

# La Epístola

Winter 2016 / Vol 47, No 1

## Spiritual Defiance: Building a Beloved Community of Resistance



First Presbyterian Church hosts an exciting weekend, February 13-14, for the entire Santa Fe community,

as Robin Meyers (pictured above), esteemed and provocative pastor, professor and author, speaks on renewing the church as an instrument of social change and personal transformation. Meyers' provocative and passionate book *Spiritual Defiance* (Yale University Press) was based on his presentations at Yale's 2014 Lyman Beecher Lectures.

Register now for the Saturday workshop on February 13 in Pope Hall:

- 8:00AM Breakfast (served by the men of the church)
- 8:45-10:30AM Meyers' presentation with Q and A

Suggested donation at the door is \$10; please reserve by contacting Krista at [office@fpcsantafe.org](mailto:office@fpcsantafe.org) or 982.8544 x10.

Opportunities continue on Sunday, February 14 where Robin Meyers preaches *Original Blessings* at both services:

- 8:30AM Morning Song Service in Pope Hall
- 11:00AM Sanctuary Service
- 9:45-10:45AM between services in Pope Hall: *An Informal Conversation with Robin Meyers*

Dr. Meyers has been senior minister at Mayflower Congregational UCC Church in Oklahoma City for many years. His writings have been endorsed by leaders such as Desmond Tutu, Bill Moyers, Marcus Borg, Parker Palmer, and Diana Butler Bass; his books are available on [amazon.com](http://amazon.com). We are grateful to Barbara and Tom Boyd of our church family for teaching a recent course on *Spiritual Defiance* and helping make possible this exciting weekend with Robin at First Presbyterian Church.

### Know to Go — — — —

Workshop on Saturday, February 13 (suggested donation \$10), RSVP to Krista:

- [office@fpcsantafe.org](mailto:office@fpcsantafe.org)
- 982.8544 x10

Sunday, February 14

- 8:30AM service in Pope Hall
- 11:00AM service in Sanctuary
- 9:45-10:45AM conversation in Pope Hall

Help spread the word about these rich offerings from a national church leader who shifts the conversation "away from theological purity and marketing strategies that embrace cultural norms, and challenges us toward 'embodied noncompliance' with the dominant culture" (Yale University Press). Come cultivate your own revolutionary spirit, as we all try to live as Jesus did. Reserve now! Invite a friend!

To volunteer to help with Saturday and Sunday event hosting, contact Rebecca Hodges at [rebecca.everywhere@gmail.com](mailto:rebecca.everywhere@gmail.com) or 615.509.3058.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
*of Santa Fe*

*Behold. Be still. Become.*

**First Presbyterian Church**  
208 Grant Ave  
Santa Fe NM 87501  
505.982.8544  
[www.fpcsantafe.org](http://www.fpcsantafe.org)

**Pastor**

Rev. Dr. Harry Eberts III

**Newsletter Team**

Rie Clark  
Amy Gross  
Margaret Lyerly  
Krista Peterson  
Gale Wright

**Session**

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

Jesus went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom, and having been given the scroll of the prophet Isaiah he found the place where it was written . . . . Thus begins Jesus’ first sermon. It was his keynote address. It would set the stage of what he was about to do and with whom he would spend his time. It is always good for us to be reminded of Jesus’ priorities as we begin this Year of Remembering.

What was written there? Among all the words and ideas of Isaiah Jesus selected 61:1–2, where the poor would be brought good news, the captives released, the sight to the blind recovered, the oppressed set free, and the year of the Lord’s favor proclaimed. Sound familiar? We see these themes repeated across the gospels. Interestingly enough, however, he left off the next sentence, “and the day of vengeance of our God.” God is not about vengeance, nor would Jesus’ ministry reflect anything remotely like it.

As we move into this year, may this first sermon be reflected in all that we do.

