



The Providence Press

*'Come Worship With Us
as We Grow in Wisdom and
Grace'*

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April, 2018

Across the Wall

"But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us." (Ephesians 2:13-14)

In February, a small group of folk from across Foothills Presbytery journeyed to the US-Mexican border region known as Frontera de Cristo. They were ministers and lay people, women and men, young and old. What they held in common was their willingness to journey to a place that political conversation and news coverage have portrayed as dangerous, violent, and troubled. They went because they wanted to see for themselves this border region of their own country and our neighbor to the south. They went because they wanted to better understand the difficulties of life south of the border, difficulties that continue to make so many people risk life and limb to come to the United States, a country that seems not to want them. They went because they had heard about the work being done in this border region to change lives for the better, to keep families together, to promote peace.

Natalie Schwartz, a member of Seneca Presbyterian Church, wrote the following reflections about finding Jesus "on both sides of the fence." If her words make your heart ache or make your spirit yearn to be part of this bridge-building work in our presbytery, give me a call. Another group will make the trip in November – and they'd love for you to tag along.

In Christ,
Terri

*"Finding Jesus on Both Sides of the Fence"
Natalie Schwartz*

Finding Jesus 1

It was a chilly, rainy Ash Wednesday as I walked along the border wall in Agua Prieta, which even for February was a rare event for the desert city. Our seven-member delegation from Foothills Presbytery had been immersed in life on the US-Mexico border for several days and I needed time to pray and reflect. As I walked I stopped and prayed at the murals that adorned the Mexican side of wall. As I walked back to our hotel I noticed that one of the murals was a completely different image depending on your perspective. Just as the murals changed based on our perspective, so do our own thoughts and opinions change when we take the time to see things from different perspectives.

Several times during our trip I had to see the border through someone else's lens. In the middle of a barren desert outside of Douglas, AZ, we planted a cross marking the location where Jose Luis IBarra Lerma, a young

migrant in his 20's, lost his life crossing the border. As we stood there in the sun and wind, thankful for our water bottles, it was clear how dangerous this rugged, barren land could be. One could not help but think about this young migrant in the desert, was he traveling north to support his family? Was he alone when he died, or was there someone there to comfort him in his final moments? Will his family ever be able to visit the cross that we planted? We each left an offering at the foot of the cross, rosaries, coins, shells, rocks and greenery, little tokens that became signs that Jose Luis was a remembered and loved child of God.

Finding Jesus 2

As I opened myself to look at the border from a different perspective, as a place of encounter, I began to find Jesus everywhere.

- In the Mennonite couple that care for the graves of six unidentified migrants, in the father carrying the burden of trying to support his family on a maquiladora salary, knowing if he had just stayed and worked in the US longer his family might not be without electricity.
- In the matriarch of a large family who she fed us and waited to eat until we were all full.
- In the Border Patrol agent offering water to the thirsty migrant. In the social worker helping domestic violence victims.
- In the women that made up Dougla Prieta, a women's co-op and community garden.

Finding Jesus 3

We all came with our biases, our own opinions, and our own ideas of how Washington should fix “the problems” of border security and immigration. Instead of walking away with affirmations of our own opinions, simple solutions for major humanitarian issues, and black-and-white answers, we came home with relationships, questions, and the grace you can only experience through radical hospitality. It was through sharing of meals, laughter and awkwardness as we tried to communicate through language barriers, and the shared passion for living Christ's call in our communities that broke down the dividing wall. And when we thought of the border as a place of encounter and opportunity instead of barriers and dividing walls, it washed away the images of militarization, walls, divisions, we encountered generosity, hospitality, and Christian fellowship. The physical wall dividing our two countries still stands, but there is no barrier between our brothers and sisters in Christ.

For more information, check out the link to the Presbyterian Mission Agency's page about Frontera de Cristo – <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/the-rev-mark-adams-and-miriam-maldonado-escobar/>

A decorative graphic featuring the words "Love thy Neighbor" in a highly stylized, calligraphic script. The letters are thick and black, with intricate flourishes and loops. The word "Love" is at the top, "thy" is in the middle, and "Neighbor" is at the bottom, all overlapping and connected by the script's flow.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Christian Education



Pictured here are Carolyn Harvill and Cathy Redd in our inter-generational Sunday School class



God bless, Cyndi Everette

Making a Difference in Missions

Missions is again encouraging all of you to please don't forget about our food pantry, PERC, that we support and they depend on us for help. April is the last month for canned fruits. Even though we have a particular type of food for each month doesn't necessarily mean that it is deemed necessary. Any type of food is gladly accepted as well as all types of Hygiene Products. Remember everything we all take for granted, edibles or otherwise, is greatly appreciated.

