



COURIER

First Presbyterian Church

June, 2017

Pastor's Letter

PENTECOST

*“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers,
for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.”*

On the day of Pentecost, the city of Jerusalem opened its doors and welcomed Jewish people from all over the known world. The Jewish people were gathered to celebrate the Feast of Weeks. (Leviticus 23:15-22) Pentecost is Greek for “fifty” thus signifying the fifty days or seven weeks after Passover. Originally an agricultural festival celebrating the end of the spring harvest, the Feast of Weeks was in the Roman period associated with the Covenant. In Numbers 11:24-25, the Bible describes an experience early on in the wilderness when Moses calls upon God to share the leadership. This text celebrates the coming of the God’s Holy Spirit which was poured out on Moses, seventy elders, and ultimately all the people of God.

Thus our celebration of Pentecost, described in Acts 2, is reminiscent of this former time when God’s Holy Spirit is poured out. This time it is the Disciples of Jesus Christ who receive this Spiritual outpouring and anointing for leadership. This gift of the Holy Spirit breaks down the dividing wall between peoples of different cultures and languages and encourages the kind of hospitality described above.

For the people of ancient Israel, understanding themselves as strangers and sojourners, with responsibility to care for vulnerable strangers in their midst, was part of what it meant to be the people of God. Jesus who was dependent on the hospitality of others during much of his earthly sojourn, also served as the gracious host in his words and in his actions. Those who turned to him found welcome and rest and the promise of reception into the Kingdom. Jesus promised that welcoming the stranger, feeding the hungry person and visiting the sick were acts of personal kindness to Jesus himself.

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Pastor's Letter continued

Paul urged fellow Christians to welcome one another as Christ had welcomed them. He challenged the early believers to “pursue” hospitality; in fact, hospitality was a qualification for leadership in early Christian communities. The writer of Hebrews above, reminded readers to offer hospitality to strangers for, like Abraham and Sarah, they might find themselves entertaining angels. Indeed, Christian believers were to regard hospitality to strangers as an expression of the gospel.

So, when we celebrate Pentecost, we remember how the disciples were given the ability by the Holy Spirit to speak the welcoming words of the Gospel so that many people of differing cultures and languages might experience the hospitality of God. Indeed they welcomed strangers in whatever tongue they spoke so that all might understand the Christian faith and become part of the Christian community.

As we celebrate Pentecost and everyday may we welcome strangers and all we meet to join us in Christian community, in the name of Jesus Christ. In extending hospitality we acknowledge our resources are not our own: that everything belongs to God. Hospitality is an act by which we return these gifts to God.

May God's Holy Spirit rest upon you,
with the gifts of grace and hospitality,

Laura and Jeff

Presbytery of Santa Fe

The month of June opens with the celebration of Pentecost on the first Sunday June 4th, and then on the last Saturday, June 24th, First Presbyterian Church of Belen will host the Presbytery of Santa Fe. Like the city of Jerusalem, on the day of Pentecost, the church will be extending Hospitality to all who come through the doors-100 to 120 Elders and Pastors representing churches all over northern New Mexico. The church will welcome all who come to this Gathering of the People of God at 9:00AM for registration, with beverages and snacks before the meeting begins at 10:00AM with Prayer. The church will also provide beverages and snacks during the morning and afternoon breaks, and provide lunch at noon.

We are asking the First Presbyterian Church in Socorro to help us provide snacks such as pastries, muffins, breads, and fruit, for the snack times, before and during the meeting.

If you are able to help please let Nancy Dotson know (8351236). She will be coordinating these activities.



HERO CENTRAL: DISCOVER YOUR STRENGTH IN GOD!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 26-28, 2017

9:00AM-11:30AM

This summer we are inviting all young people to soar with us at our Vacation Bible School-**HERO CENTRAL: DISCOVER YOUR STRENGTH IN GOD!** Our superhero adventure experience includes music that will energize our ears, interactive Bible stories, cool crafts, hands-on-mission hero work, delicious snacks and more. We will discover our strength in God, explore God's mission for our lives, encounter epic adventures alongside Biblical heroes and realize qualities that make us all truly heroes in God!

