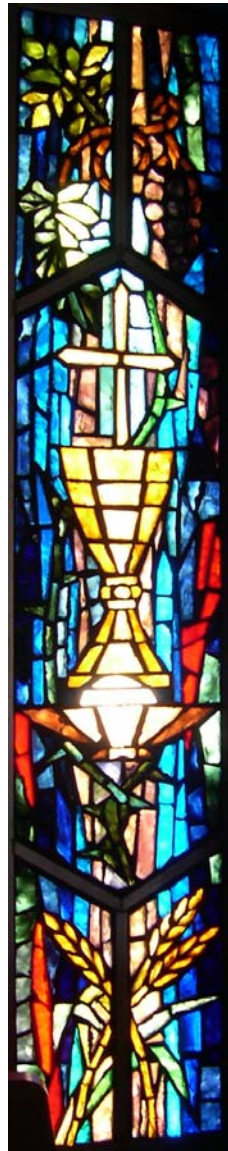


the LANTERN



First Presbyterian Church, Las Cruces, NM

April 2007



A Renewed Vision

Even though I am free of the demands and expectations of everyone, I have voluntarily become a servant to any and all in order to reach a wide range of people: religious, nonreligious, meticulous moralists, loose-living immoralists, the defeated, the demoralized—whoever. I didn't take on their way of life. I kept my bearings in Christ—but I entered their world and tried to experience things from their point of view. I've become just about every sort of servant there is in my attempts to lead those I meet into a God-saved life. I did all this because of the Message. I didn't just want to talk about it; I wanted to be in on it! {1 Corinthians 9:19-23 *The Message*}

At the elders' retreat last month, the Session appointed elders Mike Bekisz, Bob Paul and Marsha Topley to work on our church's mission statement and vision objectives for this coming year. Their recommendations were adopted at our March meeting, which are as follows:

Mission Statement First Presbyterian Church of Las Cruces

To emulate the work, the word, and the way of Jesus Christ in ministering to the needs of members and preparing them for Christian outreach to people within and outside the Church of Jesus Christ.

Vision Objectives for 2007-2008

1. To create spiritual leaders from within our congregation to recognize and minister to members in need.
2. To develop and maintain specific ways for members to reach out and draw the community into our fellowship.
3. To create a God-centered atmosphere for worship that will attract and bind individuals, families and youth to our church.

This mission statement and these vision objectives describe how our church intends to carry out and fulfill the Great Commission: *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*" (Matthew 28:19-20 NRSV)

*In Christian Hope,
Rev. Norm*

Holy Week Schedule

Maundy Thursday, April 5, 2007 at 7:00 PM

Cantata – “*Behold the Darkness*” followed by Communion by intinction

Good Friday, April 6, 2007

Prayer Vigil in the Sanctuary 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM

Seven Last words of Christ. Meditation in the Library @ 11:00 AM

Easter Sunday, April 8, 2007

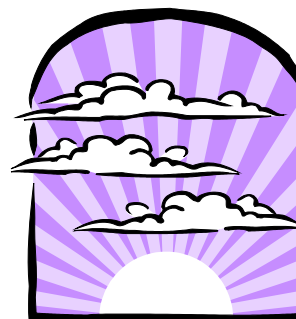
Celebration of the Resurrection!

8:30 AM Breakfast – fundraiser for Mid School youth (Riptide)

Worth Getting Up For Praise Music

Intergenerational Sunday School to follow

11:40 AM Easter egg hunt for the children



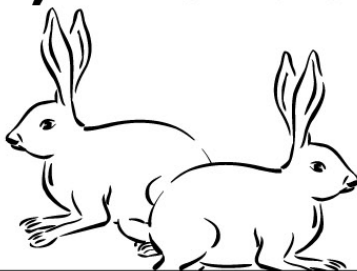
New Member

Meet the Pastor Class

We will be having a new member and meet the Pastor class on April 15, at 3:00 p.m. in the church library located in Jones Hall. If you have any questions on Theology or the history of the Presbyterian church this is the class to attend. To register call the church office at 526-5559.

rabbit hutch, two rabbits:

\$ 50



**One
great hour
of sharing**

It's Remarkable What Your Gift Will Do.

Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with people experiencing need. Our gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives, and work together to strengthen their families and communities.

Recognizing that the hope we have in Christ is lived out in our hope for one another, we respond with gifts that help our sisters and brothers around the world find the hope for a brighter future.

The [Presbyterian Hunger Program](#) receives 36 percent of undesignated One Great Hour of Sharing gifts, while the [Self-Development of People](#), and [Presbyterian Disaster Assistance](#) each receives 32 percent. The offering will be collected on Easter Sunday.

