

First Presbyterian Church

200 E. Boutz Road - Las Cruces, NM 88005

575-526-5559 Fax: 575-647-5910

Website: www.firstpreslc.org - Office e-mail: fpclinda@zianet.com

Rev. Norm Story e-mail: revstory@comcast.net

Facebook: Look up First Presbyterian Church of Las Cruces

Youth Website: www.fpcyouthlc.org

Music Website: <http://www.musicatfirstpresbyterian.org/>.

Faith & Fellowship Website: <https://sites.google.com/site/praiseatfpc/>

Annual Report For 2014

There is no
Holy One like
the LORD,
there is no
ROCK
like our God.



1 Samuel 2:2

Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Norm Story, Pastor

Rev. Carrol Blevins Minister of Pastoral Care (Deceased)

Rev. Dr. Wayne Hawkins, Parish Associate/Hispanic Ministries

Dr. Janet Loman, Commissioned Ruling Elder

Rev. John Himes, Parish Associate

Greg and Kelly Temple, Youth Sponsors

Michelle Osborne, Salt & Light

David Klement, Choir & Bell Choir Director

Beth Borchert-Thomas, Youth Choir Director

Dr. Howard Smolleck, Organist

Linda V. Ramirez, Office Secretary

Vanessa Medina, Bookkeeper

Mike McClanahan, Custodian

Judi Ferguson, Nursery Attendant

Samantha Armendariz, Nursery Attendant

Index of Reports

Pastor.....	3
Session / Clerk of Session.....	5
Board of Deacons.....	6
Ministry Teams:	
Administration	8
Building and Grounds	9
Christian Education	10
Youth Sponsor Report.....	11
Congregational Life/Outreach.....	12
College/Youth Adult Ministry.....	13
Missions.....	14
Music and Worship.	15
Faith & Fellowship.....	16
Nominating.....	17
Organizations:	
Fellowship Group (In-Betweeners).....	18
Salt & Light & Vacation Bible School	19
New Members	21
Necrology Report.....	23
Financial Statements.....	24

ANNUAL REPORT – PASTOR’S LETTER 2014

This has been a most remarkable year in the life and direction of this church. One of the most significant and difficult events came in September when our Parish Associate of Visitation, Rev. Carrol Blevins was found at home having died in her sleep. This was a sudden, unexpected and tragic loss, for we have known and loved Carrol for many years. Rev. Blevins had been a faithful and active supporter for more than a decade and her death left a huge gap in our lives and in the caring ministry of this church.

A few weeks after Rev. Blevins’ death, Rev. John Himes, a retired Lutheran pastor and friend of this congregation offered his help. He agreed to assist in leading worship and to help officiate at the Lord’s Table on Communion Sundays. With the Session’s grateful and enthusiastic approval I also asked Rev. Himes to help coordinate and oversee our hospital and homebound visitation. Rev. Himes has done an amazing job at organizing our visitation to be more consistent. Under his faithful leadership, we have been able to visit and serve Communion to shut-ins on a more regular and frequent schedule. He is truly a God-send, faithful colleague and trusted friend. I knew and admired John and his wife Anita back when I served a new church development in North Carolina, and greatly appreciate the goodness of God in calling him to serve as a Parish Associate at this church.

Back in January, twenty youth joined our church from a communicants’ class that Rev. Hawkins and I taught together. This was the first time our two congregations shared a communicants’ class. This was also the first time that anyone from the Hispanic congregation had officially joined First Presbyterian Church. Ten of the youth who became members were from the Iglesia del Pueblo congregation and ten were from our youth who had grown up in this congregation. When the Session met to receive them into membership, we knew it was the beginning of something unusual, significant and new. At that meeting we recognized and discussed how God was at work in ways beyond our understanding, and that something unique was developing at First Presbyterian Church. It was a wonderful and exciting worship service when we celebrated and welcomed these newest members into our church family.

Also in September, a few weeks after Rev. Blevins’ death, Rev. Wayne Hawkins and his wife Olga announced that family needs made it necessary for them to move to California in just a few weeks. Rev. Hawkins had faithfully served as a Parish Associate of Hispanic Ministries at our church since 2008. He was officially called and hired by the Presbytery of Sierra Blanca a year or so earlier to start and to organize a new Hispanic church in Las Cruces that eventually “nested” in our church facilities. His departure meant that there was no one to lead and serve the Hispanic congregation, Iglesia del Pueblo. Neither the Presbytery nor our church can afford to hire a pastor who speaks Spanish well enough to lead and serve that congregation, so we discussed other possibilities and options.

When Rev. Hawkins and I met with La Iglesia del Pueblo congregation to announce his departure, they were emphatic that they wanted to continue as a congregation. I agreed to help and support them as best I could within the limitation that I don’t speak or understand Spanish. When Wayne met with our Session to explain his departure and talk about the future, he said that the Hispanic congregation wanted to join and be a part of First Presbyterian Church in Las Cruces. The Session unanimously agreed to accept the responsibility of providing for leadership and spiritual support for them as outlined in the Book of Order. We have been on a most amazing journey and adventure together ever since. Two adults and one youth from La Iglesia del Pueblo congregation were also called to serve on the Board of Deacons.

