

TOUR DE TASTEBUD: 6 UNIQUE WAYS TO EAT YOUR WAY THROUGH ALBUQUERQUE

# albuquerque

THE MAGAZINE

## RED AND GREEN

YOU VOTED. WE TASTED. WE TESTED.  
MEET ALBUQUERQUE'S TASTIEST RED AND GREEN CHILE DISHES.

### GRAPE EXPECTATIONS

OUR EARTH-TO-GLASS GUIDE TO  
ABQ WINE, BEER, AND SPIRIT

ABQ FROM ABOVE: 7 ENTIRELY NEW WAYS TO SEE THE CITY







"Faith, Hope, and Jazz" brings down the house with inspirational jazz performances and sermons at Monte Vista Fire Station.

also backed up McGill on a number of occasions since. "Cathryn's got some great ideas," she says. "I'm going to hold on to her coattails for sure."

Since arriving in New Mexico, Morgan has noticed that the various communities—Black, Anglo, Hispanic, and Native American, among others—don't mix culturally as much as they do in other places she's lived. She's interested in changing that.

"I had the idea that we need to do something called 'Unity in Community,' where we pull communities together," Morgan says. She envisions an event where performers of all kinds from every community—rappers, jugglers, dancers, musicians, whomever—could come together to do their thing and network.

Morgan is also looking to step forward and command the front of the stage herself. "I've never been out front," she says. "I've never done my own show. I do want to get that experience." You can check in on Morgan's progress by e-mailing her at [uattano2002@yahoo.com](mailto:uattano2002@yahoo.com).

## "UNCHURCHY CHURCH"

One of the consistently best jazz sets in Albuquerque these days takes place every Thursday at 7 p.m. in a church. But

this particular church happens to be in a restaurant and bar, the Monte Vista Fire Station on Central Avenue. The evening's parishioners—the event is open to the public—have access to sacramental bread and wine, as well as beers in the bottle and on tap, a wine list, and a dinner menu.

Dubbed "Faith, Hope, and Jazz," the series is hosted by pastors Laurie Lewis and Bob Aubrey of the Monte Vista Christian Church. They deliver a few quick inspirational words on a different topic each week; invite attendees to make a donation, half of which goes to the monthly charity; and conduct a "flash prayer." Attendees write a concern, wish, or plea on a piece of flash paper. The papers are collected in a glass vase and vaporized in an instantaneous ignition, sending the prayers skyward. Except for the burst of flame, it's all very low-key.

One thing is not low-key, however: the music, which is the central sacrament in this service. "Music is church," says pianist Jim Ahrend, who pulls together a different aggregation of players every week, culled from the best in the region. On the first Thursday of the month, he also hosts an hour-long jazz jam at Monte Vista Fire Station at 6 p.m. At the moment, it is the last remaining jazz jam in the city, which used to boast several. Jams are

the traditional way for new musicians to introduce themselves to the musical community and for established players to pass on their wisdom to aspiring musicians.

Faith, Hope, and Jazz grew out of the church's desire to develop an alternative worship program. The first series of events, in 2011, rotated through a variety of formats over several months at the church—chanting, drum circles, multimedia, jazz, and so on. "What came out of that was the jazz was wildly popular," says Ahrend, who, in June 2011, proposed a jam session to raise funds for fire and flood relief. "That was wildly successful."

The church members spent about a year debating how they wanted to continue. Pastor Lewis was strongly in favor of doing something outside the church walls. "So we got the idea, 'Let's take some jazz out there and offer it to the community,'" Ahrend says. "Maybe throw in a little message that's light and uplifting and see what sort of friends we can make."

In early 2013, Faith, Hope and Jazz was launched at a bakery, moved to a biker bar when the bakery went under, and finally moved to Monte Vista Fire Station in January 2014. Pastors Lewis and Aubrey make the evening joyful and accessible, a place where people of any faith can feel comfortable sharing a time of worship and awe—an "unchurchy church," as Pastor Lewis describes it.

"Our goal is not to proselytize," Ahrend says. Instead, it's to raise awareness of the church's involvement in community causes—from transitional housing for people reentering society after jail, to animal humane services, to food banks, and many others. It also serves as an outreach and support for the musical community. "We've created a gig," he says. "Musicians need gigs to live."

From a purely musical standpoint, the Thursday night sessions offer an entertaining respite from the cares of the day, a moment to catch your spiritual breath with some top-drawer jazz. You can learn more about Faith, Hope, and Jazz—including a roster of upcoming musicians—at [faithhopeandjazz.org](http://faithhopeandjazz.org).

Be sure to check out *Musically Speaking*.  
Mel's blog, at [www.melminter.com](http://www.melminter.com).

If you'd like to share something musical with "tiempo!" readers, e-mail [tiempo@abqthemag.com](mailto:tiempo@abqthemag.com).