

the LANTERN



First Presbyterian Church, Las Cruces, NM

March 2017



Why I Serve the Church

Michelle Osborne

Seven years ago, when I answered God's call to be commissioned (right here at First Pres) into children's ministry, I thought it was a wonderful idea to lead kids to Jesus and spread God's grace to their families, just as ministry leaders did with me and my family, growing up in the Presbyterian Church. Thanks to God and my family that I am able, and to all of you in the congregation for this opportunity.

So, I serve our church and Salt & Light for over 165 reasons:

First, I serve because I love God.

Second, I serve because I love children of God, of all ages.

Third, I serve because the pay is great! Receiving children's smiles and hugs, and parents' and congregational support is not a bad way to be paid.

Fourth, I serve because the Hours are great. Putting time into figuring out fun ways to teach the love and word of Jesus, is always a good way for me to spend my time.

Fifth, the benefits are humongous. We are filling heaven in the future, with more and more kids who believe in Jesus every day.

My next 90 reasons are because of all the volunteers and members of our congregation, who help in their own ways to give of their hearts, time and blessings. I am so appreciative and love working with Rev Norm, Ms. Kathy, Ms. Beth, Kelly and Greg, and the staff of teachers, leaders, kitchen crew members, for the program.

Our church is a place to build friendships and relationships that count, and this, in turn, is how our church meets our needs as servants working together.

My last 70 reasons are, of course, because of the awesome kids and youth, who I'm blessed to see and get to know on Wednesdays and Sundays, who grow up in our church, make friends in fun and faith, and learn to serve, too.

Thanks for letting me share, and for all of your blessed support!



Annual Meeting 2016

The 2016 annual meeting of the congregation was held immediately after the worship service on February 26. The only item of business was deciding on the terms of the pastor's call. The terms, presented by the session, were passed out just before the vote was taken. The total length of the meeting was three minutes. The following corporation meeting took only seconds and no business was discussed.

The congregation was urged to go to the enchilada dinner served by the youth in Watkins Hall. The dinner included red or green enchilada (or both), beans, salad, and nachos as well as an assortment of drinks and ice cream sunday for desert.



Fortunately oral reports with ample time for questions were presented during the dinner. Many of the activities of the church were described. All the questions were answered. Printed annual reports were on all the tables. The report had been previously e-mailed to all members with addresses. A copy is available on the internet for a limited time at the URL

