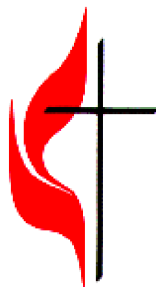




100th Anniversary - July 31, 2005

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



APRIL
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.gb-gm-umc.org/estancia>

Prayer Concerns

- Chris Gomez
- Carolyn Hill
- Lois Van Meter
- Rod Galyn and her mother, Gaye Graham
- Sylvia Levy and her brother
- Jo McClain
- Tracy and Mary Hemke
- Bill Simms and family
- Elizebeth Sims
- 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 Purpose Driven Life



“The Purpose Driven Life” has been creating lots of discussion. Some of you are upset with **Rick Warren’s** theology, and that is fine. It is good to question what we believe and why. But I hope that you do not throw out the meat of the material because **Rick** sees **God** from a different viewpoint than your own. The meat of the study is about you and your relationship with **God**. Don’t let temptation lead you to get bogged down in the theology when what **God** is trying to do is convince your heart of a need to grow deeper in your relationship to Him and others.

The Wednesday Night Blessings group has decided to slow down and spend more time on each of the five purposes rather than trying to finish by Easter. I hope the other groups that have been studying together will decide to continue meeting together. At the “Dream Team” meeting this Friday, we will be talking more about how growth groups (small study groups) can be a path to draw new people to Christ and his Church, while helping members grow deeper in their faith. If you have finished with the PDL, I hope you will adopt the format of 20 minutes of Bible Study, 20 minutes of sharing, and 20 minutes of prayer. The small groups you have formed can become a caring community of Christian friends to support you in all of life’s challenges.

It is important for you to set an empty chair in your midst and pray for God to fill that chair with someone who needs the love of Christ in his or her life. This way you will always be reminded of the necessity to grow and reach out beyond yourselves. God has many lost children that he wants to return to the flock and he wants your help in finding them. Invite your neighbor, family member, or co-worker to go with you to your weekly meeting (WNB has adopted 3 newbies). Begin with prayer for guidance about whom God is prompting you to invite and then be persistent; it may take as many as 10 invitations before someone responds. Unless they tell you to leave them alone, keep inviting them.

The genius of John and Charles Wesley’s ministry was the formation of small groups that met weekly to pray together, study God’s word, to serve in mission to the community, and to care for one another (sound familiar?). This was the Methodist’s biggest “secret” to success. While **George Whitfield** may have been a better evangelist than **John**, he had no follow-up to help

assure that those who heard his message would continue to grow in the faith, and like the seed that falls on the rocky ground many of his converts fell away from their faith only weeks after being converted. Growth groups are an important key to church vitality and Christian growth. I hope the "Purpose Driven Life" will be the start of something bigger. I pray that this church will catch fire like the Methodist movement in **John Wesley's** time – what a wonderful thing that would be. *-Pastor Linda*

Everyone's invited!

Come and invite someone to our
Sunday evening Seeker's Service.

It is fun and informal.

We sing praise songs, led by Jon Shively, read scriptures, do skits and fellowship together. Every Sunday is different.

Time: 5:00 p.m.- 5:45 p.m.
Where: Education Building

Come join us! Bring a light snack to enjoy afterwards and be prepared to be blessed