We will be starting at 9:00 AM, with Opening time, followed by Classes with Snack time in between. We will conclude the morning with a recap of the day's lesson and songs, and be done by 11:30 PM.

Come and join in the fun, food and fellowship! If you are interested in helping or attending please contact Lynne Hemenway or Laura Finch.

Bible Study

Both **BIBLE STUDY's** on **Wednesday** and **Thursday** are adjourned for the summer and will begin again in September.

First Presbyterian Church Annual Rummage

Sale September 8-9

at the Garcia Opera House



Clerk's Corner by guest clerk Gerry Schwab

Session met in the church library Sunday afternoon May 21, 2017 for a joint meeting with the deacons. Elders Lynne Hemenway, Gerry Schwab, Eric Sewell and Orban Winton were joined by deacons Herb Anderson, Nancy Dotson, Denise Gilson, Bonner Oates, Marsha Sabol and Georgia Seery. Co-pastor Jeff Finch was moderator.

We discussed what is happening in our church and community, including the prayer chain, the June Presbytery meeting at Belen, Vacation Bible School July 26-28 and the Water Canyon service July 30.

Jeff requested that our church help provide snack food for the all-day Presbytery meeting June 24 at the Belen church. He encouraged everyone to attend,

even if you don't stay for the entire meeting. If you want to contribute snacks such as cookies, bread or pastries, contact Nancy Dotson or another deacon.

If you want to help with Vacation Bible School, contact Pastor Laura Finch or teacher Barbara Oates.

Everyone is welcome at the annual Water Canyon Service. The Socorro, Magdalena, Belen and Datil churches cooperate for this joint service and the meal that follows it.

If you have prayer concerns, please contact either Jeff or Laura Finch, Jane Apps or Nancy Dotson.

After our mutual business, the elders and deacons separated to

continue separate meetings. This was the last deacons' meeting until September. Session will meet in June, then take July off.

Session decided that the memorial fund would pay for the new flooring in the pastors' office.

Heating in the church will be turned off and cooling will be turned on. (The duct work serves both the furnace and the sanctuary's swamp cooler, so this is an either/or system. We cannot have both heating and cooling on at the same time.)

Eric Sewell, worship committee chairman and violinist, is still looking for an accompanist. Let him know if you have a desire to accompany congregational singing, or if you know someone who wants to try.

Worship at Water Canyon

Sunday, July 30 at 11am

followed by a pot-luck with our brothers and sisters

from Belen, Datil and Socorro

See you there!

Drive 15 miles west of Socorro on Highway 60,
you will see the sign and turnoff for Water Canyon Campground.

Turn Left (South) and travel 4 1/2 miles to the campground.



Deacon's Doings by Nancy Dotson

The Board of Deacons met on Sunday afternoon, May 21, for a joint meeting with the Session. Present were Deacons Herb Anderson, Nancy Dotson, Denise Gilson, Bonner Oates, Marsha Sabol, Georgia Seery, plus Elders Lynne Hemenway, Gerry Schwab, Eric Sewell, and Orban Winton. Also present was Pastor Jeff Finch.

The joint meeting was a chance for both boards to catch up with the other, plus be informed of new and near future projects being tackled. Jeff encouraged at-

tendance at the June 24th Presbytery meeting to be held at the Belen church. Our church will be helping with snacks for the day long meeting.

Vacation Bible School will be held here on July 26-28 in the mornings.

The two boards split for separate meetings after our joint session. The Deacons addressed third Sunday coffee responsibilities, usher/greeter assignments, and discussed some roof damage issues on the church building and

the 308 McCutcheon rental. It was felt that the Discretionary and the Food Pantry funds were adequate for the time being.

Since the Deacon Board does not meet over the summer, our next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 12. If needs arise during those three months, we can call a meeting to address those. Please continue to notify the prayer chain of those needing prayer. This can be done by contacting either of our pastors, Jane Apps (835-2889), or Nancy Dotson (8351236).

