



**COURIER**

**First Presbyterian Church**

November, 2017

## Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends,

It is Fall, the trees have turned gold, red and orange and their falling leaves scatter across our backyard in the crisp morning breeze. We should get out and rake them, but seeing our grandchildren throwing them up in the air and burying themselves in a shower of gold and green reminds us of what Robert Fulghum writes about leaves on the lawn.

*“I like the way it looks, I like the way it looks very much. My wife does not. The gardening magazine does not like it either. Leaves should be raked. There are rules. Leaves are not good for grass. Leaves are untidy. Leaves are moldyslimy. But I like leaves so much, I once filled my classroom at school ankle-deep with them. In a way, the trees are there because of the leaves. With unbridled extravagance, zillions of seeds have helicoptered out of the sky to land like assault forces to green the earth. The leaves follow to cover, protect, warm, and nourish the next generation of trees. Stony ground, rot, mold, bacteria, birds, squirrels, bugs, and people—all intervene. But somehow, some make it. Some tenacious seeds take hold and hold on and hold on—for dear life. In the silence of winter’s dark they prevail and plant themselves and survive to become the next generation of trees. It has been thus for eons, and we mess with the process at our peril, say I.”*

The seeds of faith sometimes have a hard time of it in the storms of winter’s dark. But like the seeds of the trees, which are protected, warmed and nourished by the falling leaves, the seeds of our faith have something that helps them survive and grow. *That warm and nourishing place is the church.* It is a good place to be, for there is support in times of trouble and celebration in times of joy. The church goes through ups and downs, as does all of creation. It is good to remember that God calls us to be *faithful* in the living of our lives. We can trust that as we do our part, God will do God’s part.

We are thankful to be a part of this church family and glad that you are too!

*With faith and thanksgiving,  
Jeff and Laura*

**First Presbyterian Church**  
304 McCutcheon Ave.  
PO Box 1155  
Socorro, NM87801  
Office Phone  
575-835-0942

**Co-Pastors**  
**Rev. Laura Niles Finch**  
lauranfinch@gmail.com  
505-307-3134

**Rev. Jeffrey A. Finch**  
jfinch4@gmail.com  
505-307-0156

Church Email  
1stpresbyterian @qwestoffice.net

Church Website  
1stpresbyterian.  
qwestoffice.net

Church Mobile  
1stpresbyterian.  
qwestoffice.net/mobile

Editor  
Lynne Hemenway

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## **HELPING THROUGH PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

Please continue to keep all of our brothers and sisters in Puerto Rico, Mexico, Texas, Florida, Cuba, the Caribbean and so many others who are suffering through so much. If you would like to help in ways other than your prayers, you can donate through the church to organizations like [Presbyterian Disaster Assistance](#).

### **BIBLE STUDIES**

#### **WEDNESDAY EVENING**

#### **BIBLE STUDY 6:00 pm**

Gil and Jane Apps will be leading the study in Micah.

#### **THURSDAY MORNING**

#### **BIBLE STUDY**

#### **“The Thirteen Apostles”**

Laura Niles Finch is offering a Bible Study Class, based on the

book, “**The Thirteen Apostles**” by J. Ellsworth Kalas. We meet on THURS. from 10:00-11:30 AM. We are meeting in the Library. Books and schedules are still available.

### **COMBINED OFFICER TRAINING**

On Saturday November 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:00AM, First Presbyterian Church Belen will host a Combined Officer Training time, for all three churches. Both Deacons and Elders from FPC Belen,

FPC Socorro, and Magdalena Community Church are all invited to join together in Belen for training in what it means to serve the Presbyterian Church as an Elder or Deacon. All persons

currently serving and those who have been newly nominated/elected are asked to join us. We will have time for education, fellowship, and end with lunch.

## **Presbyterian Women Learn About Living in Community with the Living God By Carol Seery**

Presbyterian Women met on October 6th in the church library for their third lesson of the 2017-2018 Horizons Bible study. Prior to refreshments and a brief business meeting, study of the third lesson in the 2017-2018 PW/Horizons Bible Study entitled “In Community with the Living Word”, was led by Georgia Seery, Moderator, covering scripture from Genesis, He-

brews, Ezekiel and John. The main idea focused on making a full connection between the Christ and the living God, and learning how that connection supports the life of the faith community. Members in attendance were encouraged to study some of the most important texts of the Jewish faith and bring them forward with new interpretations for a first-century Chris-

tian audience.

As a reminder: PW will be meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of every month at 9:30 a.m. in the church library. The next PW meeting will take place on Nov. 3, 2017. Everyone is welcome to attend.

# November 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Daylight saving time ends 11/5/17			1 Bible Study 6:00 pm	2 Bible Study 10:00 am	3 Presbyterian Women 9:30 am	4
5 Blanket Offering	6	7	8 Bible Study 6:00 pm	9 Bible Study 10:00 am	10	11
12 Blanket Offering  Session 2:00 pm	13	14 Deacons 7:00 pm	15 Bible Study 6:00 pm	16 Bible Study 10:00 am	17	18
19 Coffee	20  Our Pastors Vacation	21  Our Pastors Vacation	22  Our Pastors Vacation	23 Thanksgiving Office closed Our Pastors Vacation	24 Office closed Our Pastors Vacation	25
26	27 Our Pastors Vacation	28	29  Bible Study 6:00 pm	30  Bible Study 10:00 am		



## TREASURER'S REPORT

September 2017

By Geraldine Schwab

### General Fund Checking Account

09/01/2017	Balance on hand	\$ 1,934.88
	Receipts	8,384.75
	Disbursements	8,528.89
09/30/2017	Balance on hand	1,790.74

Receipts include:

Rummage sale receipts	\$2,273.20
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Hurricane Relief	656.00
Menaul Historical Library	101.00
AA donation for use of building	30.00

Disbursements include:

Share rummage sale receipts with our Presbyterian Women	900.00
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance	656.00
Rummage sale expenses	350.00
Clean carpets & upholstery	181.90
Menaul Historical Library	101.00

We spent \$144.14 more for budgeted items in September than we received for budgeted expenses. We received \$7,627.75 for budgeted expenses in September and spent \$7,771.89 for budgeted items.

### Rental Property Checking Account

09/01/2017	Balance on hand	\$ 6,214.69
	Receipts	750.00
09/30/2017	Balance on hand	6,964.69

Receipts were:

Rent, 308 McCutcheon, 1 month + \$150 back rent	600.00
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## TREASURER'S REPORT (continued)

### Memorial Fund Checking Account

09/01/2017	Balance on hand	\$12,641.40
	Receipts	0.73
09/30/2017	Balance on hand	12,642.13

Receipts were:

Interest	0.73
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### John Browne Memorial Fund Savings Account

09/01/2017	Balance on hand	\$ 897.99
	Receipts	0.13
09/30/2017	Balance on hand	898.12

Receipts were interest.

This account is reserved specifically for education. It was not used in September.

### New Covenant Funds Investment Accounts

#### Building Fund

07/01/2017	Our value	24,937.63
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#### Capital Equipment Fund

07/01/2017	Our value	12,599.69
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#### John Browne Memorial Fund

08/31/2017	Our value	28,572.98
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## BUDGET SUMMARY FOR SEPTEMBER 2017

We did not take any money from our investments to pay operating expenses during September 2017.

Session's budget for running the church in 2017 is now \$86,323, an average of \$7,194/month.

Our September income was \$9,134, or 127% of our average monthly expense budget.

Our January through September income was \$59,704, or 92% of our nine months' expense budget.

**First Presbyterian Church**

304 McCutcheon Ave.  
PO BOX 1155  
Socorro, NM 87801

**Blanket Offering November 5 & 12, 2017**

We will be collecting Special offering for CWS Blankets. Last year thousand of CWS Blankets were distributed thought the U.S. Share your blessings and increase the outreach this year! **Each blanket cost only \$10**, but these blankets can be a vital resource for someone needing a little support, warmth and encouragement.

**Poinsettia Reservation**

PLEASE RESERVE \_\_\_\_\_ (how many)  
POINSETTIAS FOR ME/US at \$14 per plant.

IT/THEY WILL BE IN HONOR/MEMORY OF: (circle one)

1.....honor/memory

2.....honor/memory

DONOR(S)\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE\_\_\_\_\_



Please return this form along with your money to Geraldine Schwab. Thank You.  
First Presbyterian Church, PO BOX 1155, Socorro, NM 87801