



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, LAS CRUCES

JULY 30, 2009

GOOD NEWS!



Good News! September 9th Is the Big Day!



Our Salt & Light Company ministry will begin for this school year on that day. By then, the teens and children will be settled into their fall schedules, Labor Day will be past, and we'll all be ready and waiting for Wednesdays to again become the most special day of the week.

There will be lots of fun and fellowship, as well as good food, and sound Bible learning at Salt & Light. We will play, worship, have dinner, and learn together. Soon, families will have the opportunity to register their young people, and adults will be given the opportunity to be a part of Salt & Light as volunteers.

Who can you bring with you? How will you serve through our Wednesday after-school program of fun, fellowship, and Christian Education? Salt & Light is for everyone!



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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.



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View from the Pew

By Ann M. Velia

Shake some (cosmopolitan) sense into us

Have I not wept for those in trouble? Has not my soul grieved for the poor? — Job 30:25, New International Version.

Our best-known scripture, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life” suffers the fate of the overfamiliar. We let its meaning devolve into something more akin to our experience – “For God so loved the United States, for example. Or, “For God so loved Christians, particularly Protestants, and especially mainline denominations.”

When most of the company we keep is English-speaking, law-abiding, gainfully-employed, and (as best we can tell) in their right minds, it is hard to remember that God loves people we have no reason at all to love – people we don’t even know. People who have made bad choices, had limited opportunities, happen to be other than English-speaking mainline Protestants, or reside some place other than the United States.

We gloss over that fact that He had to send Jesus to satisfy His justice over our sins: our indifference to the needs of “the different,” our reluctance to share our bountiful resources (even before they began to dwindle), our vocal sins of complaint, gossip, and evil-speaking against one another – sins that are as unacceptable to our Holy God as the scarlet crimes that offend civil law.

Trouble is an equal-opportunity affliction throughout the world. Even if our worst-case dreads come upon our country – inflation, drought, famine, epidemic, war on our soil – we will still be better off than much of the current and historical population of the world God loves. Trouble is our call to greater gratitude for the blessings that remain, steadfast contentment and trust in our God regardless of circumstances, and deeper compassion for those who have never been as favored as we are.

Let’s enlarge our concern for missions, our willingness to share the basic needs of life, and our fervency of prayer for those who don’t yet know the God who loves them as much as He loves us.



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Blessing of the Backpacks

Kids...be sure to bring your backpacks to church on Sunday, August 16, for a special blessing and some nice surprises. This would be an especially good Sunday to bring a friend to church too. Get ready for back to school and have a great time.

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Church Chuckles



One Sunday in a Midwest City, a young child was "acting up" during the morning worship hour. The parents did their best to maintain some sense of order in the pew but were losing the battle. Finally, the father picked the little fellow up and walked sternly up the aisle on his way out. Just before reaching the safety of the foyer, the little one called loudly to the congregation, "Pray for me! Pray for me!"

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FPC Website

Have you ever checked out our Church's website? It's not just for visitors you know. Did you know there are over 1000 pages available there? Not only is it a resource for people interested in our church, it is a great source of information for the congregation as well. So check it out at www.zianet.com/fpc. You might be surprised at what you can find.