

# *The Good News!*

August 6, 2009

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## WATER DAY!

Please join us for a day of FUN & GAMES.

We will have a lesson on "Jonah and the Whale", have snacks & play water games.

Please wear your swimsuit under your clothes if you want and don't forget to bring a TOWEL.

Questions? Call Courtney at 644-4220 or the church office at 526-5559.

Where: First Presbyterian Church

When: August 7<sup>th</sup>.....8:30 AM - 12:00 Noon

Who: Ages 1 - 6 years.



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## **Saturday Night Life**

*Saturday Night Life* will start this month August 15, and will be a new exciting time of worship that is nothing like Sunday Morning. So drop your bulletin and come worship with us on Saturday night @ 6pm in Watkins Hall. Come on out and try a different way of worshipping, get to know some brothers and sisters better and find God in a fellowship hall.

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## ***Joan Swanson Installation***

*The Presbytery of Sierra Blanca cordially invites you to the installation of Rev. Joan L. Swanson at Good Samaritan Society, Las Cruces Village, Sunday, August 16, at 3 PM. The service will be held in Stucky Auditorium at 3011 Buena Vida Circle. The installation will be followed by a reception.*

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## **View From the Pew**

by Ann M. Velia

### **Not This, But That**

*"When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.' When it arrives, it finds the house unoccupied, swept clean and put in order. Then it goes and takes with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that man is worse than the first. That is how it will be with this wicked generation." Matthew 12:43-45*

Jesus' parable intimates that merely stopping a bad habit is an incomplete solution. Practical St. Paul advises replacement therapy, which leaves no room for worse habits to settle back in.

For example: in Ephesians 4:28, he directs, "He who has been stealing must steal no longer, **but must work**, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need." The person who used to take from others should begin providing for the needy through his work. (A better solution than, as in some cultures, cutting off the thief's hands.)

Our mothers told us, "Don't say anything if you can't say something nice" -- which didn't change our thoughts. Paul has more constructive advice in Ephesians 4:29: "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, **but only** what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen." Don't merely bite down on a negative or critical or profane comment, but exercise the life-giving power of the tongue by becoming an encourager and a source of godly counsel.

He addresses our most popular sin -- worry -- in Philippians 4:6-7: "Do not be anxious about anything, **but in everything**, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

When we firmly cast our cares on Him through grateful prayer, He will be the Spirit who makes Himself at home in our hearts.

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## **Salt & Light Starting Again Soon!**



## **Good News! September 9<sup>th</sup> 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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## **In Betweeners to Meet Aug 28**

We'll meet at the Felhauer home to review the movie "In Place Out of Time" and enjoy some good fellowship (and popcorn). This short film is the inspiring story of a New Mexico retiree who takes on a personal challenge to photograph every petroglyph and pictograph in New Mexico in order to save them for posterity. Watch your email for more details.

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## **YOUTH GROUP TO MEET**

Youth group is every Wednesday at 6pm here at the church where we have food, fun, and a time to examine who God is and what God is like.

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## **Everybody Into the Pool!**



Are you going into high school? Are you still going to be in High school? If so, we are having a pool party at Mark's house to welcome our new members to the High school group.

Please bring a 2 liter or chips, or some other side dish and Mark will provide the pool and the hamburgers. If you have any questions, please check with Mark at [fpcmark@zianet.com](mailto:fpcmark@zianet.com) or 526-5559.