



ALAMOSA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWS

March 31, 2010

Dear Friends in Christ,

So what did you think of last week's "Provocative Proposals"? I haven't been around much to talk with you – have you been giving your ideas to Session? **LET'S PLAN ON SOME TIME TO TALK ABOUT THEM ON SUNDAY, APRIL 11.** Do you remember the story about Michelangelo? He was asked how he planned his wonderful statues. "The statue is already there in the marble," he answered. "All I have to do is to take away the extra stone." The better we can picture together just what this congregation most truly is – the "statue" hiding in the marble of our current life -- the better we can use the tools of our energy and skill to make it visible for everyone to see. (Note that our current life is already "marble" – something beautiful in itself. And, no, I'm not saying we have to "cut away" things we're currently doing – just find ways to "set free" the parts of our life that matter most to us – like having children around again...)

...Speaking of which, were you in church on Palm Sunday? What a joy to have **SIX CHILDREN** as part of our congregation that morning! They handed out palms, came up for children's time and pounded in one of the "Jacob's ladder" nails, left worship to make palm crosses with Kathy Schultz, and came back for Communion. Of course we can't think of them as being here for **OUR** benefit – it's our job to minister to **THEM** – but we're still allowed to enjoy having them. I was talking with someone the other day about God's "economy." Do you know what that is? "Economy" comes from a Greek word meaning "household management" (from the Greek word "oikos" for "house"). God's economy is God's way of arranging things in the kingdom, God's household. And in that economy, a blessing for one person (such as a child) is a blessing for everyone else also (such as us gray-haired types). (To finish the lesson – the Greek word is also the basis for our English word "ecumenical".)

You'll see in this Sunday's bulletin that Kathy and Sharon are now listed as our children's Sunday School teachers. Please support them in any way you can as they "carve out" the best way to provide Sunday School time and space for children. (Bringing your grandchildren is a good way to begin.)

You'll also see in the bulletin that all of the current members of Session are now listed under the heading "elders." All of you who have been ordained as elders were ordained as spiritual leaders for the congregation and the elders currently serving on Session are working hard to fill that role as they plan and pray and take action for the congregation's future. I'm challenging them now (with very little warning to them) to experience their calling in an even richer way. You'll see in the bulletin under the Invitation that I'm inviting anyone who has encountered the risen Christ or wants to experience a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ to talk either with me or with one of the elders. Take me up on the offer! Talk with me and with any of the current Session.

All of these changes in the bulletin come in the context of the Resurrection of the Lord, also known as Easter Sunday. I hope you can be here in worship that morning – and also at the ecumenical ("household") sunrise service at Cole Park at 6:30 am. I'll be doing the opening and closing prayers. Don't forget to bring your fish to church for our One Great Hour of Sharing Offering.

The April calendar is attached with this newsletter. It looks emptier than usual. That's tied in with my opening statement that I haven't been around much. Those of you who have been in church regularly – and who have been so wonderfully supportive that words fail to express my thanks – know that Eric's cancer treatments have now reached the point where he needs me with him all the time. As a result, I expect to be in Colorado Springs with him on weekdays for all or most of April, and to have him here in Alamosa for the weekends. Session meetings, handbell choir practice, and History Sorters will still happen but I don't know just when; we'll work that out together. The time I'm taking off to be with him is coming from the six weeks included in my Interim Pastor Covenant as the Session and I have discussed. (I had expected to be away in May and early June for schooling but that's now cancelled.) Meanwhile, I want to be as available to all of you as I can. I have internet service when we're at the hospital each day and I keep my cell phone on. Please contact me at any time: katiej42@gmail.com and 719-680-4558. I want to go on serving you and this congregation to the best of my ability; in another month or so I should be able to do that "on location" full-time again.

In Christ, Katherine