By their choice, La Iglesia del Pueblo congregation worships with First Presbyterian Church, (iglesia grande, as they put it), on the first Sunday each month as we celebrate the sacrament of Communion together. We also worship together one or two other Sundays each month. We have incorporated Spanish into our Sunday bulletin, the Scripture lesson is read in both English and Spanish, and a Spanish translation of my sermon is made available to help facilitate more meaningful bilingual worship.

On the other Sundays, La Iglesia del Pueblo congregation worships separately on Sunday afternoon. On those Sundays, Pastor Rosendo Sichler and his family come up from Juarez and the Presbyterian Church of Mexico to preach in Spanish. Some members of the Spanish-speaking congregation have suggested recently that their worship bulletin should start to include an English translation to welcome and facilitate members of the English-speaking congregation to share in their worship. These are indeed remarkable and exciting times at First Presbyterian Church!

A year ago, all these many changes would have seemed inconceivable. This year has been a wild ride of exciting new things and adjusting to changing circumstances. Our evolving and developing relationships at First Presbyterian Church and La Iglesia del Pueblo are just one part of all the many things going on in the life of our congregation. As you read through the rest of this Annual Report, you will see how active each of our committees, organizations and programs have been this past year. It is amazing and encouraging to reflect on the work and effectiveness of our volunteers striving to make a difference for the glory of the Lord. I believe God is up to some marvelous and incredible things in the life and mission of First Presbyterian Church.

Our task is to let the Holy Spirit fill our sails, strive to be faithful, and trust the Lord's wisdom, power and purpose. As God promised and instructed Joshua when the people were about to enter the Promised Land, "Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9) My friends, surely the best is still yet to come!

In Christ,
Rev. Norm

SESSION

A.	MEMBERSHIP January 1, 2014	346
	ADDITIONS:	
	Received on Profession/Affirmation of Faith	23
	Received by Church Letter	3
	Received by Reaffirmation of Faith	31
	Restored to Active Roll	0
	REMOVALS:	
	Transferred by Letter	0
	Removed due to Death	2
	Removed by request	4
	Removed	31
	MEMBERSHIP DECEMBER 31, 2014	366
B.	BAPTISMS: Adult	0
	Infants/Children	2
C.	WEDDINGS:	1
D.	MEETINGS:	
	Congregational:	
	Called Congregational	4
	Annual Congregational	1
	Stated Session	11
	Membership Commission	7

E. SESSION MEMBERS

<u>Class of 2014</u>	<u>Class of 2015</u>	<u>Class of 2016</u>	<u>Class of 2017</u>
Lon Anderson	Lyn Ames	Blaine Goss	Susan Carlson
Corina Armendariz	Brad Class	Susan Grandle	Blaine Goss
Jacqui Jones	Stephen Taylor	Nancy T. Johnson	Danielle Gurnea
Winnie Quinzi	Dennis Thomas	Bill Kuyper	Kat Marlow
Roger Sellers			Winnie Quinzi
Greg Sherman			

F. COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES (2014)

<u>Clerk of Session</u>	Carl Connor
<u>Administration</u>	Winnie Quinzi©, Lyn Ames, Nancy T. Johnson
<u>Building & Grounds</u>	Dennis Thomas©, Roger Sellers
<u>Christian Education</u>	Corina Armendariz©, Susan Grandle
<u>Cong. Life/Outreach</u>	Lon Anderson©, Stephen Taylor
<u>Missions</u>	Jacqui Jones©, Blaine Goss
<u>Music & Worship</u>	Greg Sherman©, Brad Class, Bill Kuyper

BOARD OF DEACONS

<u>Class of 2014</u>	<u>Class of 2015</u>	<u>Class of 2016</u>
Eddie Armendarez	Nancy Cowan	Ernie Armendarez (youth – 1 yr.)
Mike Bartholomew	Carol Goss	Scott Burns
Don Behnke	Bill Marlowe	Bea Connor
Bill Haynes	Dutch Matkin	Pat Felhauer
Jacque Parks	Anna Suggs	Brian Otto
Cindy Tafoya	Collette Waltz	Barbara Sauter

The Board of Deacons serves as the outreach arm of the congregation and it serves both the congregation and the community by:

Ushering - Greeting worshipers, handing out bulletins and collecting the offering.

Providing Transportation - Providing transportation to services for congregants without their own transportation, including those in wheelchairs.

Providing Transient Meals - Providing sack lunches to transients.

Providing Emergency Assistance - Providing financial assistance to church and community families in need.

Visitation - Visiting our home bound and hospitalized members.

Soup Kitchen-Providing workers for the local soup kitchen.

Special Events - Coordinating events such as the Deacon's Hamburger Fry, Christmas Food Baskets, Sox and Undies and Bedding Ministry.

Details of the years activities can be found in the monthly meeting minutes and are a mirror of previous years activities as out lined in the Deacon's Handbook. This report highlights the differences, improvements, modifications and alterations from previous years. They include:

Up-dating the Deacons' Handbook: more streamlined, compact and easier to use.

Adopted an Emergency Assistance Request Form: that simplifies the approval process and provides a written record.