May it be the foundation of our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations as we count down to 2017. I encourage you to get involved with the committee planning the festivities as we share together our legacy of being a mission church and a light in our community and world.

May we encounter the poor, the captives, the blind, and the oppressed. They were Jesus’ priority people. Are they ours?

We are living into a new committee design with our Second Wednesday Circle Night, including a potluck dinner. Designed after extensive conversations with the congregation, we hope it will increase communication, fellowship, effectiveness, and clarity. But will it also reflect Jesus’ sermon? I encourage you to join us, sit in on a committee, enjoy a potluck.

But beware. Jesus had hardly finished his Amen when he was run out of town, from his hometown at that! Why? The townspeople thought Jesus would naturally favor them above others, but Jesus had already done wonderful things in other places and suggested the blessings would not benefit them but were for the poor, the captive, the blind, the oppressed. It is yet another reminder that we do what we do not for ourselves but for others. And when we do, we find ourselves at the heart of the Gospel.

*Grace and peace, Harry*

**Scriptures** to Easter

January 31	Mark 9:30–37	Linda Loving preaching
February		
7	Exodus 34:29–35	Transfiguration of the Lord
14	Robin Meyers preaching	First Sunday in Lent
21	Genesis 15:1–12	Second Sunday in Lent
28	Isaiah 55:1–9	Third Sunday in Lent
March		
6	II Corinthians 5:16–21	Fourth Sunday in Lent
13	Isaiah 43:16–21	Fifth Sunday in Lent
20	Luke 23:13–25	Palm Sunday
27	Luke 24:1–12	Easter Sunday

# A Snowy Morning Rich with Meaning



Saturday, January 9, was a snowy morning at First Presbyterian, but it was also a richly rewarding one for all who could slip and slide to the corner of Grant and Marcy. It began at 7:00AM with Morning Prayer in the Chapel led by David Douglas after the manner of our weekly Wednesday morning gatherings. All who came were pleasantly startled by the reading of Psalm 29 in which the writer pictures the Lord making Lebanon “skip like a calf” and calls on us to “worship the Lord in holy splendor.” We needed this refreshment in a time of much discombobulation in God’s world.

At 8:00AM we received physical nourishment at a breakfast prepared by the men of the church—French toast smothered in fruit and syrup. The speaker for day, David Ruther, set the stage for the All Church Retreat that was to follow with a talk on *Mindfulness* that drew on the wisdom of Eastern traditions. His stress on the interrelatedness of all things and the central place of loving-kindness if the human family is to endure gave us spiritual nourishment as well.

Next came *A Kaleidoscope of Gratitude*, the theme for this year’s retreat that was led by Jeannene Wiseman. It was

indeed a celebration “of waking up to the gifts that come to us every day,” as Jeannene emphasized in numerous ways. The chapel was filled to overflowing with seekers from First Presbyterian as well as friends from Temple Beth Shalom and elsewhere. At one point participants broke into small groups and shared expressions of gratitude such as pictures, photos, and poems. A man held out his hand to display a wedding band that marked a life shared for nearly fifty years. Photos on iPhones of grandchildren brought smiles to everyone’s faces, as did a friendship bracelet of colored string made by a grandson and a handwritten thank you note on a beautiful card.

A poem/prayer by Wendell Berry pointed to the essence of a grateful heart:

I know that I have life  
only insofar as I have love.  
I have no love  
except it come from Thee.  
Help me, please, to carry  
this candle against the wind.

The retreat concluded with the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper led by David Wiseman and Harry Eberts. Participants encircled the table and shared the cup and bread with one another, singing “Jesus remember me, when you come into your kingdom” and other songs. This was indeed a winter’s day to warm our grateful hearts.



*The retreat concluded with the Lord’s Supper led by David Wiseman (left) and Harry Eberts.*





# Stewardship:

## Are YOU Up to the Challenge?

Good News! A very important part of our job is done—we have edged past our budget goal of \$464,000 in pledges for 2016 and now have \$473,000 pledged. This means that we can maintain our normal and necessary functions and designate a small amount to an expanded budget. To those of you who have pledged for 2016, we are truly grateful that you have brought us to this point.

