

# La Epístola

Fall 2016 / Vol. 47, No 4

## A New Campaign to Send Us into the Next 150 Years *by Harry Eberts*

Standing in the midst of a world battered by war, violence, and fear, the Prophet Isaiah asked “Whom shall I send?” It was a bold question. The odds seemed daunting for anything good to happen, and for anyone brave enough to step forward. When I survey our own world, I need to be reminded of Isaiah’s invitation time and again, especially when it is easier to say, “send that other person over there!” But that other person is us, and has been for the 150 years of our storied past. We answer the call, we step up to the plate, we get in the fray of a torn-apart world. It’s what we have done, what we do, and who we are. “Yes, indeed, send us!”

So we are, by embarking on a three-year campaign, officially to begin in early 2017, to address local needs and confront difficult issues in our world. It is called **CHURCH AS MISSION: The GREAT HERITAGE—BOLD FUTURE Campaign**. It is all about mission, community engagement, service to the least-served and most vulnerable, and maintaining our facilities as a place for mission, hospitality and welcome. This campaign seeks to ensure the church’s

vibrant ministry into the future and provide funds for bold initiatives to bring healing to the world. This is no small task but will take great resolve, dedication, generosity, and vision.

Mission sounds well and good but some have asked how does building maintenance and parking qualify as mission? Simply put, our building is mission. Our Book of Order (G-4.02) states “the property of the Presbyterian Church (USA) . . . is a tool for the accomplishment of the mission of Jesus Christ in the world.” In the past six years alone 162 organizations have used our building (and relied upon adequate parking which will become a challenge when construction begins in 2017 on a new county office building). People see us as a center for the community, as well as a center for worship, spirituality, education, music and culture. Funds are needed to ensure our doors remain open to our community and we are accessible to all who wish to enter here.

For more than a year the campaign’s Leadership Team, co-chaired by Plato Karayanis and Diane Buchanan, has been hard at work setting the foundation for the campaign, assessing

needs, gathering data, exploring mission possibilities, talking with people in the church and community, and keeping session apprised of their findings. The session then engaged Horizons Stewardship, a respected organization recommended to us by the Presbyterian Foundation, to help us with the campaign. For several months now we have been guided by the wise and steady hand of consultant Sanford Coon. A Case Statement has been developed and fine-tuned through a Potential and Possibility Study. In early 2017 we will be ready to bring it to the entire congregation but we want you to know about the process now and anticipate how you might be involved.

I hope you see this as great opportunity to reach out into our community and the world, and to invite the world into our building, so that we might truly answer Isaiah’s call. We know our world is confused and hurting, people are at war with one another and themselves, and need is everywhere. Let us meet the challenge, and seize this opportunity, to say gladly and loudly, we will answer the call. “Yes, send us!”



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
of Santa Fe

*Behold. Be still. Become.*

**First Presbyterian Church**  
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[www.fpcsantafe.org](http://www.fpcsantafe.org)

**Pastor**

Rev. Dr. Harry Eberts III

**Session**

Rie Clark	Richard Lindahl
Bill Eklund	Margaret Lyerly
Karen Finney	Jim Martin
Janis Gonzales	Tom Paalman
Judi Haines	Dennis Sanderson
Rebecca Hodges	Jim Smock
Steve Kinnett	Gale Wright

**Deacons**

Mary Black	Paul Kincaid
Darryl Bowman	Donna Krulitz
Sharon Eklund	Rose Mott
Art Hansen	Tom Mott
Kathy Hansen	Patti Poitras
Barbara Hutchison	Alice Tinkle
Arlena Jackson	Dawn Wink
Dorothy Karayanis	W Grant Wright
	Madeleine Wright

*First Presbyterian Church is an inclusive, reconciling congregation which welcomes into its worship and full membership all persons who profess faith in Jesus Christ regardless of race, age, gender, disability, sexual orientation, or economic status.*

# Dear Theophilus,

Ancient rocks call our name. Shorelines nestle up to grazing sheep. Wind blows the clouds and stirs the spirit. The abbey anchors the island and its pilgrims from across the world. A thin place to teach us about our own thin places where the distance between heaven and earth, God and us, is paper thin. This is Iona to me.

I joined seven others from our church to make the pilgrimage to Iona in June. Please read Carol Smock’s article on the opposite page to see through her eyes the amazing land we were privileged to tread. For me I felt like I was home, not only in the landscape of that small island but with Celtic Christianity itself as we learned about it from John Philip Newell and his wife Ali. It is all about justice and peace, unity, inclusiveness, possibility, and honoring all creation. There is no place where God is not present. I have always held these ideas close but now know they represent a Christian tradition that goes back over fifteen centuries.

A little history lesson. Back in 664 AD in Britain at the Council of Whitby the Roman Church and the Celtic Church met to settle differences and the Roman Empire Church won out. Not a big surprise—empire always seems to win out in these matters. As empire is prone to do it then silenced the Celtic Church and its leaders. They retreated back to the far isles of Scotland, to Iona, to live their faith and to be largely forgotten. The tragedy was not that Celtic Christianity lost but that they were not allowed to blend in with the Roman Church. I can only imagine, and sigh when I do, what Christianity might have become if both of these perspectives had been allowed to mix together.

The story is long and fascinating on how Celtic Christianity survived to where Iona is once again a place of rebirth. I asked John Philip one morning how we can bring Celtic Christianity back to the places where we live and he said, for one thing, that it is not about building a Celtic denomination or start Celtic churches. That would be part of empire. Instead we bring its spirit into the places where we already are.