Increase in the activity for the Mobile Food Bank: 72,000 lbs at .04/lb, 101 families, largest in Las Cruces.

More participation and greater contributions to the Hamburger Fry: this is the greatest form of revenue for the Deacons.

Increased number of Christmas Baskets: we distributed boxes of food valued at \$70.00 ea to 35 needy families for the holidays.

Bedding Ministry: distributed hundreds of pounds of donated bedding to needy families, mostly through schools.

Five bus drivers: transport up to twelve congregants for services including four in wheel chairs.

The Deacons have no budget but finance their activities from your generous contributions. As noted above the greatest source of revenue is the Deacons' Hamburger Fry which you supported

most generously. The congregation has given many other generous contributions that has made the Deacons ministry possible. Thank you for supporting the Deacons.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Haynes

Ministry Team: ADMINISTRATION

A major responsibility of the Administration Committee is to monitor the financial activities of the Church. At the start of the year, the bookkeeping/financial program was in chaos. Our bookkeeper for the past few years had left in late fall and two replacements had not worked out. In January we were fortunate to hire Vanessa Medina as our bookkeeper; she is highly organized, with very good bookkeeping skills, and she was able to help right the ship. We cleaned up the computer, installed new up-to-date software, and revised our accounting procedures and payroll schedule. This improved the accuracy and timeliness of the financial reports given to the Session and the committees.

Another responsibility of the Administration Committee is the stewardship campaign. This year in addition to the stewardship letter that was mailed to all members and friends of the Church, three “Minutes for Mission” were given during Sunday Worship. The results of the campaign were a bit disappointing as we received a few less pledges and a little lower financial commitments than for 2014.

For the year, our income exceeded our expenses, because we had reduced the budgets of all committees except Building and Grounds, and we did not fill the Christian Education Coordinator and Youth Specialist positions. One of our goals for the future should be to work on increased giving so we can again have a full staff.

Administration Team

Lynford Ames, Winnie Quinzi, Nancy T. Johnson, Bill Marlowe, and Barbara Sauter

Ministry Team: BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Building and Grounds had a very busy year maintaining our beautiful but aging property. We organized two all-church workdays both fall and spring which were extremely successful with our ministry team leading many wonderful volunteers from our congregation.

The following is a list of completed projects:

1. Tile replaced in Reeves Hall
2. Dish washer in kitchen has been repaired and now meets state code.
3. Two of the three heat pumps in the sanctuary have been repaired.
4. Painted the playground fence
5. Replaced some concrete around the grounds
6. Hired a fulltime evening janitorial service
7. Hired a part time light maintenance and facility assistant

The following is a list of ongoing projects:

1. The church water well needs to be relocated and drilled
2. Possible replacement of the water well's motor
3. Working with the sanctuary lighting committee
4. Third sanctuary heat pump repair
5. Work with Singletree Landscaping weekly
6. **A never ending list of repairs**

I would like to recognize and thank the ministry team members who have given tremendous time and energy to improve our church property: Roger Sellers, Bill Haynes, Ed Green, Bruce Pearson, Eddie Armendariz, and Steve Johnson. I would also like to thank the former Building and Ground's moderators who never seem to be able to fully leave this committee: Jerry Grandle and Janet Loman and of course Steve Loman who comes with Janet! Thanks to many members of the congregation who faithfully jump in and help when needed. And a special thank you to my beautiful wife who acts as my secretary!

Dennis Thomas, Slave
Better known as B&G Moderator

Ministry Team: CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Members: Corina Armendariz, Carol Goss, Nancy Cowan, Greg Temple, Ernie Armendariz, Anna Suggs, Susan Grandle

The Christian Education ministry of First Presbyterian Church has had many opportunities to grow in our walk with God and to see God's work being done at First Presbyterian this last year. The education ministry at First Presbyterian continues to succeed because the dedication of many volunteers.

Sunday school is offered every Sunday from 9:00-10:00 for students ages birth to adults. The birth-kinder program is led by Judi Ferguson and Natassja Galaz. The kinder program was led by Judith Ames, Carol Goss and Samantha Armendariz from January - May. From May – December all children have been in an elementary class due to no kinder kids. Mrs. Ames, Mrs. Goss and Samantha have been helping our volunteers for elementary. Our Elementary class was organized by Carol Goss and was taught by several volunteers. Bibles were presented to our 3rd and 6th graders so they can have God's Word in their own hands. The Mid-High and High School class was taught by Nancy Cowan and Scott Burns. The Church School programming ("second hour") was coordinated by Samantha Armendariz. Church school and nursery take place during Sunday worship service (10:30-11:30) for birth through elementary. We have started to encourage parents to have children stay with them on communion Sunday's so there is no video on these days.

Vacation Bible School is a wonderful ministry that First Presbyterian offers not only to our elementary children but also as an outreach mission into our community. It was a great success this past year, July 7-11. This was the first time we held it in the evening 5:30-8:15. We served dinner at 5:30 in a family style setting and we asked for a \$55 donation per family, however accepted anyone. Many volunteers, young and old, offered their gifts and talents for this week-long ministry. The theme was "Kingdom of the Son" and our older youth played a leadership role in ministering to the younger children. This ministry is supported by a variety of gifts and talents from many volunteers and orchestrated by the Christian Education team.

