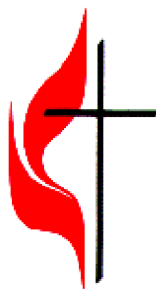




100th Anniversary - July 31, 2005

NEWSLETTER
OF THE
Estancia United Methodist Church
600 Williams, Estancia, New Mexico



MARCH
2004

Your Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Linda Mizell

P. O. Box 378, Estancia, NM 87016

Church Office 384-5215 Parsonage 384-2710

email: revlindam@att.net

Chairperson of Administrative Council
Recording Secretary
Lay Leader
Organist
Lay Member of the Annual Conference
Alt. Lay Member of the Annual Conference
Chairperson: Board of Trustees
Chairperson: Worship Committee
Chairperson: Education Committee
Youth Representative
Chairperson: Missions
Chairperson: Prayer Evangelism
Chairperson: Care and Outreach
Chairperson: Pastor Parish Relations
Chairperson: Finance Committee
Financial Secretary
Church Treasurer
President UMW
President UMY
President UMM

Mel Stephenson
Pam Lambert
Tracy Hemke
Morrow Hall
Carolyn Moore
Marcia Fitzner
Mark Lambert
Roci Galyn
Angela Creamer
Kelsey Sours
Marcia Fitzner
Nick Griffo
Julie Griffo
Barbara Simms
Marcia Fitzner
Sylvia Levy
Jim Wyman
Ethel Floyd
Ashley Welch
Nick Griffo

Bishop: D. Max Whitfield
District Superintendent: Dr. Larry Hall

Please visit us on the web:
<http://www.gbmg-umc.org/estancia>

Prayer Concerns

- Jo McClain
- Bev Mabry
- Francis Tyler
- Renee Richards
- Tracy and Mary Hemke
- Mackenzie Corliss
- Andrea Guido and family
- Verner Query
- Bess and Marty Young
- Jim and Tish McMichael
- Bill Bass and family
- Carolyn Moore
- Bill Simms and family
- Elizebeth Sims
- Carolyn Hill
- All who do not have a relationship with Jesus
- General Conference representatives and resolutions
- This congregation and its leaders & finances
- The men and women of the armed forces
- National leaders and the leaders of the world
- Teachers, administrators and students
- Our town government and the youth center
- New library and swimming pool
- New project for the NOMADS

Sunday Worship 10:00 AM
Nursery Provided

FROM PASTOR LINDA



The Passion of Christ

Many churches are rushing to get people to **Mel Gibson's** movie, "The Passion of Christ." **Ebert** and **Roeper** have given this clearly Christian movie two "thumbs up".

Many are hoping this film will communicate the Christian faith and the truth of Christ in a way that will stir a great revival in our nation and beyond. **Mel Gibson's** own home country of Australia has been infamous for its rejection of Christianity.

How will we be ready to be a part of reaching unchurched folks with the "Good News" that **Jesus'** sacrifice and suffering was for the benefit of all? **God's** grace is active in every person's life, but it is often asleep, inactive, or replaced with a "passion" for something else. **Mel Gibson**, in an interview with **Diane Sawyer**, spoke about how he had everything anyone could want – fame, wealth, possessions – but none of that satisfied. He was empty inside until he returned to his faith. This movie was a labor of love for him. A telling of the story of **Christ** from his point of view.

Many of God's children fail to respond to God's grace until something awakens within. In the Gospel of **John** we see many examples of people who come to recognize **Jesus'** true identity in stages. People begin in the dark; they are clueless to the meaning of **Jesus** in their lives. But, if they will only respond to **God's** grace, a whole new life is open to them.

The Church is becoming increasingly aware of the lost souls surrounding her. Ignite '03 was an event that helped to awaken us to the needs that surround us. How can we as believers help those "in the dark" enter the light of **God's** truth? Here at EUMC, we followed the Ignite '03 event with training on how to be a *Contagious Christian*. Some of our members have been praying about and pondering about the best way to reach out into our community with the love and truth of **Christ**. **Pam Lambert**, **Julie Griffo**, and **Jon Shively** have formed a team for the purpose of reaching those who are not sure they know **Jesus**. On Sunday evening at 5 PM they will offer a time for seekers to encounter **Christ** through praise, prayer, conversation, and experience. The team wants this to be an informal time, so we will meet in the Education Building, and will have snacks and fellowship following the meeting. The teams desire is for this to be a time for seekers to find the answers to the hearts deepest questions and unnamed

desires. Some of the things that will be a part of the evening are contemporary and traditional camp/praise music (with some Country and Hispanic flavor mixed in), informal times of prayer, skits, testimonies, question and answer opportunities, and spiritual formation exercises. The time will conclude with light snacks.

