



**First Presbyterian Church, Tucumcari**  
 phone (575) 461-0291

***The Good News***

**Fall 2014 Edition**

*"News that's  
 'decent and  
 orderly,' and  
 some that's not."*



**The People Have Spoken!**

On September 21<sup>st</sup>, many of you came together over supper for a very special time for sharing your thoughts. You talked about what you love about this church. You talked about what your hopes and dreams are for this church. You also talked about your personal expectations are of this church.

Perhaps there is change in the air for us. We have seen a few new people in our midst. Give thanks for them, just as the Old Testament tells us we might be "entertaining angels." Also, you may have heard:

- A slew of Rattlers in the sanctuary for a rousing talk from Coach Rivera, and a special showing of the football movie, "Facing the Giants."
- The beginning of campus ministry at Mesalands, studying Scriptures with the students
- The first batch of "Go Bags" for the Domestic Violence Program.
- Our continued Movie Ministry/Fellowship on Wednesday nights.
- The first of many "Community Health Talks" (October 29<sup>th</sup>), starting with Sheryl Gambardella, NP, to talk about breast health.

I believe that in order to be a "big" church, we have to act like one, as long as we don't bit off more than we can chew. But it helps for us to lift up our eyes to see the possibilities. The Psalmist once wrote, "I lift my eyes to the hills, from whom will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth..." (Psalm 121)

2014 has certainly been a busy year, making many of us stretch in new ways. We have had lots of help from the Lord, who made

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## From page one...

...heaven and earth. God has helped us try new things while we strain our eyes to see beyond the hills that we know so well. God isn't done with us yet!

Our Elders are about to adopt a Time and Talent Survey, so we can solicit your input, and let you know of the ways you can serve God more richly. Soon, it will be distributed at church and by e-mail. Watch for it!

God be with you till we meet again...

*Pastor Amy*

## Presbytery of Sierra Blanca News

The Presbytery of Sierra Blanca met September 27-28 in Lovington, NM. The congregation graciously fed us and gave us "goodie bags" with a city map, mints, pens and a bookmark.

Among the usual meeting discussions, we received the report and recommendations of the Special Administrative Commission, and the Commissioners were officially thanked and dismissed. The Commission recommended we form search committees to hire a permanent Stated Clerk (SC Larry Loy is an interim until December 31<sup>st</sup>) and a "Transitional Shepherd," who would be an individual who would provide temporary leadership to assist our Presbytery as we seek to become the new cluster-based structure that we selected last year. Along with these two positions, we voted in favor of a proposed 2015 budget which includes their salaries, hiring and moving expenses. The Presbytery voted in favor of this proposal with a 2/3 majority.

The Presbytery Secretary position was also re-written to fit more realistically what is already being done. Our secretary, Dixie Loy, will be leaving at the end of 2014, so that position also needs to be filled. It is a part-time position.

## Recipe: Easy Pizza Crust

The recipe below is a yeast recipe, makes a sturdy, deep dish crust that can stand up to any topping.

### Ingredients:

- 2 pkgs of dry bakers' yeast
- 1 ½ cups warm water
- 1 T honey
- 1 cup whole wheat flour
- 3 cups of flour (white, rye, or any combination thereof)
- 4 T sunflower or olive oil
- 2 tsp salt

### Preparation:

Place yeast and honey in bowl of warm water. Let sit for 5 minutes. Blend flours together. As yeast starts to bubble, mix in the oil and salt. Mix in the flour, withholding ½ cup white flour. Turn onto floured board and knead until mixed thoroughly. Wash out the bowl, lightly oil it and place dough in it. Cover with a damp towel and set it in a warm place to rise. After about 1 hour, or when it has doubled in size, knead dough 3 more minutes. Roll into a 14 inch circle, place on round pan, cover, and rise for another 45 minutes. Preheat oven to 450 degrees.

Prick several times with a fork. Bake 4-5 minutes in oven before you cover it with your favorite. Then, after you've topped it with good things, bake in the oven for at least 10 minutes or until the cheese is melted. Presto!

