What does a pastor do when not preaching?

That is a valid question. This is not meant to seem as a complaining post, but an informational post. You only know what you know. I don't know what the doctor does when not seeing patients or all the things that a teacher does when not in the classroom. Each job has its own responsibilities that are not clearly known until you do the job. The answer for pastors is — lots of things. **Lots.** And most days are unique... there is no such thing as ‘a routine day’ for a pastor. Pastors wear many hats - some of which you may not even be aware.

Here are 16 often unknown roles of a pastor:

Counselor. All pastors do some counseling. Many pastors — I might add most pastors — are not qualified to do extensive counseling. They can't commit the required time, nor do they have the expertise. Still, some counseling is a part of every pastor's job.

Career coach. One of the most frequent requests for my ministry help has to do with people's career steps — from school to employment. Because work — or lack of work — greatly impacts a person's life, it is a huge part of the pastor's life. Some pastors even act as mini employment agencies files of people in the church who are looking for work or looking for someone to hire.

Business advisor. Business leaders — especially self-employed business owners — want help discerning the right decisions. (I admire that about them.) One place they consistently seeking input from is the pastor.

Custodian. If I see a trash can overflowing — I don't call someone — I do something about it. Most pastors I know want the facility ready when people arrive. So they do what they have to do... including cleaning the kitchen and taking out trash.

Arbitrator. I've stood between more than a few people as they attempted to work through division and build cooperation. It could be in a marriage, between business partners, or among folks in the church. People often want a third-party, objective mediator, and many times they look to the pastor for that role.

Social worker. I read a definition of social worker recently: Seeks to improve the quality of life and subjective well-being of individuals, families, couples, groups and communities through research, policy, community organizing, direct practice, crisis intervention, and teaching. Yea. That. Pastors do a LOT of **THAT**.

Volunteer coordinator. Every pastor must learn how to coordinate the efforts of other people, *different people*, who communicate uniquely, and have their own expectations of volunteer leadership.

Events manager. [*Fourth of July?! Worship in the Park?! Pancake Supper?! Christmas Floats?!*] Most pastors, including me, have responsibility for coordinating and managing lots of events.

CEO. Let me be very clear - Jesus is the CEO of the church. (Some may argue Jesus is the owner and he left us to provide everyday leadership — under his direction.) But make no mistake about it — the pastor is expected to lead many aspects of the church. Most churches want the input of the pastor for all major decisions. Regardless of the structure of the church it can feel very much like a CEO position.

Fundraiser. Ministry takes money. And most of the church looks to the pastor to be the primary solicitor of contributions. (Honestly, it's a huge burden to most pastors and one most don't feel comfortable doing.)

Recruiter. No church can function without volunteers or leaders. Most pastors are consistently looking for new people to get involved; and the search for volunteers is a continuous effort.

Trainer. Pastors consistently help people learn how to do new things. Whether it involves life skills or how to function within a ministry of the church, one of a pastor's primary goals is to help people improve.

Scholar. I'm not the smartest person in our church. But, at the same time, the church has a certain level of expectation regarding my understanding of history, the Bible, and current events — locally and around the world. Most expect the pastor to be well-spoken and well-read, and that takes times and effort.



Writer. I estimate I average five to seven writing assignments a week besides my message. Bulletin articles. Churchwide emails. Letters of recommendation...

Manager. Every pastor manages someone — even if they are volunteers. In fact, volunteer management is generally more difficult than employee management.

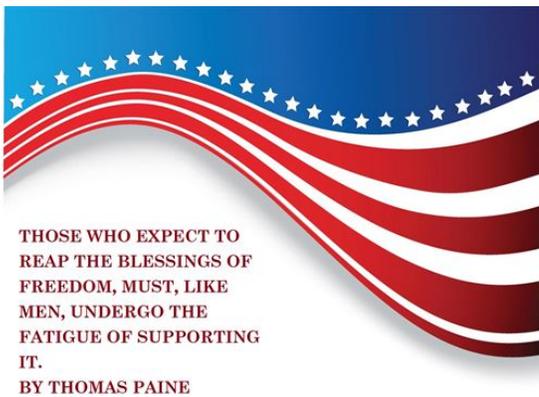
Public relations. This part of a pastor's role is increasing daily. The days when a Sunday announcement or bulletin announcement would get the word out to the church are gone. With so many mediums to communicate and people's divided attention among them — not to mention the [in]frequency of attendance for many in the church — communicating to people has become a huge challenge for pastors.