KAIROS

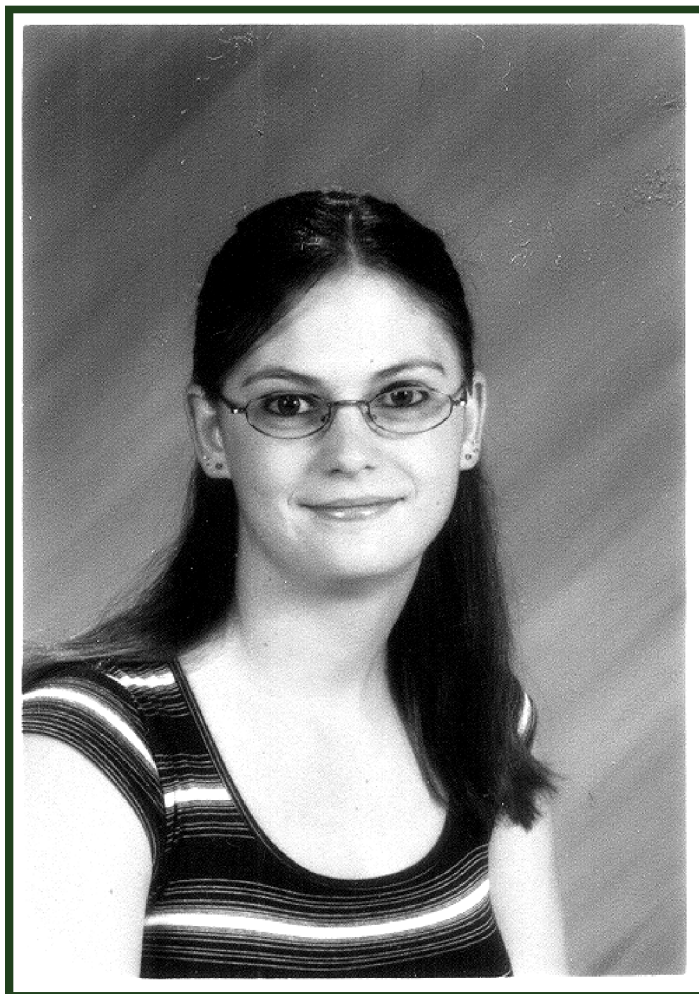
March 11-14, **Roci** and **Linda** represented EUMC on a Kairos event at Grants prison. Earlier this year, when Wednesday Night Blessing was studying the Gospel of **Luke**, I was struck with the words of **Jesus** in the synagogue as he announced his ministry to the hometown crowd:

(Luke 4:16 -21 He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read. The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, and he began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.")

For the first time, I realized this was not only **Jesus'** ministry, but ours as well. **John** and **Charles Wesley** were involved in visiting those in debtors prison in England. All of these things were active in leading me to participate in my first Kairos ministry.

Perhaps you remember an article I wrote in January where I used the example of the town that debated about whether to build guardrails on the mountain road or if an ambulance would be a better solution to the problem of people running off the edge of the road. As I finish my first Kairos, I think this ministry may be both an ambulance and a guardrail. While it would be better for us to reach people with the love of **Christ** before they land in prison, it is important that we reach prisoners with the love of **Christ**, so that our prisons become safer environments. The Kairos program has success stories of women who have left the Grants facility and have become productive Christian citizens. One former resident is starting a halfway house to help others break the cycle of repeated incarcerations. I have rarely had the privilege of seeing such a powerful transformation in people's lives as I observed in the 72 hours of that Kairos weekend. I watched as hardened, bitter, and suspicious women become softened by the love of **Christ**, through the heartfelt witness of godly women who helped to build a caring community within those prison walls (not an easy place to feel warm and secure). I heard many stories that would break your heart – stories of abuse and abandonment, loneliness and lack of trust. Freedom comes in many forms. The residents in Kairos each receive a "Freedom Guide" much like the purple book that many of you received at the "Walk to Emmaus." A heart that finds its true home in **Jesus** is free no matter where it resides.

There is a great need for the love of **God** within our prisons. **God** is calling some of you to take on this difficult, but rewarding ministry. Seriously pray about **God's** call in your life to become part of a Kairos team, or to find other ways of ministering to prisoners and their families. You will be walking in the footsteps of **Jesus**.

YOUTH CORNER (Featuring Ashley Welch)

Ashley

My name is **Ashley Welch**. As most of you know, I am the daughter of **Julianne Welch**. I have been a member of this church for about twelve years. It has been lots of fun growing up in a church family that has grown closer to **Christ** right there in the church with me. I enjoy cheerleading, volleyball and snow football with my brother. I also enjoy hanging out with the UMY group and good friends, **Kelsey, Brian, Jacque** and **Alice**. I am looking forward to graduating and going on to a local college and studying anesthesiology. It is comforting to know that I am learning and walking on the hard and complicated, yet grace-filled path of **Christ**, with my fellow youth and church family. Not only do I thank all of you for believing in me, but I thank **God** for being in all of you to speak to me and draw me closer to Him. If it wasn't for **God** in each of you, we would not be here and we would not touch the lives we do in our daily walk with **Christ**. So keep believing and keep walking close to **Christ**. **God Bless!**

THE MIRACLE OF PASSOVER

“The 14th day of the first month at evening is the **Lord’s** passover.” (Lev. 23:5)

Exodus 12 and following chapters tell the awesome story of the national liberation of the Jews from slavery in Egypt.