So here’s an idea brought back to our church, based on what others have done in their churches across the country. **Hold a weekly Celtic Evensong Service on Wednesdays at 5:30 in the sanctuary.** Every Wednesday with the rhythm of the Abbey worship. Quiet, liturgical, contemplative, Celtic and Iona songs, communion. I think we need this because of the world in which we live. The chance to be together in a fractured world, to share and sing and simply be. To find quiet in the midst of all the noise. To listen to God. New initiatives always need to go through the proper channels and that process is taking place now (Worship and Music endorsed it at its July meeting) but it is hoped by mid-September we might begin. Keep your heart open and Wednesdays free at 5:30PM and we shall see what God has in store for us!

*Grace and peace!*  
*Harry*

# Finding a Thin Place: A Conversation with Harry



*High crosses*

by Carol Smock

The Celts spoke of thin places where the world of the spirit and the world of the physical are so close that they almost touch the barrier as thin and nearly transparent as the finest silk. These are places of mystery, grace and spiritual wholeness difficult to define but unmistakable. Iona is one of those special places.

Stepping off the ferry onto this tiny island is, as John Denver famously said, like “coming home to a place you’ve never been before.” What makes it so is a bit of a mystery, and may be different for every one of the millions of people who have come here before you. It probably comes from a combination of factors. This is thought to be one of the oldest islands on the planet, with stones that have been here for 2.9 billion years. Iona has been a place of pilgrimage since St. Columba established his church here during the 6<sup>th</sup> century. You are surrounded by natural beauty unfettered by commercialism, but this

is not an empty landscape. Homes dot the island, and sheep and cattle graze in the fields. Even the golf course is a pasture.

The rebuilt abbey and the ruins of the twelfth century nunnery stand out, but rather than dominating the landscape, they seem to blend into the harmony of the place. Over three hundred high crosses once stood here, though only three remain. The rest were destroyed during the Reformation because they were thought to be pagan. The Celts often worshipped in the open air, gathered around their high crosses carved with symbols that spoke of unity and their twin loves of Christ and creation.

Rather try to replace the beliefs of the original inhabitants, Columba chose to blend Christianity with the spiritual practices that already existed here. Celtic Christianity respects the wisdom of old beliefs and traditions. Celts saw the light of

God at the center of every creature. That light could be covered by confusion, doubts, fears and evil that separate the person from his or her true self. Christ’s purpose is to bring us back to our true selves, born of God and in harmony with creation.

The Iona experience changes the way you see yourself in relationship with others. Although we are a group of 43 persons thrown together in this community and begin as total strangers, by the week’s end we have 43 new best friends. We talk with one another about insights drawn from silent meditation. We wander this small area with eyes open in a new way. Even the stones speak to us, and we learn to let them choose us rather than just picking out a few favorites. We laugh and cry and share food. Parting from one another is surprisingly difficult after so short a time. The temptation, much like Peter’s, is to build your hut and stay right there. But Jesus tells us that spirituality must be shared or it means nothing.

Coming back into our day to day lives, we look for new ways to share. We plan to share Celtic evensong services. Whatever direction we take, we see and hear in new ways. John Philip says Iona helps us see our own thin places. I think he’s right.

Experiencing Iona helps to explain the Mount of Transfiguration and Peter’s reaction. The temptation is to simply build your hut and stay there. But, as Jesus, said, spirituality is to be shared or it means nothing.

# In Memoriam

**Bill Rugg** graduated with a BA degree in music from Yale University. He served as organist for churches in Vermont and western Massachusetts, including 30 years at Second Congregational Church, Greenfield. In Santa Fe he has been First Presbyterian Church choir accompanist, has substituted and given recitals at several area churches as well as at his former home in Eldorado. He was a board member of the Pioneer Valley Symphony in Massachusetts, the Santa Fe Desert Chorale and the Santa Fe Women's Ensemble. After college, Bill was employed by Rugg Manufacturing Co., founded by his great-grandfather in 1842. The company was known as a producer of lawn and garden tools, including Bill's much-imitated invention, the Back-Saver snow shovel. He retired in 1991 as president and chairman of the board. Bill enjoyed skiing, tennis (sometimes both in the same day!), camping and travel.

From *The American Organist* magazine, quoted by Bill in an open letter in the 1990s: "The traditional Christian view has given us a heritage of church music. J.S. Bach's organ music, for example, does not find its place in worship because of its entertainment value. It is 'the Best,' and those who perform it in worship are giving their best, not only in the music itself, but in the time and talent required to offer it. In supporting and promoting these kinds of music making, the Christian community at worship has given concrete expression to its intention to offer its best in worshipping God."

**Marilyn Davidson**, musician, painter, professor, world traveler, wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, passed away after a full and vibrant life. A conservatory-trained pianist and lifelong learner, Marilyn earned degrees in music from the University of Michigan (Bachelor's), the University of Texas (Master's). Music was the unifying theme of her life.

**Richard T. Meyer** is survived by his brother Don, wife Adrienne, son Richard, daughter Kim and four wonderful grandchildren with one great-grandson on the way. He had a PhD in chemistry from Berkeley and a business in Albuquerque. Richard led an adventurous life and will be greatly missed by all his family and friends.

**The Rev. Canon Kenneth J.G. Semon**, rector of the Church of the Holy Faith, passed away on Thursday, July 28. Father Ken was a partner with us in ecumenical endeavors such as the downtown church group and the Interfaith Community Shelter.

We also remember all the other relatives and friends who have recently left us, including Michael Roybal's mother **Eleanor Q. Roybal**.

In June we also had memorial services for **David McCarty** and for **Frank Shuck**.

## MOONSET

at sunrise

have you ever watched the MOON set??

perhaps, but both at once (simultaneously)

Not just on any other day

One special to many worldwide

The day of all the saints

from whatever faith or dis-mis-belief

a day to remember we did not

We did not erupt full blown

and history how true or false

is something we cannot revise.