There's my list. I'm sure there are others. And it's a labor of love — certainly of calling — for most pastors I know, but it requires so much more than preaching. And I didn't even mention **politician.** :)

Granted, the size of the church will often determine the amount of time spent on anyone of these 'other jobs.' But, except in exceptionally larger churches, the pastor wears multiple hats. It's certainly more than a Sunday job. And many pastors, myself for one, spend up to half or two-thirds of our week just preparing for Sunday.

It should also be noted (and this is an edited addition resulting from a comment) — the pastor shouldn't do ALL of this. I spend much of my energies helping pastors learn to be better leaders which ultimately means learning to delegate. Thankfully, I serve in a church where most of these tasks are primarily assigned to other staff members for direct oversight. I actually had other pastors in mind more than myself when I wrote this. But in all of these roles, at some level, in most churches they are under the pastor's purview. If there is a need for or problem with one of them the pastor will be held responsible to ensure it is addressed. Therefore, whether or not the pastor does all of these personally, it's still their job.

One final thought, considering these roles, imagine how that plays out for bivocational pastors. [*Yes, I do that, too!*] Say an extra prayer for those pastors."



52 Messages of Hope! Pastor Bonnie is preaching a series this year on HOPE. Every Sunday we hear about another reason for us, as Christians, to be hope-full! Following is a *very brief synopsis* of Hopeful Messages presented in May/June.

Date	Sermon Notes	The Reason for Our Hope
5/31/15	<p>In the Gospel of John 3:1-17, we overhear Nicodemus' clandestine encounter with Jesus. Nicodemus, a member of the Sanhedrin – the religious leaders of the day – fears the contempt of his peers, and so he meets with Jesus under cover of darkness. The mysterious itinerant rabbi speaks with such authority that Nicodemus simply MUST learn more! But Jesus' teaching is confusing: "Be Reborn."</p> <p>Jesus confronted Nicodemus and the Sanhedrin's arrogance. Thinking they had religion all stitched up, they burdened themselves and others with the schemes and metrics and controls of this world... and none of their efforts bore fruit. Sound familiar?</p> <p>"Be Reborn," says Jesus – to Nicodemus and to us all – "the wind (Spirit) blows where it will... you are not in control! I have come into the world that you may be saved."</p>	<p>And this is the reason for our Hope: The grace of God, like the wind, blows where it wishes. We may hear the sound that it makes, but we do not know where it comes from or where it is going. Although it's invisible, it is very powerful. Sometimes it even carries a person completely away from this physical world and into the Kingdom of God. By following Jesus, we too can encounter the grace of God through the Holy Spirit and be reborn. Thanks be to God!</p>
6/7/15	<p>The Gospel of Mark, chapter 3, records a time in Jesus' ministry when all around him thought he had <i>lost his mind</i>. He was accused, by the religious leaders of the day, of being a demon. Others said he was possessed by an unclean spirit. When Jesus' family came to restrain him and take him home ... Jesus refused to go with them. "Who are my mother and brothers?" he asked... and then he answered his own question, "Whoever does the will of God!" Only his disciples stood by him, yearning to know more of the Truth.</p> <p>If we read the paper, watch TV, or listen to the news at all, it may seem that the whole world has turned against Christianity. Many have accused Christians of being the cause of all the world's problems... that we are possessed of unclean spirits, that we have taken leave of our senses. And, indeed, it's possible that a few of us <i>have</i> lost our minds! But the brokenness by which we are possessed is no greater than that same brokenness which afflicts all humankind.</p> <p>Sincere Christians, like the original disciples, still seek the Truth. They are willing to be held accountable to the Lord they serve. They regularly repent of their sins and seek to live in peace, ministering to all the world until Jesus himself returns. They still pray, "thy kingdom come, thy will be done." All who follow Jesus – the Way, the Truth, and the Life – are members of his family... brothers and sisters in Christ; the children of God. Still broken? Yes; but going on to perfection in the One who loves us and calls us members of his own body.</p>	<p>And this is the reason for our Hope: Jesus sent the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, to us of all he taught; and the Spirit still empowers us to live into our calling as Christians... to be more than merely hearers of the Word; but to be doers also.</p>