- \$5,000 to allow us to be proper stewards of our historic and beautiful building, which has ongoing maintenance needs that are not being adequately met, such as fixing a broken water line, resealing steps, extending the back of Chancel to avoid falls, and improving our audio system. Last year, we had to dip into our building fund reserve for some critical repairs and may need to do so again if we do not build some contingency.
- \$5,000 to fund the expenses for the 150th anniversary celebration of the church showcasing to the community our historic ongoing contributions to those in need.
- \$1,000 for improvements to our website and our print and email newsletters.

### Come. Be still.

Our sanctuary has now been reserved on Sunday mornings from 9:00–9:30AM for people to come, to pray, to be still. The lights will be dimmed, the doors closed, the Christ candle lit, so those who wish can have a few moments in our beautiful sanctuary to pray or meditate, to light a prayer candle, or to just be. If you come into the sanctuary at this time, please be careful to be quiet and not disturb those enjoying this peaceful moment.

### The Challenge Remaining

There is also a challenge goal for 2016 of \$489,000 (an additional \$25,000 over the budget amount). If we can meet this goal, we can address some real needs in the community and our church. The additional \$25,000 would provide:

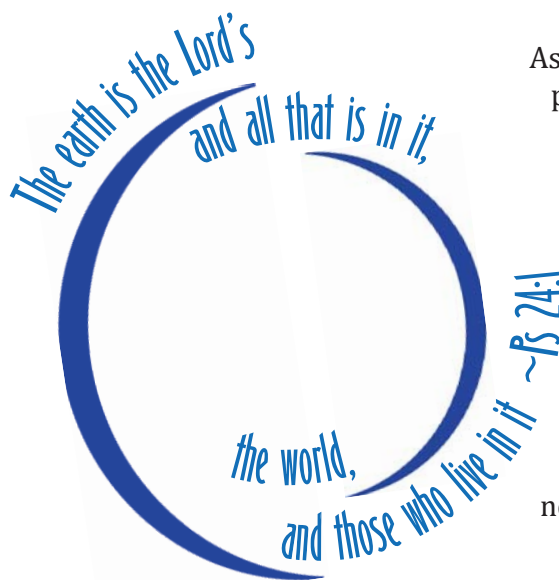
- \$5,000 for mission work for our local community, where we still see needs clearly going unmet.
- \$9,000 for pay increases for our excellent and hardworking staff, so we can move closer to competitive pay.

So far, we have received 143 pledges, and of these 53 have increased the pledge amount for 2016. In addition, we have 23 new pledges for the year. To those people who have pledged, we offer our sincerest appreciation. You have set us on the right path.

### Let your imagination reign!

The Back Pew Gallery will present a new exhibit *Miniature Creations* featuring works 10" by 12" or under. All media types—painting, jewelry, glass, fabric, sculpture, pottery, photography, metal, etc.—accepted if submitted by the artist. No more than two pieces per artist and the work must be ready to display, wired for hanging on the wall or with some kind of display mechanism if freestanding. Work must come in on Sunday, February 28, 8:00–12:00. The opening will be on Friday, March 4, from 6:00–7:30PM. Please let Carol Fallis (670.9250) or Barb Hutchison (982.0684) know if you plan to exhibit or if you have any questions.

As of this writing, we still have seven people who have not renewed their pledges. If all of these people can make their pledges the same or a bit greater than last year, we can make our challenge goal. It is not too late to pledge and help us reach the goal that will allow us to fund the items listed above. So please make your pledge as soon as possible, so we can move forward and make needed progress in 2016.