BEYOND OUR WALLS

April 2007 Missions Bulletin of First Presbyterian Church, Las Cruces, N.M Vol. 9, No.3

Several of the First Presbyterian missionaries are very good about keeping us informed about their needs and work. This is most certainly true of **Doug and Sherry Barron**. Mission Ministry Team Chairman Bruce Pearson heard from them just recently and reports, "In January, Sherry Barron became a Development Administrator in the office of the President of Campus Crusade for Christ (CCC) in Orlando, Florida. Shortly thereafter, she attended a Christian stewardship conference in Dallas. She reports that, in her new position, she's learning a lot about how best to fulfill the Great Commission from Jesus to make disciples of all nations. Doug continues training local CCC staffers in Central and South America how to raise funds locally. The eventual goal is for these indigenous staffers to raise 100 percent of their support locally, so they will no longer be dependent on funding from the U.S.

In early June Doug and Sherry plan to lead a team from their church in Orlando to the Dominican Republic, where they will engage in construction and teaching projects in support of Mission Emanuel. This mission has two schools – one for Dominican and one for Haitian children, as the Dominican government does not provide education for Haitian refugees. Like the U.S., the Dominican Republic also has problems with illegal aliens.

Finally, Doug and Sherry invite all of our church members to check out their new website – <http://DougandSherry.ministryhome.org>."

Did you notice as you read the above that Elder Bruce Pearson currently chairs the Mission Ministry Team? Surely, it is useful for all of us to know who is chairing each of our ministry teams. These leaders want to hear the concerns of members of the congregation, and our church will function better in the Lord's work if we communicate with them and pray for them.

How much thought do you give to the issues of slavery and oppression with regard to Christian Missions? Are you aware that there may be more than 27 million slaves in this the 21st century? Do you know whether or not any of the mission projects we help support minister to slaves or try to free people from slavery?

It's not feasible to provide a complete picture of 21st century slavery in these pages, but we can mention a few relevant things that will be useful in case you want to get into the subject.

FIRST. Christian concern with 21st century slavery is manifested in extensive treatments in recent issues of the two leading nondenominational Christian news magazines. The February 24, 2007 issue of [WORLD](#), for one, includes five articles on slavery and a couple of editorial columns on it. Then, the March 2007 issue of [CHRISTIANITY TODAY](#), founded fifty some years ago by Billy Graham, includes three major articles and an editorial on modern slavery. If you are interested in studying what is going on and how Christians are involved, the articles in these two magazines would

be a useful place to begin.








SECOND. Several of these articles feature William Wilberforce, one of the greatest Christian heroes of all time. Many are fascinated by the character, personality, and career of this British parliamentarian who probably did more than anyone else to end slavery in the British empire. He was a five foot shrimp, a witty, card-playing party animal before he gave his life to Christ. He gave his first speech against slavery to the parliament in 1798, and saw the slave trade outlawed in 1807. Slavery was completely banned in the British Empire one month after his death in 1833. Modern Christians working against slavery examine Wilberforce's career for inspiration and for clues to what we can do against slavery in this century. If you haven't seen the recent movie *Amazing Grace* you may want to see it. It is a well-crafted film featuring Wilberforce's passion and effectiveness in behalf of social justice as well as some of the story of John Newton, one-time slave trader who wrote the hymn *Amazing Grace*.

THIRD. If you are unfamiliar with the subject of modern slavery, you probably will be somewhat taken aback by its extent, the variety of contexts in which it flourishes, and the degree of violence and degradation involved. Describing it all takes up a lot of space, and it is one of those subjects that it is hard for most of us to read or hear about. Slavery of modern times is almost incomprehensibly vicious and destructive of what God intends for humans. Much of it is sex slavery, a distressing illustration of the capacity of humans to sin against God by grievously afflicting other humans for personal pleasure and profit. Even within the United States people fall into the clutches of slavers.

FOURTH. There are a number of organizations and movements trying to deal with the slavery problem, and Christians are deeply involved. One of them is [INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION](#), and some of you may contribute to this effective organization. These people have gotten a fair amount of attention from the secular media in recent years because of their successful efforts in freeing young women from sexual slavery.

The thrust of the International Justice Mission is their work against slavery, especially sexual slavery. Even very young girls are taken by abusers in many countries and forced into prostitution for profit or kept by wealthy abusers as their personal toys. It's worth mentioning in passing that International Justice Mission personnel are ready to tell the people about the Savior but are careful not to exert unwarranted pressure on them. They recognize that sincere decisions must be made freely, so some of those they free accept Christ while many don't.

FIFTH. To the extent that people follow Christ because of the missions we support, First Presbyterian is involved. New Christians everywhere cease their abuse or begin to work against slavery. Our most direct involvement is through **Witnessing Ministries of Christ** under Philip and Elizabeth Prasad, where many tens of thousands are freed from severe oppression. Dalits (Untouchables) who accept Christ and join the **Rural Presbyterian Church - India** are freed from the temptation and the necessity of giving up their children or themselves to slavery in order to survive. Dalits are avoiding or being freed from slavery and oppression in other parts of India, too.