What does this day signify

with both moonset and sunrise???

~ 11/16/2001 Frank O. Shuck

# Music & Art

Do you have a passion for music? Below are opportunities to participate in this exciting ministry. Any questions? Contact Linda Raney, who will be happy to get you involved: 982.8544 x16 or [lraney@fpcsantafe.org](mailto:lraney@fpcsantafe.org).

## Where's all the singing? Join the Chancel Choir!

What are they singing?

- Every Sunday for 11:00 worship
- TGIF Concert January 13 Requiem by Linda Beck
- Good Friday the Passion according to St. Luke by Heinrich Schütz
- TGIF Concert June 2

When are Rehearsals?

- Tenors and Basses 1:30 on Wednesdays in the Music Room
- Sopranos and Altos 9:45–10:30 on Sundays in the Music Room
- Tutti 6:00–8:00 on Thursdays in the Sanctuary

When does it all begin?

THE WEEK AFTER LABOR DAY

## Bell Ringing

When are rehearsals?

- Every Wednesday from 4:00-5:30 in the Sanctuary
- Rehearsals begin on Wednesday, September 6

What notes are needed?

- Presently we need substitutes for our current ringers when they are ill, or traveling
- We ring from C<sup>3</sup>–C<sup>8</sup>

## TGIF Ushers

What are duties?

- Come to weekly concerts half an hour before it starts (Currently at 5:00)
- Greet and pass out programs to the audience
- Clean the pews after concert
- Help count the collection
- Unlock and lock doors as appropriate

What is needed?

- Substitutes for our regular volunteers

## Flowers Make the Difference

Have you noticed the beautiful flowers in the sanctuary this year? They enhance our worship and draw the beauty of the natural world into our souls. The Worship and Music Committee would like to invite you to join us if this is a special interest of yours. We are looking for someone who will coordinate weekly flower gifts for memorials and honorariums from the congregation with a florist. If you feel a tug to be involved in this ministry, please call the Worship and Music Chair Jeannie Bowman at 610.764.4817, or e-mail her at [jeannie.bowman17@gmail.com](mailto:jeannie.bowman17@gmail.com).



*On Sunday, July 17, we celebrated the baptism of new member Jennifer Elliott.*

# Mission & Social Justice

## Mission 101

What do you know about Presbyterian international mission? Perhaps you have attended a luncheon at First Pres for mission co-workers, Michael and Rachel Weller from Ethiopia or maybe you drink coffee every Sunday morning and think of Revs. Mark Adams and Miriam Maldonado Escobar, mission co-workers who work with the JustCoffee project in Agua Prieta, Mexico. But did you know the Presbyterian World Mission supports nearly 200 mission co-workers in over 50 countries around the world? Why are they called co-workers? Presbyterians do mission in partnership where we work in collaboration with local individuals in their countries' congregations, hospitals, churches, peace groups, universities, and seminaries. Last year the Presbyterian World Mission received 21,000 donations from individuals and from churches for mission co-worker sending and support



*Sandi Thompson-Royer works in Guatemala with the Women of the Synod in efforts to empower women.*

Each week a representative from your Mission and Social Justice Committee will be writing a short paragraph for the bulletin introducing you to a new mission co-worker. We hope that you will be as inspired as we are by the work of these Presbyterian co-workers throughout the world

and include them in your prayers and/or extra giving. It will be a great opportunity to teach your children a little geography as you locate on a map Lithuania, South Sudan, or another mission location. Let's make **MISSION** our middle name!

Save the Date

### CHEFSCAPADES GOURMET BENEFIT DINNER FOR THE INTERFAITH COMMUNITY SHELTER

SEPTEMBER 6, 2016 @ 6 pm  
at the Las Campanas Clubhouse  
A Four Course Gourmet Dinner  
Donated by Premier Local Chefs  
Invitation to follow

*The Interfaith Community Shelter is holding its annual **Chefscapades Benefit Dinner** on September 6. The major fundraiser for the homeless shelter will be held at 6:00PM at Las Campanas Clubhouse. Tickets are \$150 each with \$125 tax deductible. Chefs who are contributing courses are Fernando Olea of Sazon, Lane Warner of La Fonda, Jose Rodriguez of Las Casa Sena, and Nick Berta of Las Campanas. Rather than holding an auction this year, a "paddle call" will be issued for items that are needed by the shelter programs.*

*Tickets may be purchased online at Interfaith Community Shelter or through Mary Ann Lundy, board member, 455.0011 or at lunwil1@q.com. We hope to contribute at least two tables each of 10 FPC supporters!.*

## PC(USA) Travel Study Seminars

The Presbyterian Peacemaking Program sponsors travel study seminars to different parts of the world to provide Presbyterians with the opportunity to learn firsthand from our partners. Participants return from these travel study seminars informed and transformed by their experiences, ready to share stories and bear witness to all that they have seen and heard.

There is a travel study seminar to Thailand November 1–10, 2016. Participants will learn how global partners are breaking the chains of human trafficking and changing the lives of women and children in Southeast Asia.

The 2017 study seminars are:

Guatemala and Costa Rica  
January 9–21

Madagascar  
April 24–May 6

Our congregation has a People in Mission Fund to help members with some of the expenses for mission trips. If you are interested in a travel seminar contact Betty Kersting at 982.4548 for more information.

During the month of September our members Howard Webster, Bill and Sharon Eklund are traveling to Cuba. They will have the opportunity to visit many Presbyterians as well as our sister church Sagua la Grande. We look forward to hearing of their many experiences.

# More Ways to Get Involved

A huge thank you to these local restaurants for their generous donations of dinner meals for the **English Language Learners Program** we participate in jointly with Westminster Presbyterian.

We are grateful for these contributions and urge you to patronize these restaurants. Please let them know how important their donations are to our program.