Presbyterian Women by Carol Seery

PW Closes Out Bible Study With Contemporary Cultural Interpretations

Presbyterian Women met on May 12, in the church library for their 9th and final lesson in their 2016-2017, Horizons bible study, "Who is Jesus, What a Difference a Lens Makes". After refreshments and a brief business meeting, discussion was led by Georgia Seery through lesson nine entitled "According to Contemporary Cultural Interpretations", which covered scripture from Matthew and Luke. The key idea was that each of us who

reads the New Testament is an interpreter of the text; how we interpret, it depends in part on our own identity. Not only does the context and perspective of the writers of the New Testament determine the answer to the question "Who is Jesus?" So does the context and perspective of the reader/interpreter. This PW study now comes to a close for the summer months and will reconvene on the 1st Friday of every month beginning with a September 1, 2017, meeting. The next Horizons Bible study will be entitled "Cloud of Witnesses. A Study in the commu-

nity of Christ in Hebrews". Please take note of this date and plan to attend.

**** Also to note: The Presbyterian Church will be holding their Annual Rummage Sale on Sept. 8-9, 2017, at the Garcia Opera House. Please start saving your gently used treasures throughout the summer and bring them to the Opera House starting Labor Day weekend! Have a great summer!**



TREASURER'S REPORT April 2017
By Geraldine Schwab

General Fund Checking Account

04/01/2017 Balance on hand	\$ 1,851.44
Receipts	7,594.19
Disbursements	7,924.71
04/30/2017 Balance on hand	1,520.92
Receipts include:	
Transfer from Rental Property account to pay staff	\$1,300.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	222.56
Easter lilies and tulips	200.00
Donation from Alcoholics Anonymous	40.00
Copier can collection	1.40
Disbursements include:	
Church insurance, second of four payments	865.00
Flooring for pastor's office, advance for materials	600.00
Employer's taxes and fees	446.96
Palms and Easter flowers	266.00

We spent \$1,787.08 more for budgeted items in April than we received for budgeted expenses, not including money transferred.
We received \$5,871.63 for budgeted expenses in April, not including money transferred from our Rental Property account, and spent \$7,658.71 for budgeted items.

Rental Property Checking Account

04/01/2017 Balance on hand	\$ 7,768.57
Receipts	1,000.48
Disbursements	1,428.06
04/30/2017 Balance on hand	7,340.99
Receipts were:	
Rent, 308 McCutcheon	\$ 600.00
Rent, 306 McCutcheon	400.00
Interest	0.48
Disbursements were:	
Repair kitchen faucet, 306 McCutcheon	128.06
Transfer to general fund to pay staff	1,300.00

Memorial Fund Checking Account

04/01/2017 Balance on hand	\$13,797.58
Receipts	0.79
04/30/2017 Balance on hand	13,798.37
Receipts were:	
Interest	0.79

John Browne Memorial Fund Savings Account

04/01/2017 Balance on hand	\$ 492.62
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This account is reserved specifically for education, but was not accessed in April.

Nusenda Credit Union Savings #1

03/31/2017 Balance on hand	24.31
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New Covenant Funds Investment Accounts

We received quarterly reports for our New Covenant Funds accounts, but they did not show any income distributions.

Building Fund

04/01/2017 Our Value	\$24,866.23
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Capital Equipment Fund

04/01/2017 Our Value	12,548.42
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John Browne Memorial Fund

04/01/2017 Our Value	\$28,970.88
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BUDGET SUMMARY FOR APRIL 2017

We took \$1,300.00 from our rental property account to pay staff in April 2017.
Session's budget for running the church in 2017 is now \$86,323, an average of \$7,194/month.
Our April income was \$7,294, or 101% of our monthly expense budget.
Our January through April income was \$24,856, or 86% of our four months' expense budget.

June 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Local Missions Offering	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Local Missions Offering Session 2:00 pm	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 Coffee	19	20	21	22	23	24 Presbytery meeting in Belen 10-4
25	26 Pastors are on vacation	27 Pastors are on vacation	28 Pastors are on vacation	29 Pastors are on vacation	30 Pastors are on vacation	Pastors are on vacation Guest Pastor 7/5/17 Office closed 7/3-4/17

First Presbyterian Church

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June 4 and 11
SPECIAL OFFERING
Is for
LOCAL MISSIONS