O Taste and See that the Lord is Good!  
Psalm 34:8



## Halloween Party Alert!

Make sure that you have your costume ready! The Halloween Party is nearly upon us. We will be gathering in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00PM on Thursday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please bring a treat to share, a scary snack, or dastardly dessert. There will be fun and silliness, as usual. If you want to bring a game to play, please do! Let's not forget that fun is a part of faith.

**Take Note!** First Tucumcari welcomes your newsletter submissions, needs your help writing pieces for publishing, and is open to suggestions. Please direct your comments and submissions to [1stprestucumcari@gmail.com](mailto:1stprestucumcari@gmail.com), call the office at 461-0291, or call the Amy directly at 575-708-0860. Please also note our website and online calendar at <http://1stpreschurchtuc.weebly.com/#/>.

## Time out for Teaching

The Session has challenged the pastor to begin offering a short teaching during worship. At her discretion, Pastor Amy has started at the ground level of "Calvinism 101."

*"TULIP" is just an acronym representing the "5 points of Calvinism," a set of doctrines that were developed in the 1600s based on the works of Protestant theologian John Calvin.*

If you are reading this, you're likely a Protestant. And in true Protestant fashion, you have permission to disagree with the TULIP. However, the below doctrines are behind much of what we do, and why we do what we do today.

**T**otal Depravity: We cannot escape our sinful and broken nature. We have trouble staying out of trouble. The brokenness of this world affects us all, as much as we try to resist. For this reason, we confess our sins every Sunday.

**U**nconditional Election: In spite of our "depravity," God has "elected" us to an "office." In other words, we are "called" to different ministries in God's service. Some are ordered ministries of pastor, elder and deacon. Some of informal ones, based on the different talents and gifts the Spirit has given. For this reason, we consider the chance to serve a gift from God for us and others. For it's a joy to realize that God wants us to serve even when we know we're not worthy.

**L**imited Atonement: God's grace is sufficient for us all. However, according to this doctrine, it will only be good for those who accept the gift of grace. In other words, if you have trouble accepting God's love, then you will never really know it, feel it, or live according to it. For this reason, in our new membership vows, we publicly renounce sin and promise to rely on Christ's grace, knowing this is a never-ending battle.

**I**rrresistible Grace: God's gift of grace is irresistibile to us, if we realize that we don't deserve it from the start. It is a gift straight from the heart of God. How can we resist such a gift? For this reason, our service of Holy Communion is often called a "Celebration" of the sacrament, for it is a joyful occasion to be reunited with our Lord and one another by grace alone.

**P**erseverance of the Saints: Because of our joy and gratitude to God, the people of God manage to persevere through all things. In order that we display the kingdom living in our lives, in order that folks see that the Kingdom of God is "at hand." For this reason, we have such helpful people in our church, committed to even the littlest tasks.

## Building and Grounds

Wayne Huffman and Ron Wilmot are our Building and Grounds Elders

*I suppose you have noticed the fall changes of our "Little Church on the Corner." We have new paint on Fellowship Hall, major roof repairs, new finish on the sanctuary (oak, sure is pretty). Here are some highlights: Sprinkler system fully operational*

*Lawn looks great*

*Excess vegetation trimmed away from the buildings*

*Many other little "upkeep" repairs*

*Consequently, all these repairs did not come cheap. Fortunately, we had some backup funds in different accounts to cover the cost of about \$15,000. These were unbudgeted expenses, which had to be done.*

*The Session has requested that we contribute to a Building Fund over and above our normal tithes and offerings.*

*Therefore, if you can leave a check marked "Building Fund" or use one of the offering envelopes and mark it "Building Fund" in the offering plate, it will help immensely.*

*God bless us all and our "Little Church on the Corner."*

*If you see anything around the building and grounds that needs repair, please let our Building and Grounds Elders know at [rwilmot50@gmail.com](mailto:rwilmot50@gmail.com) or Wayne Huffman at phone 575-403-5905.*

**Wednesday Nights:** Since the Rummage Sale, our movie ministry has resumed. So far, our Fall movies have been: "Never Cry Wolf," "The Straight Story" and "Curse of the Were-Rabbit." We have alternated between movies for children and for adults. Since the end of May, we have seen almost 20 movies. If you would like to learn how to work the equipment, and provide recommendations for positive or instructional films, please call Amy at 575-708-0860.