Alicia's Tortilleria  
1314 Rufina Circle, Unit A

Tomasitas  
500 South Guadalupe St

La Choza  
905 Alarid St

### **Fridays with First at the Shelter:**

Come join us Fridays at the Interfaith Community Shelter, 2801 Cerrillos Road, preparing lunch for our homeless neighbors. From 8:30 to 10:30 help prep the food and from 10:30 to 12:30 serve the guests.

The **Community Closet** at the Interfaith Shelter is always in need of new men's and women's socks and underwear. You can put donations in the Coat Closet, and they will be delivered to the shelter.

Concerned about gun violence? **Guns to Gardens** is a gun buyback program where collected guns will be forged into garden shovels and spades and public art projects. On Thursday, August 11, join Mayor Javier Gonzales, author Valerie Plame, and Ambassador Joe Wilson at the Center for Contemporary Arts (CCA), 5:30–7:30PM, for the film screening of *Trigger: The Ripple Effect of Gun Violence*. Tickets are \$100 and go entirely to getting unwanted guns out of our homes and off our streets. For more information contact New Mexicans to Prevent Gun Violence at 984.3058, [nmtpgv@gmail.com](mailto:nmtpgv@gmail.com), or talk to Pastor Harry Eberts.

## Newsletter Deadlines

<b>Edition</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Issue covers</b>	<b>Mailing</b>
Spring/Lent	January 15	Feb, Mar, April	February 1
Summer	April 15	May, June, July	May 1
Fall	July 15	Aug, Sept, Oct	August 1
Winter/Advent	October 15	Nov, Dec, Jan	November 1

Remember to have items for the bulletin and/or eNews in by 5:00PM on Wednesdays.

# A Woman's Letter



Jennie St John Mitchell  
Image courtesy Wilson's Creek National  
Battlefield; WICR 31906.

Many of us have heard the story—as written in *Not Ordered by Men*—that our church started with a letter, dated July 17, 1866, from Jennie St. John Mitchell, wife of the new governor of the New Mexico Territory. She pleaded with the Headquarters of the Presbyterian Church, Old School, to send a pastor to Santa Fe. Exactly 150 years later, Nelda Bell, dressed in 19<sup>th</sup> century garb, performed a dramatic reading of that letter in the very church that celebrates that letter as its beginning.

General Robert Byington Mitchell nominated by President Andrew Johnson to be governor of the New Mexico Territory took his oath of office on July 16, 1866. His wife Jennie took her own actions the very next day.

What Jennie Mitchell saw in Santa Fe can be visualized from a letter written shortly after hers. In a letter to her granddaughters in 1866, Mrs. Isabella Graham described what she saw in Santa Fe:

*Children and dogs run the streets all day long, splashing in the odorous puddles where swill collects. There are no schools as you know them, and none but Catholic churches. The Catholics are building a great church ... but the saloon keepers have outbuilt everybody. The poor men of Protestant persuasion who are stationed here in the Army are left with no worthwhile diversion ... The town is a living example of the filth and degradation to which human beings can sink when they are not enlightened and are left without the uplifting influences of the Church.*

Santa Fe at the end of the Trail was a perfect location for those looking to make money from travelers and soldiers. Saloons and brothels prospered in the capital city. Years before, Madame La Tules, a beautiful and shrewd business woman who ran a successful gambling establishment, had earned a reputation for her ability to lure “the wayward, inexperienced youth to the hall of final ruin.”

Conflict between the US Army and Navajos and Mescalero Apaches was fierce during and immediately after the Civil War. The US Government viewed these native peoples as obstacles to the peaceful settlement of the West and determined to remove them. After ravaging their homes, General James Carleton had them forcibly relocated to Fort Sumner in the Bosque Redondo. Many died on the Long Walk to Bosque Redondo. Many more died in captivity. By 1866 conditions there were so appalling that the Territorial council requested President Andrew Jackson to recall General Carleton.

Meanwhile, Santa Fe residents warmly welcomed Governor Mitchell and his wife Jennie, hoping they would create a positive change within the community. Quickly after swearing in, Governor Mitchell traveled to Washington to fight for fair legislation and to invest in “good paths to market and short paths to road.” He wished to generate an attractive, productive, and proud city by propelling legislation and drawing political attention to Santa Fe.

On the front page of the November 10, 1866, *New Mexican* newspaper, the quote, “Tell the children to support the constitution and the laws” was printed in large and bold font, encouraging patriotism and building pride. Reactions to Governor Mitchell were, on the whole, positive.

Santa Fe residents were angry at news of “military mismanagement” and demanded social changes. Governor Mitchell and his wife, Jennie, attempted to direct the



citizens' focus towards helping create a faithful and safe city. In this light, Jennie wrote to the Presbyterian Church, Old School, headquarters urging them to send a pastor to help organize a Presbyterian church in a place that, through her lens, was crawling with rogues and ignorance.