Date	Sermon Notes	The Reason for Our Hope
6/14/15	<p>In Mark 4:33-34 we read, "With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them... But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything."</p> <p>Most of us church people know what a parable is - a short story designed to illustrate a moral lesson or spiritual truth. A parable conveys meaning <i>indirectly</i> by the use of comparison, allegory, analogy, or the like. Jesus was a Master of the parable. He used them often and with great effect. Even un-churched people can quote Jesus' parables. Everyone knows the Golden Rule, for example, which comes from the parable of the Good Samaritan.</p> <p>But WHY did Jesus speak in parables? Why not just spell everything out plainly in the first place, especially if He was going to have to re-teach His own disciples after every story?</p> <p>Jesus had His reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To fulfill prophecy 2. To confound His enemies 3. To enlighten true seekers 4. To make people think 5. To separate the sheep from the goats, so to speak! 	<p>And this is the reason for our Hope: The meaning of Jesus' parables has been revealed to us. The Truths long hidden have been revealed. Let those with ears listen! Let those with eyes see!</p>
6/21/15	<p>Mark 4:35-41 tells us the story about Jesus calming a storm on the Sea of Galilee. Ironically, <i>it was Jesus himself who suggested the trip across the sea</i>. He got into the boat and promptly went to sleep; and he continued to sleep even when an incredibly fierce storm overtook their little boat. His sea-worthy fisherman-followers were terrified! When they woke him, they lamented that Jesus didn't care that they were about to die... but they stood in fearful awe when he calmed the sea.</p> <p>Each of us, at some point in our lives, will face a terrifying storm. When that storm comes, will we choose FEAR of FAITH?</p>	<p>This is the reason for our Hope: Jesus knows the storms we will face in this life... and he has chosen to ride them out with us. <i>He's in our boat!</i> And He will never leave us abandoned or alone.</p>
6/28/15	<p>Mark Chapter 5 contains a story commonly referred to as 'the miracle on the way to a miracle.' Crowds of people are pressing in all around Jesus. It brings to mind images where armed security has to physically hold back the crush of fans and paparazzi surrounding any number of modern pop star idols. In the midst of the melee two things happen: Jairus, a leader from the local synagogue, begs Jesus to heal his dying daughter; and a woman who's been sick for 12 years is emboldened to touch the hem of his garment in hopes of her own healing. Here are two examples of immense faith! And Jesus honors both with healing miracles.</p> <p>But in the midst of it all, we read in verse 40, "And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside..." Contrary to those who have come in faith, trusting Jesus for healing miracles, the scoffers and unbelievers laugh at Him. And Jesus PUTS THEM OUT. Why? Not because they present any real threat to Jesus' power or authority – NO! He puts them out because they threaten to undo the faith of the believers.</p> <p>There are many in the world today who scoff at Jesus. They laugh at and belittle believers and shun his Word. Many still strive to undo Jesus' power and authority and to come between Him and His sheep.</p>	<p>But this is the reason for our Hope: Jesus still PUTS OUT those things and persons that threaten to come between Him and us. When Jesus ascended into heaven, he did not leave us alone. He sent the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, to remind us of everything He did and taught. So scoffers beware – we are not alone! We have not forgotten Jesus' miracles. We have not forgotten his sacrifice on the cross for our sakes. We have not forgotten his calling on our lives to make disciples of every nation. Scoffers are no threat to those who love the Lord!</p>

SUMMER IS

OFFICIALLY HERE!!

HAVE YOU FINISHED

SPRING CLEANING?

What will you do with all those old re-usable items?

Instead of taking them to Goodwill (where they will turn a profit with it), why not contact the **Hope Free Store of Cornerstone UMC!**?

Your donation of 'gently used' household items to Hope Free Store will help others in need.

And, at NO cost to them, no profit for us.

We NEED your help in order to help others.