Here is where you come in. This time will only be effective if you invite your friends, relatives, acquaintances, and neighbors. The team is planning a non-threatening environment for those who are not now attending a church (but will be enjoyable for those who are active in the church as well). The team is planning for a variety of music styles and a broad range of faith experiences. Perhaps you have never considered how difficult it is to enter a strange environment where dread, panic, and alarm are the main emotions experienced by people who have had a "bad experience" in the church, or who have never been to a worship service. This Sunday evening seeker event will allow people to become familiar with the church and its members in a less threatening setting. Plan to join the seeker team on Sunday evening at 5 PM and bring a friend, relative, acquaintance, or neighbor. Those of you who have taken part in the Contagious Christian, this is an opportunity for you to "practice" all you learned and provides you a place to bring your friends.

Pastor's Reflections

Here we are at the beginning of Lent once again. Some people do not like the season of Lent because they are asked to give up something (sacrifice). This year the finance committee has asked that we save a quarter a day for the Lenten season. I think the new movie coming out on Ash Wednesday can do much to help a traditional ritual become filled with new life. From everything I have heard "The Passion of Christ" will break you out of the doldrums and get you into the proper frame of mind for Easter. I hope many of you will have the opportunity to see this film before Easter. Perhaps we can go as a group and have "p izza" and debrief afterwards. If you are interested please let me know.

But let's turn back to the subject of Lent. I am so excited that so many of you will be participating in studying *The Purpose Driven Life*. Lent is traditionally a time of self-reflection. I have read the book through once and look forward to studying it with you during the next 40 days. This book is a natural for the spiritual practice of *journaling*. If you have never used the spiritual practice of *journaling*, I think you would find it a very useful tool in your journey of salvation. If you are unsure of how to journal, I will be glad to talk to you about the advantages and styles of *journaling*.

How exciting it will be to see how each of us will grow in spiritual maturity during the next 40 days and beyond. I will be happy to come to your group when my schedule allows. I hope the new groups you form during this season of Lent will become a special group of support for each of you. One of the six levers that Patton speaks of in his book about a small church that became big (see article on **God's Dream Team**) centers on the importance of growth groups. This is simply a revision of John Wesley's class and society meetings that were key elements of the Methodist movement in England. Did you realize that the outline for this system of support, study, and encouragement are still in *The Book of Discipline*? Perhaps it is time for us to turn back to our roots.

My hope for each of you during this time of Lent is that you will grow closer to **Jesus** and become just like him, and in the process you will also grow closer to your brothers and sisters in **Christ**.

The Price of Stewardship

Our church leaders were treated in February to a visit by **Rev. Sanford Coon** of the New Mexico United Methodist Foundation.



Rev. Coon receives support from the Conference to consult with local congregations on financial stewardship programs. There is a lot of information indicating that churches under "red-ink stresses" use secular fund-raising methods (collecting money), rather than Christian stewardship procedures, which address the money Christians give to **God**.

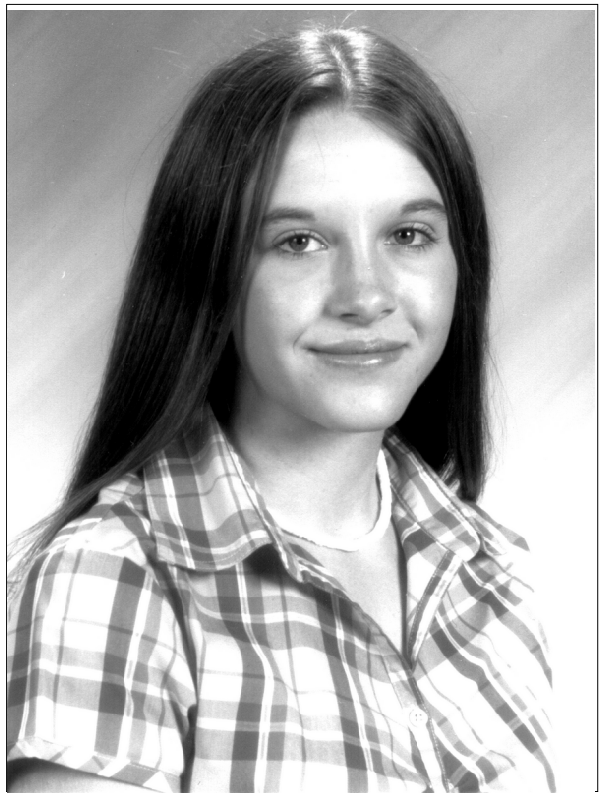
Led by **Rev. Coon**, the group discussed some of the facts about giving over the last year (of four denominations studied, United Methodist members each gave 1/3 to 1/4 the amounts of the others), and the features of some of the most successful stewardship methods. A key feature is taking a spiritually-focused approach, rather than a dollar-focused approach. While we will always have to have a budget and track our offerings against our expenses, there is a lot we

