



# NEWSLETTER

OF THE

Estancia United Methodist Church

*600 Williams, Estancia, New Mexico*

<http://www.estanciamethodist.org>



# OCTOBER, 2013

Pastor: Rev. Bonnie Hardesty  
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Your Church Staff

Chairperson of Church Council	Mel Stephenson
Recording Secretary	Vickie Coburn
Organist	Morrow Hall
Lay Member of the Annual Conference	Marcia Fitzner
Chairperson: Board of Trustees	Bill Simms
Worship Team Leader	Sylvia Levy
Education Team Leader	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	Jon Shively
McMurry Rep	Marcia Fitzner
Sacramento Camp Rep	Bonnie Hardesty

Bishop: Bishop W. Earl Bledsoe  
 District Superintendent: Rev. Jeff Lust  
 To see this newsletter in color, visit our website at:  
<http://www.estanciamethodist.org>



**Sunday Worship 9:00 AM**

**From the Desk of... *Pastor Bonnie***

My brother, Phillip, was born severely mentally and physically handicapped. He suffered uncontrollable epileptic seizures; and when he was born the doctors suggested to my parents that they leave him in the hospital to die. But in faith, they brought him home instead... and for the next 10 years, he was my best buddy. When Phillip passed away in November 2000 at the age of 47, I officiated at his funeral; and here is some of what I shared:

There is a story of a water-bearer who daily took a yoke across his shoulders and walked down to the river to fetch water for his Master. On either end of the yoke hung a water jug. The water-bearer carefully filled each jug with water and then walked back to the Master's house where it could be used for drinking, washing, or cooking... One of the water jugs had a crack in it while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water. At the end of the long walks from the river to the house, the cracked jug arrived less than half full. For years this went on daily, with the water-bearer bringing home only one full jug of water plus a tiny bit more offered up by the cracked jug. Of course, the perfect pot was



proud of its accomplishments. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it could hardly do half of what it had been made to do. After years of what it perceived to be bitter failure, it spoke to the water-bearer one day. 'I am ashamed of myself, because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to the Master's house.' The old servant smiled, 'Did you notice that there are flowers on your side of the path, but the other side is barren?' Every day as I walked back to the house, you watered the wildflowers; and because of your work, all these years I have been able to pick beautiful flowers to decorate the Master's table. Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house.' Each of us has our own unique flaws. God sends the beauty of His Light and His Love to shine through the cracks and brokenness of our beings. And if we allow Him, He will work through our brokenness to bless those around us in wonderful ways. Friends, none of us are perfect. We are all flawed and broken, cracked in some way. But thanks be to God, His love shines through us to bring His light to the dark corners of this world.....Amen!

-Pastor Bonnie

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### CHURCH IN THE PARK

What a blessing we had last Sunday for our "Church in the Park" event! Members from the Mountainair Methodist Church joined Estancia for a great message and special music. The space was almost not large enough because we had 49 in attendance! The special music was provided by Billy Isidoro, founder of New Commandment music ministries, and his helper, Stan. Dramatic reading was performed by John Milholland, retired KOB Radio News, Director of Lay Ministries at First United Methodist Church, Albuquerque and retired drama teacher from Del Norte HS, Albuquerque. Women that helped with the cooking and serving were Pastor Bonnie's friends, Kathryn Arndt (Central UMC) and Vickie Zinn (First UMC.) Below are a few photos documenting the event...







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## **10 Ways to Talk to Kids About God**

*By Donna Schaper*

### **Keep it simple. Super Simple.**

1. God loves you. God loves me. God loves Daddy. And, yes, God loves your brother, who just stole your train. Repetition of these simple sentiments can be incredibly life-giving and important to children.

### **Try the indirect Approach.**

2. Let them catch you praying. They will demand to know what you are doing. Ask not to be interrupted.

### **Drop hints and let them go.**

3. Be ready to talk when the children are ready to talk. When you speak about God and children don't seem interested, simply let it go. They will find their own way to bring the subject back into the conversation.

### **Learn how to change the subject as often as children do.**

4. Conversations about God often confuse children. Don't think they aren't listening if they change the subject. Wait for them to come back. They will, in their own time.





### **Associate God with praise and good things.**

**5.** Children love to praise. They love to say "Wow." When something beautiful happens, connect it to God. Say, "That rainbow reminds me of God, full of colors and magical." When a child shares a toy with another, comment on it and say that this is what God is like with everything.

### **Do not associate God with punishment.**

**6.** Avoid statements such as "God is going to be angry at you." If you are upset with your child, make it clear that you, not God, are the one who is upset. Your children already think you are God.

Your job is to convince them that God is even stronger and more dependable than you are.

### **Do more listening than Talking**

**7.** If we are doing all the talking, the conversation is not working. When you find yourself in this situation, exit quickly and try again. Aim for a 3-to-1 ratio, with the child talking three times as much as the adult.

### **Read what the Bible has to say about families.**

**8.** You may want to read and consider passages such as Matthew 10:37; Mark 3:31-35; 1 Corinthians 7; Ephesians 5:21-6:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7. These passages have a lot to say about families and how we live together. Better yet, read and discuss the passages together.

### **Always say grace at meals.**

**9.** Never eat without thanking God. You can use a book or you can make up your own grace. We use one that includes motions: "God be above us, and God be below us, God be all around us, and God be with our friends."

### **Speak from children's experiences, not adult experiences.**

**10.** Ask simple questions: "Have you ever been in a place where you didn't feel welcome?" "How does it feel when people are mean to you?" You may find out something heartbreaking, such as their feeling that a teacher or coach doesn't like them. Bring God into the hurt. Let children know that other people have been hurt and that no one can reject us without our permission. Most important, make sure they know that God loves them.





# October 2013

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

29 <b>SEPT.</b> Charge Conference Mountainair		1	2	3 3:30 PM <b>BIBLE GUPPIES</b>	4	5
6 9 AM Worship 11 AM -Mtair	7	8	9	10 3:30 PM <b>BIBLE GUPPIES</b> 6:30 PM <b>TRUSTEES</b>	11	12
13 9 AM Worship 11 AM -Mtair	14	15	16	17 3:30 PM <b>BIBLE GUPPIES</b>	18	19 7:00 AM <b>Mens Breakfast</b>
20 9 AM Worship 11 AM -Mtair	21	22	23	24 3:30 PM <b>BIBLE GUPPIES</b>	25	26
27 9 AM Worship 11 AM -Mtair	28	29	30	31 3:30 PM <b>BIBLE GUPPIES</b>		



*Sent with a prayer to:*

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

**"When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have set in place, what is man that You are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor."**

**Psalm 8:3-5 (NIV)**