## Our Faith at Work

Kenna McKenzie-Young is our Mission Elder

**Where do you go in town?** If you have some favorite "haunts," take some church flyers with you next time. Amy needs help advertising in various places: movie nights, special events, and even some generic flyers about us. If you have an urge to help us advertise, please call her at 575-708-0860.

**Tanglers are looking for a new time to meet.** The time is nigh for fiber art! We are looking for a new time/day to meet, perhaps after work on Tuesday or Thursday. Want to join in? Please let Amy or Kenna ([draconicalpriest@hotmail.com](mailto:draconicalpriest@hotmail.com)) know what works for you. We have decided Sundays are too busy with other activities. Time to make more Chemo Caps!

**Presbyterian Women:** The PW has always been an important arm of Mission in our church. We were able to give a total of \$500 (\$250 each) to CYFD Foster Kids and Tucumcari Domestic Violence Program to assist them with Christmas presents this year. We also donated stuffed animals to the Domestic Violence Program, Tucumcari Police Department and Fire Department, because we were literally "flush in plush" at the October Rummage Sale. Between the usual "rummage" and our Silent Auction, the October Sale yielded over \$2,100! PW thanks you for your donations, hard work and cheerful hearts.

## Mission Needs continued

**The Hospitality Pantry:** Our Rt. 66 Hospitality Pantry is doing well right now. Thanks for your recent donations! We were able to appropriate some of the hotel toiletries to the Domestic Violence project.

**Tucumcari Domestic Violence Program:** We helped a young woman with a nearly \$400 electric bill. This was because her recently-divorced husband refused court-orders to help her with the cost of living and raising their child. The way the 3-2-1 grant works is if a need arises with someone who is currently receiving the care of the Tucumcari Domestic Violence office, the church is contacted by the local supervisor. In the case of this woman, we provided her the help she needed without any money changing hands. We made arrangements directly with Farmer's Electric. By the way, the Tucumcari Domestic Violence Program is a misnomer because it doesn't just serve Tucumcari residents. It serves ALL of Quay County.

**Ministry of H.O.P.E.:** Thank you for your generosity Ministry of H.O.P.E.. The donation pot is empty right now! Please consider making a donation of non-perishable foods.

**We need your help!** Please let Kenna know the next time you go to Amarillo or Clovis. We accumulate pop tabs (Ronald McDonald House) and chemo caps (Plains Regional Medical Center). If you're planning a trip out of town, please speak up!

### Udder Silliness

Why did the police arrest the turkey?  
*Fowl play.*

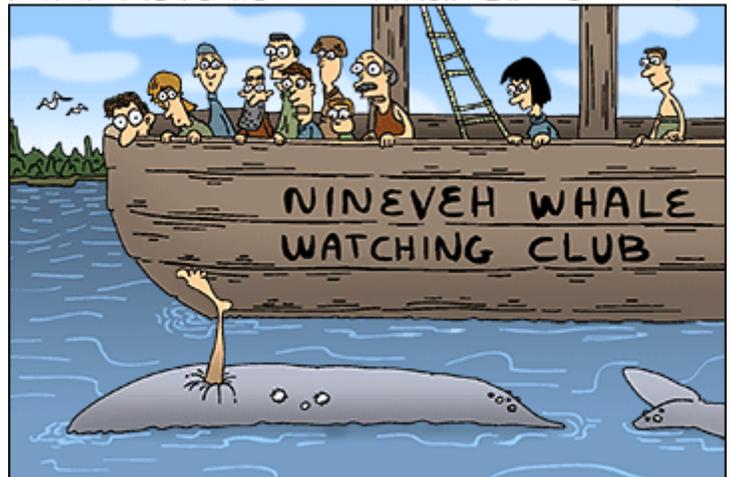
What do you call a cow with a sense of humor?  
*Amoosing.*

Why did the cow jump over the moon?  
*The farmer had cold hands.*

How did the farmer find his cow?  
*He tractor down.*

*Let this be a lesson to you. In order to stop the madness, submit your own poetry or news to the Winter 2014 Newsletter!*

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(See Jonah 1-4)

07-12-2013

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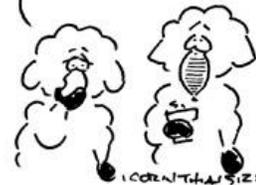
I THINK THIS WHOLE "BODY PARTS" IDEA IS COOL.



