

The Good News

An Open Letter to the Youth

Now the word of the LORD came to me saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth." But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a youth'; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you, Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD." Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me, "Now I have put my words in your mouth." (Jeremiah 1:4-9)

Last week something most remarkable and unexpected happened to me. During the course I was taking, we were split up into small discussion groups, and there was an older woman in my group who looked vaguely familiar. Turns out that we had been in youth group together and had lost contact more than thirty-five years ago when her family moved during her sophomore year of high school.

She went directly to seminary after college and has served as a pastor ever since graduation. Neither of us had expected or wanted to become pastors back in high school, and so it was amazing to compare notes and the memories we shared of the experiences that led each of us to feel called into ministry. As we talked, one of the more influential experiences and events was our participation in youth Sundays as teenagers, more years ago than I care to admit.

Back in the present, I thank our youth for blessing our congregation last Sunday through their outstanding worship leadership, and I hope it was an enriching and formative experience for each of you. Who knows where it might lead!

I particularly enjoyed seeing pictures from your mission trips shown on a big screen before worship, and it was great hearing about your experiences. You encouraged us by describing the connection between fundraising for youth events and your spiritual growth and development. Thank you for telling us about those crosses next the Communion Table and who made them. It was inspiring to hear Emily tell our youngest children about how those crosses connected to your mission trip learning and experience, and I know those young children will be looking forward to when they are old enough to be a part of the youth group.

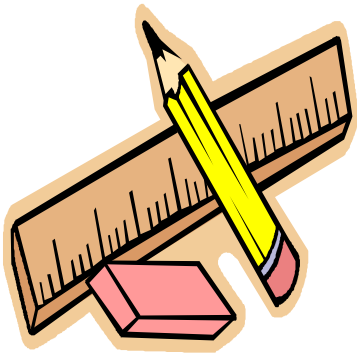
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Your leadership throughout the worship service was a wonderful gift to our congregation which you handled exceptionally well. We who first knew you as younger children were amazed and delighted to see how you are growing up and how God is present and working in your lives. Listening to Sam and Zach describe the theme of your mission trips and how that applies into your own lives was very fine preaching --- an experience I won't soon forget. Thank you for the gift of your selves and your ministry to this church, for each of you are a blessing, and a sign of God's goodness and grace.

"Do not say, 'I am only a youth'; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you."

Rev. Norm Story



Gospel Rescue Mission School Supplies Needed

The Gospel Rescue Mission is in need of school supplies for the start of the new school year. The following is the list of items that they are in the most need of. There will be a boxes at the doors to the sanctuary for all donations. Thank you for your continued support of the Gospel Rescue Mission and all of the needed service they provide for the community!

Supplies will be collected now through August 9th.

crayons - 24 count

glue -stick or bottle

colored pencils - 12 count

markers - 12 count

pencil boxes

pens - blue/black

filler paper - college/wide

spiral notebooks - college/wide

rulers

child size scissors

A Word From Travis...

As many of you know I have had a busy year! Not only did I get married to Veronica, but I graduated from NMSU. Since graduating, Veronica has diligently been searching for a teaching position here in Las Cruces. Unfortunately, Veronica has not been able to find a job in Las Cruces. She has however, found a position working for the Bernalillo public schools just north of Albuquerque. After much praying, talking and deliberating. Veronica and I have decided that it would be in our best interest to accept the position in Bernalillo, and move to Albuquerque.

The decision to move to Albuquerque was a difficult one, as I thoroughly enjoy the work that I do here at the church. The young people that I work with are amazing and it will be extremely hard leaving them.

However, I am hoping and praying that my relationships with the youth, their families, and the congregation as a whole, will not be severed. At the bottom of this letter, I am including my cell phone and email address.

I know it is going to be hard for some of the students, however I want to ***encourage*** all of them to continue to attend youth functions here at First Presbyterian Church. There will still be service projects, outings, mission trips, and yes, Salt and Light! The staff and the church members will be there for the youth as always. My wish for the youth is that they will continue their walk with Christ, and that they will be faithful to the church.

Norm has always supported the youth and their families and is willing to speak with anyone, parent or youth, at anytime.

I would like to encourage the parents to step forward and volunteer, so that the transition will go smoothly for your youth. Sunday school, outings, service projects, and Salt and Light, are all areas where you can be of help. Please contact Tracy.

Please stay in touch and thank you for your support, and for your wonderful kids!

Travis

Cell: 575-571-7380

E-Mail: travismb@zianet.com



Opportunity to help...

A group from St. Andrew's Church in Albuquerque will be coming to Mesquite NM to look at the feasibility of a water project. They will be in town on Friday August 15th. The group consists of 3 men and 1 women. They will be in need of housing for the one night. If you are interested in opening up your home to these amazing individuals, please contact Tracy 526-5559.

Choir Party...

All Choir members: the Choir party will be at the home of Paul and Sara Vaughan on Sunday August 24th at 6 pm.

Please call Paul or Sara to RSVP.



Coming in September...

You and Prayer

Are you ready for the challenge?

REVEREND FUN WWW.REVERENDFUN.COM



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I'M NOT SURE THESE ARE GETTING THROUGH, AS IT IS CLOUDY AND I DIDN'T WIN THE LOTTERY YESTERDAY, BUT HERE GOES



Rain or Shine!



Youth Event

Drive-In Movie

**Saturday August 9th
6:30pm**

Rain or shine we will be watching a movie, playing games, and eating good food! Please join us on Saturday and bring a friend!!!





Youth Happenings...

August 9th- 6:30pm Drive-In Movie and BBQ

August 23-24 High School Camping Trip more info to follow!

The High School Group (Focal Point) will meet on Sunday August 17th 6:00-8:00 at the Geiger's house.

The Mid school Group (Riptide) will not meet in August!

Check your mail for your updated calendars!

Video Sunday School Class...

August 10th-August 31st

The 9:00 am Adult Sunday School Video class is viewing archeological Bible sites in present day Turkey.

There are 5 lessons in this set. We start on August 10th and finish on August 31st.

Don't miss it. You will be drawn closer to God and His word.

Led by Blaine Goss



Salt and Light!
September 10th
4:00pm-7:00pm
Ages 4yrs-High School

It is finally here! The salt and Light Wednesday after school ministry will begin on September 10th. Registration forms are available in the church office, and will also be available at each door in the Sanctuary.

The fee to cover food costs is \$35 for the first child, and \$70 for an entire family! Scholarships are available.

We are looking forward to a year full of fun and learning!

Questions? Please call Tracy at 526-5559

*We will also have registration forms available at the Spaghetti Dinner on August 17th



Upcoming Events....

August 17th-Promotion Bibles 3rd and 6th graders

**August 17th– Spaghetti Dinner to benefit Salt and Light
After Worship**

August 23-24th– High School Camping Trip

