



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, LAS CRUCES

JULY 23, 2009

## ***GOOD NEWS!***

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### **View From the Pew**

by Ann M. Velia

#### ***Shake a Leg***

*Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.* - Colossians 4:5-6, New International Version

A couple of years ago, a good friend gave me a page-a-day calendar featuring writings by Rick Warren, author of *The Purpose-Driven Life*. One quotation has even more relevance now than it did two years ago: “Read and watch the news with ‘Great Commission eyes.’ Wherever there is change or conflict, you can be sure that God will use it to bring people to him. People are most receptive to God when they are under tension or in transition. Because the rate of change is increasing in our world, more people are open to hearing the Good News now than ever before.”

The time is ripe to share the reality of our faith in God with outsiders – strangers who visit our church in search of hope, an acquaintance who has lost his job, friends who used to scoff at our beliefs, but are growing strangely quiet in their resistance.

How can we make the most of this “opportunity of troubled times” to reach our community for Christ?

1. Let our light shine confidently by giving the Prince of Peace full charge of our hearts
  2. Clarify the reasons we have faith in God – for example, forgiven sin, answered prayers, understanding our purpose in His plans – and keep that information on the tips of our tongues.
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3. Speak words of encouragement and help bear another's burdens by performing acts of kindness
4. Ask "How may I pray for you?" then intercede diligently for their requests
5. Boldly invite outsiders to experience our community worship and fellowship events.

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### **The Discipleship Project is here!**

The Discipleship Project is a new and exciting way for adults to grow spiritually! The Discipleship Project is an adult only ministry. Each adult is encouraged to participate and work toward reaching the goal of earning five credits per year. The goal for our entire congregation is 500 credits in one year's time. Credits are earned by choosing a card from the Discipleship Project board and then completing the chosen activity on the card.

Completed cards are signed by the participant and then turned in to the designated box on the Discipleship Project table found in the library. Credits are kept track of both individually and congregationally on the Discipleship Project board located in Jones Hall. For more information please visit the Discipleship Project board and talk to any member of the Christian Education Ministry Team.



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### **Youth Service Project**

This Saturday the 25<sup>th</sup> of July the youth will be helping the Gospel Rescue mission by helping to sort donated cloths. These cloths are then used to either help cloth the people at the mission, sell at their store to help the mission, and sometimes even sent to other countries to help those less fortunate. We will be meeting at 10:30 at the church and will return around 2pm. Please keep us in your prayers as we try to help the Gospel Rescue Mission in their efforts to help those in our community.

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***Congratulations!!***

***Congratulations to the Temple brothers, Parker and Kyle, who participated in the state swim meet here in Las Cruces this past weekend (July 17-19). Both boys cut an amazing amount of time in every event they swam. Kyle set a new state record in the 200 Fly on Sunday. By swimming so well, the boys have qualified for the Zones meet which will take place in Honolulu, Hawaii! They are scheduled to leave on Aug. 3rd. If you see them, please congratulate them and wish them luck in Hawaii!***

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### World's Oldest Bible

The surviving pages of the world's oldest Christian Bible have been reunited online. The early work, known as the Codex Sinaiticus ("the book from Sinai"), has been housed in four separate locations around the world for more than 150 years. As of last week, it is now available for anyone to peruse at the Web site [www.codexsinaiticus.org](http://www.codexsinaiticus.org), allowing scholars and other readers to get a closer look at this unique treasure. The only other Bible that rivals Codex Sinaiticus in age is Codex Vaticanus, which was written around the same time, but lacks parts of the New Testament. Codex Sinaiticus is the oldest book that contains a complete New Testament and is only missing parts of the Old Testament and the Aprocrypha. [ABC News]

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### Stump the Pastor



Do you have a question about the Bible? How about The Book of Order of the Presbyterian Church, or maybe something about our confessions of faith. Call the Church Office at 526-5559 or email Pastor Norm at [revstory@comcast.net](mailto:revstory@comcast.net) with your question and see if you can stump the pastor. We'll select some of the more enlightening ones for publication in the Good News.



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### Help for the Kids of La Casita



La Casita needs soccer balls & equipment, basketballs, footballs, possibly a badminton game, volleyball game, old girl scout supplies and uniforms, and cub scout supplies and old uniforms for the kids they support. Drop off whatever you might have at the church between July 27th and August 3rd. Or, if you prefer to have it picked up from your home, contact Lloyd Kirschenmann at 524-2312 to make those arrangements. Your small gift can make a child very happy.