If by chance you are reading this before Easter Sunday, please remember this Sunday is the time to place your "One Great Hour of Sharing" offering. If you've forgotten it this week, we'll accept it next week. This is an important Presbyterian Ministry that gives help at both local and national levels around the world in a time of crisis where people are recovering from both natural

and/or human-caused disasters.

SAVE THE DATE! SATURDAY, MAY 19 AGES 4+

Foothills Presbytery is sponsoring a Rise Against Hunger Session and everyone, one and all, youth groups and families alike can help! 200 volunteers are needed to help package meals for hungry children around the world. This one day event will be held at EASTMINISTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH from 9 - 11 o'clock. Volunteers will help package meals with a goal of packaging 30,000 meals, yes I said 30,000!!! There will be a job for everyone; all ages welcome. More info to come later, just save the date!

Thank you and blessings to all, The Missions Team

Parish Nurse - April is Autism Awareness Month

What is Autism?

Autism spectrum disorder(ADS) is a complex developmental disability; signs typically appear during early childhood and affect a person's ability to communicate, and interact with others. ASD is defined by a certain set of behaviors and is a "spectrum condition" that affects individuals differently and to varying degrees. There is no single cause of autism, but increased awareness and early diagnosis/intervention and assess to appropriate services/supports leads to significantly improved outcomes. Some of the behaviors associated with autism include delayed learning of language; difficulty making eye contact or holding a conversation; difficulty with executive functioning, which relates to reasoning and planning; narrow, intense interests; poor motor skills' and sensory sensitivities. Again, a person on the spectrum might follow many of these behaviors or just a few, or many others besides. The diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder is applied based on analysis of all behaviors and their severity.

Know the Signs

Autism is treatable. Children do not "outgrow" autism, but studies show that early

diagnosis and intervention lead to significantly improved outcomes. Here are some things to look for:

- Lack of or delay in spoken language
- Repetitive and/use of language motor mannerisms (e.g., hand-flapping, twirling objects)
- Little or no eye contact
- Lack of interest in peer relationships
- Lack of spontaneous or make-believe play
- Persistent fixation on parts of objects
- Does not babble or coo by 12 months
- Does not gesture (point, wave, grasp) by 12 months
- Does not say single words by 16 months
- Does not say two-word phrases on his or her own by 24 months
- Has any loss of any language or social skill at any age

Any of these “red flags” does not mean your child has autism. But because the disorder’s symptoms vary so widely, a child showing these behaviors should be evaluated by a multidisciplinary team. This team might include neurologist, psychologist, developmentally pediatric night, speech/language therapist, learning consultant or other professionals who are knowledgeable about autism.

Asperger’s Syndrome

Asperger’s syndrome (known as Asperger’s Disorder) was first described in the 1940s by Viennese pediatrician Hans Asperger’s, who observed autism-like behaviors and difficulties with social and communication skills in boys who had normal intelligence and language development. Many professionals felt Asperger’s syndrome was simply a milder form of autism and used the term “high-functioning autism” to describe these individuals.

Characteristics

What distinguishes Asperger’s Disorder from classic autism are it’s less severe symptoms and the absence of language delays. Children with Asperger’s Disorder May be only mildly affected, and they frequently have good language and cognitive skills. While children with autism may be view as aloof and uninterested in others, individuals

with Asperger’s Disorder usually want to fit in and have interaction with others, but often they don’t know how to do it.

They may be socially awkward, not understand conventional social rules or Show a lack of empathy. They may have limited eye contact, seem unengaged in conversation and not understand the use of gestures or sarcasm. Additionally, they may not understand other subtleties of language, such as irony and humor, and they may not understand the give-and-take nature of a conversation.

Their interests in a particular subject may border on the obsessive. Children with Asperger’s Disorder often like to collect categories of things, such as rock or bottle caps. They may be proficient in knowledge categories of information, such as baseball statistics or Latin names of flowers.

Another distinction between Asperger’s Disorder and autism concerns cognitive ability. While some individuals with autism have intellectual disabilities, by definition, a person with Asperger’s Disorder cannot have a “clinically significant” cognitive delay, most possess average to above-average intelligence.