APRIL 2007						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p>  <p>9:00 AM Mid & Hi School SS Classes 9:00 AM SS Classes/pre-school-adult 9:15 AM Spanish Worship 10:30 AM Worship Service</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9:00 AM Westminster Guild II 6:00 PM NAMI Family to Family Class 7:00 PM Hand Bell Rehearsal</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9:30 AM Morning Circle 6:30 PM Boy/Cub Scouts</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:00 AM Quilting Group 10:00 AM Ruth Naomi Circle 4:00 PM Salt & Light 6:00 PM Dinner (\$2.00) 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Mission Trip Organization Meeting</p>	<p>5</p>  <p>9:00 AM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Easter Cantata "Behold the Darkness" 7:45 PM Communion by Intinction</p>	<p>6</p>  <p>8:30 AM Sanctuary Open For Prayer/830am-300pm 11:00 AM Seven Words of Christ Meditation with Pastor Norm</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p>  <p>EASTER SUNDAY 8:30 AM Breakfast/Mid School Fundraiser 9:00 AM Mid & Hi School SS Classes 9:00 AM SS Classes/pre-school-adult 9:15 AM Spanish Worship 9:30 AM Praise Music Followed by Intergenerational Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Office Closed 6:00 PM NAMI Family to Family Class 7:00 PM Hand Bell Rehearsal</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Linda Vacation 9:15 AM Mary Martha Circle 6:15 PM S & L Ministry Team 6:30 PM Boy/Cub Scouts 7:00 PM Admin. Ministry Team 7:00 PM Mission Ministry Team 7:00 PM Worship/Music Ministry Team 7:30 PM Christian Ed. Ministry Team 7:30 PM Cong. Life Ministry Team</p>	<p>11</p> <p>8:30 AM First Pres. Soup Kitchen Team 9:00 AM Quilting Group 4:00 PM Salt & Light 6:00 PM Dinner (\$2.00) 7:00 PM Bldg's & Grounds Ministry Team 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:00 AM Staff Meeting 5:00 PM Solo Passages/Dinner 6:30 PM Solo Passages/Movie</p>	<p>13</p>  <p>4:00 PM Watkins Hall in use</p>	<p>14</p> <p>3:00 PM Watkins/private event 3:00pm</p>
<p>15</p> <p>9:00 AM Mid & Hi School SS Classes 9:00 AM SS Classes/pre-school-adult 9:15 AM Spanish Worship 10:30 AM Worship Service 3:00 PM New Members Class</p>	<p>16</p> <p>6:00 PM NAMI Family to Family Class 7:00 PM Hand Bell Rehearsal</p>	<p>17</p> <p>6:30 PM Boy/Cub Scouts 6:30 PM NAMI Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM Session</p>	<p>18</p> <p>4:00 PM Salt & Light 6:00 PM Dinner (\$2.00) 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9:00 AM Staff Meeting 9:30 AM PW Coordinating Team 5:00 PM Solo Passages/Dinner 6:30 PM Solo Passages/Movie 7:00 PM Deacons Ministry Team</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p>  <p>9:00 AM Mid & Hi School SS Classes 9:00 AM SS Classes/pre-school-adult 9:15 AM Spanish Worship 10:30 AM Worship Service</p>	<p>23</p> <p>6:00 PM NAMI Family to Family Class 7:00 PM Hand Bell Rehearsal</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6:30 PM Boy/Cub Scouts</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Rip Tide Service Project 9:00 AM Quilting Group 4:00 PM Salt & Light 6:00 PM Dinner (\$2.00) 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9:00 AM Staff Meeting 5:00 PM Solo Passages/Dinner 6:30 PM Solo Passages/Movie 7:00 PM Jenny Curry Circle</p>	<p>27</p> <p>6:00 PM In-Betweeners</p>	<p>28</p>  <p>3:30 PM Mid-School Movie & Games</p>
<p>29</p> <p>9:00 AM Mid & Hi School SS Classes 9:00 AM SS Classes/pre-school-adult 9:15 AM Spanish Worship 10:30 AM Worship Service</p>	<p>30</p> <p>6:00 PM NAMI Family to Family Class 7:00 PM Hand Bell Rehearsal</p>	<p>1</p> <p>9:30 AM Morning Circle 6:30 PM Boy/Cub Scouts</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9:00 AM Quilting Group 10:00 AM Ruth Naomi Circle 4:00 PM Salt & Light 6:00 PM Dinner (\$2.00) 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9:00 AM Staff Meeting</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>3:00 PM Reception 10:30 PM Sr. Recital/Courtney Prah</p>

Stewardship

WHAT IS IN THY HAND? An old man stood on a mountainside. He was a shepherd, and held in his hand his shepherd's staff. He stood, watching a bush that seemed to be on fire, yet did not burn up.

As he moved nearer to see how this could be, a voice spoke to him, stopping him in his tracks.

