

the LANTERN



First Presbyterian Church, Las Cruces, NM

April 2014

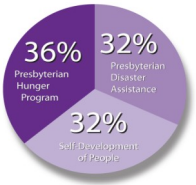




One Great Hour of Sharing

As is customary with our church, the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering will be collected in our Church on Easter Sunday. The proceeds of this special offering are divided between three national agencies.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance gets 36%, Presbyterian Hunger Program gets 32%, and the Self-Development of People program gets 32%. Typically less than 10% goes to administrative and fund raising expenses, quit a good record.



Detailed financial reports are available on the web site of the national church. Below are brief descriptions of representative grants given from these funds.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

- Aid to those affected by the Washington mud slides
- Aid to refugees in South Sudan

Presbyterian Hunger program

- A food storage program in Cameroon
- Mostly small grants such as one to develop farmers' markets in Nebraska

Self-Development of People

- Help for a farmers' co-operative in Belize to process some of the food grown
- An English language and skills training program in Albuquerque.

Session Retreat

Alex Burr

The Session held a retreat to discuss and plan future activities for our church on Saturday, March 1. After a brief initial meeting, they broke up into two groups for intense discussions.. They then came together for lunch and afterwards discussed together their group deliberations.

This retreat was a serious attempt to analyze the past performance of the church as a part of God's Kingdom and to sketch out possible programs and actions for the future.

An agenda and guidelines for the discussion were given to each participant at the start. These talking points were divided into two groups. One, of items which were external to our church and one, of items which our church could directly affect.

The external group included challenges faced by the national church at the General Assembly, Synod, and Presbytery levels. These problems included problems with proposed General Assembly actions, Synod finances, and Presbytery organization. Our church can do little to affect these external problems except to offer prayers, gain understanding; and, in the case of Presbytery, take full advantage of the opportunity to talk to the Presbytery governance commission.

The local discussion points were divided into two areas: those in which the local church was doing some interesting and constructive things, and those in which we

were facing some real problems.

The positive areas include

- a first-class music program
- Salt & Light
- Trunk or Treat
- cross cultural relations.
- local mission efforts
- younger new members

Some problems include

- an aging and shrinking congregation
- an aging physical plant
- low congregational participation
- shrinking levels of giving
- leadership burning out from over work
- lack of connectedness
- inefficient use of resources of time, money, and talents

The groups were to discuss these issues, come back with concrete proposals, and to get the session as a whole to propose definite solutions. The emphasis was not on finding what some committee or someone else should do but on what **I** could contribute to the resolution of our problems.



APRIL 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 9:00 AM Adult SS in Jones Library 9:00 AM Adult SS in Jones Parlor 9:00 AM Elem. SS/rm. 208 Branigan Hall 9:00 AM MS/HS Sun. School in HS rm. 9:15 AM Spanish Worship in Jones Hall rm. 109 10:30 AM Worship	31 7:00 PM Bells of Praise rehearsal	1 9:30 AM Morning Circle in the parlor 10:00 AM Staff meeting	2 9:00 AM Quilting group 4:00 PM Salt & Light 5:00 PM Spanish Ministry/Library	3 6:30 PM Cub Scouts Pack 62/Reeves Building 6:30 PM Jennie Curry Bible Study/Parlor & Library	4	5 10:00 AM Internet mtg/Library 3:30 PM F&F/set-up 5:00 PM Faith & Fellowship Pot Luck in Jones 5:30 PM F&F Communion in Sanctuary
 6 9:00 AM Adult SS in Jones Library 9:00 AM Elem. SS/rm. 208 Branigan Hall 9:00 AM MS/HS Sun. School in HS rm. 9:15 AM Spanish Worship in Jones Hall rm. 109 10:30 AM Worship	7 9:00 AM Guild II in the parlor 7:00 PM Bells of Praise rehearsal	8 9:15 AM Mary Martha Circle in the Library 10:00 AM Staff meeting 6:30 PM CE team mtg 7:00 PM Admin., B & G, Mission, M&W, & Cong. Life team mtgs	9 9:00 AM Quilting group 4:00 PM Salt & Light Tailgate Party 5:00 PM Spanish Ministry/Library 7:00 PM Chancel Choir rehearsal	10 5:00 PM "Solo Passages"	11	12 9:00 AM All Church car wash 5:00 PM Faith and Fellowship Worship in Sanctuary
 13 Holy Week begins 9:00 AM Adult SS in Jones Library 9:00 AM Elem. SS/rm. 208 Branigan Hall 9:00 AM MS/HS Sun. School in HS rm. 9:15 AM Spanish Worship in Jones Hall rm. 109 10:30 AM Worship 11:45 AM S&L Luncheon/donations welcome	14 7:00 PM Bells of Praise rehearsal	15 10:00 AM Staff meeting 7:00 PM Session mtg. in the Library	16 5:00 PM Spanish Ministry/Library 7:00 PM Chancel Choir rehearsal	 17 CL&O mtg/Easter eggs 6:30 PM Cub Scouts Pack 62/Reeves Building 7:00 PM Deacons mtg 7:00 PM Lessons & Carols with Communion by Intinction	 18 Good Friday	19 Church Work Day 5:00 PM Faith and Fellowship Worship in Sanctuary 5:00 PM Youth Lock-In
 20 One Great Hour of Sharing 6:30 AM Sunrise Service 7:30 AM Easter Breakfast/Watkins Hall 9:00 AM Adult SS in Jones Library 9:00 AM Elem. SS/rm. 208 Branigan Hall 9:00 AM MS/HS Sun. School in HS rm. 9:15 AM Spanish Worship in Jones Hall rm. 109 10:30 AM Easter Worship 11:45 AM Easter Egg Hunt	21 HOLIDAY/OFFICE CLOSED 9:00 AM Watkins Hall in use for set-up of RFB 1:30 PM Roadrunner Food Distribution in Watkins/Reeves 7:00 PM Bells of Praise rehearsal	22 10:00 AM Staff meeting	23 9:00 AM Quilting group 5:00 PM Spanish Ministry/Library	24 6:30 PM Cub Scouts Pack 62/Reeves Building	25 InBetweeners in Watkins/Reeves	26 8:00 AM Dona Ana County Geneeolocal Society in Watkins Hall 8:00 AM Rent A Youth 5:00 PM Faith and Fellowship Worship in Sanctuary
27 9:00 AM Adult SS in Jones Library 9:00 AM Elem. SS/rm. 208 Branigan Hall 9:00 AM MS/HS Sun. School in HS rm. 9:15 AM Spanish Worship in Jones Hall rm. 109 10:30 AM Worship	28 7:00 PM Bells of Praise rehearsal	29 10:00 AM Staff meeting	30 9:00 AM Quilting group 5:00 PM Spanish Ministry/Library 7:00 PM Chancel Choir rehearsal	1 6:30 PM Cub Scouts Pack 62/Reeves Building 6:30 PM Jennie Curry Bible Study/Parlor & Library	2	3 3:30 PM F&F in Jones Fellowship area for set-up 5:00 PM Faith & Fellowship Pot Luck in Jones Hall 5:30 PM Faith and Fellowship Communion in Sanctuary

