

the LANTERN



First Presbyterian Church, Las Cruces, NM

March 2013





One Great Hour of Giving

Alex Burr

The One Great Hour special offering is collected annually on Easter Sunday. Our presbytery, led by our church, has received national recognition for per capita giving in these special offerings, so we have added incentive to keep up the good work.



This offering goes to three specific programs on the national church

- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
- Presbyterian Hunger Program
- Self-Development of People

About one third of the offering is given to each of these programs. Bulletin inserts over the next several Sundays will give more details.



Disasters are always possible but the last 12 months have presented some unusually big ones. One of the bulletin inserts will give some details of the response to the fires in Texas last summer.

Recently everybody has read about the storm damage on the East coast. A look at the grants from this fund for last year will show more grants to the Synod of the Northeast than any other Synod. Most of the grants to church organization in the United States have to do with storms or flooding. If you are particularly interested, a complete list of the grants is available on the Internet at [Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Projects](#).

First Cluster Meeting of the Presbytery

Carl Conner

The Southwest Cluster of the Presbytery of Sierra Blanca met at 10 AM on Saturday the 23rd of February at the First Presbyterian Church in Las Cruces. The Deming and Santa Teresa churches were represented, but both the Iglesia del Pueblo and Bridge ministers were ill and unable to attend.

As the host church, the Las Cruces First Presbyterian Church was well represented by its Minister and the Cluster Moderator, Reverend Norm Story, Presbytery Commissioners Steve Loman, Lloyd Kirschenmann, and Richard Paul; along with Rev. Carroll Blevins, Rev. Marcus Burr, and 10 Elders and Deacons. The Deming Church was represented by Rev. Larimore Wickett, Clerk of Session, Liv Johnson, and two members; and the Santa Teresa Church was represented by their Presbytery Commissioner Ward Champion. Rev. Joan Swanson, the pastor serving Good Sam Village, was also in attendance.

The First Presbyterian Congregational Life Ministry Team provided coffee and donuts that were very much appreciated by all. Moderator Story opened the meeting in prayer and then asked everyone to introduce themselves, state their church affiliation, and tell a bit about that church. He answered questions and briefed everyone



about the organization of the four clusters into which the Presbytery has been divided. It was pointed out that the Presbytery would have a Leadership Team which would consist of an elected Presbytery Moderator, the past Moderator, and the four Cluster Moderators. The Cluster Moderator is elected to a two-year term. Rev. Story expressed the expectation that he would serve only one term.

Commissioner Ward Champion told the group that the Santa Teresa Church was founded in the late 70's or early 80's and has about 20 to 25 active members, most of whom he described as "mature" Their main problem was getting ministers via their pulpit supply process. He expressed the hope that the locally controlled cluster structure would make it easier for them to find available ministers from El Paso. He gave some interesting details of the arrangements that his congregation had made which permitted a Spanish speaking Seventh Day Adventist church to rent his church when it was not being used by the Santa Teresa organization. This arrangement was not a money-making proposition, but it had the complete support of his congregation and had a beneficial effect on their church life.

Reverend Wickette said that his Deming church has grown about 20% over the past three years, He attributed the growth to the welcoming nature of the congregation. He told of their difficulty repairing storm damage and thanked the Las Cruces church

for providing assistance in locating a reliable company to repair loose siding on a corner of their church building. He was very interested in keeping the local churches informed about the actions of Presbytery as well as the happenings in our cluster.

The Las Cruces church mentioned their music program and the outreach nature of the annual Trunk or Treat program

One of the questions posed by Moderator Story was: What do we want from the Presbytery, or what do we want the Presbytery to do? Moderator Story said that the best way for anyone interested in what's happening in the Presbytery is to log on to the web site (<http://www.sierrablanca.org>) and click on the topic of interest. Those who do not have a login name and password can create them online during their first visit. He asked everyone in attendance to make sure they included their email address on the sign-in sheet so we can include them in our distribution lists for our Good News and Lantern publications.

The Deming church volunteered to host the next Cluster meeting at 10 AM on Saturday, April 6, well before the next Presbytery meeting on April 26-27 at the First Presbyterian Church in Carlsbad.

Annual Meeting

Alex Burr

The annual meeting of the First Presbyterian Church was held on February 24. It was held in two parts. The first was held after the Sunday service and dealt with the official business of the congregation which established the terms of call for the pastor.