can do to discern **God's** will and emphasize the spiritual aspect in this area of our church administration.

Based on our discussion, the group agreed that we could benefit from further consultation. **Rev. Coon** will return March 12 for a follow-up presentation, and then will continue to work with several members of the Ad Council/Finance Committee to assist us in developing an effective program for the Estancia UMC. He stressed that to change how we approach our finances means that we must change. As Christians, we commit to submitting ourselves as clay to the Potter on a daily basis. Please keep the church leadership in prayer as we seek to learn new ways of responsibly managing the resources **God** so generously provides us.

-Roci Galyn, Roving Reporter

YOUTH CORNER (Featuring Kelsey Sours)



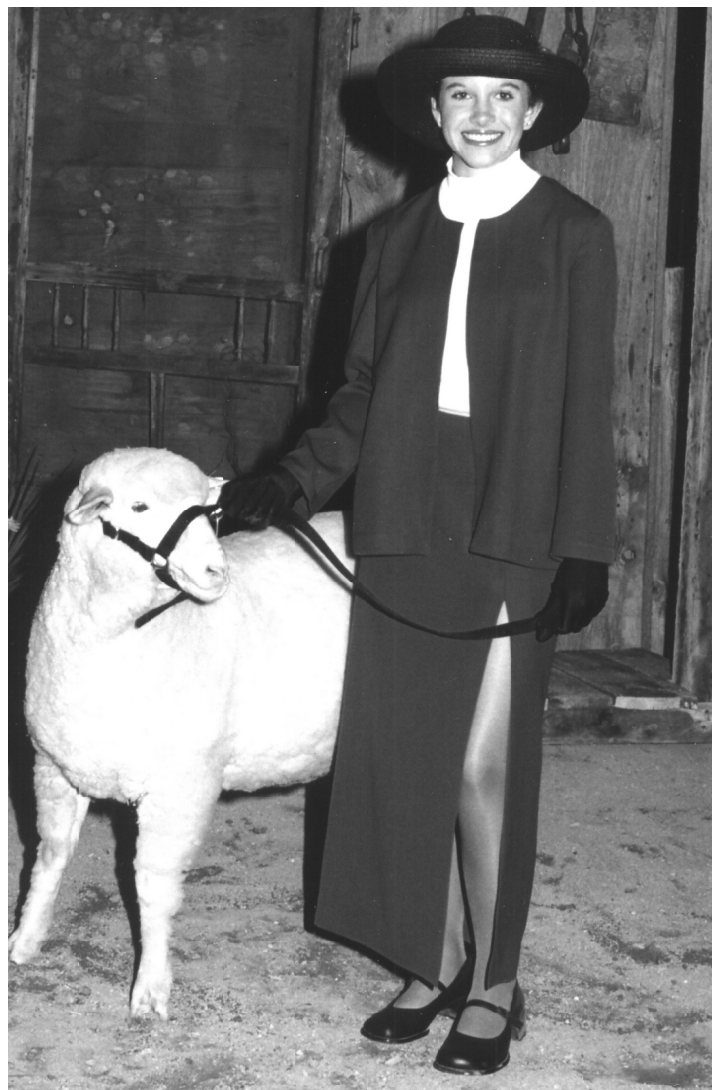
Kelsey Sours is a junior at Estancia HS. She was born in Las Cruces and moved to Estancia in 2002 with her mother, stepfather, and little brother, **Shiloh**. **Kelsey's** mother, **Stephanie**, teaches 3rd grade at Estancia, and her stepfather, **Milton**, works for the New Mexico livestock board. **Kelsey** joined EUMC last Easter with the Confirmation Class. **Kelsey** has been an active member of the UMY since January 2003. She has been involved in leading worship, working on the Easter Egg Hunt, and raising money for the projects like SMA and the Heifer Project. At Estancia HS **Kelsey** is active in cross-country track, cheerleading, FFA, and FCCLA. **Kelsey** is also a member of the National Honor Society and was inducted her sophomore year. She also participates in 4-H, raising goats and sheep. She also competes in the county fair. **Kelsey** is beginning to search for the right college to pursue a career as a veterinarian.

