

March 10, 2010

Dear Friends in Christ,

Just since last week's newsletter all sorts of new things have been happening. The mold for the **urns** has arrived – some of you had a chance to see it last Sunday before John took it home to do the pouring. Here again is the picture from the December 31 newsletter to give you a very rough idea of how the cloister will look come warmer weather. (Those of you getting this newsletter by the US mails are seeing the picture in black and white this week.)



Session met Monday night for the regular March meeting and to continue work on planning for the congregation's future. The themes from the Annual Meeting (which in turn came from your statements last winter) have now been grouped into a few paragraphs about the church as it is now. Still being drafted are paragraphs describing our future as we currently hope for it. Once Session has done some more work, the results will be coming to you for your input. Have we got it right? What would you add or change?

This was Session's second meeting this month, with one more to go. Please thank Ellen, Bob, Kathy, Janet, Dorothy Croft, Noel Harlan, and Sharon for their dedication next time you see them. Besides working on routine Session business and this planning process, they've also been willing to face up to their fears and hopes for the process itself. That wooden divider in the conference room with the colored hats on it is a tool based on Edward de Bono's work in *The Six Thinking Hats*. See if anyone on Session can explain it to you. If they can't, let me know we need more "Blue Hat thinking."

Some of the members of the **Handbell Choir** played in worship last Sunday and the whole Choir began rehearsing our Easter piece on Tuesday evening. We could really use another bell ringer or two for the top notes. Anyone out there????? Talk with Noel Herrera, Dave, Sharon, Nancy, John, Jack Johnson, or me if you want to know more about playing.

With additional gifts coming in, the **Trustees** voted on Sunday to buy the remaining **mattresses** for the bunk beds. The one exception – the four Twin XL mattresses were going to cost almost twice as much a piece as the regular Twin mattresses. So we'll get regular Twins for those four beds and add foam extensions to them.

Today was Alamosa Presbyterian Church's turn to host the weekly **Ecumenical Lenten Prayer Service and Lunch** at First United Methodist Church. Thanks go to **PW** for the delicious food and for serving lunch. Besides leading the service today, I've been busy in other ways this week as well. Yesterday I finished my last training as a volunteer mediator for our Valley **Center for Restorative Programs** and then presented a case study for our Valley **Growing Healthy Pastors** group (sponsored by the Presbytery) in Monte Vista. Tonight is the fourth in our **Seven Spiritual Gifts of Waiting** Lenten studies. Planning and leading those has been a gift of prayer to me.

Coming up this coming Sunday – **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME** ("Spring Forward") and our **MONTHLY BREAKFAST**. Don't let your clock keep you from getting here at the right time.

Also coming up in April are two community events. **Habitat for Humanity** will be hosting a General Information Meeting on Saturday, April 3rd, 5pm at the Hospice del Valle Community Room (514 Main Street in Alamosa). For more information, call Habitat at 589-8678. And La Puente is once again hosting a community **CROP Walk** on April 25 to raise funds for feeding the hungry. There are posters and flyers in the narthex to tell you more about it. Walkers are always wanted – especially if you'd like to sign up people to pledge because you're walking. Of course, don't forget the **U. S. Census** in April also. Your participation is critical.

In Christ, Katherine