We know the old man as Moses. And we know that the voice was telling him to go back to Egypt. He had escaped from Egypt forty years before. Although he had been the adopted son of Pharaoh's daughter, he had become an outlaw at forty years of age. This had happened because he had defended one of his own people - an Israelite. Now he was told to go back and expose himself to the punishment he had escaped. But, more, he was told to try to lead his people into the desert to find the same freedom that he had found.

The danger and the task appalled him. He began, "Who am I, Lord, to do this kind of thing?" And what followed in that conversation sounds amazingly familiar. "Surely you are talking to the wrong fellow! ... The people won't respond to my leadership ... The opposition will be too stubborn and too smart to let me get away with it ... This is a wonderful idea, but the time isn't right for it ... All this will take money, and you know how desperately poor our people are ... You need an orator who can sweep the people off their feet, a super-salesman who can wrap Pharaoh around his finger, but I can

only stumble and stammer."

In short, Moses thought it was a wonderful idea. He knew that someone needed to do something like that, but he just wasn't the one to get the job done, he felt quite sure. Suddenly, however, the impetuous flow of his excuses was halted by a simple question. "What do you have in your hand, Moses?" As the story runs, he held only his shepherd's rod. And some very remarkable things happened as he put it to use. But we who herd no sheep, nor carry a shepherd's crook, must not escape the fact that Moses' rod was only

THE GIVER'S JOY

The joy of sacrificial giving is love. In spite of trials, love emerges as the factor in an individual's happiness. It is the light that distinguishes those people who become good stewards of their time, talent and treasure from others. It is the joy of sacrificial giving.



representative of something much deeper.

For Moses held the present moment in his hand.

That present moment included, in

(Continued on page 4)

A STEWARD AND A SEEDLING

During the early eighteenth century, a notable French botanist named Bernard de Jussieu was inspired by the Bible's mention some 75 times of the native "cedars of Lebanon," to bring one back to his own country. He traveled by ship, and picked up a cedar seedling without difficulty. However, bad weather delayed the return of his ship. The captain limited every passenger to a glass of water per day.

Now, what would most people do? Certainly no one would blame him for simply discarding his tiny cedar for lack of fresh water. However, de Jussieu felt such a responsibility for the seedling that he gave it some of his own water ration each day. He planted it in the royal gardens in Paris, where it lived for a century.

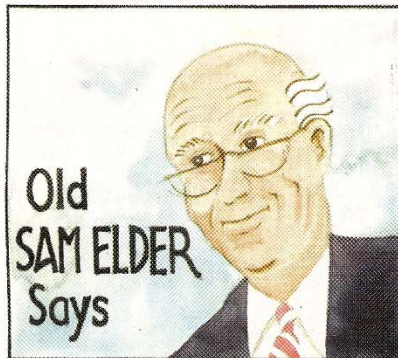
Are we given such a choice in our daily lives? It's rarely so obvious, but God does expect us to sacrifice our own comfort to help others. Money given to victims of natural disasters is money we can't spend in our favorite restaurant. Time spent delivering Thanksgiving baskets is time we can't spend on our vacations. Even using a talent such as singing in the choir means that we can't sleep in Sunday mornings. But God and our own hearts tell us that our sacrifice is worth it. I think Bernard de Jussieu had the same feeling of satisfaction as he watched his cedar grow that present-day Christian stewards have when they see or hear about the results of their giving. Like seedlings, our gifts may be small at first, but can grow into something wonderful. ☩

P. Love

A RIGHT SENSE OF PROPORTION

We need not give up the pleasures and luxuries of this life. God does not call us to be ascetics, but he does call us to a right sense of proportion in administering our substance.

The question is: "If I have this for myself, then what should I do for God?" This is the question into which the whole matter of stewardship resolves itself.



WORKING CAPITAL

Old Sam wasn't surprised by a visit from Horace Trader. Sam had observed Horace's sheepish glances as he dropped his weekly five dollar bill in the plate.

"Sam, I want you to know how it is with me," began Horace, "I can't give to the church like the pastor tells us to."

"Horace, I view your commitment as a private matter between you and God." Sam answered.

"Look, "I have no close relatives; the church will get everything when I die," said Horace.

"Your intentions are good," Sam acknowledged, "and expectations from estates are always uncertain. A lot can happen to you between now and then. All of us should remember the church in our wills."

"Yes, but I need all the cash I can hang onto for working capital," continued Horace; "I have to be ready to grab a bargain, when I find it."

"Your business is a lot like our church," Sam said. "The church needs working capital to save souls, to comfort the distressed, and to aim our youngsters in the right direction. You don't want to lose a trade; the church doesn't want to lose a soul."

