

ALAMOSA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWS

July 16, 2010



Dear Friends in Christ,

LAST CALL FOR THE **SAND DUNES! THIS SUNDAY**, WORSHIP AT 10:30, SOUTH RAMADA IN THE PICNIC AREA. PICNIC TO FOLLOW: Deacons will provide hamburger patties, bratz, hot dogs, buns, plates and plastic table service, bottled water, chips, lettuce, tomatoes, onion, ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise. Please bring a dish to share and something for your family to drink if they want something other than water.

Our reservations for the **Saturday, August 21 trip to Creede** are in. We have twenty-six people signed up for the matinee performance of "The Twenty-fifth Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" at the Creede Repertory Theatre. If you haven't yet given Jack your payment, please do that soon. A new **sign-up sheet for drivers and passengers** is now in the narthex.

Eric and I were at **Presbytery** in Colorado Springs on Wednesday, where Nancy Maffett of First Pres Colorado Springs and Melinda Orendorff of Westminster Pueblo were commissioned as CLPs (Commissioned Lay Preachers). We also heard from two young men who were moved from Inquirer to Candidate stage along the path to ordination as Ministers of Word and Sacrament. Zane Buxton, Synod Executive, spoke about some of the ways in which congregations and presbyteries within the Synod of the Rocky Mountains have entered into partnership for ministry. Presbytery is always a chance to connect with friends while taking care of business for the shared ministry we engage in as Presbyterians in southeastern Colorado.

Also at that meeting we heard reports from our Presbytery commissioners to General Assembly. Most of them were excited about seeing the larger church at work. One, at least, measured what happened in terms of "wins" and "losses" for different groups (as this person defined them) within the denomination. This "wins and losses" approach will probably be showing up in the press soon, as various interest groups and the media assess the actions taken at GA. **How do you listen to news** – both of the church and of the world in general? It's fair – and important -- to ask whether given events forward or hinder God's purposes of "doing justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly with our God," as I said in last Sunday's sermon on God's "plumbline" (using an image from the prophet Amos). But – as you hear the news, or as you go about your daily life, are you looking for events and people to be upset about? Or are you looking for ways to celebrate the presence of God's kingdom in our midst? And how do you respond when events or people do get you upset? This topic has been much on my heart the last couple of weeks. Look for more on it, probably during September.

Please continue to hold Lynette Cotton in **prayer**. She has completed her first round of treatments and is travelling to her son's wedding. Remember also Eric, Gerry's brother Gene, John's friends Jennie and Dexter, Ellen's brother-in-law, and Nancy's brother-in-law Dick. Remember this week the young child hurt in a car accident a few days ago; all those living and working or looking for work on the Gulf coast; and the many people who have lost homes in the latest round of foreclosures. Remember the countries of Chile, where Alma's grandson will be working; Peru, where Rusty and Sara are serving; and Guatemala, where Karla Koll continues in mission.

Keep the planning committee for **San Rafael Presbyterian Church in Mogote** in your prayers also as they finish preparations for the re-dedication and open house on **Sunday, July 25**. If you haven't yet called Margie Garcia to let her know you're coming for lunch after our worship that morning, please do: 719-376-2418.

Some **thank yous** are in order. Thank you to the La Puente work group that shampooed our carpets in the sanctuary and the main floor last week. Thank you to the group that donated sleeping bags and pillows for our dormitories – and for the La Puente Volunteer Coordination office, which is storing the bags and pillows and working on getting liners for the bags and covers for the pillows. Thank you to all of you who have donated fabric for Nuts'n'Needles. And a welcome and thank you to Claire Troyer, who returns on July 25 as our guest organist through August.

There will be no newsletter **next week**, as Eric and I travel to visit family. Although I'll be on vacation, I do want to know if anything major happens in your lives. Please call me on my cell phone to let me know: 719-680-4558. If need be, we'll make arrangements together for any additional pastoral services you may need. I'll be back in the office the afternoon of Monday, July 26, and ready to get out the next issue of this newsletter that week.

In Christ, Katherine