



# COURIER

First Presbyterian church

September 2020

## Pastor's Letter

Journal article for  
Sept 20

It has been a year since we bought our house at Sunset. We have gotten a lot of help from Ted and Jeremy and Gil, helping us get ready to move in and get settled – which we are still working on. God asked the Israelites to look for a new thing as He brought together His plan to being the exiles back home. The good people of Socorro and Magdalena had no idea how many changes they were about to absorb; a new pastor in April, and less than a year later new challenges in the guise of a little virus that kills. I wonder how many changes at a time are actually healthy.

It has been 6 months since we were all together. I have enjoyed this time – the relaxed informal time of wor-

ship has been a great time to get to know everyone better and appreciate that worship is not about what we sing, how we look, how great the music, but about our hearts when we enter the doors. As Jesus said in Matthew 18, "Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Isn't that what worship is about? Having Jesus with our gathering leading us to a better tomorrow?

But along with most, I am ready for the next new thing where we can all get together and worship and renew. Nancy is planning something for September. Let's make it spe-

cial!

We will all miss Georgia too. For everyone except Ruth, Georgia was there for the entire time of your membership. Her last appearance at church was July 12. The picture of Georgia and Carol is on our church's Facebook page. She was loved by many. It was truly a pleasure getting to know her family; she was very proud of them; they too are special.

What is your new thing? Have you asked Jesus to show it to you? I think it will be truly wonderful. Let's agree on that!

Love from 907

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## Deacon Doings by Nancy Dotson

Although the Deacons have not been meeting since May, we have been involved with several projects. After delivering cookies to the Moms and Dads of the church for Mother's Day and Father's Day in May and June, Barbara Oates with Christian Education thought it would be nice to honor the Sunday School children who would be returning to 'virtual school' on August 10.

So, Deacons got busy again with our mixers, baking cookies to give out. Forty-seven cards have been sent out over the last few months for birthdays, get-well, sympathy, thinking of you, anniversary, etc. The Deacons coordinated meals for Georgia Seery and family members for several weeks. Thank you to all who provided those meals. We were honored to fix a light reception

for Georgia's family after her memorial service on August 14. We will start meeting again on Monday, September 14 at 10:00. Please notify any of the Deacons or the church office if there is a need with which we can help. (Deacons are Ruth Baca, Beth Cadol, Marsha Sabol, Betsy Smith, Pam Winton, and Nancy Dotson.)

## A Birthday Parade! By Nancy Dotson

Friday, August 7, was Georgia Seery's 96th birthday. With social distancing being in place in Socorro, how does one honor her on this BIG DAY?? Two of Georgia's friends, Titia Barham and Susie Welch, came up with a grand idea to help celebrate: a drive-by birthday parade! The word was spread initially to our church members and Georgia's P.E.O. sisters and eventually to other groups Georgia has been involved with in the community for many years.

We decorated our cars with balloons, birthday banners, homemade signs, etc. and gathered in the parking lot of the Methodist Church to assemble. We had two city police units there—we were official! (Thank you to whom-ever notified them.) As one unit led us slowly out of the parking

lot, the other unit blocked traffic and allowed us to travel right through the four-way stops. We proceeded down Fitch Ave, turning right on Houghton, Georgia's street. Georgia was decked out in a tall birthday party hat, there were large flower arrangements on the side walk near her, and a birthday banner and balloons on her tall hedge. There were about 10 folks on her lawn as the approximately 25 cars drove slowly by, honking and shouting greetings. There was so much joy and happiness surrounding this parade, plus beautiful weather, and we were thrilled to be able to help Georgia celebrate her big day. Thank you to all who participated!

Picture from Carol Seery  
Thanks!





## Thank You!

To everyone at First Presbyterian Church,  
You helped Georgia in so many ways. I can't name them all here. However, I can speak to the many loving offers of food, prayers, hugs and I smiles that kept us afloat as Georgia prepared for her journey! Thank

you for everything.  
A special thank you to all who planned and participated in Georgia's memorial Service. The message, the music, the food, all the preparations and the YouTube video for the family to weren't there. Such an honor and a blessing Georgia is

smiling.  
Love Carol, the Piggs & the Seerys  
"In just the right ways at just the right time,  
YOU were there...  
Thank you!"

## Menaul Historical Library Offering

Dear Brothers and Sisters at First Presbyterian Church in Socorro. The Menaul Historical Library of the Southwest continues to chug along in spite of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are not officially open to the public; however, an abbreviated staff has been going in to pay bills, answer E-mail and correspondence, and put out a newsletter. Our latest newsletter featured Part 1 of a 2-part research paper about Padre Antonio Jose Martinez of Taos by Rev. Shannon Webster. Shannon's contention is that Padre Martinez was to the Protestant Reformation in New Mexico what Martin Luther was to the Protestant Reformation in Europe. The article is extremely well researched and is a fascinating read. Shannon did much of his research at the Library.