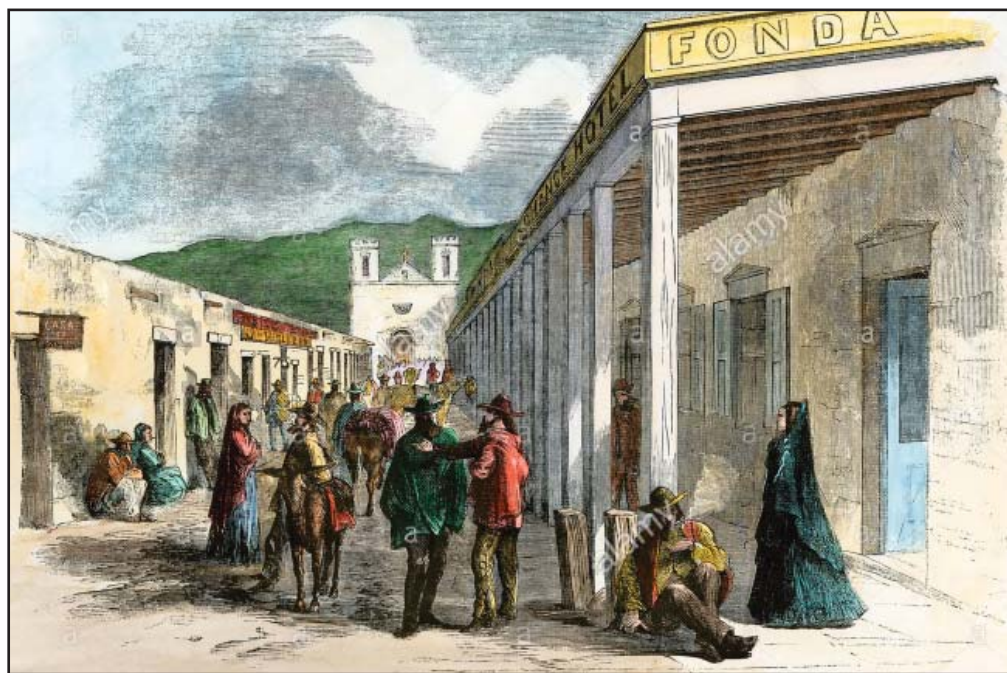
Writing to Dr. T. L. Janeway at the headquarters in Philadelphia, Mrs. Mitchell implored:

*...Now that I am a citizen of this territory as well as the Governor's wife, I want above all else to see my church come into this area of degradation and ignorance. It is well known that Presbyterians have ever gone into this country's frontiers, fostering hand-in-hand both faith and truth, carrying the Bible in one hand and readers and spellers in the other, building in the wilderness both churches and schools.*

*Gentlemen, I abjure you! No greater need exists... Children grow up here without even the most fundamental training in morals and decency. The men of the large Army garrison here are destitute for enlightening, uplifting occupation of their time when off duty. Saloons and brothels are their only recourse.*

*Surely, with the resources of our great Presbyterian Church at your disposal, you can locate and send to us, in our desperate need, some dedicated man and his wife, who would labor in these vineyards...*

Thus Jennie Mitchell wrote and posted her letter. Then she awaited an answer from her church.



"Street Scene in Santa Fe" that accompanied article to the right in Harper's.

## Santa Fe in 1866: One Easterner's Perspective

*From: Harper's Weekly. April 21, 1866.  
Volume X, No. 486, Pages 248-249.*

by Theodore R. Davis

The little city of Santa Fe has about it an ancient appearance that is so different from the more American cities of the neighboring Territories, that one scarcely realizes that he is still in the United States. The language spoken is almost exclusively Mexican, and the people so lazy that no excitement can urge them to a faster pace than a slow walk.

Wagons and carts are a too modern innovation for the Mexican, who uses instead the "Burro"—or, in good English, a diminutive specimen of donkey. This "Burro" is raised in the family, among the children, and is the most peaceful and domestic animal that I have yet seen; it has, too, the faculty of being able to exist in pasture that a goat would starve on.

The houses of Santa Fe are built entirely of adobe brick, which is to all appearance the same style of brick that the Israelites were engaged in making for the Egyptians. The roofs of the houses are of mud also, the exceeding infrequency of rain making this roof practicable.

The only thing that the New Mexican does really well is the manufacture of jewelry; this he makes after the most curious pattern, and very beautifully. Some of the specimens would put to shame some of the best designs of our leading jewelers.

# News You Can Use

**Who's On Call?** Harry Eberts and Linda Raney are the two staff members who can be called after hours. No other staff members have "on call" responsibilities. The numbers where you can reach Harry and Linda can be found in the church directory.

**Sabbath on Mondays:** Maybe you have noticed. The church is alive with activity virtually seven days a week at almost any hour. While we love the energy, we also worry about staff and volunteers being overburdened and stressed. Let us then observe Sabbath time. Session agreed that Mondays are Sabbath days. The church office is closed. Many staff members, including Harry, take Mondays off. If you come to church on a Monday please know you are welcome but please use it as a time of refreshment and restoration rather than committee and other work. Know that the doors and phones will not be answered and that staff members who do work Monday use it as their day to work without interruptions. May we all find Sabbath at the church!

**What is a Columbarium? Does FPC have one?** A Columbarium is a permanent structure made up of spaces or niches that can hold urns containing the cremated ashes of loved ones. Yes, First Presbyterian Church of Santa Fe does have a Columbarium on the wall in the McFarland Chapel. Please take a moment to visit the chapel to see where it is located. If you have any questions contact the office 982.8544 or Barbara Strange at 470.3144 or [barbarastrange@earthlink.net](mailto:barbarastrange@earthlink.net).

**Fireside Chat with the Mystics:** After a few weeks off, our "fireside chats" resume weekly on Tuesdays from 5:00–6:00PM in the Rendon Room starting on September 19th. Teresa of Avila will provide wisdom for our centering prayer and conversations. Newcomers are always most welcome to the group; each meeting "stands on its own" and no preparation is required so participants come and go with ease. Men and women beyond our church community are also invited. Rev. Linda Loving has been convening the group for nearly a year; previous mystics encountered were Julian of Norwich and Hildegard of Bingen. The resource used is a book series written by Gloria Durka: "Praying with . . . (insert name of mystic)," and while not required may be of interest to participants. For more information contact Linda at [lenac1948@gmail.com](mailto:lenac1948@gmail.com).

