



ALAMOSA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWS

August 7, 2011

Dear Friends in Christ,

It's been just over a month since the last newsletter, and it's been a busy time here at the church.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING – PEOPLE NEWS

July and August so far have been important “people” months at Alamosa Presbyterian Church with both joys and sorrows. Don Montgomery died on July 17 and we held his funeral here on July 23. Then we rejoiced with Jack and Mabel on their 64th wedding anniversary and with Sally on her 92nd birthday. Right now, we are celebrating with Dave and Sharon as they eagerly await Curt's return from Afghanistan. We also hold in prayer Marv and Mary as Marv's health has declined sharply. Along with your prayers for our nation and the world, especially for our national government, for the famine in Somalia, and for Haiti, threatened with another tropical storm, please continue to hold all of our congregation's members and families in your prayers. I'm trying to keep the weekly Prayer Concerns in the bulletin insert up-to-date; please let me know of any changes.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING – EVENTS

July 10 was our annual service and picnic at the **Sand Dunes**. Noel and Jill's great-grandson, Stone, kept us all entertained as he busily loaded rocks all through worship. We also received the Pentecost Offering that day for children, at-risk youth, and young adults. As always, the day was lots of fun, and John Halvorson's service at the big grill was as appreciated as ever. There's talk, however, about choosing a different location for next year. Some folks are thinking about a special train trip. What's your opinion?

On July 14 the building was buzzing all day. **Work Day** participants John, Jack, Bob and Kathy, Noel Herrera, Dave Furukawa, Eric Griffis and Katherine moved everything out of the Cross Room, ripped up the old flooring, and painted the walls.

A few days later John and company installed a new sub-floor in the room, with new “industrial-strength” tile to follow. Nancy Seefeldt made delightful curtains for the windows. While all that was going on, Ellen and Sarah rearranged and cleaned all the furniture in the Nursery to make it ready for “our” new baby (and any other visiting babies). Many thanks go to Jan Oen and Don Thompson for donating the gorgeous rocking chair for the Nursery. Terek Schultz, Tanya, and assorted Schultz children kept us all company.



Elsewhere in the building that day, Eloise was hard at work on the plants, the Nuts'n'Needles crew were quilting away, Noel Harlan was mounting holders for brooms, and Sharon was working with me on plans for August 7. Marcella, you were probably around somewhere, because you usually are. Did I forget anyone else?



The following week we were grieving with Marilyn over Don's death and preparing for his funeral. Also happening that week: purple petunias into the cloister urns, a new **piano** donated by the Furukawas into the UU worship room (thank you, Dave and Sharon!), a PICO-CAN meeting for local faith leaders with a guest from Denver, and a “Summit Meeting” of the leaders of our three church boards.



Then came the week of July 25-29 and this year's **Vacation Bible School**, "A Great Catch of Fish." What a wonderful week! Six girls ages 3 to 11 (5 Schultz girls, Abby, and a guest), and an equal or greater number of adult leaders kept the building full of laughter and learning each morning that week. Bible story leader Sharon walked with the girls from Alamosa to Bible times, where they heard about the creation of the fish and sea creatures; the call of the four fishermen; the loaves and fishes; and the great catch of fish. On Friday she was joined by storytellers Dorothy Croft and Katherine to learn about the catacombs in Rome, and then we all followed the "sign of the fish" to our very own catacombs (usually known as the boiler room).

There we learned about the fish symbol as a sign for Jesus and decorated the walls with our own Christian symbols.

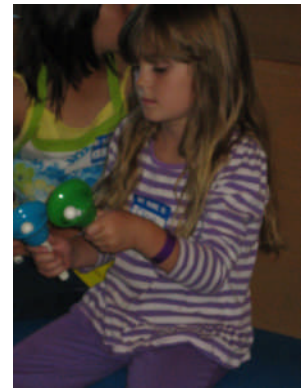


After Bible stories each day, Kathy Schultz and helpers got the girls busy in the Cross Room with scroll saws and colors, making wooden fish (with paper clip "hooks" and magnets on fishing poles to catch them), kitchen magnets, and loaves and fishes trivets. Eloise brought them outside to plant marigolds, grass seed and pinto beans. We stayed outside for recreation, where we danced the grapevine, played "Garden hose," held relay races to plant grass seed in the bald patch on the lawn, and played in the sprinkler!

Sarah, Alma, Dorothy, Marcella, and others provided snacks each day for hunger participants. We also collected non-perishable food ("Fish Stew") and took a field trip on Friday to deliver it to the Food Bank. As an extra, we walked back from the Food Bank via Hospice, to see where I hang out when I'm not at the church.

That leaves the singing and – yes – our new, colored bells. Nancy and Dorothy provided support at the piano as we learned our theme songs – "Wherever I May Wander" and "Shalom, Chaverim" (both from the Presbyterian Hymnal and various other church songs, along with a collection of songs about fish. Everyone, girls and adults alike, pitched in to play the new bells, as the girls learned how to play chords and then melodies with them. Turquoise appears to be the favorite bell color, except for the one player who wanted Bronco orange and blue.

As for your **pastor** this month, I was away June 22-25 at a conference in Miami and again June 30 – July 3 at the PC(USA) Big Tent conference in Indianapolis (where I was also able to fit in a visit with one of my brothers and with my sister and her family). The first week in July I was here but wrapped up in family, as both our boys and their girlfriends came for visits. Since then, I've kept busy with my ongoing work at the church, at Hospice, and in the community.



COMING UP

This Sunday, August 7, we will have an APC display table at the **All Churches Picnic** in Cole Park sponsored by River of Life church. Thanks go to Sharon for her hours of work and to Bob Schultz for contributing pictures for the display. Kathy Schultz has also promised some goodies – and, by the way, I've challenged her to think about a couple of church-related scroll saw projects for us.

We will NOT have a monthly **breakfast** in August, but mark your calendars now for our breakfast on September 11, when the UU's will be our hosts as they resume worship after their summer break.

Session meets for a potluck and business meeting at the manse on August 15. There will be a **Sacred Harp** Singing on August 22, for what I hope will finally become a monthly event. Then, on WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24, THE **HANDBELL CHOIR** RESUMES REHEARSING FOR THE FALL. NEW MEMBERS ARE WELCOME AND EAGERLY SOLICITED!

Coming in September: We will be starting a **Children's Bell Choir** on Sunday mornings during the Adult Bible Study time (which will also be resuming). On September 1, we will begin a 12-week book study, "**Fingerprints of God**," based on the book by NPR reporter Barbara Bradley Hagerty and co-sponsored by

United Campus Ministries at Adams State. And on September 13, Kathy will offer a free **scroll saw workshop** for adults in the church and the community.

Of course, there are always other events upcoming, including at least two possible special items on which I don't yet have details. Stay posted via the weekly bulletin inserts for all the latest.

In Christ, Katherine