Salt & Light is in its 23rd year and continues to thrive. Drivers for rides, tutors for homework, helpers for snacks, teachers for games, bible study and music, and cooks for family-style meals volunteer on a typical Wednesday evening at First Presbyterian. This ministry is supported by the gifts and talents of many volunteers, brought together by Michelle Osborne, our Volunteer - Salt & Light Coordinator.

Greg and Kelly Temple lead our youth through teaching and service. The youth continue to fundraise in order to take part in mission trips. This year the youth went to San Antonio for their annual mission trip where they helped in a soup kitchen and homeless shelter. They also went on a fall retreat to Camp Bonita. The experiences and benefits are invaluable. Beyond this basic purpose, the youth and adult sponsors were touched in wonderful ways. Christian relationships were strengthened through growing closer to God and to each other. The youth continue to participate in FUZE activities throughout the year.

In Christ,
Corina Armendariz

YOUTH SPONSOR REPORT

We have been so blessed this year. It has been exciting to see God at work in the Youth Group. We have strived to create a loving environment where all the kids feel accepted, wanted, challenged and safe.

Besides the many happenings during Salt & Light, we have concentrated on the many aspects of relationships. Those relationships have been enhanced by various lessons and activities, including an Easter Sunrise service, summer Mission Trip to San Antonio with the theme of “Looking past the first story” (beyond our personal perceptions) gave the youth experiences and challenges that we are all part of one body. Volunteering at VBS, a fall retreat to Camp Bonita where we looked at the story of a person named Rocky (Peter) gave us more insight to what it means to be a disciple. We have also had many FUZE activities where we loaded up the vans and took the youth to destinations to grow in relationships with each other. Though our numbers have grown for both middle school and high school youth, our emphasis is for the youth to learn about and develop a desire to have a relationship with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

A massive thank you has to go out to all the volunteers that have helped us this year. These volunteers showed great commitment not because they were asked but because they wanted to help bring up and support our youth. The members and friends of First Presbyterian Church have also helped and supported the youth ministry by their generous financial gifts. The youth were able to do a summer mission trip to San Antonio and a fall retreat to Camp Bonita. By participating in these trips, youth were being actively engaged with food banks, soup kitchens, after school programs, building relationships with others, and God-lead activities. The mission trip opportunity for our youth is more than giving of their time and talents but one of receiving life changing awareness of the needs of others and the realization that we all are of one body.

Looking back over the past year, all we can do is praise God for all the blessings He has poured out on the youth, First Presbyterian Church and us. This coming year brings more Youth retreats with the activities and challenges to help the youth to seek a relationship with God. As youth sponsors, nothing gave us greater joy then to see young people move into a personal relationship with Jesus. We would just like to thank the church family as a whole. We would like to thank you for your prayers and your constant encouragement. We look forward to this coming year with prayer for the youth that they will have experiences to further their growth in relationships with each other and especially in their faith. With your support and the power of God, we will see great things happen in not only the Youth Group but the life of the church.

In Christ,
Greg & Kelly Temple

Ministry Team: CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & OUTREACH SUPPORT

These are the goals for the Congregational Life and Outreach Support Ministry Team:

1. Continue to enhance and improve communication
2. Foster small groups
3. Encourage other ministry teams to embrace “outreach” as a core mission

The first part of our team’s name is “Congregational Life”, and in a nutshell that means we want to create opportunities to build relationships. Virtually every month, we sponsor a major activity designed to do just that. Some of the events we sponsored in 2014 are listed below:

Soup and games, Shrove Tuesday, Hymn sing and picnic, coordinating fellowship hour, Easter egg hunt, Graduation and Mother’s Day recognition, Father’s Day, ice cream social, new member welcome potlucks, and enhancing the process for introducing new members

The second part of our team’s name is “Outreach Support”. A sometimes-mistaken viewpoint is that our team is responsible for outreach. That is not correct; our team *facilitates* outreach. We hope that the *entire* Congregation will reach out to our local community, as a welcoming, service oriented, and mission focused church. Outreach is vital for us to bring people to Christ. The congregation is invited to help us in this mission: We would love to hear your ideas!

We want to thank the Congregation for joining us in several outreach activities. Every fall, our team sponsors a successful, major outreach to the community called “Trunk or Treat”. This was only possible from the great support we received from the congregation. Other outreach activities we did were providing visitor welcome bags and sponsoring a “Friend Sunday event”. To make sure that visitors can find us, we advertise in the local newspapers through paid advertising as well as unpaid “press releases” to help the community know about special events. Other forms of advertising were our website, facebook page, yellow pages, church banners, embossed pencils, and farm and ranch museum flyers.

Submitted by: Lon Anderson

COLLEGE/YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY
AT
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The College/Young Adult Dinner Night Ministry began in September of 2013 and takes place on the second Sunday of the month in our home. It has been very exciting to see this wonderful group grow and develop during our first 1.5 years!