**Thank you Cindy, Mary Jo, and Linda** from Harry! Cindy Piatt (Director of Children's Ministry), Mary Jo Lundy (Parish Visitor), and

Linda Loving (Parish Associate) have all concluded their official service to the church. I am most grateful to each one and send my heartfelt thanks to them for their ministry with us. Each of them has made a profound impact on many, many lives, including my own. The good news is that they are still in Santa Fe so it is not goodbye as much as Godspeed for their adventures ahead.

**Parish Associate Offers Thanks:** Rev. Linda Loving "winds down" her official role as Parish Associate this summer, ending her one-year contract a bit early in order to take advantage of an unexpected opportunity to spend August in France. Linda looks forward to trying one more time to be truly retired! At the same time she is grateful for the wide variety of experiences and connections which her work among us allowed. You will no doubt continue to see Linda around the edges of our church family as she continues to settle in to Santa Fe as a permanent resident (and fully claim her inner cowgirl!).



*Iona Abbey from Columba's Hill*

## Epiphany Women's Retreat: "I-Openers"

Linda Loving—in conversation with several First Church women—began laying the groundwork for a women's retreat a few months ago. A core group of women has offered to shepherd the project as Linda steps out of her Parish Associate role. The initial idea was for a fall retreat, but since many expressed a desire for an overnight experience the date has been pushed further out in order to secure accommodations. We're hoping to land at Ghost Ranch or another beautiful venue around Epiphany (early January) for an enlightening setting for our journey. The theme of the retreat is "I-Openers" and will lead us to discover-and-recover our sacred identity through storytelling, music, Bible study, creative activity, reflection, rest, play, worship and encounters with nature. Stay tuned for dates and signups in the early fall—space will be limited.

Linda has invited retired UCC minister, Laura Loving, to lead the retreat (yes, Linda's sister!). Laura is a seasoned retreat leader, offering experiences in spiritual practices, Bible study, playful interaction and guided silence. She has led retreats from Ghost Ranch to the Redwoods of California, and from the Northwoods of the Midwest to many denominational camps, assemblies and conferences.

The planning team is led by Charlotte Whitcomb. If you are interested in jumping on the planning bandwagon, please let Charlotte or Linda know.

# *Learning to Love the Wind*

She has shaped the trees,  
harried and pushed them in directions they did not intend.  
They would have stood taller but with less grace,  
perhaps less fullness in their greening ways.  
Wisdom lives here  
in limbs that flow and bend and touch the wind.  
She sets all the leaves to dance.

~ Carol Smock

Iona gives new meaning to the term "windswept." Wherever you go on this tiny island, the wind will find you. No timid zephyr, this is wind with a purpose, much like the wind of the Spirit from the book of Acts. We arrive Saturday afternoon, having traveled for eight hours by way of two trains, a long ferry ride, a bus ride across the island of Mull, and a final short ferry to Iona. It is June, but the icy wind shows little regard for creature comforts. I don't think we will have much need for the summer clothes I packed with such optimism. The enthusiastically blooming pansies seem to confirm that thought; pansies are not fond of warm weather. During our first group meeting, Suzanne, our token Canadian, says she is "learning to love the wind." We all laugh.

As the week continues, it becomes very apparent that this is exactly what we are doing. We are learning to love what is, and on Iona that definitely includes the wind. The

first teacher of significance in the Celtic Christian world was Irenaeus of Lyons, a student of Polycarp, who had learned from John the Beloved. Irenaeus taught that the substance of earth, the substance of the universe, the substance of every creature are all born of the substance of God. Not simply created by God, but created of God, born from God's womb. When we look for the sacred, we need only look to what is in and around us. This is where the sacred lives. Like all creation, we are in our deepest selves born of God.

When Colum Cille, or Columba as we English speakers know him, came to Iona in the 6<sup>th</sup> century, he found Druids, pre-Christian priests. He spoke of Jesus Christ as his Druid, the one who restores us to our true selves. Having gotten himself exiled from Ireland, he found grace on this small wild island that became his home. By the end of the week, I feel that grace. I've come home to a place I've never been before.

# The Celebration Has Begun

## *From Ray Kersting for the 150<sup>th</sup> Task Force*

It all began with a letter from Mrs. Jennie St. John Mitchell, wife of the governor of the Territory of New Mexico (Arizona and New Mexico). She pleaded with the mission board of the Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia,

*“...I want above all else to see my church come into this area of degradation and ignorance...No greater need can exist within the borders of this continent, than in this immediate vicinity.”*

It was written on July 17, 1866.

And four months later the Rev. David McFarland stepped off the stage in Santa Fe, to establish a Presbyterian presence. Three days later he held the first worship service in the council chambers of the Palace of the Governors with about 40 persons present. The text for his sermon was John 1:4, “In him was life, and the life was the light of men.”

Here we are, 150 years later, standing in the shadow of this man and the many committed and passionate people who followed, who established not only this congregation but a vast network of schools, hospitals, and clinics primarily in Northern New Mexico, Southern Colorado, and Arizona.

The observance of this important milestone in the history of the Presbyterian Church nationally was launched Sunday, July 17, when at both services, Nelda Bell read the



*Nelda Bell portrayed Mrs. Jennie St. John Mitchell at the services on July 17, 2016.*

letter the governor’s wife wrote to the denominational headquarters. Thus the observance and celebration of the Presbyterian presence in this area for 150 years begins.

In the months ahead there will be other observances, especially the celebration dinner at the La Fonda on Saturday, January 14, 2017. The event will mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the First Presbyterian Church in Santa Fe, on January 6, 1867, in the council chambers of the Palace of the Governors. Among the denominational leaders invited to participate are the Moderator of the 222<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly, and Tony de la Rosa, executive of the General Assembly Mission Agency.

Watch for announcements, notifications and mailings of upcoming celebration events and special worship services.