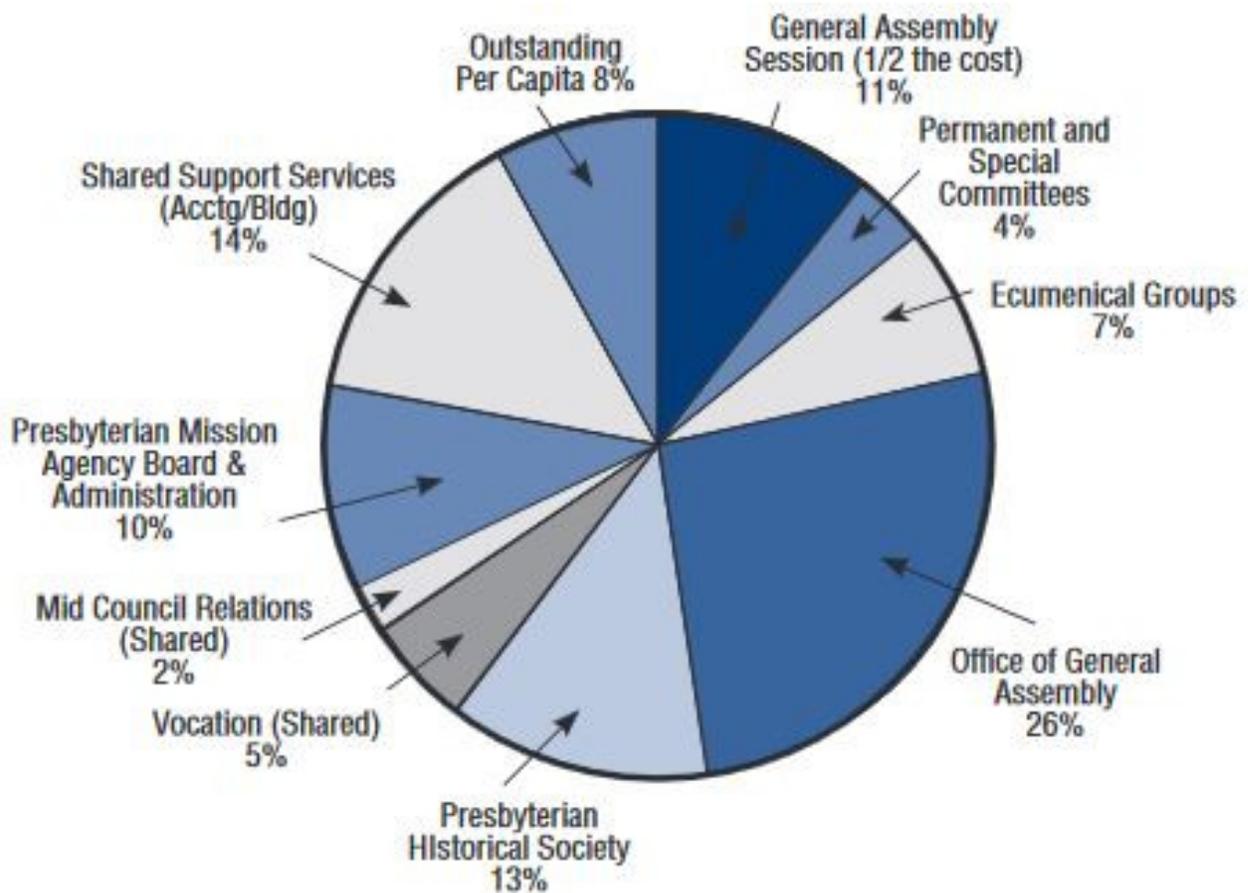
<http://www.temp.qzxservices.com>.

Per Capita Apportionment:

Every Presbyterian (USA) congregation is apportioned a share of the expenses of the Presbytery, the Synod, and the General Assembly. The apportionment is based on church membership. The amount to be paid by our congregation for the year 2017 is \$26.63 per communicant member. Members may choose to contribute this amount, if they wish, thus freeing church funds for our ministries.

General Assembly minutes say “Per capita is an opportunity for all Communicant members of the Presbyterian church through the Midcouncils to participate equally, responsibly, and interdependently by sharing the cost of coordination and evaluation of mission; and of performing ecclesiastical, legislative, and judicial functions that identify a Reformed Church, while at the same time strengthening the sense of community among all Presbyterians.”

The budget for these funds on the national level is



The per-member rate our church pays is set by Presbytery. Most of the money stays there with much smaller amounts being sent on to Synod and the national church.

MARCH 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>26 Annual meeting 8:45 AM Faith & Fellowship Worship / Sanctuary 10:30 AM FPC Worship 10:30 AM Koren Worship 10:30 AM Spanish Worship in Jones Hall Chapel 11:30 AM Congregational Enchilada Luncheon</p>	<p>27 6:30 PM Adult Children of Alcoholics mtg Jones Kitchen/fellowship area</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>1  9:00 AM Quilting group 4:00 PM Salt & light 5:00 PM Group/Library 6:00 PM ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE</p>	<p>2 Concordia event/dinner in Watkins Hall 6:30 PM Jennie Curry Bible Study/Library 7:30 PM The Concordia Choir Concert in the Sanctuary/tickets available at ConcordiaTickets.com, or 800.838.3006</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5  8:45 AM Faith & Fellowship Worship / Sanctuary 10:30 AM FPC Worship 10:30 AM Koren Worship 11:30 AM Reeves Hall in use</p>	<p>6 6:30 PM Adult Children of Alcoholics mtg Jones Kitchen/fellowship area</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 9:00 AM Quilting group 4:00 PM Salt & light 5:00 PM Group/Library</p>	<p>9 5:00 PM American Guild Planning mtg.</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12 8:45 AM Faith & Fellowship Worship / Sanctuary 10:30 AM FPC Worship 10:30 AM Koren Worship 10:30 AM Spanish Worship in Jones Hall Chapel 11:30 AM Reeves Hall in use</p>	<p>13 6:30 PM Adult Children of Alcoholics mtg Jones Kitchen/fellowship area</p>	<p>14 9:45 AM Mary Martha Circle in the Library 6:30 PM CE meeting 7:00 PM Team meetings: Admin., B&G, CL&OS, Missions, M&W</p>	<p>15 4:00 PM Salt & light 5:00 PM Group/Library</p>	<p>16 6:30 PM Deacons mtg in the Library</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 9:00 AM Elder Retreat</p>
<p>19 8:45 AM Bread & Breakfast/Faith & Fellowship in Reeves 10:30 AM FPC Worship 10:30 AM Koren Worship 10:30 AM Spanish Worship in Jones Hall Chapel 11:30 AM International potluck/meet & greet with CLOS</p>	<p>20 6:30 PM Adult Children of Alcoholics mtg Jones Kitchen/fellowship area</p>	<p>21 7:00 PM Session mtg. in the Library</p>	<p>22 No Salt & Light for Spring Break 9:00 AM Quilting group 5:00 PM Group/Library</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 InBetweeners in Watkins/Reeves</p>	<p>25</p>
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The InBetweeners