Our clients depend on donations we receive. Please, join us in this outreach ministry!

Call **Berta Gallegos**

505-514-2427

or

Cornerstone UMC

505-877-0632

Pickup of your items is possible, and hugs for your donations are always available!



Hope Free Store is a ministry of Cornerstone United Methodist Church in the South Valley of Albuquerque, **located at 3905 Las Vegas Dr. SW** (near Isleta and Rio Bravo Blvd. in Adobe Acres)



Pencil it in !

Early August - Back to School Activities at both Estancia (Prayer Walk & Pencil Bouquets) and Mountainair (the Annual Back-to-School Luncheon)!

August 3-7 - Camp Sunshine@ SMA - Developmentally delayed ages 16+

August 23 - Combined Worship in the Park in Estancia @ 10am with Billy Isidoro

September 19 & 20 - HCI Consultation Weekend in Estancia - Guest Preacher, Clovis District Superintendent Jane Vaughan



Mountainair United Methodist Church

211 S. Sunset, Mountainair, NM 87036

Pastor Bonnie Hardesty Ph. 505-271-0486

Email bjharde1@msn.com

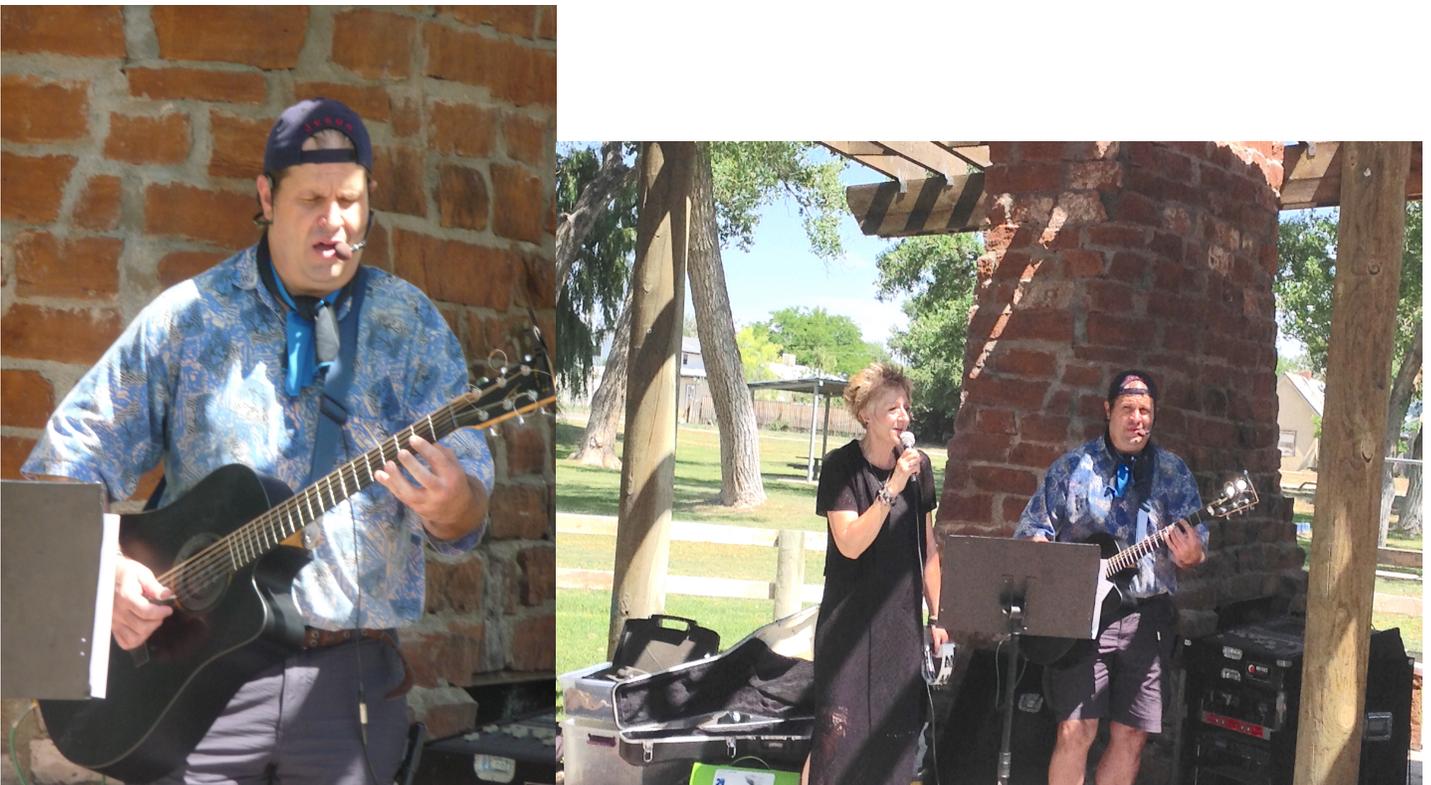
- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| Church Council Chair, Lay Leader, | |
| Worship Chair & Recording Secretary | Patty Mahoney |
| Finance Chair, Trustees Chair & Treasurer | Kent Potter |
| Annual Conference Delegate & Outreach | Wanda Giovengo |
| McMurry College Representative | Anna Hopping |
| Native American Ministries | Nancy Karlsberger |
| Social Concerns Chairpersons | David & Maribeth Dixon |
| Staff Parrish Relations Chair | Bertha Warner |

