



ALAMOSA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWS

February 4, 2011

Dear Friends in Christ,

It's been just over a month since my last newsletter; we've moved from the Christmas season to Ordinary Time; the Annual Meeting has come and gone; and we're well on our way with 2011. In fact, spring is coming – witness the bluebird with this letter. Writing to you just once a month means there's always a great deal that's been happening in our lives. Let's see how much of it I can get onto paper.

People

When I wrote last, **Eric** was still in the hospital. We came home the evening of January 4 and Eric has been gaining in strength, weight, and general health ever since. I can never thank you all enough for the gifts of food, expressions of concern, and willingness to let me be away so much.

I forgot to mention in the last letter that **John and Ellen** both lost family members in December: John's brother and Ellen's brother-in-law. **Ted** has just suffered the loss of one of his sisters. Many others of you have just been through the holiday seasons without loved ones or with family and personal health concerns. Please know that you are all always in my prayers, and I know that many of you are praying for each other as well. I've been able to visit a few of you since getting back in town. **A. J.** says he really enjoys hearing from the church. It's always a joy visiting with him, too! By the way, **Curt Furukawa's** picture has joined the others on the map of the world in the hall. That reminds me I have some pictures to add; how about you?

We heard from the Presbytery office that **Gary Weaver's brother** has just had a heart attack; please hold him in your prayers. Erin Smith has asked for prayers for her dear step-daughter, **Laura Suzanne Smith**, age 53, with breast cancer. And Tricia Schneider wrote last week asking for prayers for 8-year-old **Mercedes**. Today is Mercedes' memorial service, and so instead of prayers for her I ask for prayers for her family.

The violence continues in **Egypt** and the cholera epidemic continues in **Haiti**. Young women continue to disappear in **Juarez, Mexico**. All around the world there are people who need your prayers.

Upcoming Events

On February 1 I began serving you all half-time and on February 2 I began working two days a week as a second part-time chaplain at Hospice del Valle alongside Tricia Schneider. Next week on February 10 we will have an **All-Church-Board Planning Meeting** to set our goals for 2011 based on last year's Congregational Mission Statement. Part of the agenda will be how to sustain and grow the congregation's life and ministry with only a half-time pastor. I'm excited about facing this new challenge with you and helping you get ready for a good transition to your next called pastor, who will also be with you half-time.

Another part of the Planning Meeting's agenda will be looking at how to spend some of the money freed up by cutting your pastor's time in half. We have a wonderful **budget** for 2011: it's balanced for the first time in several years and still has additional money for Christian education, outreach, mission, and capital reserves. And speaking of the budget, please remember that this is a great time of year to pay your **Per Capita**. For 2011 the amount is **\$30.30** for each Active Member.

This should be reaching you in time to remind you about our monthly **breakfast Sunday, February 13**. It's a special **Valentine's Day gathering** with some special music. Don't miss it if you can help it! That same day (February 13), I hope you'll come in the evening to the next **Sacred Harp** singing time, 7:00 pm at the church.

And if you'd like to learn more about becoming or supporting foster care parents, join me **Thursday, February 17**, for the next planning meeting of the **SLV Foster Care Alliance Initiative**, noon – 2 pm at the Vineyard of the Rio Grande. The focus is on ways that churches can support and nurture foster care families to reduce the number of children waiting for foster care placements.

Also going on for me this month – and you'll be hearing more about all of these items – three projects are underway. First, Adams State College will be presenting Romeo and Juliet this spring and some of us are currently working on a **religious forum for April 9** around the theme of conflict and reconciliation as part of ASC's "**R and J Project.**"

Second, Judy Burrell and I are cooking up six initial programs for **a radio series on KRZA** tentatively called “Religious Roundtable.” First show will air **April 1** (truly). And finally, David Schneider and I are developing plans for a **Handbell Choir Festival** to be held at our church with our own Handbell Choir and two or three others from the Valley. Currently scheduled date is **April 16** (the day before Palm Sunday).

Last item: Pueblo Presbytery is sponsoring a high school summer mission trip to Central America for June 6-12. If you know of any high schoolers who might be interested, let me know right away or call the Presbytery office directly.

What's been happening

We had a great **potluck and Annual Meeting of the Congregation** on January 30. Thanks to all of you who got your reports in to Bob so they could be included. The final, official version of the Annual Report will include a few items that were passed out separately at the meeting itself.

Mid-January we had a wonderful coincidence: three children in worship and a box full of **flower bulbs** to plant in our urns. That was really fun after church! The bulbs are all safely tucked away in their blankets of earth and I'm keeping my fingers crossed that they

Finally, we shortened once in January to the comic revue, **“I Want** sponsored by the new Alamosa. It was a provoking evening, banana. In the middle of

In Christ, Katherine

PS The February calendar is with this newsletter.



Handbell Choir rehearsal accommodate the start of **to Buy an Enemy,**” Anabaptist Fellowship of delightful and thought-complete with a 6’ talking the winter!