The gathering then adjourned to an enchilada dinner served by the youth in Watkins Hall. The dinner offered red and green enchiladas, rice, beans, tea, punch, salad, and ice cream with a variety of toppings.



After dinner, the printed annual report was presented. The teams of the Session gave short presentations about the activities of the past year and something about future plans. The staff and some to the other organizations also presented information.

There was an opportunity for questions from those in attendance but not many questions or comments were given in this noisy and informal atmosphere.

The complete annual report is available at any time on our web site at the URL of <http://www.zianet.com/fpc/ar2012.pdf>

MARCH 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>24 9:15 AM Spanish Worship in Jones Hall rm. 109 10:30 AM Worship - Annual mtg and Congregational mtg 12:00 PM Sermon discussion</p>	<p>25 11:00 AM Bedding Ministry in Library 3:00 PM Rev. Kissling's group in craft rm/Reeves 7:00 PM Bells of Praise</p>	<p>26 10:00 AM Staff meeting</p>	<p>27 9:00 AM Quilting group 4:00 PM Salt & Light 5:00 PM Spanish Ministry/Library 7:00 PM Chancel Choir rehearsal 7:10 PM S&L H.S. youth/with Mark in HS room</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>1 H.S. youth retreat to Bonita Park 9:00 AM Library in use</p>	<p>2 H.S. youth retreat to Bonita Park 8:30 AM Kairos training in Watkins Hall 10:00 AM Bedding Ministry in Library 5:00 PM Faith & Fellowship Pot Luck in Jones Hall 5:30 PM Faith and Fellowship Communion in Sanctuary</p>
<p>3 Youth returning from Bonita Park 9:15 AM Spanish Worship in Jones Hall rm. 109 10:30 AM Worship 12:00 PM Sermon discussion</p>	<p>4 9:00 AM Guild II in the parlor 3:00 PM Rev. Kissling's group in craft rm/Reeves 7:00 PM Bells of Praise</p>	<p>5 9:30 AM Morning Circle in the parlor 10:00 AM Staff meeting</p>	<p>6 9:00 AM Quilting group 4:00 PM Salt & Light 5:00 PM Spanish Ministry/Library 7:00 PM Chancel Choir rehearsal 7:10 PM S&L High School youth meet with Mark in HS room</p>	<p>7 6:30 PM Cub Scouts Pack 62/Reeves Building 6:30 PM Jennie Curry Bible Study/Parlor</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 8:00 AM All Church Work Day 5:00 PM Faith and Fellowship Worship in Sanctuary</p>
<p>10 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME 9:15 AM Spanish Worship in Jones Hall rm. 109 10:30 AM Worship 12:00 PM Sermon discussion</p>	<p>11 11:00 AM Bedding Ministry in Library 3:00 PM Rev. Kissling's group in craft rm/Reeves 7:00 PM Bells of Praise</p>	<p>12 9:15 AM Mary Martha/Library 10:00 AM Staff meeting 5:30 PM Boy Scouts leaders mtg in the Craft room 6:30 PM CE mtg 7:00 PM Admin. mtg 7:00 PM B & G mtg 7:00 PM Mission 7:00 PM W & M mtg 7:30 PM Cong. Life mtg</p>	<p>13 9:00 AM Quilting group 4:00 PM Salt & Light 5:00 PM Spanish Ministry/Library 7:00 PM Choir 7:10 PM S&L H.S. youth/with Mark in HS room</p>	<p>14 5:00 PM "Solo Passages" 7:00 PM Deacons Local Missions Sub-Committee meeting in Jones Fellowship area</p>	<p>15 6:45 PM Youth Movie Night/Cinema</p>	<p>16 7:00 AM Youth Garage Sale in East parking Lot 9:00 AM Jones Fellowship in use 3:00 PM Chips Dip & Clip in Watkins Hall 5:00 PM Faith and Fellowship Worship in Sanctuary</p>
<p>17 St. Patrick's Day potluck in Watkins 9:15 AM Spanish Worship in Jones Hall rm. 109 10:30 AM Worship 12:00 PM Sermon discussion</p>	<p>18 1:00 PM Set-up for Roadrunner Food Distribution in Watkins 2:30 PM Roadrunner Food Distribution 3:00 PM Rev. Kissling's group in craft rm/Reeves 7:00 PM Bells of Praise</p>	<p>19 Mark Hellman will be out of the office 10:00 AM Staff meeting 7:00 PM Session</p>	<p>20 Mark Hellman will be out of the office 4:00 PM Salt & Light 5:00 PM Spanish Ministry/Library 7:00 PM Chancel Choir rehearsal 7:10 PM S&L High School youth</p>	<p>21 Mark Hellman will be out of the office 3:00 PM Mtg. Jones fellowship area 6:30 PM Cub Scouts Pack 62/Reeves Building 7:00 PM Deacons mtg</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 5:00 PM Faith and Fellowship Worship in Sanctuary</p>
<p>24 9:15 AM Spanish Worship in Jones Hall rm. 109 10:30 AM Worship - Palm Sunday 12:00 PM Sermon discussion</p>	<p>25 Week of Spring break 11:00 AM Bedding Ministry in Library 3:00 PM Rev. Kissling's group in craft rm/Reeves 7:00 PM Bells of Praise</p>	<p>26 Delivery of Easter flowers Kristine out of the office 10:00 AM Staff meeting</p>	<p>27 Kristine out of the office NO SALT & LIGHT 9:00 AM Quilting group 5:00 PM Spanish Ministry/Library 7:00 PM Choir</p>	<p>28 Kristine out of the office 7:30 PM MAUNDY THURSDAY worship</p>	<p>29 InBetweeners in Watkins/Reeves 11:00 AM GOOD FRIDAY Bible study</p>	<p>30 3:00 PM Agape meal/service in Watkins Hall 5:00 PM Faith and Fellowship Worship in Sanctuary</p>
<p>31 One Great Hour of Sharing 6:30 AM Sunrise Worship service 7:30 AM Breakfast in Watkins 9:15 AM Spanish Worship in Jones Hall rm. 109 10:30 AM Worship - Easter Sunday 11:45 AM Easter egg hunt 12:00 PM Sermon discussion</p>	<p>1 Office Closed 9:00 AM Guild II in the parlor 3:00 PM Rev. Kissling's group in craft rm/Reeves 7:00 PM Bells of Praise</p>	<p>2 Norm out of the office 9:30 AM Morning Circle in the parlor 10:00 AM Staff meeting</p>	<p>3 Norm-out 9:00 AM Quilting group 4:00 PM Salt & Light 5:00 PM Spanish Ministry/Library 7:00 PM Choir 7:10 PM S&L High School youth meet with Mark in HS room</p>	<p>4 Norm out of the office 6:30 PM Cub Scouts Pack 62/Reeves Building 6:30 PM Jennie Curry Bible Study/Parlor</p>	<p>5 Norm out of the office</p>	<p>6 Norm out of the office 8:30 AM Kairos training/Watkins 5:00 PM Faith & Fellowship Pot Luck in Jones Hall 5:30 PM Faith and Fellowship Communion in Sanctuary</p>