## You Can Help with the 150<sup>th</sup>

A special 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Task Force has been meeting monthly on the third Tuesday of the month at 12:00NOON. You are welcome to join in as we finalize celebration plans.

Here are some of the immediate needs:

- Photos of weddings and other special events that have taken place through the years in the church. These will be used in a slideshow at the anniversary dinner. Send or give them to Krista in the church office.
- Airline mileage points to bring national church figures here for the celebration weekend.
- Persons to head and work with others in carrying out a number of events being planned. Contact Marjorie Lunderville, chair of the Task Force. Especially needed are persons to plan a “homecoming” event for current and former members of the church.

## Presbyterian Women's Bible Study

The Presbyterian Women's (PW) Bible Study resumes their monthly meetings on Friday, September 16, at 1:30PM at our church in the 3rd floor library. All women of First Presbyterian Church, Santa Fe are welcome and invited to join us. We meet on the third Friday of every month, September through May. This year's Bible study is entitled, "Who is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens Make" by author Judy Yakes Siker. Study books are available as we research this question from many resources and interpretations. The PW magazine *Horizons* also includes additional information on this subject. How will YOU see Jesus at the completion of our study?

For further information please contact Jean Ball 471.3628 [jeaneball@aol.com](mailto:jeaneball@aol.com) or Helen Sutton 992.1964 or [hsutton8134@outlook.com](mailto:hsutton8134@outlook.com). PW is also on the Web: [www.presbyterianwomen.org](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org)

We would love to hear from you; all are welcome to attend.

# Facilities Report

The sole purpose of the Facilities Committee is to ensure a safe, comfortable environment for worship and the everyday activities associated with the operation of a vibrant, community-oriented downtown Santa Fe church. This entails working closely with various state and city offices that regulate the activities of what has become something of a public building. The committee, through its full-time manager, is responsible for making sure that the physical building, the "church," complies with a myriad of rules, regulations and ordinances. This includes maintaining the kitchen and the appliances therein, the HVAC system, all roofs and the exterior stucco, irrigation systems and landscaping among other items. Additionally, the committee authorizes the Facilities Manager to negotiate contracts and agreements with the companies with which the church does business. Facilities also deals with insurance carriers for all coverages necessary to indemnify

the church in these increasingly litigious times. Most recently, the committee has been in talks with representatives of Santa Fe County which proposes to construct a major office complex adjacent to the church property. In addition, the manager is working with city authorities to solve some pressing on-street and access situations. These projects are ongoing.

The committee accomplishes all this on an increasingly tight budget. Recent analyses demonstrate the need for a hefty reserve fund to address future major expenditures, namely new roof and stucco, those parts of the sidewalks for which we are responsible, basement and ramp repair, and elevator and garage door replacement. The committee has consistently operated on a barebones budget and has, so far, managed to make it work for the benevolent, charitable, educational and mission activities inherent in the church's role in the community.

*Facilities Manager Bill Adrian's hard work of building relationships with Santa Fe County about the new building next door came to life with a successful public meeting hosted at the church on Wednesday, July 20. The county has created a stakeholders list, to be used for sending out periodic updates to the public. Those who were unable to attend the public meeting are welcome to add their name and contact information to the list by e-mailing Brad Issacson, Project Manager, [bisaacson@santafecountynm.gov](mailto:bisaacson@santafecountynm.gov). The next public meeting will occur sometime this fall.*





*Missing?  
Prefer not to be listed?  
Contact the church office.*

## August

- 1 Kathy Hansen  
Paul Kincaid
- 3 Kati Schwartz  
John Stephenson
- 4 Marion Jackson  
Susan Ortiz
- 5 Barb Hutchison  
Carolyn Minton
- 6 Ellen Armbruster-Schoen  
Olive Smith
- 7 Anna Marie Houser
- 8 Tom Mott
- 9 Darryl Bowman
- 12 Nicholas Chastenet  
Andy Ortiz
- 13 Jim Toevs
- 14 Adrienne Ewing-Meyer  
Seth Hinshaw  
Wynn Moran  
Mary Louise Williams
- 15 Marisol Gutierrez
- 20 Audrey Maehl
- 21 Kandi McKown  
Rosie Mott
- 22 Jim McKee
- 23 Margaret Dean
- 24 Ethel Trimmer
- 26 Lisa Bowles (CDC)
- 27 Elliot Henry
- 29 Betty Grubestic
- 31 Elise Packard

*The Morning Prayer  
group said their  
farewells to Janet  
McKay (upper right)  
at their coffee time on  
Wednesday, July 20.*

## September

- 1 Rick Andrew  
Gale Wright
- 2 Bill Plauth  
Winky van der Hoeven
- 3 Harris Barber  
Judith Wilson
- 4 Judy Banner
- 5 Lily Bair  
Harriett Barber  
Bess Brooks
- 6 Chris Gay  
Sara Haber  
Kurt Hill  
Betty Kinnett
- 9 Gaby Chastenet  
Mary Neff  
Greg Schneider
- 10 Judy Mikkelsen
- 12 Judi Haines  
Sam Mitchell
- 13 Liz Hinds
- 15 Lindsey Allen
- 18 Carol Smock
- 19 Mary Beth Jones
- 20 Nelda Bell
- 21 Pauline Schneider  
Josephine Shultz
- 22 Nancy Armbruster  
Anne Maglisceau
- 25 Andy Wulf
- 26 Jene Alexander  
Sue Hallquist

- 27 Michael Roybal
- 28 Rebecca Chastenet
- 29 Denise Lee  
Hayley Wolff
- 30 Kaye Burr