Kelsey participates in judging poultry and farm business management in FFA. Her freshman year the wool team from Estancia took

first place at state and competed at nationals in Sonora, TX. The following summer in 4-H the Torrance county wool judging team also went to Sonora, TX for competition for nationals.

For the past three summers, **Kelsey** has worked for the Youth Conservation Corp through the town of Estancia. Their project has been the adobe wall surrounding the rodeo arena at the Torrance County Fairgrounds.

The picture (right) was taken at Torrance County fair in 2002 as she participated in Lady's Lead. She won best ewe in 2002. The previous year she won Lady's Lead in county and state fair competition. Her grandmother, **Pansy Belcher**, constructed **Kelsey's** outfits. **Kelsey** purchases her goats and lambs from her grandfather, **Richard**, in Moriarty.



MEMBER'S MEMORIES

Ethel Floyd has been a member of our church for the last 56 years. This is her story:



Ethel Floyd

I was born in Kingman County, Kansas, the oldest of five girls. I have lived most of my life on a farm/ranch. I'm still a "Country Gal". When I was 12 years old, our family was in a tornado. It destroyed our three story home. The only part above floor level was two walls that fell and formed an upside-down "V" over our heads. I'm sure that God wasn't through with us yet. I was the only one injured. Something struck me behind the ear which resulted in some facial paralysis. I had hundreds of splinters in my legs. It was a very "scary" experience.

During WWII, I took a six weeks course in riveting and worked for over a year for Boeing Aircraft Company as "Rosy, the Riveter". My husband was transferred to Estancia in 1943 as an engineer for the opening of a soil Conservation Office. He was later transferred to Springer where I lived for one year. I accepted a job with the Farm Security Office (later named Farmers Home Administration) in Alamogordo and moved there with my two sons in 1946. That office closed in 1947 and I was transferred back to Estancia. My two boys and I joined

*the Estancia Methodist Church in 1948 while Rev. **Clyde Galbreath** was pastor. I was divorced and married my boss, **Richard Floyd (Slim)** in 1950. His wife had died of cancer in 1946. With my two boys and his three boys and one girl, we had a houseful and had to double the size of our house. Most of the children were in college or high school but were all home in the summertime. Thank goodness, we had a dairy to help satisfy the appetites of five grown boys and one girl.*

*Realizing we couldn't finance all the educational needs with just the dairy, we both went to work at Sandia Base (now Kirkland Air Force Base) as well as milking about 30 cows and selling milk. We drove back and forth for two years on the two lane I-40 (this was before it became a four lane highway). It was so stressful, that we both found work back in Estancia. **Slim** had taught school years before in Estancia and he went back to teaching and was principal of the school in Willard until it closed and he was transferred back to Estancia as principal of the Junior High until he retired in 1969. I went to work for the Welfare Dept., and worked there for 22 years.*

*Our hard work and efforts paid off. All the children have done very well and all are retired now. Their occupations varied from a College Professor; Supv. of Farmers Home Administration; MD - surgeon; Child Welfare Caseworker; Engineer for Dept of Interior and Engineer at IBM. **Slim's** daughter, **Gretchen**, passed away with cancer in 1988.*

We traveled a little following our retirement. We went to England and Europe in 1977. We visited all of the children, none of which live in the same state. Slim passed away in 1986. I continue to live in the "Old Homestead".