# Angels We Have Heard on High

The season of Advent and Christmas seemed blessed by “angels sweetly singing o’er the plains!” Such a wonderful time to “be the church” as our building is transformed by the seasonal beauty and the work of many volunteers. Outreach efforts such as the Alternative Christmas Market, caroling at retirement residences, the Angel Tree, and the Christmas Joy Offering echoed the season’s spirit of giving and depended upon the efforts and generosity of many church members and friends. Our music programs matched the angels’ “Glorias” with many offerings of worship, bells, Lessons and Carols, and TGIF Concerts on both Christmas Day and New Year’s Day. And—oh!—the beauty of Christmas Eve services as members and newcomers sang by candlelight and went forth into the Silent Night under a full moon with farolitos lighting their way. May we all continue to carry that Light of the Prince of Peace.



*Clockwise from left:*

- *Ray Kersting sells pens at the Alternative Christmas Market to benefit Waterlines.*
- *Jean Ball and Esther Milnes survey their table of treats for the market organized by the Presbyterian Women. Thirteen groups participated to raise approximately \$6,000 for mission projects.*
- *David Beatty sets the mood with special lighting for his January 1 Northern Lights TGIF Concert.*
- *Linda Raney directs the bell choir at the 5 o'clock Christmas Eve service. Both services were filled with special music.*
- *Nancy Maret, Jenny Harland and David Beatty sing carols to residents at one of the retirement centers.*



# Mission and Social Justice

## WPC and FPC Explore Holistic ELL Program for Santa Fe



*Barbara Medina, Karen Finney, Harry Eberts, and Tony Aja meet to explore new church-based, family-oriented ELL program.*

Westminster Presbyterian and First Presbyterian are exploring the creation of an English language learner (ELL) program to serve immigrants in our community who are struggling to make a life while surrounded by a sometimes hostile culture and language they do not understand.

Tony Aja, pastor at Westminster, has 30 years of experience in creating and managing such programs in Miami, Florida, and Louisville, Kentucky. He knows firsthand how important it is to treat the whole person and envisions a program to go beyond what is offered around our city and potentially reach those unable to take advantage of local offerings.

The ELL program, similar to those he has run in the past, would be family-oriented. It would offer a simple meal after normal work hours and provide childcare. This allows families to come together instead of the woman staying home with the

children, as is the case with most ELL programs. Children would be offered help with their homework that their parents cannot offer.

Hour-long ELL classes would be provided once or twice a week, depending on the need and the capacity developed. ELL teachers do not need to know Spanish, and those who have not taught ELL classes before would be trained before the program began. Further, the ELL classes would be entry points to other services such as pastoral care and legal services. And cross-cultural relationships would develop to the benefit of the teachers and students alike.

This program would be promoted through local churches and the Interfaith Leadership Alliance. Classes would be held in Westminster. Traditionally, immigrants have felt that churches are sanctuaries for them, a special concern for those without documentation. Many shy away from classes where they are required to register with organizations they fear may turn them in to authorities. Santa

Fe is a sanctuary city, but many immigrants would not know or trust that they would be safe in classes. Churches are safe and friendly.

And like many service opportunities, you get as much as you give. One of the teachers in a church ELL class gave the following testimony:

“My perception of immigrants has changed from a general concern to a real empathy. Getting to know individuals has helped me to understand and really relate as one person to another— sharing humor, family stories, and the same goal to have our children do better than ourselves.”

If you are interested or even mildly curious about this program, you are invited to attend an organizational meeting at Westminster on Sunday, March 13, at 4:00PM. Also, if you have experience in this area, the group would love to hear your experiences and advice. For more information, contact Tony Aja at pastor. [wpcsantafe@gmail.com](mailto:wpcsantafe@gmail.com) or 983.8939.

# Pete's Place—Where Some Call Home

Imagine you are homeless. It is 16 degrees outside. You are hungry. You are weary. You have recurring, uncontrollable memories of trauma. You have no money, no one to take you in, nowhere to go. Pete's Place (the Interfaith Community Shelter) will take you in, feed you a hot dinner, and give you a warm place to sleep. You can visit with others and store your few belongings. On the wall there is a plaque that reads "God bless our home" and a dramatic and beautiful painting by one of the shelter guests. You feel at home.