## October

- 2 Ray Kersting  
James Smock
- 4 Sarah Stark
- 6 George Packard
- 8 Keytha Jones
- 9 Valerye Plath
- 10 Suzy Gearhart
- 12 Lynn Bickley  
Patti Poitras
- 13 Lance Mikkelsen
- 16 Christina Hill
- 18 Bill Eklund
- 19 Catherine Bremer  
Julie Jones  
Judy Montaña  
Susan Slotter
- 20 Andrew Phelps
- 21 Bobby Plauth
- 22 Nancy Maret  
Jim Martin
- 24 Mary Black
- 25 Jacque Rolstad
- 26 Tupper Schoen
- 29 Melissa Mitchell
- 31 Camryn Calabrese



# Congregational Life

Julia Hudson was honored by the College of Emporia, Emporia, Kansas with a **Lifetime Achievement Award** for her 40 years of service in education here in northern New Mexico. She applied to the Board of National Missions of the Presbyterian Church a couple years after graduation. She was assigned to John Hyson School in Chimayó, New Mexico. She taught, directed the school program, and trained and supervised bilingual aides, student teachers, and college volunteers. As Ana Pacheco wrote for the *Santa Fe New Mexican* in April 2012: "It may not be in any record book, but in Julia Hudson's lifetime, she has raised thousands of children."

## With Love, from Sheila Gumerman:

Greetings from AZ and CO to my friends at First Presbyterian! The move to our Flagstaff retirement community has been an adventure full of pleasant surprises including good views and plenty of birds to watch. George and I both like our new downsized home and the amenities that go with it.

But more important, I express gratitude to you for: pastoral care, good-bye cards, tokens, gifts, and the tres leche cake for the farewell provided by thoughtful and caring Deacons and others. Connie Austin's poem is a keepsake; and the comforting prayer shawl adorns our living room couch. I add special thanks to Margarita Lopez for her skilled housekeeping help at the last moment.

First Presbyterian Church truly provided a "family" community that had an important impact on my life. Keep up the productive spiritual care!

## Dear Readers from Lois Ruth

**Neukomm:** Many thanks to all those people in Santa Fe who sent me greetings for my 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on May 19, 2016.

I had a great celebration here at Birch Heights Retirement Center and a family dinner shortly following and I even made the front page of the local newspaper among all the other veterans.

**Directory Update Available:** You'll find the new addresses for Sheila Gumerman, Janet McKay, Glen & Shirlee Davidson, Gayle & Missy Lomax, Janet Ollmann, and all the others we've said goodbye to in the past few months. If you are still using the original roster from the picture directory, it is definitely time to pick up a new one. A directory update will come out at the same time as each newsletter issue. The newsletter will have the insert for the "Additional Families" section of your picture directory with any new members who have joined since the last issue.

This Sunday, August 7, pick up a new roster in the gathering space (lobby). Also available will be the picture directories and extra copies of current and previous "Additional Families" pages. Please keep the church office updated with any changes in your information. Thank you!

## Contact Church Staff and Volunteers

Name	Extension	E-mail	Schedule
Rev. Dr. Harry Eberts III, <i>Pastor</i>	x11	harry@	Mondays off
Linda Raney, <i>Director of Music</i>	x16	lraney@	Mondays off
Jill McCormick, <i>Children's Ministry &amp; Music</i>		children-youth@	Sunday mornings
Anne Liley, <i>CDC Director</i>	x20	preschool@	Monday-Friday
Krista Peterson, <i>Office Manager</i>	x10	office@	Monday-Friday
Bill Adrian, <i>Facilities Manager</i>	505.501.3453	facilities@	Tuesday-Saturday
Judi Haines, <i>Clerk of Session</i>	x15	clerk@	Wednesday afternoons
Gale Wright, <i>Treasurer</i>	703.795.1520	treasurer@	Thursdays
Betty Kersting, <i>Membership</i>	x15	membership@	Fridays
Business Office	*	businessoffice@	Thursdays
Archives	x27	archives@	Thursdays

Main number is 505.982.8544 and e-mail addresses are all @fpcsantafe.org.

\*You can leave a message for Maria Romero, contract bookkeeper, with Krista at extension 10.



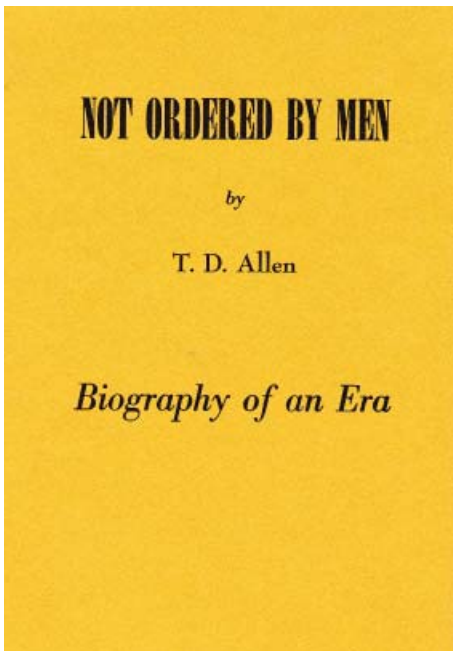
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
*of Santa Fe*

*Behold. Be still. Become.*

208 Grant Avenue  
Santa Fe, NM 87501

# *La Epístola*

## *Fall 2016*



**Not Ordered by Men**—the history of the first century of First Presbyterian Church of Santa Fe—available now from Amazon for 99 cents as a download for your Kindle reader or Kindle app on other devices. Search Amazon by title or author or type in this link:

<http://amzn.com/B01ILG22KA>

Print versions are available in the History display case across from the Grant Avenue glass doors. Written in the form of a novel, the book is a fun read. Both the letters quoted in the article in the middle spread are from *Not Ordered by Men*.

*Celebrating* 150

in congregation since 1867,  
oldest continuing Protestant church  
in the New Mexico Territory

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