-Ethel

Mother Roots Study Underway

Women from the Estancia UMC have begun gathering on Saturday mornings in the Education Building to discuss the book *Mother Roots: the Female Ancestors of Jesus*, written by **Helen Bruch Pearson**. **Pearson** discusses the spiritual, cultural and literary contexts of women's roles in the Bible in some detail, then focuses a chapter on each of the four female ancestors mentioned in **Jesus'** ancestry as named by **Matthew**. The book is full of rich and colorful perspectives on these women, how and why they were included, and the unique role each played in **God's** plan for the chosen people.

Every chapter ends with a list of intriguing and thought-provoking questions. The study group discusses the general content of the chapter, then takes each question in turn. It is a warm, safe and stimulating environment with much sharing. Such conversation is a great way to open up and deepen both new and long-time relationships! Any woman who is interested in joining the group is encouraged to do so. Contact **Julie Griffo** or **Angela Creamer** for more information.

-Roci Galyn, Roving Reporter

Help Needed!

For the last four years, **Nick** and **Julie Griffo** have faithfully provided the communion elements for the first Sunday of each month. Recently they announced that **God** has led them to retire from this important role and focus their energies elsewhere in the ministry of the church. **Nick** leads our Prayer Evangelism effort, and **Julie** chairs the newly-formed Outreach team.

Here's what the job entails: bringing bread and grape juice, and setting up the plates and cups before service, then returning them to the Education Building after church. The **Griffos** graciously provided home-baked bread every month, but that is not a requirement. Any form of leavened or unleavened (for example, pita) bread in a single loaf that can be broken off into pieces for serving would be just fine.

As with most opportunities to serve, this one offers blessings as well as responsibilities. The Eucharist, instituted by **Christ**, is a particularly significant means of grace for those who participate. At present, we are without a commitment from anyone to step into this function. How about YOU? Could you take this on, perhaps for the next year? Or 6 months? If you were willing to perform this important service to our church, please contact **Roci Galyn**, Worship Committee chair, at church or by calling 384-0471 (nights at home) or 453-7067 (daytime cell).

A Cross on a Hill

By Rev. Terry Ann Hanig

As we gather this time of year
For the season we call Lent
We are reminded of Christ's crucifixion
And to remember what it meant.

That He laid His body and life down
On this large piece of wood
To show us how much He loved us
And that we'd know that His love is pure and good.

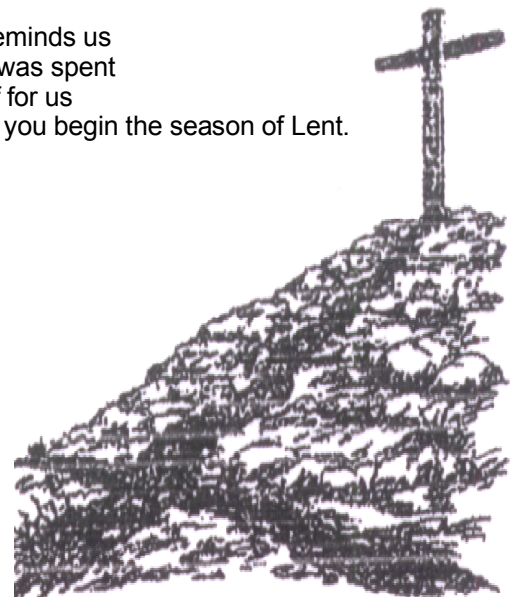
The pain and suffering that He went through
On that cross on a hill
Is something we need to remember
For a prophecy He came and fulfilled

He showed the world that the love He had in His heart
For all humanity
Cannot be overshadowed by
The world's sins and hate and cruelty

So think of that cross on the hill
And the one who gave His life
Remember His love for you
As you think of His sacrifice

Remember to share this story
With all whose life touches yours each day
Show them that the cross on the hill is empty
And that to get to Heaven, Jesus is "The Way!"

A Cross on a hill reminds us
Of how Jesus' life was spent
Sacrificing Himself for us
Remember this as you begin the season of Lent.



From Your Finance Committee

The Finance Committee had their first meeting and put into place procedures that should make the path ahead much easier. The new procedures will help us keep our congregation better informed with our financial situation as it progresses. We will be making many adjustments in June when a change of pastors takes place, and there will be significant changes in our finances along the way.

Rev. Coon helped us evaluate and see clearer our gifts and graces and it was no surprise that there are far more gifts available to us as we go into a new year and new situations. We know that it is just a matter of time and we will be back on track and able to carry on the ministry that God intends for us.

