



Tres Rios Area Congregational News

March 2008

Congregational News

ALAMOGORDO

First Christian Church



Bill Coburn will be finishing his time as Interim Minister at First Christian at the end of this month. We are very grateful for Bill's willingness to serve First Christian during this transitional time.

Patrick Crocker is the new minister that First Christian has called and his first Sunday in the pulpit will be April 6. More news about him to come.

ALBUQUERQUE

Los Altos Christian Church

As part of Los Altos' Wellness Ministry, the Not Ready for Prime Time Players presented on February 10, a funny but informative special on Hospital Safety.

The women of the church are currently using in their meetings the book *Simple Abundance* by Sarah Ban Breathnach, which is a book of meditations written for women to grow holistically to unite the areas of their lives.

The Seekers Class is currently doing a six week study of Richard Hamms book, *Recreating the Church*.

Monte Vista Christian Church

The Rev. Michelle Tatlock resigned on February 5 as Minister of Pastoral Care and Counseling at Monte Vista CC. Michelle had served in this position for eight years. She will now be working as a full-time chaplain for the Heart Hospital of New Mexico.

The Area is very grateful for Michelle's service and dedication. We know she will continue to serve us well in her new position and in area activities.

Sombra del Monte Christian Church

On January 27, the congregation held a strategic planning follow-up meeting which was facilitated by the Rev. Kathleen Logan who is Pastor of Membership and Enrichment at United Church of Los Alamos.

The Christian Women's Fellowship recently collected small, light-weight items that they shipped to Autauga Interfaith Care Center in Prattville, Alabama, to help tornado victims there.

West Mesa Christian Church

The Rev. Mark Denton recently preached for 4 weeks on the history and beliefs of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The church is urging those that want to know more about our history to download a free curriculum that is available online called "Streamers", written by Deborah Adams Phelps. The download is available at www.disciples.org/dns/Releases2008/08004.html.

ANGEL FIRE**United Church of Angel Fire**

Peggy Trott has recently been appointed as Minister-in Residence for the congregation. One new ministry she is beginning there is a "Good Shepherd Program". She will also be writing a study to be used this summer, "Conversations with Biblical Women".

EL PASO**Bethany Christian Church**

On March 16, directly after worship, the Easter Cookie Theater presentation, "Whose Cross is it, anyway?" was presented by the children of Bethany Christian Church.

First Christian Church

After a 6 week discernment period in which members of First Christian met to study poverty from a Biblical perspective, pray and plan how to make First Christian a hospitable place to its neighbors, the first "Dinner with our Neighbors" was held with 32 guests attending, about 15 First Christian Church "hosts" and at least 15 Primera Iglesia Cristiana Hispana (nesting congregation) "hosts." The meal was served family style and the children were highly entertained by the Manos Arriba Puppet Theatre. Most of the guests were invited and encouraged to participate by the social worker and counselors at Lamar Elementary School, at Title I school near the church.

The church will continue to have these dinners through May 29 during which time they hope to get to know their neighbors better and know how better to serve them.

FARMINGTON**Bethany Christian Church**

Plans are underway for a mission trip to Matamoros, Mexico to build houses "casitas" for the Good Samaritan Ministries during the first week of June.

FABENS**First Christian Church**

On Sunday, March 2, after celebrating four years as pastor of First Christian Church, Merle Howard wed Virginia Burchardt. We rejoice with Merle and Virginia as they embark on a new journey together.

MONAHANS

First Christian Church



Chris Boone who recently began to serve First Christian, will soon receive his license from the Area and will be installed on May 4.

Chris has ministered for many years with Baptist Churches in Texas. Upon moving to Monahans, he met his wife Heather and has now accepted the call to First Christian Church. Chris also teaches 4th and 5th grade Math and Science at Buena Vista ISD, in Imperial, Texas. He and his wife, Heather, have one son, Fisher.

ODESSA



A Combined Youth Fellowship, an ecumenical youth group, with youth from First Presbyterian Church, **Bethany Christian Church** and **First Christian Church** has been recently formed and is meeting once a month together.

Bethany Christian Church

During the children's worship time for kindergarten to fifth graders, a curriculum, "Dr. Jones and the Secret of the Lost Keys" is being used. The study follows Dr. Jones and Professor Diggs, as they uncover amazing artifacts from the time of Moses and the Exodus, and discover the "Lost Keys" – biblical keys that will unlock the secrets to happiness. The curriculum is produced by River's Edge Curriculum <http://www.riversedgecurriculum.com/>.

First Christian Church

Steve Digby, senior minister at First Christian, and his wife, Gail became grandparents on January 16, when Steven Zane Calvo was born to the Digbys' daughter Kelly and her husband Chris, and his "big" brother, Chris.

The Membership Ministry has initiated a "Get Connected" program. They recently sent out a letter with pledge cards asking everyone to pledge to be in worship each of the five Sundays in March.

RUIDOSO

First Christian Church

The congregation of First Christian voted to move forward with the building expansion that has been in the planning stages for the past few years. The new addition will house a choir room, Sunday School rooms, a kitchen, bathrooms and a multi-use room for large church activities.

The Junior & Senior youth will travel to Glorieta, NM, on April 19, to visit the Heart and Soul Animal Sanctuary to learn about humane care of animals and deliver gifts to the organization.

The church now has four viable prayer groups that meet on a regular basis that undergird its ministry. 1) The congregation: every worshipper each Sunday is given a list of those in need of prayer and encouraged to pray for those on their list. 2) Board of Elders: in charge of the activating the Prayer Circle. 3) Shepherding program: shepherds appointed to members in the congregation help keep all in close contact and praying for each other. 4) Thursday morning Prayer & Study Group: use the church's prayer list to pray on a weekly basis.