Early Detection and Intervention

The Autism Society promotes early identification and access to effective treatments before age 3. Autism behaviors can become apparent as early as 18 months, and parents should investigate as soon as they suspect autism or another development issue. Early diagnosis of autism can reduce lifetime care costs by two-thirds, as it allows parents, therapies and others to begin treatments sooner. Learning as much as possible about autism and its community is important at this stage.

Autism Society phone number is 800-3AUTISM (800-328-8476) or info@autism-society.org.

Stay well, Julia Palmer

Presbyterian Women

The morning ladies group meets the first Tuesday of the month at Foothills Retirement Community at 11:00 in the Private Dining Room. The lesson is taught by Anne Brooke, Christian Educator. Everyone is welcomed, you may eat lunch or not.

Worship

Flowers and plants in the sanctuary on Sunday is a reminder of the "gift of life" that God has provided for us in our world. These are works of nature that God has on display for our pleasure and use, and are used to symbolize the seasons of the earth and the seasons of our life.

Here at Providence we would like to display fresh flowers each week during our morning worship to show our respect for the beautiful world we have been given. The worship committee members would like to encourage members and friends of the church to take this opportunity to remember a birthday, anniversary, event, or recognize/honor someone special. Acknowledgement of the flowers is placed in the church bulletin whenever these gifts are given.

There are many open Sundays available so we ask that you consider taking a date to provide the flowers. This can be done by signing up on the flower calendar in the church school hallway or calling the church office to have your name placed on it. We will also begin collecting for a flower fund should someone like for the church to provide flowers or a plant to "The Glory of God". Some of these items can later be given to our shut-ins, those who are ill or even planted on the church property.

Committee Chairs Shane Metcalf & Robin Bell

young
at heart

Those attending YAH the month of March enjoyed a great dinner at Portofino's. 22 were in attendance.

April's date will be **Thursday, April 26 at 5:00 due to a conflict** for those living at Foothills's so **PLEASE MARK YOUR** calendar. Place to be determined.

Providence Care offers a monthly grief support group led by Chaplain Andre Kroneman.

If you or someone you know needs this service, please feel free to attend. It is open to everyone!

Date: First Tuesday of every month (**Mar. 6th**)

Location: Ellenburg Hall

Time: 2:00pm - 5:00 pm

Cost: FREE

Serving the Church in April

Liturgists

April 1 Jennifer McCalla
April 8 Jeff Price
April 15 Jessica Traynham
April 22 Brad Rochester
April 29 Debbie Clapp

Acolytes

April 1 Communion
April 8 Erik Hogan
April 15 Lillian Goodman
April 22 Sara Everette
April 29 Sean Hogan

Flowers

April 1
April 8
April 15 Alton & Marian Graham's Anniversary
Mary Lorraine Metcalf Birthday
April 22
April 29

Greeters

April 1 Suzanne Goodman & Becky Kay
April 8 Lowry Wilson & Peggy Ragsdale
April 15 Paul Gillespie
April 22 Lowry Wilson & Peggy Ragsdale
April 29 Joey & Vicki Ford

Ushers

April Randy Parker, Sam Ricker,
Beverly Merry, Jennifer McCalla

Nursery

April 1 Wanda Witmer
April 8 Jennifer McCalla
April 15 Angie Rochester - Hanna Clark
April 22 Cyndi Everette
April 29

Children's Church

April 1 Shane Metcalf
April 8 Hogan Family
April 15 Brad Rochester
April 22 Alora Holloway
April 29 Hogan Family

Time with Children

April 1 Terri Price
April 8 Becky Kay
April 15 Becky Kay
April 22
April 2

Serving You at Providence

Presbyterian Church

Stated Supply Pastor, Rev. Terri Price
Donna Robertson, Clerk of Session
Director of Music, Tim Gossett
Church Secretary, Mary Rivera
Financial Secretary, Donna Robertson
Sexton, Sherrie Tootill
Treasurer, Lewis Clapp
Preschool Director, Sheree Beal

Church Office Hours: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday
Telephone Number: 864.605.1011
Terri's E-mail: minister@providence-church.com
Terri's Cell Number is 864-616-9992
Mary's E-Mail: office@providence-church.com
Donna's E-Mail: donna@providence-church.com
Sheree's E-Mail: preschool@providence-church.com
Website: www.providence-church.com

Session Members:

Class of 2018 – Larry Brock, Cyndi Everette, Peggy Ragsdale, Linda Threatt

Class of 2019 – Jane Broderick, Shane Metcalf, Lowry Wilson

Class of 2020 – Robin Bell, Julia Palmer, Richard Witmer



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Address Correction Requested