Rev. Coon will be returning on March 12 to help us establish a firm spiritual foundation as we work through the financial struggles of our church. I want to thank the finance committee for their willingness to have extra meetings and to give more time to this ministry.

The NM Conference is having a series of meetings to address the insurance situation, and I will take part in that discussion. At a recent Finance and Administration meeting, I tried to explain the struggle that we, as a small congregation, are having with our budget. PLEASE keep all of these committees on your prayer list so that we may be able to solve this problem in a way that is beneficial to our churches and to the clergy alike.

-Marcia Fitzner. Finance Committee Chair

EUMC Income/Expense - January 2004**Expense:**

| | |
|--|----------|
| Property Care and Utilities | |
| Telephone..... | 117.56 |
| Church Utilities..... | 319.66 |
| Parsonage Utilities..... | 225.15 |
| Fire Protection | 140.77 |
| Total Property Care and Utilities..... | 803.14 |
| Ministerial support | |
| Pastor's Salary | |
| Pastor's Housing Exclusion..... | 216.67 |
| Pastor's Salary - Other..... | 1,906.67 |
| Total Pastor's Salary..... | 2,123.34 |
| Pastor's Group Insurance..... | 504.78 |
| Pastor's Pension..... | 660.11 |
| Pastor's MRA..... | 200.00 |
| Continuing Education..... | 125.00 |
| Total Ministerial support..... | 3,613.23 |
| Total Expense..... | 4,416.37 |

Income:

| | |
|--|------------|
| Actual Income for January..... | 4,632.00 |
| Unpaid Apportionments for January..... | 561.00 |
| (First Five only) | |
| Put into reserve for insurance quarterly pay etc.. | 380.00 |
| (due to a member paying their annual tithe) | |
| Total funds needed per month..... | \$5,218.50 |
| (Includes only the top five apportionments) | |

-Marcia Fitzner. Finance Committee Chair

God's Dream Team

On Friday, January 30th the first Dream Team meeting took place with five in attendance. The hour started with a discussion about our dreams for the church. Then we began to discuss the dreams that God has for His Church. Our discussions in the future will be centered around two books on Church growth. The first book is *The Purpose Driven Church*, by **Rick Warren** (*The Purpose Driven Life*), and the other is a book by a United Methodist minister, **Jeff Patton** and is called, *If It Could Happen Here...Turning the Small Membership Church Around*. We talked about surfing spiritual waves. This surfing is learning to ride the waves that **God** builds. Just like surfers see a good wave and learn to make the most of it (the best waves are often in the middle of a storm), we need to watch the horizon and be ready to ride the waves that **God** sends. No matter how hard we try we can't build a wave of **God's** spirit in our own power. Thus, man cannot produce growth. Only **God** can create waves of revival, waves of growth, and waves of spiritual receptivity.

We talked about some areas where many churches get side tracked on secondary issues. Churches primarily driven by tradition are often heard to say, "We've always done it this way." The goal is to simply perpetuate the past. Traditionally motivated churches are often bound together by rules, regulations, and rituals. What would change if these churches were bound instead by a sense of purpose and mission?

Sometimes churches are bound by personality and the main question becomes, "What does the leader want?" This person may be the pastor or a layperson. A personality driven church's agenda is determined more by the background, needs, and insecurities of the leader than by God's will, or even the needs of the people.

Churches driven by finances tend to ask, "What will it cost?" Nothing else ever seems quite as important as finances. The most heated debate in a finance-driven church is over the budget. The greater issue should always be what **God** wants the church to do. The most important question is not, "How much did we save?" but "Who was served and saved?"

Buildings drive some churches. When a church is driven by the desire to have a nice building the members may spend more than they can afford. Paying for and maintaining the building becomes the biggest budget item. The actual ministry of the church suffers in the process. It becomes a case of the tail wagging the dog. On the other hand, some churches allow the smallness of their building to set and limit future growth. Staying with a historic, but inadequate, building should never take priority over reaching the community.

Events, while a necessity, can also become the driving purpose in a church. There can be a lot of activity in a church but not necessarily productivity. When a church stays busy without having a clear purpose for what it does someone needs to ask, "What is the purpose behind each of our activities?" Is attendance the sole measurement of faithfulness and maturity? Church leaders must always be wary of the tendency to allow meetings to replace ministry as the primary activity of believers.