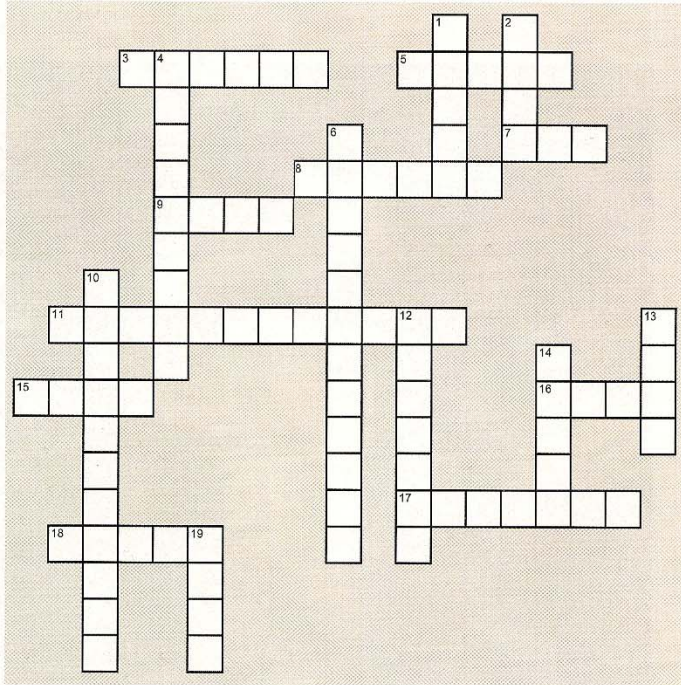
"Are you suggesting that the church would rather have its share now than to gain a fortune later?" asked Horace.

"Yes! And mostly for your benefit," answered Sam. "This 'promise now and pay later' that you practice deprives you of the good feeling that comes from giving generously. Horace, try giving a fair share to the church's working capital and you will feel like a new man." ☩

STEWARDSHIP CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across

3. A Roman currency often associated with stewardship.
5. At his home the woman anointed Jesus' feet.
7. First female steward.
8. Human love.
9. First steward.
11. Stewardship frees us from this sin.
15. First person to offer a non-flesh offering.
16. It is more blessed to _____ than to receive (Acts 20:35).
17. An unfaithful steward is guilty of this sin (Mal 3:8).
18. God requires of us the _____ fruits.



Courtesy: Christopher Sealey

Down

1. 10% of our increase.
2. Patient, kind, not jealous.
4. Made of soft stone and held the oil that anointed Jesus' feet.
6. Often confused with stewardship.
10. Paul wrote a book on their generosity.
12. A manager of God's property.
13. He made the first recorded animal offering.
14. Godly love
19. By-product of creation.


MAKE A DIFFERENCE! ACTION PLAN NEEDED

Today, we hear a great deal about the importance of a savings plan or an investment portfolio in order to provide for our secure future.

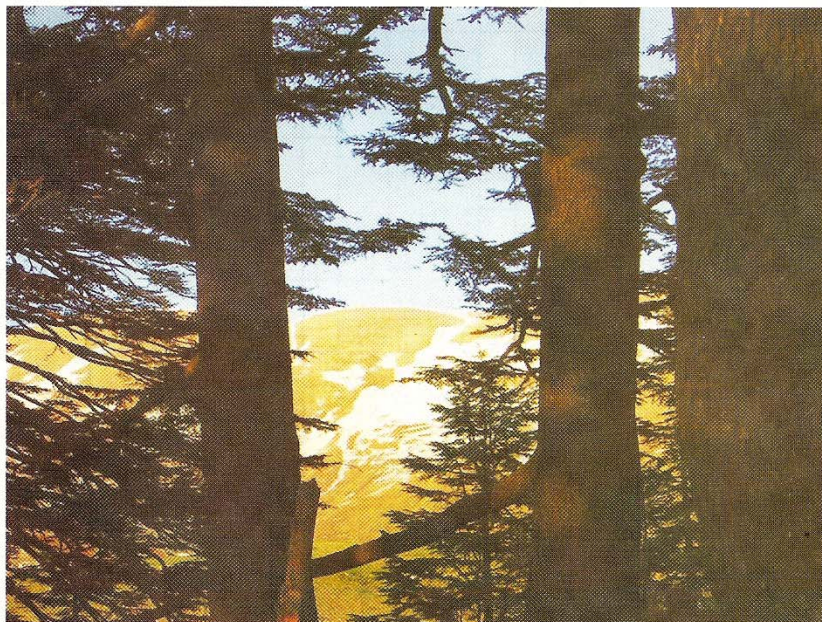
Yet not as much is written or spoken about the importance of establishing a personal giving plan so that others can have a secure present.

Evangelist Billy Graham said: "God has given us two hands – one to receive with and other to give with. We are not cisterns made for hoarding, we are channels made for sharing."

The truth is that all of us have the power to make a difference. Often all it takes is a plan of action. The prophet Isaiah wrote: "The

scoundrel's methods are wicked, he makes up evil schemes to destroy the poor with lies, even when the plea of the needy is just. But the noble can make noble plans, and by noble deeds he stands." (Isaiah 32:7-8). Have you established your giving plan? 