Passover is surely the feast of salvation. On this day (April 6, our calendar; 15 Nisan on Jewish) because of the blood of the lamb (“without blemish, a male” Exodus 12: 5) the Hebrew nation was delivered from bondage. Clearly, in both Testaments, the blood of the lamb delivers from slavery - the Jew from Egypt, the Christian from sin.

It is no coincidence that our **Lord** was sacrificed on Passover. At the meal He stated, “This is my blood of the New Testament shed for many for the remission of sin”. (Matt 26:27)

Passover then represents our salvation. The Lord Himself instructed us to “Do this in remembrance of me.” We take Communion as a part of the original Passover feast

Unleavened Bread - The Second Feast

The second feast begins the next night. (The Jewish day begins at sundown.)

“And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the Feast of Unleavened Bread unto the Lord: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread.” (Lev. 23: 6)

Leaven in the Bible symbolizes sin and evil. The seven days of eating unleavened bread is a symbol of a holy walk, as with the **Lord**. “Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lamb, as ye are unleavened. For even **Christ** our passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. (1 Cor. 5: 7-8)

The unleavened bread in the New Testament is, of course, the body of our **Lord**. He is described as “the Bread of Life.” Born in Bethlehem, in Hebrew, “House of Bread”. **Christ** used bread as an image of himself (“if a kernel of wheat fall into the ground”).

The very piece of bread used by the Jews during this Holy week is a good picture of our **Lord**. The Jewish matzoh is striped (by His stripes we are healed), pierced (“They shall look upon me whom they have pierced”) and of course pure, without leaven, as this body was without sin.

God performed this exact ceremony with the burial of **Jesus**, our precious piece of unleavened bread, and He performed it on the exact day of the feast.

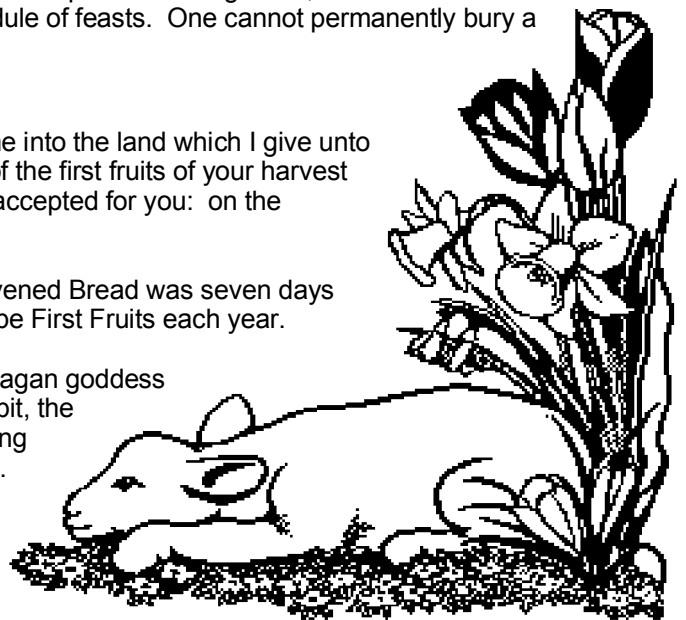
We readily see from the Gospel that **Jesus** was buried at the beginning of the Feast of Unleavened Bread since His body was interred at sundown of Passover Day. “Our Kernel of Wheat” was indeed placed in the ground, and at the appropriate moment was to rise again, in accordance with the schedule of feasts. One cannot permanently bury a Christian.