The InBetweeners held their monthly dinner meeting on February 24. The dinner was a planned pot luck and the meeting was a presentation by David Thomas on his latest historical book, *The Grave of Billy the Kid*. This book is one of a series of short, local, history books which Thomas researches, writes, and publishes. He has presented three other books to the InBetweeners as they have been published.

The dinner provided a variety of main dishes ranging from meat loaf to glazed ham with a variety of side dishes. Several comments on the potatoes were heard. The meal concluded with a variety of pies, cakes, and fruit.



The program was of great local historical interest. Billy the Kid is an interesting character about which much is written, some of which is imaginative nonsense. The book discussed here was meticulously researched, containing much detail about a small part of the story. The grave, in the Fort Stanton graveyard has been much disturbed. Even the ownership of the land was disputed. Headstones were stolen and replaced. The book even contains pictures of the locations and the people involved with the grave and the last days of Billy's life.

FPC Book Club

Erin Taylor

The FPC Book Club met for the first time on Thursday February 23. We had a lively discussion of the book, Fierce Convictions, by Karen Swallow Prior, a biography of Hannah More, “Poet, Reformer, Abolitionist.” She was a playwright and author who moved from the literary circles of Samuel Johnson to the reformer and abolitionist movements of Wilberforce and the Clapham Sect. She wrote a very popular set of tracts that told moral tales, as well as a best selling novel. One of the things that fascinated us was that when she opened a school for the children in the lower class communities near her, the children were taught to read, but not to write because writing was considered to be dangerous. Her schools were ultimately closed after they were accused of promoting “Methodism” by allowing extemporaneous prayers rather than following the Book of Common Prayer, a charge More denied. She was a charismatic person with both strong beliefs and great compassion. If anyone is interested in reading the book, we have copies to share.

Our next book will be Liturgy of the Ordinary: Sacred Practices in Everyday Life by Tish Harrison Warren. In this book, Warren, an Anglican priest, examines the the sacredness in everyday life. She is calling for us, rather than looking for those mountain top religious “experiences,” to be looking for spiritual practice in the everyday. We will be meeting in the church parlor at 7 PM on March 23. If you have any questions or would like a ride, please contact Erin Taylor (rosasmommy@aol.com).

Future meetings planned and the books to be discussed include;

Waking Up White, and Finding Myself in the Story of Race by Debby Irving, to be discussed on April 27, and

Assimilate or Go Home: Notes from a Failed Missionary on Rediscovering Faith by D.L. Mayfield, to be discussed on May 25.

The Cover

The cover is a cross from the graveyard of the Holy Trinity Abbey Church in Adare, Ireland.

Photographs provided by Alex Burr

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**Concordia College Choir
7:30 PM March 2**

Vision Statement

To be a place where Christian love is modeled

Mission Statement

To be a place where Christian love is modeled through:

1. Understanding, celebrating, and sharing God's Word.
2. Following obediently where God is leading us
3. Leading, nurturing, and serving our community for Christ