- Crossword Answers
- Across**
- 3. Talent
 - 5. Simon
 - 7. Eve
 - 8. Philo
 - 9. Adam
 - 11. Covetousness
 - 12. Steward
 - 10. Corinthians
 - 6. Philanthropy
 - 4. Alabaster
 - 2. Love
 - 1. Tithes
- Down**
- 18. First
 - 17. Robbery
 - 16. Give
 - 15. Cain
 - 13. Abel
 - 14. Agape
 - 19. Time




“Cedars of Lebanon”

continued from page 1:

WHAT IS IN THY HAND?

the first place, his life and his ability. He did not have Aaron’s ability; Aaron did not have Moses’ ability. Aaron could not take Moses’ place. Aaron could not do anything other than be himself. But it was the self and ability which he was that God needed, and his people needed. And this constituted his call from God, that he was uniquely himself, and none other, and that he had his eyes opened to a real and living need - the same call that comes to us in the twenty-first century. The mere possession of your life and your ability, set in a framework of need, is God’s holy call to you to use that life and ability for God.

Holding the present moment in his hand, Moses held there his age and

experience. The years had lengthened — forty of them in youth and maturity spent in the experience and training of Egypt’s court; and then forty years of self-discipline, hardening, and toughening out in whatever high purpose God might reveal to him. For whatever our age, be it eight or eighty, we hold a reserve of experience that can find its fulfillment only in useful employment. And its highest fulfillment comes only in dedicated response to God’s call. 



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PW Local Mission for March

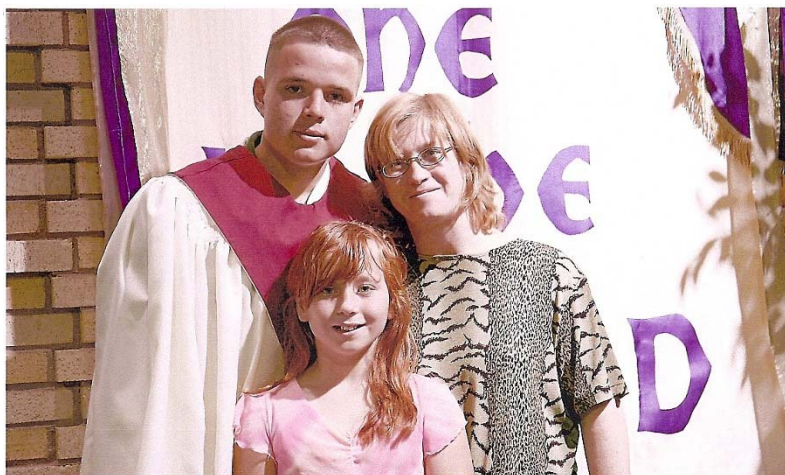
Everyone who comes to the Community of Hope is met by dedicated and caring staff, ready to respond with hope and encouragement as well as to provide for physical needs. The services offered include help with housing, medical and mental health care, a clothing bank that includes clothes suitable for employment, special help for homeless people with disabilities, an emergency food bank, and day-care; there is also help with finding employment, transportation, and income support. "Help" is the operative word!

Many homeless clients use the facility as a "home base" because it gives them an address that can be used on job applications, a phone number for messages, and shower and laundry privileges. Training programs teach money management, nutrition, how to rent a home, how to find employment, and other skills needed to enter the mainstream and provide for themselves.

Pamela Angel, Community of Hope Director, reports that the number of requests for help from the homeless in 2006 was *more than double* the number in 2005. The need is great, yet supporting agencies have had to cut back what they contribute. An example is that the funding for transportation has ended, and staff members must turn people away.

How can you help? Just about anything you use in everyday life is needed by those who have nothing. Furniture for families starting over, food donations of all kinds, clothing for homeless individuals of all ages, toiletry and hygiene supplies, blankets and towels, sleeping bags, and monetary donations, are all greatly appreciated. Small items may be placed in the Local Missions box in Jones Hall. Call Maggie Burr (523-7917) for information about giving large items, or if you have other questions. Checks may be given through our church office, either to Community of Hope, or for a specified use such as the food bank, homeless child care, the soup kitchen, clothing, housing, or medical care.

Baptism



Baptism - Rena Schell - Jennifer Schell, Mom - Scott Burns, Mentor



The Salt & Light Co.

The Salt & Light Company, our Wednesday after-school ministry for age four through High School, is going strong. More and more students are coming, so we are expecting to grow right up until May 2nd, our last Wed. for this school year.

Though the congregation has been generous in donating to this ministry of outreach and Christian Education, we do ask a tuition fee to help with materials and meals. Some families are not really able to pay the \$35 per student (\$70 maximum per family) and of course we would never turn children away; if you would like to help by giving a scholarship, your designated check can be placed in the offering plate or given at the church office.