The Interfaith Community Shelter is a "minimal barrier" shelter—a safe refuge for people who are homeless and a point of entry to other services they need. Three days a week, people who are homeless or at risk for being homeless can come and access healthcare, behavioral health and substance abuse counseling, food stamp and Medicaid enrollment, legal services, and job and housing assistance. They can get a haircut, take a shower, and get some new clothing. The staff smile and talk to them, call them by name, and treat them with respect. The Shelter director, Joe Jordan-Berenis, says, "We have the privilege of getting to know the people we serve."

The Shelter serves the chronically homeless. About 85–90 percent have serious mental health issues. It is the only shelter in New Mexico that takes anyone (who is not violent), regardless of where he or she is in life. It even takes their animals. It meets people where they are and helps them move forward. It models what it wants the community to do by filling appropriate staff positions with the homeless who are ready for that step.

## Know to Go — — — —

### Shelter Week

Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday,  
February 7 to 9

AND

Saturday, February 13  
2801 Cerrillos Road

Bring food by 5:00PM and/or  
volunteer from 5:00–9:00PM.  
Signup sheets on the table in the  
gathering space.

One of their employees is a vet who was homeless for 20 years. He first showed up drunk at the Shelter. But with the help of Shelter staff, he cleaned up and started behaving responsibly. The Shelter hired him, and he was then able to get independent housing and support himself. Recently, he was visited by

his family and proudly showed them the Shelter where he is working. The Shelter was started in 2008 by a group of organizations that included First Presbyterian Church. Last year the Shelter served 17,570 overnight guests and 54,246 meals and provided 37,672 articles of clothing. It served 1,097 discrete individuals in the shelter and placed 114 in other homes or facilities. First Presbyterian members support the shelter through donations of clothing, an annual church donation of \$5,000, individual donations, and many volunteer hours.

First Presbyterian's week to volunteer at the shelter is coming up in February. In addition, First Presbyterian has also committed to help with lunch on the fourth Friday of each month. If you would like to help or want more information, contact Liz Hinds at [eahinds20@gmail.com](mailto:eahinds20@gmail.com) or 982.0208.



*FPC volunteers prepare the evening meal at the Interfaith Community Shelter. Clockwise, starting at far left: Mary Ann Lundy, Judy Crawford, Chris Haynes, Alice Tinkle, and Liz Hinds.*



# Christian Education

Sundays 9:30–10:45AM

## Chosen? Class Starts in February

A four-week Lenten discussion of the book *Chosen?* by noted Old Testament scholar Walter Brueggemann will be led by Rev. Jim Brown. The class will meet Sunday afternoons at 4:00PM—February 14, 21, and 28, and March 6. *Chosen?* is a short, provocative book on the subject of “Reading the Bible Amid the Israeli Palestinian Conflict” and deals with what Scripture has to say about God’s chosen people, the land, and Zionism—and how this informs the search for a just peace. A signup sheet and copies of the book (\$7) are in the gathering space (lobby).

## Climate Change: The Importance of Including Both Science and Religion

At the first class, on January 24, Arvid Lundy (Mary Jo’s husband), Unitarian agnostic and BS-level engineering-physicist, set the stage. He featured two videos of Katharine Hayhoe, a dynamic young woman who is an evangelical Christian and a climate change scientist. Her full presentation (*Earthkeeping: A Climate for Change*) can be found on YouTube, along with her comments on Faith, Climate Change & UN Paris Summit.

The January 31 class features Charles “Chick” Keller, retired astrophysicist from Los Alamos National Laboratory,

who has spent 20 years studying climate change. He is a Roman Catholic who writes a weekly letter on the lectionary. He has had a lifelong passion for science and nature and enjoys communicating this to others.