Mission Visit - Doug Barron

Alex Burr

Another of our supported missionaries was able to spend a significant amount of time with our church recently. On March 9 Doug Barron spoke to the adult Sunday school classes, at the regular church service, and at the sermon discussion time afterwards. He also had lunch with the Missions Committee and several other interested church members at the Nopalito Restaurant,

Doug, and his wife Sherry, recently took up a new mission challenge when they

headed the CRU - Military Mission at Camp Pendleton in California. CRU is the new name for Campus Crusade for Christ. Camp Pendleton is a very large Marine base. The nature of the population with which they work means that the problems faced are different. The stress of military life means that the divorce rate is extremely high. Combat stress is another large complicating factor.

Sherry is working on three books for children based on recasting an existing Family Life program to present the information in a format suitable for young children. The first book (for K - 3rd) is essentially done. The other two, for older children, are being illustrated.

Barron with Missions Committee



In Between Video

On February 28 the In-Betweeners watched a very appropriate video. The gathering was on the last day of Black History month and the video was about William Still, a black underground railroad conductor just before the civil war. The underground railroad was an informal organization designed to help black people escape from the South to freedom in the North, and later all the way to Canada.

William Still was a black person who escaped to Philadelphia and became one of the most active underground conductors. The relatively complete records of his activities, created at great risk to himself, are of particularly great historical importance. After the war he went into the coal business and became quite wealthy. The video even featured some of his present day direct descendants.

The dinner was the usual well supplied pot-luck. The video was shown in Watkins Hall because there were too many people to seat all of them in the theater in Reeves Hall.



In-Betweeners watching video

International Dinner

On March 16 the church held its annual International Dinner, also known as Meet and Greet. This year it was certainly both.

There were more new members than usual because a large number from the Iglesia del Pueblo had just officially joined. All the people who attend that group were particularly invited to the dinner.

This contingent ensured that there was a wide selection of Mexican dishes for the meal. Red and green enchiladas, rice, beans, and many other foods were available (and in large quantities too.) Other nations ere represented. German, Irish, Scandinavian, even Indian foods were present.

The Spanish speaking attendees ensured that the dinner really sounded international.

The serving line for he international dinner



In-Betweeners and Tibet

The March (28) meeting of the In-Betweeners included a catered dimmer followed by an illustrated talk on Tibet (and western China). In the 1080s, Peter Goodman traveled through western China and passed into Tibet, although the Chinese did not then welcome western visitors. He showed many impressive and colorful pictures which he took on that journey. The scenery was impressive but the usual subject of his photographs was the ordinary people which he met. Their life-style was quite different from ours as was the society in which they lived. That society placed more emphasis on religion than does ours today.



Peter did not go into detail about the politics of the region but it was clear that the advent of the Chinese was greatly upsetting as well as destructive of ancient and noteworthy religious buildings.

The food was Mexican style obtained from El Sombrero Express, supplemented by dishes prepared by some to the In-Betweeners.

Note and Announcements

April, containing Easter Sunday, is an exceptionally busy month. Some of the non-recurring events are as follows

- April 5 10:30 Communion
- April 12 9 AM Car Wash
- April 13 10:30 AM Palm Sunday
- 11:45 AM Salt & Light lunch
- April 17 7 PM Maunday Thursday service
- April 20 6:30 AM Sunrise service
- 7:30 AM Breakfast
- 10:30 AM Easter Service - One Great Hour Offering
- 11:45 AM Easter Egg Hunt

The Cover

The cover is a picture of a set of three nicely styled crosses on the wall of a private home. The set was purchased some time ago in Ruidoso, NM.

Photographs provided by Alex Burr

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**Easter
April 20**

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.