The core purpose of our ministry is:

- to show the love of God through hospitality and meaningful relationships,
- to act as mentors as each discovers his/her own vocational purpose in the world, and
- to encourage a lasting faith in, and relationship with, Jesus Christ.

The students and young adults have provided much of their own impetus for ministry, for they have served in various ways in church and community, including:

VBS, Salt and Light, Chancel Choir, children's sermons, deacons, visitation, leading in worship as preacher, cantor, liturgist, or instrumentalist; praise band, Fourth of July Prayer Breakfast, music ministry at assisted living and health care centers, website assistance, erecting church playground dome, leading Girl Scouts, and mentoring mid-school volleyball players.

God continues to richly bless us through these young leaders.

We are very grateful for the willing hands that have contributed to the dinner nights in such generous (and delicious!) ways: Carl and Bea Connor, Jerry and Susan Grandle, Nancy Tasker Johnson, and Norm and Kathy Story.

In Christ's Love,
Janet and Steve Loman

Ministry Team: MISSION

Regular Team members for 2014 included Jacqui Jones (moderator), Collette Walz, Jean O'Neill, Blaine Goss, Mike Bartholomew and Alex Burr.

The committee coordinated visits from two missionaries this year. Doug Barron from the team of Doug and Sherry Barron, CRU-Military Mission, Camp Pendleton, San Diego, CA March 5-11; and, Tom and Judy Harvey, Oxford Center for Mission Studies(OCMS), Oxford, England November 23, 2014. Thanks to Margie and Bobby Rankin for hosting the missionaries.

In February a new Missions Directory was presented to the congregation.

Financial Reports were redesigned with the aid of the bookkeeper for clarification purposes.

Special Offerings are the responsibility of the Missions Team and were handled accordingly. e.g., One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS), Peacemaking, and Joy Offering. Several Minutes for Mission to the congregation were given by the Missions Team.

Cards, e-mails and notes were sent to support our missionaries in the field. The team will continue to coordinate missionary visits in 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqui Jones, (2014 Moderator)

Ministry Team: MUSIC AND WORSHIP

The M&W Committee is responsible for all Worship Services including music, special church services, seasonal church decorations, (flowers, banners etc.) making sure the sanctuary is prepared for the appropriate services, Communion Sunday preparations, Communion servers, clean-up, Liturgists, substitute Preachers, Choral Scholars, supervision of musical personnel, Bell Choir activities, the sound system, care of musical instruments and Committee budgeting, to name most of the things we do.

The 2014 M&W team consisted of these persons: Greg Sherman, moderator, Brad Class, moderator- elect and the following faithful participants: Wayne Maley, Florence Hamilton, Bill Kuyper, David Klement, Howard Smolleck, Jacque Parks, Pat Felhauer and Pastor Story. A special thanks goes to Esther Smolleck and Pat Felhauer for the children's "attention" packets, and to Judith Ames for organizing not only the children's messages, but also for baking and providing our Communion wafers! Three very dedicated and appreciated servants!! Thank you ladies!

A special thank you goes out to our volunteer secretary Wayne Maley, who has faithfully recorded our monthly meetings, not only this year, but for many years running. Thank you to Gracia Class for her faithful assistance in communion preparation. Thanks go to Gracia, Janice Sherman and especially Janette Williams for their expert flower arranging and Sanctuary decorating/preparation. We are so grateful for the incredible jobs done by: Howard Smolleck as our Organist, David Klement as our Music Director, Bell Choir Director and preparer of Lenten and Advent brochures, Beth Thomas for the Youth Music Ministry, all the sound system Volunteers and Greg & Kelley Temple, Music and Worship Leaders at all Faith and Fellowship Services. Also, Church Secretary Linda has always helped us in countless ways and we appreciate her so much. Finally, Pastor Story is our constant guiding hand, and we thank him for his help, assistance and loving leadership.

Special recognition and thank you goes to the New Hymnals Committee members and particularly to Bill Kuyper, Chairman. A major achievement of the M&W team and Special Hymnal Committee in 2014 was the replacement of all old hymnals with the new "Glory to God" hymnals. The Committee was responsible for fund-raising, and thanks to God's Blessings, the work of the Committee members and to the amazing generosity of our Congregation, the new hymnals were fully paid for, completely independent of our regular budget.

Financially, we've been working under a reduced budget in 2014, and we actually ended the year more than 10% under our annual budget. A giant Kudo goes out to Vanessa Medina for getting our books in great order and for keeping them there!

Overall, 2014 was an excellent, meaningful year for Music and Worship activities, and it was an honor to serve with our M&W team and Congregation! We had a lot of help from many others that I would like to sincerely thank. Please forgive me if I have failed to mention you by name, but we want you to know that you are greatly appreciated! Thanks Be to God for His many Blessings and Grace! May he richly Bless our Church in 2015 and beyond!

Greg Sherman, Moderator

FAITH & FELLOWSHIP

A Worship and Praise Community

Greetings,

Faith and Fellowship (F&F) is a praise team ministry of First Presbyterian that reaches out into the community to help spread the Good News of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. F&F is in its fifth year at First Presbyterian. F&F holds its worship in the sanctuary on Saturday evenings starting at 6:00 PM. The service is approximately 50 minutes in length. Within these 50 minutes, F&F uses a variety of music, media, messages, drama, prayer, and sermons to bring God's message to those who are drawn to this ministry. On the third Saturday of each month, F&F holds a potluck to help develop the relationships within the community as being part of the body of Christ. On the first Saturday, we also hold a Communion service where we share in the Lord's Table.

