



PINNACLE VISTAS

The Newsletter for Pinnacle Presbyterian Church, Scottsdale, Ariz. • February 2009

YOUTH BUILDING DEDICATION FEB. 8

The congregation is invited to join Pinnacle's Youth in dedicating the new Youth Building on Sunday, Feb. 8.

The dedication will be at the end of the 10 a.m. service.

It will be a great celebration of what God has helped us build and for the future development of the faith

of our youth that will take place within the walls of that building.

Don't miss this opportunity to thank God for our new facilities.



The Youth Building's patio over looks the desert.

PINNACLE THEOLOGICAL CENTER

GUEST SPEAKER EXAMINES AFGHANISTAN TODAY ON FEB. 19

Learn about "Afghanistan Today" from Wali Naibi, an Afghan-American who lived over 10 years in the Asian nation, at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 19, in the Chapel.

Naibi's presentation is sponsored by the Pinnacle Theological Center.

Naibi left Afghanistan in 1972, one year

Please see **AFGHANISTAN** on page 7

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Helping our community in these tough times.

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MOTHER'S DAY Now is the time to plan to take your Mama to Mexico.

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POETRY Phoenix youth share their poetry at

Pinnacle. **PAGE 11**

HELPING OUR COMMUNITY DURING THESE TOUGH TIMES

Over the past few weeks, I have heard of more and more church members who have lost their jobs in this bad economy. I think this is as good a time as any to let you know about some things the church offers during this difficult time.

First of all, if you have lost your job or are having difficulty in one way or another please let one of the clergy know. Many of you send us your resumes when you have lost jobs because we may hear about positions that are available.

Second, if you know of jobs that are available, please let us know as well. Sharing information is one of the ways members of our community can support one another.

The church also has several funds and resources we provide during times of need.

The **Emergency Assistance Fund** is a fund that helps people as a last resort. The fund can be used once by any household, church member or non-member, and is typically used to pay a bill or a portion of rent. It is not a large fund, but it can help relieve some pressure for people if there is a threat of utilities being shut off or being kicked out of a home. The Emergency Assistance Fund gets its funds from gifts of generous church members and through the annual Christmas Joy Offering.

We also have the **Holloran Memorial Counseling Fund**, started in memory of Duane Holloran, the church's second Associate Pastor, who counseled in the church and for years ran Phoenix Interfaith Counseling Center. This fund is available to pay a portion of counseling sessions with counselors in our Scottsdale community.

Please see **LETTER** on page 4



Rev. Mac Schafer,
interim pastor

TAKE YOUR MAMA TO MEXICO FOR A MOTHER'S DAY RETREAT

PPC invites everyone to attend the third annual Take Your Mama to Mexico for Mother's Day!

Sandra at Rocky Point Reservations (602.439.9004, ext. 1534) is eagerly awaiting your call

to reserve your room today at the Sonoran Sea. A 10-percent discount is guaranteed for all reservations. If five or more rooms are reserved, everyone will receive a 15-percent discount. A 20-percent discount is



The Sunday morning worship service on the beach at last year's Take Mama to Mexico retreat

given to all rooms if 20 or more rooms are reserved. Be sure to mention PPC when making your reservation.

One night's stay is all that's needed to confirm your reservation. The balance is due 30 days before the trip.

After making your reservation, please e-mail Katy Schafer at katyschafer@cox.net with your room number and check-in date. Most families carpool or caravan to Mexico, depending on their departure date and time. Detailed directions and important information will be available prior to the trip.

PPC guests are booking Thursday, May 7, through Sunday, May 10, or any days in between. Be sure to attend the Sunday morning worship service on the beach at 9 a.m.

PPC's Take Your Mama to Mexico for Mother's Day is a wonderful opportunity for relaxation, fellowship and a chance to tell mom "thanks for all you do" (and to get a cheap henna tattoo!).

Also, remember that a passport is required for traveling to Mexico.

Please e-mail Jenafer Forrest jenafer@scfmail.com if you have any questions.

Looking forward to catching some rays (but not the stinging kind!).

THANKS FOR STEPPING UP DONATIONS, PLEASE CONTINUE IN 2009

While 2008 numbers are not yet final, it appears that members were faithful to their pledges, including some who were able to contribute beyond their pledges. The staff spending freeze, which is continuing, helped significantly. We thank everyone in these difficult economic times.

We have received some additional 2009 pledges, which are very much appreciated. For those members who still have not sent in their 2009 pledge, we ask that you do so as soon as possible.

