

¡Saludos en el nombre de Jesucristo!

My friends, today, I want to extend a special thanks to Leland Bowen, Steve Chewning, Karen Cox, Michael McPherson, Sara and Maddalyn Moore, Mike and Jeannine Potter, Virginia Watkins, and Miguel Zulueta for their help in making the Cuba potluck a big success. I hope you all enjoy the pictures. (I wish I had taken more).

During the potluck, Ary and Beidy gave a moving presentation about the challenges of life on the island of Cuba. They shared that the Cuban economy has been devastated by the effects of both the U.S. embargo of the island and the recent covid pandemic. The pandemic was especially challenging for Cuba since so much of the Cuban economy depends on tourism, and covid virtually destroyed the tourism industry. Ary and Beidy also shared that because the economy is so bad, the minimum salary in Cuba is the equivalent of about 9 dollars a month. Tragically, sometimes the Presbyterian pastors in Cuba earn even less than that, and the Presbyterian church is therefore losing pastors at an alarming rate as many of them are leaving the island to seek a better life in the United States and other countries.

Despite these challenges, I think it was obvious to everyone at the potluck that Ary and Beidy have a strong faith in the goodness of God, and I think this faith was a great inspiration to everyone who came out to the potluck. Ary and Beidy also express their deep thanks to all of us in the Presbytery of Santa Fe for our prayers and continued financial support for the church in Cuba.

Today, I also wanted to share that we had a communications committee meeting this week. At that meeting, we talked about updating the church website, advertising the upcoming bingo potluck event in September, improving the church's presence on social media, improving internal communications within the church, and working with the finance and stewardship committees.

For our worship this Sunday, our scripture readings will be Genesis 37: 1-4, 12-28 and Matthew 14:22-33. My sermon is titled "Faith and Fear". I look forward to being with you at 9:30am either in the sanctuary or over Zoom.

Blessings,

Pastor Rich