First Fruits - The Third Feast

Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, “When ye come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring a sheaf of the first fruits of your harvest unto the priest; And he shall wave the sheaf before the **Lord**, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the sabbath he shall wave it. (Lev. 23: 10-11)

The morrow after the sabbath, or Sunday. Since the feast of Unleavened Bread was seven days long, one of these days would be a Sunday and that Sunday would be First Fruits each year.

We call this feast Easter, after the Babylonian goddess, **Ishtar**, the pagan goddess of fertility. We even continue to worship symbols of fertility - the rabbit, the egg, new clothing, etc., but the celebration was to be **God’s** replanting the earth - resurrection of the **Christ** and indeed of the entire Church. “For as in **Adam** all die, even so in **Christ** shall all be made alive. **Christ** the first fruits; Afterward they that are **Christ’s** at his coming.” (1Cor. 15:23)



-Alma Wimsatt



POURING NEW CHURCH STEPS - MARCH 2004

Board of Trustees Report

After several years of discussions on replacing the front steps and ramp of the church, the Board awarded a contract.

After a competitive bidding process, **Pete Barela Jr.** of Estancia was selected in late February to do the concrete work and demolition. This contract included fixing the north entrance of the Education Building. Board members would handle the railings. **Mel Stephenson** provided the design to meet codes and coordinated the efforts to do the job. The demolition was done by **Clement Austin** with jackhammer work by **Mark Lambert** and **John Creamer**. Thanks also to **Danny Chavez** for moving rubble to the pile of debris by the parsonage. **Joe Barela** has agreed to remove all the debris at no cost to the Church. Some snow and cold weather delayed the work, but the end result was well worth the wait. **John Creamer** purchased the steel railing through Starco and **Mark, Mel, and Tracy Hemke** erected the railing with **Mark** essentially doing all the welding.

There are still some items to be finished i.e., the returns on the ends of the railings, new door threshold, paint railings, and touchup paint on the Church. Thanks to all who helped make it happen!

-Mel Stephenson

HISTORY COMMITTEE REPORT

Plans for our 100th celebration are progressing quite well. Thanks to **Marcia Fitzner**, we will have the **Bishop** for our Sunday morning service on August 1, 2005. We have also rented the School Cafeteria for the banquet on Saturday night, July 31, 2005.

Resumes and pictures have been received from the majority of our former pastors. That is, those whose addresses we were able to find. They will be included in the history book.

Marcella Reynolds is mailing letters to members who joined the church during the first 75 years, giving them an opportunity to write a resume of their experiences while attending our church. This information will also be included in the history book.

Agatha Garrison is in charge of putting together a scrapbook which will be on display at our celebration along with other materials and pictures furnished by present and former members. If you have pictures we could use in this scrapbook, please give them to **Agatha**.

As information is being gathered, **Bill Simms** is assembling all these materials for the history book and also making labels for our mailings. We plan to have the history book completed by the end of this year. Everyone who attends the banquet will be given a copy. We will not be handing them out until the celebration.

Roy Daniel is planning the Sunday activities, including a hamburger and hot dog picnic on the grounds at noon on August 1, 2005.

Searching the Conference Archives for additional EUMC records is **Carolyn Moore**. She has also searched Torrance County records for property history. She is in charge of the invitations.

"General Flunky" is **Ethel Floyd** who does the typing, searches records, writes history and is planning our Saturday Night Banquet.

We urge all our congregation to publicize the upcoming 100th celebration. After all, it is the only one you will ever have.
-Ethel L. Floyd, Chrm.



UMW REPORT

The United Methodist Women have only had two meetings this year due to the snow storm in February. However, we have continued to function.

Four of our members attended the Interfaith Mission Study in Albuquerque in March. This study was presented by our own **Marcia Fitzner** and was a day well spent. She showed a video and explained conditions in many countries where UMW is supporting mission work.

The Estancia United Methodist Women were in charge of the March 14th Sunday morning services. The unit presented their annual service pins to four members of the church who had performed outstanding services for our church. The members honored this year were: **Susan Wilson, Julie Griffo, Julieanne Welch** and **Angela Creamer**. These four ladies were responsible for the very successful LOGOS program.