YEAH - EVERYONE PLAYS A PART & EVERY PART IS NECESSARY.



EXCEPT FOR THE APPENDIX. I WONDER WHO'S THE APPENDIX?



© MATT STUBBS # 10.01.10  
1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-31

## Birthdays and Upcoming Events November – December (we have no October babies!)

- November 1<sup>st</sup> Oran Watson
- November 2<sup>nd</sup> Norman Runyan
- November 7<sup>th</sup> Jacob Mikow
- November 10<sup>th</sup> Anna Randals &  
Amber Varsallona
- November 28<sup>th</sup> Donald Varsallona
- November 30<sup>th</sup> Dr. Jean (Corey)
- December 3<sup>rd</sup> Linda Sims
- December 10<sup>th</sup> Ron Wilmot
- December 11<sup>th</sup> Kelly McFarland
- December 17<sup>th</sup> Sharon Huffman
- December 18<sup>th</sup> Mickey Page
- December 24<sup>th</sup> Lou Sims
- *December 25<sup>th</sup> Jesus ☺*

### Upcoming Dates (Please note all are in Fellowship Hall or Sanctuary, unless otherwise noted.)

- *Wednesday, October 22nd 6:00PM Movie Night "Curse of the Were-Rabbit" a Wallace and Gromit Movie*
- *Thursday, October 23rd 6:00PM Halloween Party*
- *Wednesday, October 29th 5:30PM Community Health Talk w/ Sheryl Gambardella, NP "Breast Health"*
- *Wednesday, November 5<sup>th</sup> @ Noon Presbyterian Women Potluck luncheon and meeting*
- *Sunday, November 23rd Guest Preacher To Be Announced*
- *Thursday, November 27th Thanksgiving Day*
- *Sunday, November 30th Advent Begins/New church year!*
- *Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> @ Noon PW Christmas Party*
- *White Elephant Christmas Party and Game Night - To Be Announced*
- *Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> @6:00PM Christmas Eve by Candlelight*

### **When God sends you help, don't ask questions! The Lord works in mysterious ways...**

A woman found that she had locked her keys inside. The woman found an old rusty coat hanger left on the ground. She looked at it and said, "I don't know how to use this." She bowed her head and asked God to send her some HELP.

Within 5 minutes a beat-up old motorcycle pulled up, driven by a bearded man who was wearing an old biker skull rag. He got off of his cycle and asked if he could help. She said: "I've locked my keys in my car. I must get home. Please, can you use this hanger to unlock my car?" He said, "Sure." He walked over to the car, and in less than a minute the car was open. She hugged the man and through tears said, "Thank you, God, for sending me such a very nice man." The man heard her little prayer and replied, "Lady, I am NOT a nice man. I just got out of prison yesterday for car theft."

The woman hugged him, "Oh, thank you, God! You even sent me a Professional!"

### ***THE "USUAL" SCHEDULE***

First Sundays - Celebration of Holy Communion

Third Sundays - Congregational Potluck

Every Sunday @1:30PM Jubilee Ringers Practice

MWF @9:00AM Exercise Eat and Pray

First Mondays @5:30/6:00PM Green Chili Gals – Mickey's House

Tuesdays @ Noon: Yoga for Beginners Fellowship Hall

Wednesdays at 6:00PM (or 5:30) Midweek Fellowship or Program

Wednesdays at 7:15PM Christmas Cantata Practice at Center Street UMC

Fridays @ 2:00PM Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship; Mesalands Campus Commons Area