Through the last year F&F has been involved with a variety of missions and happenings here at First Presbyterian. During the Holy week of Easter, F&F hosted an Agape Supper with music and message. In April, F&F took part in Salt & Light Tailgate Party to help celebrate and support its ministry. During the summer months, F&F hosts Courtyard Cookouts. This is a great time to "Come As You Are" and have hamburgers and hotdogs with fixins' enjoyed by visitors, friends and family. Trunk or Treat is always a treat for F&F. It is a wonderful time to play praise music for the community. F&F has helped to ordain and install elders and deacons as well as having new members join the church. F&F help to support two ministries in the community; La Casa and Student Venture which is a non-denominational ministry group at Las Cruces High School. In this coming year, F&F prays for continued growth with anyone who enters our doors at First Presbyterian Church. F&F has helped spread the Good News this past year with a community here at First Presbyterian. F&F looks forward to the many exciting opportunities and activities that can be accomplished with the help of new individuals with ideas and passions for being involved with this relatively new ministry.

In Christ,
Respectfully submitted
by
Greg Temple

Praise Service

6:00 PM

Saturdays

Not Fancy; Just Family

Come As You Are



A Praise & Worship Community

Ministry Team: NOMINATING

The committee members were Carl Connor, Don Rhodes, Nancy Tasker-Johnson, Marsha Topley, Steve Johnson, Arnold McMillan (alternate), and Steve Loman (moderator).

After prayerful consideration the following people have been asked and have agreed to serve our congregation in the named leadership roles:

Elders Class of 2017

Susan Carlson – Christian Education
Larry Felhauer – Music and Worship
Danielle Gurnea – Congregational Life
Kat Marlowe – Missions
Winnie Quinzi – Administration
Open – Buildings & Grounds

Deacons Class of 2017

Charlotte Anderson
Alejandra Cisneros
Gracia Class class of 2016
Josephine Frieze
Ivanna Iza-Guirre (Youth)
Jasey Loman
Karla Martinez
Rusty Smith

2015 Nominating Committee:

Carl Connor
Melanie Grant
Nancy Tasker-Johnson
Jacque Parks
Steve Loman
Marsha Topley (Alternate)

The committee wishes to extend our appreciation to all who agreed to serve and those who considered doing so.

Respectfully submitted

Steve Loman, Moderator

ORGANIZATIONS

FELLOWSHIP GROUP

IN-BETWEENERS

In-Betweeners is a casual social group of empty-nesters, many of whom are retired. We welcome guests and new members! Most months, we get together on fourth Friday evenings for Christian fellowship and dinner, followed by a program. In 2014 our programs have been:

January -- Local historian and author David Thomas spoke on his research and book about the history of the town of Mesilla.

February -- We viewed *The William Still Story* about the Underground Railway.

March -- Peter Goodman spoke on his trip to Tibet.

April -- Volunteer Matthew Midgett, dressed in uniform as an 1880's cavalry officer, came from Fort Stanton to tell us of its history.

May -- We enjoyed a cookout picnic at the home of the Parks.

June -- In-Betweeners hosted the annual Patriotic Prayer Breakfast for people of our church and others of the community.

July -- Speaker Dick Brown gave an illustrated talk about the submarine the *New Mexico*.

August -- Chemist Dr. Dale Alexander entertained us with demonstrations and his talk, "Fun with Gas!"

September -- The Burrs took us along as they relived their trip to Ireland.

October -- Bill Mattiace spoke about the Santa Teresa Port of Entry.

November -- We helped decorate the Sanctuary for the Advent season.

December -- The play "Amahl and the Night Visitors," followed by dessert at a restaurant made a good evening.

Salt and Light/Vacation Bible School

Salt & Light and Vacation Bible School are our two main children & youth ministry programs at First Presbyterian Church.

I want to send out a Huge Thank You to all of you for your incredibly awesome & generous support, which allowed us to continue to keep both programs running in Spring, Summer & Fall of 2014. You made it possible for us to reach into our church family & community, witness the love of Jesus, spread God's Grace, and show His Mercy!! We really appreciate all of the adult children of God who have helped & supported Salt & Light, either monetarily or giving of your blessed talents & precious time.

At **Salt & Light** last year, God answered our prayers with all of the teachers renewing their commitments to the program, and adding 4 new adult leaders in the Fall, to form teaching teams of 2 adults for all Bible classes & recreation activities! Greg & Kelly Temple continued as Interim Youth Sponsors, Michelle Osborne continued as Interim Coordinator, and Beth Borchert-Thomas continued as Children's Music Director. All of our dedicated adult volunteer teachers, assistants, shepherds, decorators, music support, church office staff, drivers, childcare providers, table parents, kitchen crew leaders and solid members of dinner & snack teams, support the preparation & carrying out of our weekly activities and dinners. At S&L children listen to the word of God in Bible classes, they are fed a healthy and fun snack, play outside in recreation, learn to sing & perform in music, and sit down to a Family of God meal.