While things are looking better for the 2009 budget, it is still not balanced and budget expense cuts are expected. As someone said, it cannot be business as usual until revenues equal or exceed expenses.

LETTER From page 2

Hopefully, your knowledge of these funds will help in two ways:

1. There may be a time when you need to use these funds for yourself.
2. You may not be affected by this economic downturn, but you would like to help others by building up one of these funds with your financial gifts.

Please know that if the pressures of these times are too great for you, your **clergy are available** to talk and reflect with you. If you have needs beyond our counseling abilities, we have lists of counselors and groups in our community that we can refer you to.

In our brochure holders in the chapel and sanctuary, we have a flier called "Feeling the Economic Crunch" put out by the United Way and the Governor's Office. It is a guide to state resources and help. We also will be offering some educational classes soon to support those who have lost jobs.

Finally, this is a time to remember God's promise that you are beautifully and wonderfully made. You are more than your job, you are more than what you have... you are a child of God.

There are times when you will be there for the church, and there are times when the church is there for you. This is what partnership in ministry is about. This is the way God works in community and why there is unity in diversity.

The Strength of Christ be with you,
— Mac

ADULT EDUCATION

World Religions – Wisdom Traditions of Asia

Taught by Mr. Dave Ropp

Sundays, Feb. 1, 8, 15 and 22, at 11:15 a.m., in the Chapel

As a young man, Dave's first globe-trotting was with a radio, his fingers and an atlas. And his first destination was India in the pages of books, where he discovered the Hindu and Buddhist worlds. This discussion of wisdom traditions of Asia is the first of a series of studies Dave will lead with the objective of fostering a greater understanding of ourselves by increasing our understanding of others.

Each session will be interactive and focus on recognizing the beauty of other religions and how each has contributed to the diversity that can divide and can unite. Be prepared to participate! (P.S. Some of the material for this class will be from the pages of *Parabola*).

The History of Pinnacle Presbyterian Church

Facilitated by Mary Ann Biermeier

Sunday, Feb. 1, at 11:15 a.m., in the Music Rehearsal Hall

As Pinnacle approaches its 20th anniversary, it is important to pass on the stories of our past. Learn about the significant events in the life of our church and share your favorite memories of our history. Mary Ann Biermeier is a church member and Pinnacle Preschool teacher.

The Reign of God and the Gospel of Mark: Radical Vision and Radical Discipleship

Taught by Father Vernon Meyer

Tuesdays, Feb. 3, 10 and 17, at 7 p.m., at St. Patrick's Catholic Community, Living Waters Lutheran Church and Pinnacle Presbyterian Church

Be a part of this unique ecumenical experience as each of these sessions will be held at a different church. Week one will cover "The Gospel of Mark and the Reign of God" and will be held at St. Patrick's Catholic Community at 10815 N 84th St., Scottsdale. Week two is "Miracles, Parables and Who Is Jesus?" and will be at Living Waters Lutheran Church, 9201 E Happy Valley Rd., Scottsdale. The final session will be held at Pinnacle Presbyterian Church where we will learn about "Discipleship and the Cross." Join with brothers and sisters from our larger community of faith as we seek insights and challenges from this text. Father Vernon Meyer is a theologian and biblical scholar at St. Patrick's Catholic Community.

ADULT EDUCATION

The Squeezed Generation: Caring for Aging Parents

Led by Rev. Fran Park

Sundays, Feb. 8 and 15, at 11:15 a.m., in the Chapel Conference Room

What's the role of adult children who need to become more concerned for their parents while being responsible for rearing their own children? Rev. Fran Park will share some insights gleaned from 15 years of ministry with a congregation in a retirement community. Come and share thoughts, actions, and helpful hints that may make these years a little less stressful and more creative. Bring your questions, issues, and concerns and we'll explore solutions.

Music Is a Gas III

Taught by Brent Hylton

Monday, Feb. 9, at 7 p.m., in the Chapel

Back by popular demand, Music Director Brent Hylton and friends once again present a special program focusing on funny lyrics and clever one-of-a-kind compositions created over the years. From P.D.Q. Bach to the creative, wild antics of Spike Jones and Anna Russell, this promises to be a fun and entertaining evening for all.

