



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, LAS CRUCES

JANUARY 21, 2010

GOOD NEWS!

Please Help at Salt & Light!
Your Assistance will be appreciated!
The Children Need You!

2:45pm-3:45pm Homework & Movie Time

There was a Huge Turnout of Children
(Pre-K to Elementary)
at the first Salt & Light!

We are looking for people to come
help us with the children weekly.

**Please call Michelle, or Linda, at the church office
526-5559, As Soon As Possible, if you can help!**

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Church Chuckles

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Thanks to Josiah Gilman

05-02-2007

LEPERS ... I HEAL LEPERS





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GOOD NEWS!

**First Presbyterian Church
presents a
Concert Series Inaugural Event**

A Hymn Festival

led by Michael Burkhardt

**Sunday, February 14th, 4 PM
In our Sanctuary**

**Featuring
Dona Ana Youth Choir
NMSU University Singers and Instrumentalists
Community Festival Choir**

Dr. Michael Burkhardt is an internationally renowned organist, composer and choral clinician, especially admired for his creative hymn improvisations and his work with children.

**Additional sponsors:
NMSU Music Department
Las Cruces Chapter of the American Guild of Organists**

Suggested donation \$5.00

For more information call 575-523-6751

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In Betweenners to Meet

January 22nd, 7:00 PM in Watkins Hall, Alex Burr will present a photo tour of the churches of Norway. Please bring a snack to share.



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GOOD NEWS!

View from the Pew

by Ann M. Velia

What about Haiti?

Now on the same occasion there were some present who reported to Him about the Galileans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And He answered and said to them, "Do you suppose that these Galileans were greater sinners than all other Galileans, because they suffered this fate? I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. Or do you suppose that those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, were worse culprits than all the men who live in Jerusalem? I tell you, no, but, unless you repent, you will all likewise perish." - Luke 13:4, New American Standard Bible.

Even with 24/7 television coverage, it is hard to fully grasp the devastation to our Haitian neighbors: loss of life, limbs, family, material goods -- loss of hope.

The human mind often looks first for explanation. "They built heavy structures for hurricanes, not for earthquakes. Their protection became their downfall."

"Corrupt leadership and bad workmanship."

"They practice voodoo."

Explanations take the edge off our compassion.

So do voluntary sacrifices that make us feel righteous: we have done our part with a quick and generous contribution.

But as we tire of the nonstop reports, we begin to speculate about involuntary sacrifices: will our own safety and provision be diminished when we divert resources to help Haiti? Will refugees intrude on our elbow room, lengthen our wait for services, burden our social institutions?

The Lord Jesus Christ said in Matthew 9:13, *"But go and learn what this means, 'I desire compassion, and not sacrifice, for I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.'"*

What about Haiti. Are we "learning compassion" from what we see and hear and know -- or are our hearts hardening?

Perhaps sacrifices the Lord would value are fervent, ongoing prayers:

- for God's eternal mercy on the Haitian people and His multiplication of our practical gifts
 - in gratitude to Him that we have goods to share
 - and in repentance for our own sins and our sinful land.
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GOOD NEWS!

High School and Mid School Youth Ministry Needs Your Help!

We are looking for at least 1 person who would like to give their time on a regular basis to take part in our **High School** Youth Ministry activities, run by Mark Hellman. This wonderful group of kids meets Wednesday nights directly after Salt & Light, has fundraisers, and gathers often to donate their time to help our community and church family. We would like one or more people who are flexible to join in leading these young people in their activities, and have a lot of fun in the process!

We are also looking for a Sponsor Couple, or 2 Adults, to be active in the **Middle School** Youth Group with Mark Hellman, and go on trips with them. This is a wonderful group of kids who are a joy to spend time with and to create lifelong relationships that will help them in this difficult time in their lives. The group also has monthly activities that include, but are not limited to, spending the night at church before Easter to put on the Sunrise Service, a 30 Hour Famine Lock-In, service projects and fundraisers.

Please contact Mark Hellman or Michelle Osborne at 526-5559

Or fpcmark@zianet.com or fpcmichelleo@agavue.com

as soon as possible, since January through April is the youth groups' busiest and most active time of the year!

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Want to see more pictures of FPC activities? Check out our Facebook page at:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Las-Cruces-NM/First-Presbyterian-Church-Las-Cruces-NM/273381375466?ref=ts>