With warm spring weather, you will see our elementary, kindergarten, and pre-k students wearing their purple Salt & Light shirts. There's a story to tell about that. When more shirts were ordered recently, Mr. Nick Nicolitz, who always screen-prints them for us at his business, Nicolitz Sportswear, decided to donate them this time. This was done in honor of his family's 50th anniversary of coming to Las Cruces, USA. They were sponsored by our church. We certainly do thank him for his generous gift.

Come visit some Wednesday afternoon, and you may see students enjoying recreation activities. Leaders this semester are Carissa and James Rood, Lily Evans, Jolene Hussman, and Brian McPherson. The goals of our rec program are having great fun, being active, and building Christian relationships. We hope that you will stay for Family of God dinnertime, too!

Dinner themes for April are:

- April 4 Holy Week
- April 11 April Showers
- April 18 It's a Small World
- April 25 Earth Day

Be sure to save Sunday, May 6th for the annual Celebration of Salt & Light. The students will show you how talented they are, and you'll be served a very good noon meal.

Youth Workers Needed

First Presbyterian Church is looking for Youth Workers to help in the development of our mid and high school youth ministries. These rapidly growing ministries are in need of energetic and passionate people who love the Lord and who want to see young adults grow in their Christian faith. The Youth Worker job description is available in the office. These are paid positions.

Please contact Tracy Geiger if you have any questions, 526-5559.

Riptide Ministries (Mid School Ministry)

April 8, Easter Sunday at 8:30 am, we will be serving breakfast in Watkins Hall. Donations will be greatly appreciated.

Riptide lessons:

- Wednesday, April 4 -
- “Next time I fall in Love part 1”
- April 11 -
- “Next time I fall in Love part 2”
- April 18 -
- “Next time I fall in Love part 3”
- April 15, 22, 29 and May 6 –
- Mothers day promotion flower
- fundraiser
- April 25 - Riptide to do service project during Salt & Light.
- April 28 – Game/Movie day, 3:30-9:00 pm
- “Lion, Witch, and the Wardrobe”



The Organist

Organ music plays an important part in our worship service. Most people just enjoy it or regard it as interesting background music as they enter or leave the service. However, it is worth noting that pipe organs have been, historically speaking, among the most complex musical instruments made and indeed, before the Industrial Revolution, were the most complex technical human creations. The organ is incredibly complex to play, requiring advance preparation and the use of both hands and the feet. Organ music includes some of the most complex music written for a single performer.

Like many small to mid-size church organs, our instrument has two keyboards (manuals) of 61 keys each and a pedalboard of 32 keys. With the many hundreds of pipes (most of which are hidden from view), many tonal possibilities exist; there are well over 30 ways to produce middle C, for instance, each way producing a slightly different sound. The 35 ranks of pipes of our organ, each with its characteristic sound, are controlled by 26 stops. The stops are virtually never used all at once, but an appropriate combination must be set at the beginning of a piece and stops are often changed during the playing of it. Since pipe organs are so different from each other, organ sheet music often provides suggestions but leaves it to the artist to select the particular combination of sounds that best expresses the music.

A church organist has a different and more complex job than a concert performer. The foremost additional responsibility is that of timing. Have you noticed that our organist usually ends his prelude within seconds of 10:30? The interludes, as the children leave or the offering is collected, have to start and end at times not of the organist's choosing. The organist has to accompany other musicians and must be prepared to play music selected by others as well as choose pieces which he selects to harmonize with the theme of the service.

At the next worship service, pay attention to the timing, to the subtle way in which the hymns are introduced so that the worshipers know what is coming and when to start singing, and to the postludes which are often original variations on well-known hymns.

More information about our organ (including pictures) and comments about our music program can be found on our web site at <http://www.zianet.com/fpc/music.htm>.

New Photo Directory



Have you ever seen someone in church who you don't recognize? You can't put a name to a face? It's time for a new Photo Directory. With all the new growth within our congregation, the directory will be a helpful resource for new members as well as the rest of us. Congregational Life is working with Olan Mills to produce a new Photo Directory. Photo dates are May 10, 11, 12. Signup at the church during fellowship May 1, 8, 15 or 22. In addition you can go online to <http://www.signup.olanmills.com/> or call 1-800-866-2263. To use either of the last two options you only need to have the church phone number handy. Look for more information in the Sunday bulletin and in your mail. Don't want to buy photos? Just say no, a free 8x10 is yours just for sitting for the photo.

The Electronic Lantern

This is the month that the primary delivery mechanism for the Lantern is the Internet. If the office does not have your e-mail address, please give it to them as soon as possible. The Internet edition has a number of advantages besides cost

saving. It has color pictures, live internet links, and gives one the ability to print out only the part of greatest interest. There are still problems to be worked out, so your comments are appreciated. Not all links are live. The calendar is best read with magnification and the fact that some get it by mail causes formatting complications. Black and white copies with inferior pictures will be mailed to some and will be available at the church. Suggestions on how to take maximum advantage of the Internet edition and forms for suggestions are available at <http://lantern.qzxservices.com>

Notes, Announcements

Congregational News

Baptism

Rena Schell

Deaths

Allan Savage died on March 5, 2007.