The final class on February 7 is featuring noted author Larry Rasmussen will look at the challenges to the Christian faith that climate change brings. He is the Reinhold Niebuhr Professor Emeritus of Social Ethics at Union Theological Seminary in New York City.

## The Journey Continues

A new class began in mid-January for those “who are at various places in their quest for spiritual maturity.” Participants in the class watch a DVD and then have an open discussion of the material that will respect all points of view without reaching for conformity or consensus. The first nine weeks the class is viewing the video series *Does Christianity Have A Future? Schism, Scandal and Loss of the Sacred*.

DVD lectures were recorded live in Houston, Texas, at Christ Church Cathedral and feature Marcus Borg, Joan Chittister and John Dominic Crossan. To have time to view the DVD, this class will begin promptly at 9:30 in the Chapel.

## New Youth Music Program Starting

Every Sunday morning at 9:30, children and youth of the church are invited to participate in a new youth music program held in the sanctuary. All ages are welcome. The group is currently singing as well as learning recorder skills. For more information contact Jill McCormick at [jmccormick@santafewaldorf.org](mailto:jmccormick@santafewaldorf.org) or 699.5093.





# Food and Fellowship with a Dash of Meetings

The Circles potluck dinner on the second Wednesday of every month has been expanded. It started last fall with the Wisdom Circle, and on January 13, it expanded to include the new Sabbath Circle and Jubilee Circle.

Everyone enjoyed a tasty potluck dinner at 6:00PM, chatting with others they don't necessarily see all the time. Harry presented the new organizational structure for committees. Existing and active committees will continue to work as they have been; however, they are now included in larger circles to allow for better communication and more input from those outside the committee.

The three Circles meeting on Wednesdays are Wisdom, Sabbath, and Jubilee. All have a biblical background, and they can be described as follows:

- **Wisdom**—In Proverbs 3:13 we are told, “Blessed is the man who finds wisdom....” Groups associated with this Circle include adult education, children and youth, CDC, Bible studies, spiritual direction, book studies, and Presbyterian Women.
- **Sabbath**—We are commanded by God to “Remember the Sabbath and keep it Holy,” which Harry reminded us is anti-Pharaoh. In keeping the Sabbath, the Jews refused to participate in Pharaoh's system of production and consumption. We too are called to resist the world's demands for constant productivity and to help the needy, who are pushed aside by the world. Included in this Circle are worship and music, mission and social justice, liturgical arts, and Wednesday morning meditation.

- **Jubilee**—Every seventh year, the people of Israel were instructed to enter into a year of jubilee, a time of letting the land rest and a time of liberation and consolation. First Presbyterian is using this word as a description of all the things we as members of the church family do for each other. It includes Deacons, communications, outreach, history, 150th anniversary, Back Pew Gallery, men's breakfast, and prayer shawl.

In addition, the Resource Circle committees support the work of all the other groups and include facilities, finance, nominating, personnel, stewardship, and administration. Further, in the center of the Circles is the Session, which governs the life of the church. Session members are assigned to each of the Circles.

You are invited to come and enjoy the potluck dinner and to visit Circles in which you have an interest. It doesn't mean you have joined a committee, just that you are interested in what they are doing. So come and indulge in food and fellowship, with just a dash of meetings. For more information, contact Krista Peterson at [office@fpcsantafe.org](mailto:office@fpcsantafe.org) or 982.8544 x10.

## A New Song to Sing: Breast Cancer as Journey of Spirit

Parish Associate Linda Loving is looking for breast cancer survivors who want to participate together in seven gatherings which allow conversation, devotions, resources, and deepening of spirit while we are on the journey of breast cancer. Whether newly diagnosed or longer term survivors, all women are welcome to move through seven chapters of a workbook which Linda has recently written, and to serve as the primary pilot project for this national endeavor. This will be open to the Santa Fe community and limited to 8–10 people. If you have interest yourself or know of a survivor with interest in attending the seven sessions, please contact Linda at [lclev@aol.com](mailto:lclev@aol.com).



