

ALAMOSA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWS

June 9, 2010



Dear Friends in Christ,

Aren't the flowers beautiful? Thank you, Mabel! And thank you, Nancy, for coordinating the plantings; Ellen, for the drainage rocks; and, of course, John for producing the urns. Plans are to bring the geraniums indoors to overwinter when cold weather comes. Silk poinsettias are on the list for Christmas and pots of flowering bulbs next spring. Along with the brick planters in front of the sanctuary, our front is really going to be gorgeous this summer – and all year. (As for the lawn, Jack's grandson Justin is mowing it again.)

Geraniums at last!

Speaking of the landscaping, as I mentioned Sunday please take a look at our beautifully trimmed bushes. Marcella and Marilyn put in hours and hours of hard work on the shrubs and also cleaning out the hollyhock bed behind the church. Do you all know that it's Marilyn who makes our coffee every Sunday morning? And – I almost broke into the Communion liturgy May 30 to comment on it – I've never seen such beautifully starched Communion linens as the ones Marcella sets out. Our congregation is truly blessed in our members.

So many of you contribute your time to our own life – and many of you also contribute with money, time and labor to service through our congregation to the community in the name of Jesus Christ. There's a term that's becoming popular – you may have heard it – the “missional church.” That's a church that focuses on training all its members as disciples, specifically in terms of reaching out to the unchurched in evangelism and service. The “missional church” movement is the focus of the Presbytery's Growing Healthy Churches program and the Growing Healthy Pastors group – and the term is one you may well be hearing from pastors in the future.

So, as you look forward to the congregational meeting this coming Sunday, you might want to look again at your copy of the Congregational Mission Statement coming to you for approval. What do YOU think your responsibility is as a member of this congregation? What is your individual calling as a Christian? What is our call overall as a congregation? Has the Session captured it adequately in the Mission Statement? The Statement grew from your views expressed last winter – has something gotten left out, or have you thought of something else important? What do you want from your next pastor to help you fulfill your responsibilities and call, and this congregation's mission? This is the time to say, as you elect a Pastor Nominating Committee (“PNC”) and the Session prepares the Church Information Form (based on the Mission Statement) for the PNC to review. I pray that your next pastor will be just the right person to help you and this congregation grow and flourish – and your prayer and thoughtful comments now are one of the ways God can make that happen.

Of course, food helps stimulate the brain – so be sure to be here Sunday for our monthly breakfast at 9:30. And Deacons, you're entitled to seconds on everything, because you have a meeting after the congregational meeting.

There's physical food, and then there's spiritual food. For all of you, how is your prayer life? Praying for others is a great gift; please continue to hold Kathi's son-in-law Rick; Lynnete Cotton; Nancy's brother-in-law Dick; and Eric in your prayers, along with our recent visitors, including the children. But don't stop there – the whole world, even the whole creation, is in need of your prayers. If that feels overwhelming, try picking one region of the world, or one type of concern, to pray for each day. And don't forget that prayer is primarily our conversation with God. Make time for thanksgiving and praise in your prayer – and leave some time for listening, too. God may be having a hard time getting a word in edgewise! Want to learn more? Let me know if it's time for a class on prayer – or a group to practice prayer together.

In Christ, Katherine

PS I found the photos of the Fordham University students painting the arches. Voila!

