



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, LAS CRUCES

JULY 9, 2009

GOOD NEWS!

View From the Pew
by Ann M. Velia

All Shook Up

And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. - Romans 13:11-12, New International Version

The present time is a time of comprehensive upheaval. All our foundations are being shaken. Nearly every day brings a new and unwelcome surprise to emphasize the uncertainty of riches, the frailty of reputation, the fickleness of human love, gaping holes in our defense systems, persistent and harsh attacks on life as we used to know it.

The above scripture calls us to shake off our slumber, to be alert – not with the aim of protecting ourselves, but of purifying ourselves.

Our Sovereign God is perhaps expressing His displeasure with the worldly deeds of darkness – greed, immorality, rebellion – that excite our indignation as well. But are we liable for some darkness of our own? Unbelief, prayerlessness, evil speaking against those with whom we differ, misuse of time and treasure?

Have we become comfortable with personal habits that spoil our example as “children of light?” Do we dwell on information that feeds our fears rather than our faith? Are we oblivious to the distractions that keep us in a state of doublemindedness and disqualification from God's blessing?

Would tending to our personal disciplines – prayer, renewing our minds, decisively living to the glory of God – make any difference in this shuddering world?

Replying to Solomon's prayer, God said (2 Chronicles 7:13-14), “When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, if **my people**, who are called by my name, will **humble themselves** and **pray** and **seek my face** and **turn from their wicked ways**, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”

God invites us to start the healing!



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Remembrances of Alice Cooper

My first impressions of Alice Cooper were “WOW”, she must be a very important person in the First Presbyterian Church. She was everywhere; greeting people on Sunday mornings, working on the Bulletin, and getting the Lantern out every month.

I started volunteering at the church office to help out Linda by collating, stapling, folding, and sealing the monthly issues of the Lantern so that we could arrange them by ZIP code and mail them to all church members. Alice seemed to be the person in charge and we would all sit around the table putting the Lantern together as we talked about our families and our own interests.

Alice loved to help people. She demonstrated the classic characteristics of the Presbyterian Church “Servant People” ethic because she helped at the Soup Kitchen, she helped Linda in the office, and she loved being a Deacon. She loved to enter her home-made jellies and canned tomatoes in the annual Southwest NM State Fair in September and she loved to take care of Larry and her dogs.

She was a friendly and caring person who liked to be around people. She especially liked taking care of husband Larry, making sure that he was alright. We became a little closer when we were talking about our husbands and much to each other’s surprise we learned that both of our husbands had grown up in the small town of Kerhonkson, NY, a wide spot in the road in the Catskill mountains about 100 miles north of New York City. The idea that they left that area and met at the First Presbyterian Church in Las Cruces just reinforced our belief that indeed, God works in many ways. Alice will be missed by all of us.

Bea Connor

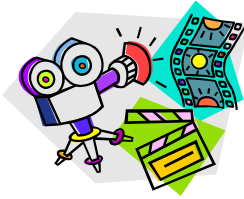
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Movie Night is Here Again!
Sunday, July 12th
"Bedtime Stories"



This is a fun, family movie starring Keri Russell and Adam Sandler as a hotel janitor whose bedtime stories, told to children, begin to come to life. So bring the kids and bring the neighbors too! We'll have a great time starting at 5:30 in the Cinema Room. FREE Popcorn provided.

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Church Chuckles



The Sunday School teacher was describing that when Lot's wife looked back at Sodom she turned into a pillar of salt, when Bobby interrupted. "My mommy looked back once while she was driving," he announced, "and she turned into a telephone pole."

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Just for Kids



Hey kids...we've got something special in mind for you on Sunday, August 16th. Get together with some of your friends and all bring your backpacks to the morning worship service. We'll have a special surprise for you. Tell Mom to write a note so you don't forget. And be sure to bring your friends.