*At the January Circle Night, balloons celebrated the variety of circles and a group of Mizzou students staying at the church joined in the potluck.*

# Gun Violence in New Mexico

FACT: New Mexico is the second most dangerous state in the Union. New Mexico's violent crime rate rose 6.6 percent between 2012 and 2013—the sharpest rise in the nation—to nearly 597 yearly reported violent crimes per 100,000 residents. (Wall Street Journal, 2014)

On Saturday December 12, 2015, members of the First Presbyterian choir and congregation joined with Mayor Gonzales and New Mexicans to Prevent Gun Violence (NMTPGV) at a vigil on the Plaza. It was a small, brief gesture that was magnified in importance by the solemn white cardboard cutouts representing the dead victims of gun violence.

As a church we have chosen to support the important work of this group through a yearly monetary contribution. However, our interaction with this group will not stop there. The Mission and Social Justice Committee had invited representatives from NMTPGV to speak at a scheduled meeting in January at the church. This event had to be cancelled due to weather, but will be rescheduled. We are hoping to increase our support of this organization through learning more about their work and the tangible ways we can partner with them.

Please watch your bulletin and upcoming e-mails for more information about the rescheduling of this meeting. In preparation, feel free to visit [newmexicanstopreventgunviolence.org](http://newmexicanstopreventgunviolence.org).



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

## February

- 1 Lynn Babcock
- 2 Elizabeth Hook
- 3 Dorothy Karayanis
- 4 Robb Thomson
- 7 Gwen Fuller  
Lu Santa Cruz
- 8 Jackie Rose  
Jim Rose
- 9 Carol Fallis
- 12 Malissa Haslam  
Marjorie Lunderville
- 13 Janis Gonzales
- 17 Ralph Williams
- 19 Frank Shuck
- 20 Bill Gee  
Carol McKee
- 22 Lisa Vernon
- 23 Bill Rugg
- 24 Penney Poole  
Raymond Raney
- 25 Rie Clark
- 27 Linda Sue King  
Ray Lutz  
Evelyn Perea (CDC)



*Photo by Tony Aja*

*Harry Eberts speaks at the Santa Fe Plaza during a snowy vigil to prevent gun violence. White cutouts represent the dead victims of gun violence.*

## Like Us on Facebook

Are you on Facebook? Help First Presbyterian Church reach its first 100 "likes" by liking our Facebook page. It's a great way to keep abreast of happenings within and around the church. Attending a service or an educational program at the church? Use the "Check In" feature to let others know you've been here!



# Highlights

## from Session

Following are highlights from past Session meetings. You can find full Session agendas, official minutes, and materials in the loose-leaf binder housed on top of the mailboxes just outside the library and on the FPC website. Session usually meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

### March

- 2 Pat Roach  
Daniel Van Essen
- 3 Mike Mansfield
- 4 Howard Turner
- 5 Alexander Barrera-Shumaker
- 7 Jenny Harland
- 8 Harry Eberts
- 9 Marilyn Davidson
- 10 Luke Moran
- 11 Mark Bixby  
Jeremy Henry  
Michael Woods
- 12 Barbara Roush  
J.Q. Whitcomb
- 13 Gerald Heggen
- 14 Jennifer Mallory
- 15 Laurel Seth
- 16 Peggy Zone
- 18 Betsy Tyldesley
- 20 Helen Foster
- 24 Krista Peterson
- 25 Wyatt Moran  
John Pasch
- 26 Drew Hill
- 27 Sarah Smith
- 28 Dawn Wink
- 29 Andrew Black  
Glennis Hinshaw
- 30 Jeanine Martin

#### At its meeting on November 18, 2015, the Session approved the following:

- The sanctuary will be made available for contemplative worship on Sunday mornings from 9:00 to 9:30AM.
- Adult education can bring author and speaker Robin Meyers to First Presbyterian on February 13 and 14. The \$3,000 cost will be covered by existing budgets for adult education, and preaching honorariums, plus an additional charge for men's breakfast and sponsorships.