CHURCH IN THE PARK, SUNDAY JUNE 21



Worship in the Park... It's the Best!! Estancia and Mountainair gathered in Estancia with their lawn chairs, and what a celebration of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! The younger ones didn't have to sit, wonderful music, great sermon and treats afterwards! HALLELUJAH!!

Music by Billy Isidora and his Friend, Cheryl



On Sunday, June 28, Butch had some of the youth come to the front of the church to show everyone how you can remove the 4 chairs and still be able to hold each other up.



Fellowship after Church





Mark your July Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			July 1 7am Pastor's Breakfast, ABQ <input type="checkbox"/> 1:30 Prayer meeting @ the Moore's (303 N Walker)	July 2	July 3	July 4 11-1 CELEBRATE ! Estancia Park – Mountainside Jug Band, Food, & Fun!
5 Combined Worship in the Park @ 10am w/Novie Keith & Peggy Stevens! 	6 6pm Pastor's Bible Study ABQ	7	8 7am Pastor's Breakfast, ABQ <input type="checkbox"/> 1:30 Prayer meeting @ the Moore's (303 N Walker)	9	10	11
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Pastor Bonnie is on Vacation 7/9-7/27 Pastoral Support in her absence: Rev. Charlie Spooner (886-0336) Rev. Terry Ann Moore (384-2616) </div>						
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Pray for Kids at Camp: Alex is attending Music on the Mountain July 5-10 and Daniel is attending Promise Seekers, July 6-10; both at Sacramento Methodist Assembly. </div>						
12 Filling both Pulpits: Retired Rev. Charlie Spooner, 886-0336 spoonernote@gmail.com Altar Color – Green	13	14	15	16	17	18 8am UMM Breakfast, Estancia
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Need help? Who Ya Gonna Call? Estancia Worship – Julie Griffo (384-2523), Morrow Hall (363-4102) and Bill Simms (printing bulletins, 384-6039); Mountainair Worship – Patty Mahoney (384-4157) and Kent Potter (printing bulletins, 847-0295). </div>						
19 Filling both Pulpits: Albuquerque District Lay Servant Coordinator John Milholland, 980-7494 Milholland93@q.com Altar Color – Green	20	21 2-6pm Promised Land / Road-runner Food Bank / Kids' Program, MtAir	22	23	24	25
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Need a Robo-Call? Call Bill Simms (384-6039) with backup by Melanie Chavez (550-1911). </div>						
26 Filling the Estancia Pulpit: Certified Lay Servant Peggy Stevens, 712-1027 Peggy.A.Stevens@gmail.com Filling the Mountainair Pulpit: Certified Lay Minister George Little, 833-1178 Gsl9105@yahoo.com Altar Color – Green	27	28	29 7am Pastor's Breakfast, ABQ <input type="checkbox"/> 6-8 Movie/Game Night returns to Estancia! Join Elaine Darnell & crew for some fun.	30	31	August 1



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



Sent with a prayer to: