


The Good News

First Presbyterian
Church

December, 2007

Rev. Norm Story




God our Father, as Christmas time approaches we have a lot to get ready. There are presents to be bought and wrapped, greetings to be sent.

Never let us forget to prepare our own hearts for the time of your coming. What will be the good of all our activity if it crowds you out, or of our gifts and greetings unless our own lives are presentable to you and to other people?

Not that our trying to put a fair covering on ourselves would be any use. You know us too well for that. We can only ask that you will make the best of us. At least with your help we can see to it that other people receive the presents you have told us to deliver to them – gifts of love, and joy, and peace, and hope – food for the hungry, houses for the homeless, welcome for the despised.

God our Father, there is more to get ready than we realized, and time may be shorter than we think before we are called to account. May our praise now give new zest to our stewardship. For Christ's sake, amen.



Scott's Corner

As most of you know, I have been working with the children's garden doing weekly lessons that consist of bible studies, crafts, games and more. Through November, I finished my previous curriculum and started a new curriculum of Mary's Song. We have had nothing but successful lessons when we used this curriculum. The attendance is still a continuous 15 to 20 kids in each of my lessons with the kids and it still grows. The children of the Children's garden are now beginning to show a true hunger to know the lord more. Each time we get together, I feel that they are growing in spirit and faith. It amazes me when I see how much these kids can grow in faith in just half a year.

The Riptide Sunday school class is getting better as well. We are moving through the 52 Week Curriculum and starting to get into some thoughts on what they think a Christian is and what being a Christian means to them.

In Christ,
Scotty



December Birthdays!

12-01 Margaret Stevenson	12-11 Bruce Griffith	<u>12-25 Baby Jesus</u>
12-02 Marika Sauter	12-12 Rena Schell	12-25 Patricia Montoya
12-02 Jean Bernard	12-13 Rondla Hardin	12-25 Nancy Davis
12-02 James Slack	12-13 Dena Hurab	12-25 Caroline Darr
12-03 Stephanie Suggs	12-14 Joseph Hurab	12-26 Dina Schroeder
12-03 Nora Yaryan	12-14 Darla Topley	12-28 Johanna Miller
12-04 Robyn Byrnes	12-15 Deborah Austin	12-28 Marianne Watson
12-05 Glenn Garrett	12-15 Ted Novack	12-29 Mandolen Sanchez
12-06 Ryan Becker	12-15 Paul Ardell	12-29 Nora Hurab
12-06 Mary Ferguson	12-19 Jet Dunbar	12-29 Joy Miller-Bell
12-08 Hennessy Rubio	12-19 Grant Watson	12-30 Jason Silva
12-10 Joel Tomlin	12-21 Frank Clark	12-31 Maryi Whaley
	12-21 Mary Deboy	
	12-22 Peggy White	





Riptide News!

The month of November was an exciting time for all of the students that are involved. We had a bowling activity that was a lot of fun for the students that attended. During this month we also attended Camp Bonita for a joint PYC retreat with the Presbyterian churches from Hobbs Dexter, and Roswell. (Look for the write up on that trip below)

This group has also seen a good increase in the number of students that are attending, has gone up and we have also had the students from the apartments behind the church begin to attend both on Wednesdays and also on Sundays!



Focal Point News!

Focal Point had a great November. The numbers in this group on Wednesdays nights have certainly gone up this past month. It is great to see all of the students starting to attend Salt and Light. Also in November the students from Focal point finished their Wood fundraiser/ Service project. A huge thank you to the Rankin's as well as all of those who generously supported the students. Lastly this group also attended The PYC retreat t Camp Bonita. (Look for a write up below)

Upcoming Youth Events:

- Focal Point Christmas Party:** December 14th 6-8pm
- Night In Bethlehem**
December 15th 6-8pm
- Riptide Christmas Party:**
December 16th 6-8pm
- Christmas Eve service:**
December 24th 7pm

Camp Bonita PYC retreat:

November 16th-18th found the students of both Riptide and Focal Point, high up in the mountains around Ruidoso. They were attending the Presbyterian Youth Connection of Sierra Blanca's annual Fall retreat. The students from these two groups had a great time worshipping, studying, fellowshiping and talking with students from around New Mexico. They studied Lamentations and had three large group sessions as well as multiple small group meetings. Throughout the week all of the students that attended were able to talk, share and grow in their walks with our lord as well as get to know other Christian students from around the state. I have already been told by the students that they want to go again next year! Thank you to all of the sponsors that attended with the students!

Night In Bethlehem

Did you follow the star to Bethlehem? Did it lead you to First Presbyterian Church? If not, you missed out on a wonderful experience. The first annual "Night In Bethlehem" was held on December 15th. The market place was buzzing with activity and the news of the "baby" brought people from far and wide. We hope that next year you will come and enjoy this beautiful, and well thought out approach to the Christmas story.

A huge thank you to everyone who volunteered for this event. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Gary Geomotes.

La Casita, Anapra

La Casita, In Anapra, is a vital part of the Christo Rey Outreach, a Presbyterian Church-Sponsored development organization. It is located in Sunland Park, NM, a border community poverty levels that are more than triple the national average.

La Casita provides health, social and educational services to children, youth and adults. It would be great to have a load of gifts to give away this Christmas:

Good Clothing for young People

After school study materials

New or like-new toys, books, etc...

Nonperishable snacks

Monetary gifts are also always appreciated.



From The Desk of Tracy Geiger:

Salt and Light

This year Salt and Light has experienced explosive growth! It is humbling to see so many young people eager to learn about the word of the Lord. With this growth, comes growing pains. Volunteers run this program, and there never seem to be enough to go around. One of the pieces of Salt and Light is the dinner hour. Each Wednesday the dedicated members of our congregation prepare a fresh meal for about 100 people. The meal is eaten family style, with the different age groups at different tables. Each table needs a set of table parents. Table parents are loving and caring adults that help children learn how to eat in a family setting. They are also mentors to these children. There is nothing more rewarding than having a child that you share a meal with during Salt and Light recognize you when you are at the grocery store. If you have been searching for new ways to outreach and do the Lords work, why not stop by on Wednesday nights. It may be just what you have been praying about.