#### At its meeting on December 16, 2015, the Session approved the following:

- The 2016 Nominating Committee will be Gayle Lomax, Sara Haber, Ed Barker, John Ruybalid, Dennis Sanderson, and a Deacon not yet named.
- \$25,000 will be taken from the Building and Maintenance Fund to cover unexpected and planned maintenance and repairs incurred in 2015.
- The Parking Committee has reconvened and will be meeting with County officials. Alternative parking solutions are still being explored.
- Sharon Eklund will be chair of the personnel committee.

- Krista Peterson's employment dates and compensation will be adjusted as requested by the personnel committee.
- Nominating committee chair Gayle Lomax presented nominees for clerk and treasurer starting in 2016. The slate of officers of the corporation to be presented to the congregation at the Annual Meeting in January are: President, Bill Eklund; Vice President, Margaret Lyerly; Clerk, Judi Haines; and Treasurer, Gale Wright.
- At the annual meeting, Gale Wright will also be nominated for a one-year term as elder, in addition to Richard Lindahl for a one-year term as elder (filling out Sarah Stark's term), Sharon Eklund for a one-year term as Deacon, and Dawn Wink and Patti Poitras for additional terms as Deacons.

#### According to draft minutes, at its meeting on January 20, 2016, the Session approved the following:

- A Finance Committee and an Investment Committee will be formed and both will be chaired by Dennis Sanderson.
- Staff pay increases will be effective March 6, 2016.
- FPC's will collaborate with Westminster Presbyterian Church on an English Language Learners program.
- Session approved the 2016 Budget.

### To the Women of First Presbyterian:

You're invited to the Women's Spirituality Quiet Day on Saturday, January 30, 8:30AM-3:00PM in Palen Hall at the Church of the Holy Faith. Deborah Smith Douglas will lead the contemplative day on the themes of Epiphany: God manifest in starlight, water, wine and in our lives. Free and open to all women. Bring a bag lunch. RSVP at 982.4447 x119 or e-mail revpeggy@gmail.com.

#### Financial report for January-December 2015

	FPC	CDC	All
Income	\$647,190	\$518,299	\$1,165,489
Expense	\$643,654	\$520,194	\$1,163,848
Net	\$3,536	(\$1,895)	\$1,641



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
*of Santa Fe*

*Behold. Be still. Become.*

208 Grant Avenue  
Santa Fe, NM 87501

# *La Epístola*

## *Winter 2015*

### **Fear, Violence, and Faith: A Christian Perspective**

#### **Know to Go** — — — —

Pastors' Panel  
Thursday, January 28  
6:30PM in Crispin Hall  
Cathedral Basilica

Each January during the Week of Christian Unity, a unique forum is held for the community, called the Pastors' Panel. The Ecumenical Committee for the Downtown Churches sponsors this free event. Rev. Dr. Harry Eberts of First Presbyterian, Rev. Kenneth Semon of Church of the Holy Faith Episcopal, and Rev. Adam Lee Ortega y Ortiz of the Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi will be participating in this year's panel entitled *Fear, Violence, and Faith: A Christian Perspective*.

This topic seems especially apt and current given the daily occurrences of violence locally, nationally, and

internationally. How should we, as Christians, absorb or confront the fear associated with acts of violence? The forum will open with brief comments by each of the participants, and then widen to take questions from and interact with those in attendance. It is hoped that attendees will leave with at least one important take away. Even though we are three different churches, our perspectives about this issue are more similar than they are different.

Please join us for this important exchange of ideas on Thursday, January 28 at 6:30PM, in Crispin Hall at the Basilica. For more information, please call 955.8866.