Our Wednesday after-school program runs for 13 weeks in the Spring & Fall of every year. Our volume of children & youth participating in Salt & Light, grows primarily through word of mouth from the children and families who participate in this awesome program! We have also been successful in bringing in new families from the surrounding community at our "Trunk or Treat" at Halloween, and our VBS in Summer. In 2014, we had 92 children participate and fed 83-121 people weekly for dinners. Our average weekly attendance was 49 kids & 102 for dinners. Please note that in the Spring, we served 145 adults & children at our Ash Wednesday early Lenten dinner, which was open to the community, with a following Special Service.

Family participation is crucial to the program, as when working parents/family cannot attend during the program hours, they help with baking for birthdays & desserts, laundering tablecloths, and providing snack/costume support on Sunday performances. Kids witness their family members' contributions very clearly and respond enthusiastically. We also promote & encourage participation by children, youth & family members of the former Iglesia del Pueblo. In November, we began translating flyers & information in Spanish for our guests, since our joining of Congregations, after the retirement of the Hispanic Ministry minister.

We communicate with kids & families in person, by phone & text messages, via e-mail & the First Presbyterian Church Facebook pages, and send post card reminders for the beginning of each semester, and for special holiday programs. We keep the congregation of supporters apprised of the happenings, in the Sunday bulletins, and electronic Good News & Lantern publications by First Pres. We advertise in the Las Cruces Bulletin, with the help of Congregational Life committee.

With a little bit more support from you this semester, we can make it possible to continue Salt & Light for another year. This is a “Donation-based” program that allows those who can afford to donate more to do so. We were prayerfully appreciative that last year, no child was kept from participating due to the family’s inability to contribute!

Vacation Bible School is a wonderful opportunity to lead children to Jesus in the Summer, when they are out of school. The Christian Education Committee decides as a group the Theme & Curriculum, and recruits its own volunteers to lead a fun-filled week of Bible Story Time, Recreation, Music & Singing, Food & Crafts.

“Kingdom of the Sun” VBS 2014 consisted of 30 children, 33 youth & adult volunteers, and at least 25 families from our church congregation & the Hispanic Ministry. This was the first time in many years that VBS was in the evening, due to most participating volunteers’ only availability being after work. A buffet-style dinner started out each night, planned & prepared by approximately 10 volunteers serving 55-65 per dinner. Our focus was on strengthening our church family relationships & commitments, and renewing parent spiritual leading, which all turned out to be very successful! Countless adults had a nightly devotional & bible study on “The Lord’s Prayer,” and 27 people in & out of town participated in a Prayer Vigil.

Please mark your calendar & save the dates: VBS 2015 will be Monday July 6th through Friday July 10th, in the evening (5:30pm-8:15pm). This program is funded by the church, so your generation donations throughout the year help us to create a fun place where kids learn about Jesus’ love in the Summer!

Thank you, again, for all your generous donations to our vital children & youth ministry programs sharing God’s Grace at First Presbyterian Church!

Michelle Osborne
Salt & Light Coordinator

NEW MEMBERS

Rachel Breck
Raul Bustamante
Dennisse Bustamante
Ivan Cadena
Flor Chavez
John Cooper
Antonio Cruz
Natassja Galaz
Ivanna Izaquirre
Stephen Jack Loma
Lynn Loya
Alondra Lozano
Oscar Martinez
Christian Ortiz
Lesley Ortiz
Lesley Ortiz
Alexis Alberto Rivera P.
Jose Axel Rivera
Noe Alejandro Rivera
Molly Schroeder

Michael Sutherin
Edgar Valerio
Karen Candusso
James Elias Baylor
Bruce and Susan Ann Carlson
Janet Lee
Jeanette A. Smith
Aline Lyly Pangoup
Roberto Lazo
Charlotte Anderson
Penelope Lee Printz
Audra Jones
Juana Suarez
Lilia Rivera
Esperanza Carrillo
Socorro Tovar
Patricia Tovar
Gustavo Gomez
Alejandra Cisneros

Marcos and Martha Hernandez
Alfredo and Ramelia Cadena
Fernando Fuentes and Domitila Prospero
Juan Lee and Karla Martinez
Orlando and Claudia Sanchez
Grasiano Montes Renteria and Maria G. Cenicerros
Antonio and Martha Alonzo
Jesus Alberto Agustin and Antonia Borjas
Carlos Gomez and MadeLourdes Vasques

Holy God, we praise you for calling us to be a servant people, and for gathering us into the body of Christ. We thank you for choosing to add to our number, sisters and brothers in faith. Together may we live in your Spirit, and love one another, that we may have the mind of Christ. Guard these your servants and let your Holy Spirit be with them forever, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Christian love:
The fellowship of kindred minds Is like to that above.*

*Before our Father's throne We pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, Our comforts and our cares.*

*We share our mutual woes, Our mutual burdens bear,
And often for each other flows The sympathizing tear.*

*From sorrow, toil, and pain, And sin we shall be free;
And perfect love and friendship reign Through all eternity.*

NECROLOGY REPORT

Remembering members of First Presbyterian Church who died in 2014:

Rev. Carrol Blevins
Mrs. Charles C. (Margaret) Hardin
Mr. Joe L. Pomplun

Eternal God, loving Father and Creator of us all, amid all the changes of life, you alone remain the same and unchanging. We acknowledge the uncertainty of life; for we are given a mere handful of days. All life is as grass, and all its beauty fades like the flower of the field. But our hope is in you, O God. Even in the valley of the shadow of death, you are with us. O Lord, help us remember that our days are numbered and that you are eternal, gracious and loving.