Youth Activities

Mark Hellman

The youth are in their busiest time of the year. It started with the annual Superbowl of Caring on January 27. The Souperbowl of Caring is a national movement that once a year collects food and money for local missions and food banks. We brought in over 150 cans and boxes of food for the food bank. We thank everyone for your support and participation in this worthy cause. I have not received numbers on how much was brought in nationally but it is exciting to be a part of something this big.

The next weekend we had the Sub sandwich sale. This was a big success. We sold



more sandwiches than in any of the past four years. We had 139 orders for sandwiches and made 156 sandwiches, most of which we were able to sell. We were able to bring in as profit \$701 for our trips this summer. All 14 of the youth and three parents that helped worked extremely hard to make this a good experience with good food. The reviews that I heard suggest we succeeded on both goals.

On February 16 the elders had their annual retreat here at the church. To help them make it through the day and to be sure that they did not leave hungry, the youth made fajitas, beans, rice, chips and salsa, and cake for dessert. The Elders were very pleased and the youth did a wonderful job, preparing, serving, and cleaning up.

Finally, February 24 was the annual meeting and enchilada dinner. The youth every year serve enchiladas for the congregation as a fundraiser. This year we did enchiladas, beans, rice, salad, chips and salsa, with ice cream for dessert. For our efforts, the youth were able to bring in over a thousand dollars minus expenses. We had a great crew of 13 youth and four adult helpers that spent from 9 AM to around 1:30 PM working hard to make sure everything turned out well.

The youth are very active and have a great attitude about this summer and the things we will be doing the next year. The middle school is going to a youth conference in Gunnison, CO for a week of getting closer to God, meeting other Christians their age from around the county, and learning to live as a follower of Christ. The high school is going to San Diego to work at homeless shelters, soup kitchens, and other service organizations in the greater San Diego area. These trips are great opportunities for the youth to get in touch with God and figure out where their relationship is with Him. They often can get out of this one week as much or more than an entire years worth of sermons or church services combined.