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Psalm 23

New Address

Roberta (Hammond) Warren
110 Dunbar Estates Dr.
Friendswood, TX 77546

Please update your church phone directory

Staff News

- Office hours are Monday-Friday, 8:30 am to 4:00 pm.
- Deadline for announcements going into the weekly Sunday Bulletin is 10:00 am on Thursday mornings.
- Pick up your new church phone directories at any of the Sanctuary doors on Sundays or from the office.
- Office will be closed on April 9 for the Easter holiday.
- Linda will be out of the office on April 10 and 13.

The Bridge

Presbyterian Campus Ministry at NMSU
2511 Chaparral St. 522-6404
David Sallee, Campus Minister

For more information on The Bridge see
http://www.nmsu.edu/~ifc/The_Bridge.html#Presbyterian

Every Monday night at 7:00 p.m., Small Group Bible Study. April the study is – The Applause of Heaven, a fresh look at the Beatitudes. It’s about Starving Hunger, and Saving Lives.

Every Thursday we have student fellowship and study at Garcia Hall (Dorm).

Every Friday is FFF @ 7:30 p.m. (film, fun and food Friday) and Fellowship is at 8:00 pm.

Every Sunday rides are available to church by calling David at 522-6404 or at 522-2168.

Attendance

- March 4 281
- March 11 239
- March 18 245
- March 25 236

Operating Funds: February 2007

Operating Income	\$38,766.74
Operating Expenses	<u>33,173.51</u>
Balance	\$5,593.23

Year to Date Summary:

Operating Income	\$84,440.73
Operating Expenses	<u>73,524.65</u>
Balance	\$10,916.08

Per Capita Tax

Through the fourth Sunday in March \$2,494 has been received towards our congregation’s per capita tax of \$9,325. The funds received are included with other operating funds that support the overall budget of the church.

Communion

Communion will be served on Sunday April 1 at 10:30 a.m. worship and on Maundy Thursday April 5 at 7:00 p.m. worship.

Lantern Deadline

Friday, April 20 is the deadline for the May Lantern. Please submit your articles to Linda on or before that day. fpclinda@zianet.com.

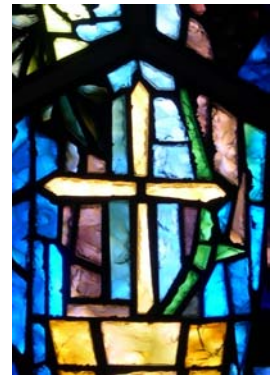
April Birthdays

4/1	Donna Curtiss
4/2	Cindy Tafoya
4/4	Bryce Watson
4/4	Ashley Gurnea

4/4	Deani Durant
4/6	Lila Pickett
4/7	Emadair Jones
4/8	John Pleasant
4/9	Joseph Walstad
4/10	Tom Carlton
4/12	Kathlene Walker
4/14	Jack Pickett
4/15	George Austin
4/17	Joan Rawson
4/17	Jean Wertz
4/18	Bruce White
4/19	Doris Morgan
4/20	Jean Rhodes
4/21	MaryEsther Burnham
4/21	Shamarie Carrizal
4/21	James O'Neill
4/21	Thomas Gaines
4/21	Robert Paul
4/25	Mary Walker
4/25	Greg Temple
4/26	Will Mattiace
4/26	Holly Tucker
4/29	Mary Lou Ceroky

The Cover

The picture on the cover is that of the stained glass window in the southwest corner of the sanctuary entitled The Last Supper and Gethsemane. It is a reminder, as was the special pre-Easter bible study led by Rev. Story, of the suffering involved in God's plan for our salvation. The small picture here is not the whole cover but is a small detail, an empty cross, reminding us of the promise of Easter.



Photos by Robert McPherson and Alex Burr

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E-mail fpc1@zianet.com
Web www.zianet.com/fpc
Rev. Norman Story, Pastor

The Lantern is a monthly publication of First Presbyterian Church, Las Cruces, NM. Articles and photos, preferably in computer readable form are welcome, and will be used at the discretion of the publisher. For further information call 526-5559 or send e-mail to fpc1@zianet.com.

Editor: Alex Burr
Production: Linda Ramirez

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Las Cruces, NM 88005

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Return Service Requested

Easter Service—April 8

Mission Statement for 2007-2008

To emulate the work, the word, and the way of Jesus Christ in ministering to the needs of members and preparing them for Christian outreach to people within and outside the Church of Jesus Christ.

Our Vision Objectives for 2007-2008 are:

- To create spiritual leaders from within our congregation to recognize and minister to members in need.
- To develop and maintain specific ways for members to reach out and draw the community into our fellowship.
- To create a God-centered atmosphere for worship that will attract and bind individuals, families and youth to our church.