In an honest attempt to reach unbelievers for **Christ**, and be relevant in today's culture, some churches allow the needs of the unbelievers to become their driving force. While we must be sensitive to the needs, hurts, and interests of seekers, we cannot allow seekers to drive the total agenda of the church. There is a difference in being seeker sensitive and seeker driven.

The goal is to be a *purpose driven* church. Those of you who have begun the study on the *purpose driven life* will soon understand what is meant by *purpose driven*. The way we are using *purpose driven* here is in the sense of fulfilling **God's** purpose. The Dream Team is gathering again on March 5th to seek **God's** purpose and to learn how to surf **God's** spiritual waves. Keep the team in your prayers.

Vacation Bible School 2004 will be JUNE 7 - 11

Please plan your summer around this date.

This years theme will be HERO Quest. In Hero Quest the children will be brought closer to Jesus as they come to know Jesus as the hero of all heroes. Volunteers needed are: Nursery worker, preschool teacher, registration person, craft leader, recreation leader, music leader, youth team leaders.

ITEMS NEEDED: recycled small/med plastic containers, clothes pins, small/med sequins, beads, ribbon, stickers, buttons, fabric scraps (large enough for child's vest), magnetic tape, foil wrapping paper, colored burlap, foil cake pans, or other medium size foil pans. These item can be stored in LOGOS closet. Thank you, **Angela Creamer**



March 2004

Tear Off

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--|--|---|---|--|
| 7 10 AM Worship Communion | 1 Pastor's Day Off 7AM Morning Meditation | 2 10AM Office Hours 5PM Trustees | 3 7AM Morning Meditation 9AM Womens Bible Study 6:30PM WNB | 4 7PM Men's Emmaus | 5 7AM Morning Meditation 5:30PM Dream Team | 6 9AM Womens Bible Study |
| 14 8:AM Kairos #16 10 AM Worship UMW Sunday 11:15AM Ad Council | 8 Pastor's Day Off 7AM Morning Meditation | 9 10AM Office Hours | 10 7AM Morning Meditation 9AM Womens Bible Study 6:30PM WNB | 11 8:AM Kairos #16 7PM Men's Emmaus | 12 7AM Morning Meditation 8:AM Kairos 16 7PM Emmaus | 13 8:AM Kairos #16 9AM Womens Bible Study |
| 21 10 AM Worship 11:15AM Worship Committee | 15 Pastor's Day Off 7AM Morning Meditation | 16 10AM Office Hours | 17 St Patrick's Day 7AM Morning Meditation 9AM Womens Bible Study 6:30PM WNB | 18 7PM Men's Emmaus | 19 7AM Morning Meditation | 20 7:AM Men's Breakfast 9AM Womens Bible Study |
| 28 10 AM Worship | 22 Pastor's Day Off 7AM Morning Meditation | 23 10AM Office Hours | 24 7AM Morning Meditation 9AM Womens Bible Study 6:30PM WNB | 25 9:AM A Heart for the Unchurched 7PM Men's Emmaus | 26 7AM Morning Meditation | 27 9AM Womens Bible Study |
| | 29 Pastor's Day Off 7AM Morning Meditation | 30 10AM Office Hours | 31 7AM Morning Meditation 9AM Womens Bible Study 6:30PM WNB | | | |



Sent with a prayer to:

*Estancia United Methodist Church
P. O. Box 378
Estancia, NM 87016*

2004 Committee Meeting Schedule

Ad Council **11:30am**

1/11/04
3/14/04
5/9/04
7/11/04
9/12/04
11/14/04

Worship **11:30am**

1/18/04
3/21/04
5/16/04
7/18/04
9/19/04
11/21/04

Trustees **7:00pm**

| | |
|--------|---------|
| 1/8/04 | 7/6/04 |
| 2/3/04 | 8/3/04 |
| 3/2/04 | 9/7/04 |
| 4/6/04 | 10/5/04 |
| 5/4/03 | 11/2/04 |
| 6/1/04 | 12/7/04 |

Finance **11:30am**

2/9/04
4/11/04
6/13/04
8/8/04
10/10/04
12/12/04

PPRC **11:30am**

2/15/04
4/18/04
6/20/04
8/15/04
10/17/04
12/19/04

Care / Outreach **(To Be Scheduled)**

OUR MISSION

To honor God through our worship, ministry and discipleship based on God's Word; supporting one another with Christian Fellowship and reaching out to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.