

ALAMOSA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWS

April 23, 2010



Dear Friends in Christ,

No newsletter last week, and this one is late but here it is at last. You'll notice some changes at the church when you come for worship this Sunday. First you'll see that the sanctuary doors and the north and south office wing doors have been stripped. This is in preparation for the first SLV/Salida Blister Fellowship project weekend, April 30 – May 1. Volunteers from our congregation will travel to other Presbyterian churches in the Valley to help with their renovations while folks from La Jara, Antonito, San Pablo, Monte Vista, Del Norte and Salida are coming here to finish stripping and refinishing the sanctuary entrance woodwork (including all that wood above the doors). We've gotten a head start on our own project. This week's La Puente work group from Green Mountain Methodist Church in Lakewood has blessed us not only with their presence and the privilege of providing hospitality, but also with their work for us as well as for La Puente. Here they are hard at work on the stripping process. And take a trip upstairs on Sunday to see the new curtains in our dormitories, made by one of their group. What a gift – beauty, shade, and privacy. Nancy is going to add curtains to the dormitory doors and tiebacks for the window curtains. One gift often inspires another. Thanks to the new curtains, the church now has an ironing board and iron and a great use for that white wooden table in Fellowship Hall. In three words – a sewing group. Sign up at the display in Fellowship Hall if you'd like to get together to make quilts for La Puente or for other sewing projects. We'll work out a format depending on your interest.

People have filled the church all week. Not only has the Green Mountain group been here, but Tuesday at Handbell Choir we welcomed two new ringers. We now have a total of nine ringers and one director for a full house – but we'd be glad to squeeze in additional players if you'd like to join us. No experience necessary – and as the current ringers can tell you, no music-reading knowledge is necessary either. We'll teach you.

Then on Wednesday the sanctuary, balcony, and choir room were full as friends and family gathered for the funeral of Myron Clayton, who died late last week. It was a joy for me, even at such a difficult time, to spend time with Joanne and Bev and the rest of the Clayton family. Marv Motz did a great job eliciting stories from the congregation about Myron, and also shared his own moving reflections about the losses that his family and the Clayton family have shared. One person was overheard to comment that the service included “real music” – *The Old Rugged Cross* and other old favorites. Is that a hint to the Interim? Please keep the whole Clayton family in your prayers as they grieve Myron's loss, remember the gift of his life, and adjust to new realities.

A number of our other members have been ill recently, and I know I'm behind on visiting some of you. I really appreciate your calls asking me to visit you or your loved ones. They help me get up from my desk and out the door. Thank you to all of you, also, who have been asking about Eric. He continues to grow stronger day by day. There will be more treatments ahead, although we don't know yet just what they will be. For right now, we are celebrating his returning energy.

Coming up on Sundays: Communion this Sunday, then the Handbell Choir in worship on May 2. The week following is Mother's Day and our monthly breakfast. Officially, L-Z are hosting. The challenge is out, though – men, are you up to cooking breakfast that morning? I'm thinking of pancakes and Jack suggests scrambled eggs, both done on the gas griddle. I hear other goodies are already promised. Look for the sign-up sheet this Sunday. Then check out the May calendar with next week's newsletter for lots of other upcoming events.

In Christ, Katherine

PS Mark your calendar now – our annual Sand Dunes service is July 18.

PPS Reminder -- CROP Walk this Sunday, registration 2 pm at the Alamosa Senior Citizens Center.

