



ALAMOSA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWS

August 28, 2011

Dear Friends in Christ,

There is so much coming up in September that I couldn't wait another week to get this newsletter out to you all. In fact, I'm not even going to tell you what's BEEN happening until I let you know what's ABOUT to happen. (I did have to sneak in this photo from earlier in the summer, though.)

COMING UP

This Sunday, August 28, we welcome the **Anabaptist Fellowship** of Alamosa to our building. After a year of meeting as a house church, they will now be meeting here every Sunday afternoon, sharing rooms with the Unitarian-Universalists (who will continue to meet only on second and fourth Sundays in the morning, September – May). Both groups will be using the orange-carpeted room for worship, the carpet-squared room for Sunday School, and the remodeled Cross Room (the former second-floor storage room) for coffee time. They will also be using the Fellowship Hall and kitchen on occasion. Our own congregation will also be using the Cross Room for crafts and meeting space at other times.

This Tuesday, August 30, we will join with other churches and United Campus Ministry in hosting a **barbeque at Adams State** for new and returning students.

This coming Thursday, September 1, we begin a 12-week study on the book ***Fingerprints of God*** by Barbara Bradley Hagerty, NPR reporter. The study is designed for our congregation and also as outreach to students and community members; United Campus Ministry at Adams State is co-sponsoring the study, which will meet at ASC's Nielsen Library. Here is the teaser from the flyer -- I hope it will entice you to come:

Are spiritual experiences "real"? How do scientists explain near-death experiences, mystical states, and other phenomena? How do you evaluate the evidence?

I have very inexpensive copies of the book available for purchase or loan. Ask me if you'd like to learn more.

Coming up the following week, on **Tuesday, September 6 at 5:30**, we will have **abuse prevention training** for everyone who regularly provides child care at the church. I encourage everyone who works with children or is in leadership in the congregation to come to this two-hour session, using materials from the Presbytery, so that we can be better prepared to protect our children and recognize symptoms that may point to abuse in children who come to us.

Sunday, September 11, will be our monthly **breakfast**, hosted this time by the UU's as they resume worship for the fall. Our Handbell Choir will be providing entertainment, and rumor has it that the children's bells may also make an appearance. That day is the tenth anniversary of the 911 attacks, and we'll be remembering them during worship that morning.

On **Tuesday, September 13 at 5:30**, Kathy Schultz will lead a **scroll saw workshop** for adults. Many of you have seen the fish and trivets which the children made at Vacation Bible School. Now comes your chance to begin learning how to make heirloom-quality toys and gifts. The workshop is free and open to the congregation and the community, so invite your friends. If there is interest, Kathy would love to continue meeting with anyone who would like to work on scroll saw crafts for the Bazaar this fall. Special thanks go to Habitat, which is allowing us use of their scrap lumber; Kathy has plans to make one of her amazing Nativity sets as a gift for the next Habitat family.



On **Friday, September 16, at 6:00**, the Covenant Players will return to our church for a **dinner theater** performance. Sharon is coordinating the evening, and will be looking for help from you soon! For now, make sure the date is on your calendar.

Mark **Saturday, September 17**, also, because **Keith and Tanya** will be getting married here that day! Then on **Sunday, September 18, Rusty and Sara** will be with us to lead worship. I don't know yet if the proposed Cluster-wide event will happen that afternoon, but for sure you can see our favorite mission co-workers here that morning. Also happening that weekend, **PW-P's Fall Gathering is Saturday, September 17, 9:30 – 3:30** at Westminster Church in Pueblo. It should be a great day for any of you women (or men?) who go.

Of course we'll continue to house **work groups** all month, and now that the gleaning season has begun there will also be groups blanching and freezing produce in our kitchen. **Sacred Harp** singings have resumed and will continue on the fourth Mondays of the month in our narthex. The ecumenical **Taizé** services (held at Sacred Heart) will resume monthly on Friday, September 9. And consider yourself invited at any time to our ongoing groups: **Bell Choir** rehearsals have started again on Wednesday evenings after the summer break, **Strong Bones** meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings, and **Nuts'n'Needles** is on Thursday afternoons.

And by the way, if you haven't yet tuned in to **"Religious Roundtable,"** the radio show that Judy Burrell and I host on KRZA on first and second Fridays, you might want to give a listen in September, when our guests will be **Alice Price and Luke Yoder** talking about Mennonites and the Anabaptist Fellowship. It's at 88.7 FM. See the church calendar for dates and times.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING – PEOPLE NEWS

After all of that looking forward, it's time to look back at the month just ending. The biggest "people" event in August was a sad one, as family and friends gathered for **Marv Motz's** funeral on August 19. Marv died on August 11. The service was held at Sacred Heart to accommodate the crowd; I led the service and Fr. Michael Chrisman read the gospel. Fr. Mike led the prayer service the night before, at which I read the scripture. Please continue to hold Mary and the family in your prayers.

We have a long **prayer list** in the bulletin right now, which I won't repeat here. I will ask, though, for your prayers for Audrey Liu's mother, who is quite ill. She is on our prayer list with Audrey's permission. And we rejoice with Dave and Sharon on Curt's safe return and a glad reunion in California a couple of weeks ago. As I write this, Hurricane Irene is threatening the East Coast, the drought in Texas is threatening the entire ecosystem, rebels in Libya are hunting for Moammar Gadhafi, and the government in Syria continues to kill protestors. Please hold the world in your prayers as God holds it in His hands.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING – EVENTS

What a great time we had at **Cole Park** on August 7. Thanks to Kathy's interactive Nativity sets, child-size tables and chairs hauled from the church by Bob, and a loyal contingent from the congregation, we spent a delightful afternoon visiting with one another and with guests at the **All Churches Picnic** sponsored by River of Life church. Our Taiwanese visitors that day were a special blessing.

August is the month for new Americorp volunteers, and there are lots of new faces at **La Puente's VolCom** office. I've gotten to meet **Devon, Stephany and Cory**, this year's volunteer staff, and the new Volunteer Coordinations, **Jennifer and Lucas**. Our old friend **Craig** has finished his time at VolCom and is working at the Food Bank for an additional six months, so he's still coming back to our building with gleaning groups.

A special treat for me in August was a chance to visit with Mission Co-worker The Rev. **Karla Koll** and her daughter Tamara. Karla is a member of this presbytery and a long-time friend. For the past eleven years she has been teaching at CEDEPCA, the Protestant seminary in Guatemala. It was great to see her, and also to get her connected with Marianne Dunne and potentially with the Guatemalan community here in the Valley.

Can you believe it? It's almost fall. I'll be taking off a few days the end of September to visit my parents but I'm looking forward to lots of time with you in the weeks ahead.

In Christ, Katherine