We thank you for the great company of those who have kept the faith, who have finished their race, and who now rest from their labor. We praise you for those dear to us, and especially we thank you for the life and victory of these your servants, whom you have now received into your presence. Receive them into your arms of loving mercy, into the blessed rest of eternal peace and eternal home. Now Lord, let your servants go in peace, your word fulfilled. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever more shall be. Amen and Amen.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The 2014 Financial Statements have been summarized for your convenience. Should you have any questions or would like more detail on some of the reported numbers please contact the Admin Committee.

The 2014 Finance Summary below shows the combined budgeted and designated year end numbers with a net increase. The next report is the Budgeted Expense Report which shows the expenses with budget comparisons. It also includes the 2015 Budget approved by Session. The final report shows the Designated Fund Balances as of 12/31/2014.

First Presbyterian Church 2014 Finance Summary	
<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Designated</u>
Income: \$405,278.33	Income: \$94,372.78
Expense: \$372,096.07	Expense: \$106,650.23
Undesignated Funds	Designated Funds
Decrease / Increase: \$33,182.26	Decrease/Increase: (\$12,277.45)
Total YTD Combined Net Profit / Loss: \$20,904.81	

Rev. 2.12.15

First Presbyterian Church

Budgeted Expense Report Summary

Expense Account:	2014 Expenses:	Budget:	Over / Short:	2015 Budget
TOTAL ADMIN EXPENSES:	\$ 26,729.34	\$ 29,000.00	\$ 2,270.66	\$ 26,650.00
TOTAL PERSONNEL EXPENSES:	\$ 152,252.38	\$ 186,050.00	\$ 33,797.62	\$ 226,639.00
TOTAL MISSIONS EXPENSES:	\$ 35,941.63	\$ 38,100.00	\$ 2,158.37	\$ 37,400.00
TOTAL B & G EXPENSES:	\$ 69,661.39	\$ 89,500.00	\$ 19,838.61	\$ 95,000.00
TOTAL C/E EXPENSES:	\$ 4,398.96	\$ 6,838.20	\$ 2,439.24	\$ 15,650.00
TOTAL M & W EXPENSES:	\$ 10,320.11	\$ 11,760.00	\$ 1,439.89	\$ 11,750.00
TOTAL C/L EXPENSES:	\$ 2,763.83	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 1,736.17	\$ 4,500.00
TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES	\$ 66,720.59	\$ 67,300.00	\$ 579.41	\$ -
<i>Personnel & Other Varies Accts</i>				
Overall Totals:	\$ 368,788.23	\$ 433,048.20	\$ 64,259.97	\$ 417,589.00

2014 Income Summary	2014 Pledged Tithes	2014 Unpledged Offerings	Total 2014 Tithes & Offerings Received	2015 Pledges
	\$ 305,499.76	\$ 99,778.57	\$ 405,278.33	\$ 298,960.00

First Presbyterian Church

2014 Designated Fund Account Ending Balances

Fund Account	Beginning Balance			Ending Balance
	1/1/2014	Balance Increases	Balance Decreases	
Missions Designated	\$ 6,857.02	\$ 11,950.88	\$ 16,759.89	\$ 2,048.01
Buildings & Grounds Designated	\$ 106,720.06	\$ 5,107.41	\$ 10,402.97	\$ 101,424.50
Music & Worship Designated	\$ 16,645.88	\$ 8,440.48	\$ 9,309.81	\$ 15,776.55
Memorial & Other Designated	\$ 8,247.39	\$ 4,837.11	\$ 8,348.25	\$ 4,736.25
Congregational Life Designated	\$ 5,953.52	\$ 430.20	\$ 2,492.04	\$ 3,891.68
Christian Education Designated	\$ 12,503.08	\$ 17,292.74	\$ 15,693.24	\$ 14,102.58
Salt & Light Designated	\$ 1,851.46	\$ 13,042.40	\$ 9,936.10	\$ 4,957.76
Deacons Designated	\$ 4,543.83	\$ 10,962.47	\$ 11,941.41	\$ 3,564.89
Faith & Fellowship Designated	\$ 6,652.51	\$ 3,833.40	\$ 4,078.53	\$ 6,407.38
Columbarium	\$ 7,926.96	\$ 5,540.00	\$ 5,563.64	\$ 7,903.32
Iglesia del Pueblo	\$ 33,824.08	\$ 5,902.46	\$ 12,141.76	\$ 27,584.78
Durazno Property	\$ (349.14)	\$ 7,800.00	\$ 1,379.38	\$ 6,071.48