Program Chairman, **Marilyn Seddon**, installed the 2004 officers and **Marcia Fitzner** gave a short resume of the UMW organization. We were also honored to have the **Keybar River Band** perform. The **Keybar River Band** is a popular Gospel Singing group and their music was well received.

At the present time, we are preparing for the Easter season. The UMW is in charge of the Easter Egg Hunt for the children and are presently taking orders for Easter Lilies which will be gracing the Sanctuary on Easter morning.

-Ethel L. Floyd, Pres.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee will meet this month to look at events as well as possible dates that would be of help in our fund raising efforts. There have been several suggestions made and we will be looking at all of them to see which would be best for this church.

We will also be making plans for setting up a Stewardship Training that will enable us to do a stewardship campaign with *spiritual* emphasis. We would like to give everyone the opportunity to share their talents for the good of this community as well as our church.

Financial figures for the month of March are not available at this time as the books have not closed for the month, but as soon as they are available I will share them with you. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for the continued support through volunteer work and contributions made to the church. A special thanks for the volunteer work done with the children of the congregation(babysitting etc.).

People continue to clean the church and bring supplies which enables us to carry on with the church business. We will be successful in keeping the church doors open because of all that is going on in different areas of the church, and I know that with **God's** help we will succeed. Thanks Again. -

-Marcia Fitzner Finance Chair

Income / Expenses for Feb. 2004

Sacramento apportionment (donors request)	60.00
United Methodist Reporter (all churches required to pay)	189.00
Property Care and Utilities	
Telephone	116.71
Church utilities	378.41
Parsonage Utilities	311.86
Total	806.98
Ministerial Support	
Salary.....	2,153.34
Group Insurance	504.33
Pension	730.56
Pastors MRA	100.00
Total Ministerial Support.....	3,488.23
Total Exp for Feb	4,544.21
Total Net income	5,176.43

We continue to put into reserve (refer to last months report) the same amounts whenever possible.

**EASTER EGG HUNT**

The UMW will be hosting an Easter Egg Hunt after church Easter Sunday. Donations of plastic eggs and goodies to fill them are appreciated.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

The dates for VBS **have changed**. The new dates are **June 21 - 25th**. Immanuel Baptist needed our original date of June 7 - 11 because they are having a special group of missionaries that week who will be participating in their VBS program.

I have a few new items to add to the Vacation Bible School needed supply list:

Large cardboard boxes (appliance box), tubes (sturdy wrapping paper, poster) and coffee cans. A volunteer nursery worker is needed for children of the volunteers!!!

CAMP NEWS

Senior High Camp at Sacramento Methodist Assembly is scheduled for June 14 - 18. Mid-High Camp is scheduled for June 28 - July 2. Early registration is due May 14th! The price has increased to \$200.00 (with early registration). If you would like to sponser a young person let **Linda** or **Angela** know.

-Thank you, Angela

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH ESTANCIA100 Year Celebration Committee **Al Dial**, Chairman (505) 384-2387

P. O. Box 528, Estancia, NM 87016

email: adranch@earthlink.net Re: FBC 100 Years

March 10, 2004

Dear Friend in Christ:

As you may be aware, First Baptist Church of Estancia is planning a **100-Year Celebration** of Christ's Blessings to be held on June 4-6, 2004. The celebration committee wishes to focus on an evangelistic theme for the occasion and extends an invitation to you and anyone interested in attending. If you reside in the area, we encourage you to join us in welcoming our out-of-town guests.

Our tentative schedule includes the following events:

Friday, June 4, 2004

2:00 p.m. Mixer - visiting, renewing acquaintances, making new friends

3:00 p.m. Testimony, memories, special music, speakers

(Check if you would like to be on the program for this activity)

Give brief description of your presentation _____

6:00 p.m. Church will provide a light evening meal

(Check for meal attendance) Number in your group _____

Saturday, June 5, 2004

2:00 p.m. Special Music/Program - Leon Autry

3:00 p.m. Former Pastors, Members and State Speakers

4:00 p.m. Myra Green Concert

5:30 p.m. Church Catered Meal

(Check for meal attendance) Number in your group _____

7:00 p.m. MESSAGE - Rev. Carl Russell

Sunday, June 6, 2004

9:45 a.m. Special Sunday School services

11:00 a.m. MESSAGE - Rev. Carl Russell

Noon Pot Luck Meal at the Church

This is a very special event in the life of our church and we encourage your involvement and attendance as we honor **Christ** for 100 years of blessings. Should you have pictures, information, mementoes to share, please feel free to bring them to add to our display.