Also, Menaul School (which has been closed since April, but plans to open by late August or early September) has asked for the Library's assistance as they make plans for the 125th anniversary celebration. Using a timeline of

its beginnings as the original Presbyterian Industrial School for Indians in 1881, through today, our assignment was to research interesting stories from our files about students, teachers, dorm life, working on the farm, etc. There are so many interesting stories, and it did require significant time and effort. Thank goodness the stories were heartwarming as well as fascinating.

And that is what keeps us going. Our Library contains material that researchers dream about, such as the story of Richard William Dickenson Bryan, first superintendent of the Indian School, who had degrees in law and astronomy. In 1871 Bryan went to the Arctic as an astronomer with the USS. Polaris Expedition. In about 1882, he made a speech about his Arctic experience, charging \$5.00 per ticket, the proceeds of which went to the First Presbyterian Church in Albuquerque Building Fund.

Then there are the early Menaul

School yearbooks, dating from the 1880's. These books are handwritten and handbound. The students kept journals, and their journal entries became part of the record. One journal entry in 1918 relates to why one student couldn't meet up with his girlfriend in "town" because of the Spanish Flu, and another about why a student hadn't been to class for a week because of the flu.

The donations from supporters like First Presbyterian, Socorro, enable us to continue to work on preservation efforts. Preserving the yearbooks is a high priority. They are very fragile, and we plan to digitize them so that they can be enjoyed for decades to come. We have a large collection of oral histories that need to be digitized because the tapes are degrading, and digitizing would also give more access to the public.

Thank you, and God bless you.  
Gloria Mirabal, Volunteer/  
Researcher



**TREASURER'S REPORT**  
July 2020 By Geraldine Schwab

Receipts were interest.

**General Fund Checking Account**

07/01/2020	Balance on hand	\$39,276.38
	Receipts	4,739.63
	Disbursements	4,681.31
07/31/2020	Balance on hand	39,334.70

Receipts were all general income.

Disbursements include:

Employer's quarterly taxes and fees	\$320.80
Yard work at church, July	100.00

We spent \$58.32 less for budgeted items during July than we received for budgeted expenses.  
We received \$4,739.63 for budgeted expenses during July and spent \$4,681.31 for budgeted items.

**Rental Property Checking Account**

07/01/2020	Balance on hand	\$22,457.06
	Receipts	900.00
	Disbursements	1,500.00
07/31/2020	Balance on hand	21,857.06

Receipts were:

Rent, 308 McCutcheon, July	\$500.00
Rent, 306 McCutcheon, August	400.00

Disbursements were:

Repairs, 308 McCutcheon, including stove and two toilets  
\$1,000.00

Remove carpet and padding, cleaning, dump fees,  
308 McCutcheon 300.00  
Yard work, 308 McCutcheon, July 100.00  
Yard work, 306 McCutcheon, July 100.00

**Memorial Fund Checking Account**

07/01/2020	Balance on hand	\$ 12,644.95
	Receipts	0.54
07/31/2020	Balance on hand	12,645.49

**John Browne Memorial Fund Savings Account**

07/01/2020	Balance on hand	\$427.85
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This account is reserved specifically for education.

**New Covenant Funds Investment Accounts**

**Building Fund**

04/01/2020	Our value	\$32,813.40
	Income reinvested	130.06
07/01/2020	Our value	32,943.46

**Capital Equipment Fund**

04/01/2020	Our value	\$14,931.25
	Income reinvested	143.30
07/01/2020	Our value	5,074.55

**John Browne Memorial Fund**

04/01/2020	Our value	\$33,218.57
	Income reinvested	282.11
07/01/2020	Our value	33,500.68

This account is dedicated to education uses.

# September 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Session 5:30 pm	2	3	4	5
6 Menaul Historical Library Offering	7 Labor Day	8	9 Bible Study 6:00 pm Book of John	10	11	12
13 Menaul Historical Library Offering	14 Deacons 10:00 am	15	16 Bible Study 6:00 pm	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 Bible Study 6:00 pm	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 Bible Study 6:00 pm			

## **First Presbyterian church**

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“WE ARE A CHURCH THAT IS LED BY THE SPIRIT TO WALK TOGETHER,  
WORK TOGETHER AND SHOW EVERYONE THAT WE ARE CHRISTIANS BY OUR LOVE.”

## **September Birthdays**

2—Denise Gilson  
12 —Jamie Martin  
14— Dianne Tappe