Sunday Morning Order of Worship

Wayne Maley

At the February Music & Worship Ministry Team meeting the question was asked "Is there a place specified [in our Book of Order] for receiving of the offering?"

The quick answer is no. It says "worship is shaped by history, culture, and contemporary need." Worship shall include Scripture reading, prayers, observing of the sacraments—Baptism and the Lord's Supper, and receiving of tithes and offerings. Worship for the Lord's Day may include music, times for gathering and sharing, and services of receiving new members, officers, and those in life's transitions.

All suggested orders start with a Call to Worship, Hymn of Praise, Confession of Sin, Assurance of God's Love, and Response. You will be comfortable with a similar worship order when visiting other Presbyterian churches and most reformed theology communions.

Here at First Presbyterian we have a gathering time for our Sunday morning service and deal with the busyness of activities the first thing. Then we pause, have a meditation as we break the time from our separate lives and come together when the worship leader leads the call to worship. We include a musical response. It takes a variety of forms, depending on the season, the message, or musicians who offer their talent.

A recent Sunday it was piano; it might be another hymn or a choir anthem with choral scholar solo; or the response could be a choral 'amen.' The elements of the service that follow are not necessarily the same every Sunday. An important reason to vary the service is the extent to which the children will be involved. Our Book of Order instructs, " Children bring special gifts to worship and grow in faith through their regular inclusion and participation ..." We always make a place for a Young Disciples message to provide in a simplified way the Scripture Lesson message.

Prior to children coming forward for their special time, different parts of the service are included for them to experience. Sometimes the offering is received early. Some-

times a choir anthem fits, the bells play, or the Salt & Light singers offer their meditation. Sometimes special prayers are included before the younger children are invited to their special church school program. A particular hymn or the choir anthem that Director Klement has chosen may fit best as a prayer response. Or the words may be an apt summary of a sermon topic and best be scheduled as an offering toward the end of the service. Rev. Norm and David Klement meet each week along with organist Smolleck and others who will be a part of the service to bring together all the elements of worship. Ultimately they seek to present, in the most meaningful order, a message toward which all have been working for many weeks.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner



The Congregational Life and Outreach Team (CLO) held a Shrove Tuesday pancake supper on February 12. This was the first time this traditional event was held in our church. Almost 50 members of our congregation took part.

The traditional pancakes were served along with sausage and bacon. Syrup was, of course, available including a special strawberry syrup made by Nora Yaryan.

Traditionally the meal was designed to use up rich food before the beginning of fasting during Lent. Here the CLO also used it as a means to introduce members to the work of the various Session Committees. The CLO has the most active table. The Administration and the Music and Worship tables also had some committee members who discussed church business with some of the congregation.

In-Betweeners

On February 22, the In-Betweeners held a potluck and heard a presentation on the topic "Daily Life in the Spanish Presidios, 1730 - 1810.

The presentation was made by Mark Santiago, the director of the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum. The talk presented some details which were unknown to many who listened.

The Presidios were a line of forts about which small towns often grew. These formed a line roughly on the US - Mexico border. The talk focused on the soldiers who manned the forts. It touched on the backgrounds, social standing, family life, and equipment of the common soldier, complete with detailed pictures of the different types of soldiers.

The food was as good and as varied as usual, The desserts, which included key lime and cherry pies, caused many to break their diets.

Staff News

Mark Hellman will be out of the office on Mar. 19, 20 & 21

Communion

Join us for communion on Sunday, March 3 and on Maundy Thursday, March 28.

Attendance –Sundays

Feb 03 - 200

Feb 10 – 218

Feb 17 – 208

Feb 24 - 218

The Cover

The cover is a picture of a set of crosses which was one of a number which can be found for sale in the downtown Farmers Market. This one was seen at the north end on a Saturday morning.



Photographs by Alex Burr

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**Work Day
March 9**

Mission Statement

To minister to the members of our Church and prepare them for Christian Outreach

Vision Objectives

- To clearly and courageously communicate the Good News of Jesus Christ to all within our reach.
- To develop spiritual leadership that recognizes and ministers to those in need.
- To develop and maintain specific ways for members to reach out and draw the community into our fellowship.
- To create God-centered atmosphere for worship that will attract and bind individuals, families, and youth into Christian community.