YOUR RESERVATIONS ARE NEEDED BY APRIL 15, 2004

Reservation information may be provided by phone, mail or email -- address at top of page: Re: FBC 100 years.

Please share this information with family or friends to ensure widespread invitations!

Sincerely,

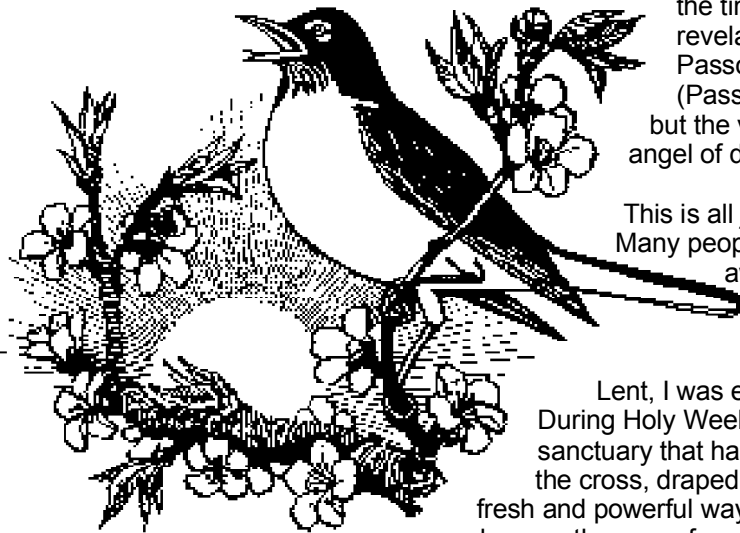
YOUR NAME: _____

Al Dial

Your remarks:

A SPRING THAT WAITS TO BE

Spring! What a wonderful time of the year. After the cold and snow of winter, the buds come out, the crocus, daffodils, and forsythia begin to bloom and the sun's warmth makes us feel bright and cheery. Do you think that it is an accident that this is the time **God** choose for the premier event in his historic self-revelation? While the Jewish community celebrates their annual Passover, Christians remember **God's** mighty act through the Pascal (Passover) Lamb. This "Lamb" was not a woolly, four legged animal, but the very **Son of God**, who gave his life so that we can avoid the angel of death by finding eternal life in Him (Read Exodus 12:1-14).



This is all just religious talk until you have experienced it for yourself. Many people who have been to "The Passion of the Christ" have come away with a new appreciation of what **Jesus** suffered and accomplished for us in His final 13 hours here on earth. I remember my first Holy Week at St. Paul's in Albuquerque. Having grown up in a church tradition that did not celebrate

Lent, I was eager to understand all the symbolism of the Lenten season. During Holy Week, I arrived at the church early and walked into the dimly lit sanctuary that had been set up for the Good Friday Service. As I experienced the cross, draped in black, I begin to focus my thoughts on the crucifixion in a fresh and powerful way. Tears came to my eyes as I realized anew what **Christ** had done on the cross for me. **FOR ME!** I knew in my heart that **Christ** was real and alive

here and now and was not some historical figure that existed 2000 years ago. That

experience has become a defining moment in my faith journey and my life. This Friday we will celebrate the Last Supper and the final hours of **Jesus'** life on earth. I hope you will join us for a time to reflect and experience this great act of love, mercy, and forgiveness on your behalf. It just might be a life changing experience. *-Pastor Linda*

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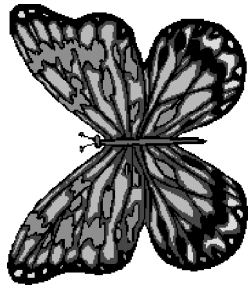
I AM A NEWCOMER

Won't you please...

- Smile at me as I walk in the door. You are my first impression of the church, during the first few moments I am in your building, and the first impression will probably stay with me a long time.
- Help me find my place in the service. I will not find your help an intrusion. In fact, I will remember your kindness.
- Speak to me during the coffee hour. I know you want to see your friends and settle that piece of committee business. But I may find it hard to believe that you truly care for each other unless I first see evidence that you care for "the stranger in your midst."
- Tell me good things about your church and your minister. I want to believe that I have come to a place where people love each other and where they believe that they are doing something exciting and important for the Lord.
- Notice me – even if I am not a "family". I don't want to feel invisible just because I am unmarried, a single parent, a teenager, or an older person.
- Talk to me again the second week when I come back, and the third, and the forth. I am still not a part of your church family.
- Invite me to become part of some church group or organization. I need more than worship every Sunday. I need to know that I am accepted and affirmed by a group of people within the church who know me by my first name and who care about me as an individual.

If you can find it in your heart to do these things for me, I will come back. the second Sunday, the third, and maybe forever. I will worship with you, join your choir, work at your fair, teach in your church school, contribute to your canvass, and become a highly involved member of your church and, in so doing, I will find my own life immeasurably enriched as a result of having become a member of your church.

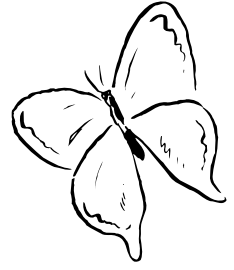
-The Rev. Christopher C Moore reprinted from the Anglican Digest

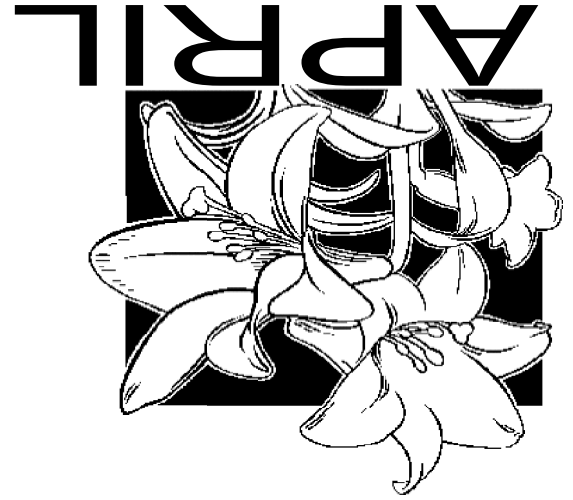


Tear Off

April 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS PALM SUNDAY 10 AM Worship Communion 11:15 Potluck for Roci	5 ← Pastor's Day Off 7AM Morning Meditation	6 10AM Office Hours 5PM Trustees	7 HOLY WEEK 7AM Morning Meditation 9AM Womens Bible Study 6:30PM WNB	1 April Fools Day 7PM Men's Emmaus	2 7AM Morning Meditation 5:30PM Dream Team	3
11 EASTER SUNDAY 10 AM Worship	12 Pastor's Day Off 7AM Morning Meditation	13 10AM Office Hours	14 7AM Morning Meditation 9AM Womens Bible Study 6:30PM WNB	15 TAX DAY 7PM Men's Emmaus	16 7AM Morning Meditation	17 7:AM Men's Breakfast
18 10 AM Worship 11:15 PPRC	19 Pastor's Day Off 7AM Morning Meditation	20 10AM Office Hours	21 7AM Morning Meditation 9AM Womens Bible Study 6:30PM WNB	22 7PM Men's Emmaus	23 7AM Morning Meditation	24
25 10 AM Worship	26 Pastor's Day Off 7AM Morning Meditation	27 10AM Office Hours Noon UMW	28 7AM Morning Meditation 9AM Womens Bible Study 6:30PM WNB	29 7PM Men's Emmaus	30 7AM Morning Meditation	31





Sent with a prayer to:

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

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.