Desert Adventures in Grace for Lent

Taught by Phyllis Strupp

Wednesdays, Feb. 25 and March 4, 11 and 18, from 7:30-9 a.m., in the Chapel Conference Room

In the four-part series, we will explore "Our Earthly Home": how scripture and science affirm that we are one with the Earth spiritually and physically, and learn more about the mountains and rocks in our area. The "Our Plant and Animal Neighbors" session will show that we are one with life on Earth spiritually and physically, and we will learn more about the plants and animals in our area. The "Our Human Neighbors" class will demonstrate how scripture and science affirm that we are one with humanity spiritually and physically, and examine the world's common cultural heritage. The "Our Spiritual Journey" class explores the common spiritual needs of all people, and the role of the Desert experience and various spiritual practices in our spiritual journey. Each class will also discuss selected chapters from *The Richest of Fare* by Phyllis Strupp.



Photo: Nigel Clarke

New clay pots line a street in the "Old Quarter" of Kabul, Afghanistan.

AFGHANISTAN From page 1

before the overthrow of the monarchy. Since the invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 by the Soviet Union, he has actively supported Afghan causes by fundraising and public speaking among other activities.

Naibi's career in international banking with J.P. Morgan-Chase and Wells Fargo extended over 30 years. He worked in both England and the United States, but concentrated on international business opportunities and development in the Middle East and Africa.

He transferred to Arizona with Wells Fargo in 2001 and retired in 2004. Currently, Naibi is an adjunct professor at Western International University teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in international business, finance, history and comparative government. He also volunteers as a management counselor for SCORE, a national organization assisting small businesses and start-up companies.

Naibi received his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Hawaii in political science with an emphasis on international development. He also has a degree from the East West Center Institute in Communications.

Living in Europe and Asia and extensive global travel are part of Naibi's story as well.

JOIN IN SERVING AT ANDRE HOUSE

“We express our faithfulness through excellence in worship, the arts, *servicing meals*, building homes, crossing borders, and nurturing children and youth.”

VOLUNTEER

Second Tuesday

Knit Wits

Second Tuesday

Andre House

Second Thursday

Andre House

Fourth Sunday

Vista Del Camino Food Drive

Fourth Sunday

Andre House

The Andre House Mission certainly fulfills this part of our Mission Statement of Pinnacle Presbyterian Church, as quoted above. It has become even more important as our country continues to face financial hardship in the coming year. More and more people are coming to Andre House.

We are grateful for the commitment of PPC volunteers. We have many volunteers who regularly work at Andre House. The Andre House co-coordinator thanks PPC workers for their promptness, work ethics and positive attitudes.

As the new co-coordinators, Stephanie Webster and Lin Ogden say they are also grateful for your service.

Sign-ups will continue after the 10 a.m. service most Sundays. From February to April, we have committed eight volunteers on the second Tuesday of the month, eight volunteers on the second Thursday, and 10 volunteers on the fourth Sunday.

For more information, please contact Stephanie Webster at stephaniebwebster@yahoo.com or Lin Ogden at linogden@aol.com.

VISTAS CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME

To make it easy for you to let others know what's going on with your group, there are two ways to submit articles to *Pinnacle Vistas*.

Contribute via the church's Web site, www.pinnaclepres.org/vistas/contribute.html, or e-mail to Pinnacle.Vistas@gmail.com.

Deadline for the March issue of *Pinnacle Vistas* is Tuesday, Feb. 10.



CONFIRMATION 2009 On Wednesday, Jan. 14, this year's confirmation students and their mentors participated in the Mentor Ceremony in the Chapel. The ceremony symbolizes how our faith and the light of Christ is passed from one generation to the next. It also formalizes the relationship between the confirmand and the mentor. Please keep our Confirmation youth in your prayers as they continue to learn and explore their faith this spring.

SUMMER 2009 HIGH SCHOOL MISSION TRIP

Pinnacle's youth are encouraged to participate in next summer's week-long mission trip to Ganado, Ariz., on the Navajo Indian Reservation.

The trip is open to all present eighth-graders through high school seniors.

Our week will be filled with helping to maintain the church grounds, repairing residents' homes and working with their horse therapy program.

We hope to expose our youth to the different traditions and customs of our neighbors on the reservation. We also hope to arrange some social interaction between our youth and the youth in their community.

The trip will run from Sunday, June 14, through Saturday, June 20.

To learn more about the trip and to sign up, please attend the Mission Trip meeting following the youth building dedication on Feb. 8.

ITEMS NEEDED FOR YOUTH RUMMAGE SALE

To raise money for the high school mission trip and for furnishings in the new youth building, Pinnacle's youth will be holding a rummage sale

Please see **YOUTH** on page 12

CLUB 46 TO ROCK CLIMB ON FEB. 22

Club 46 — Pinnacle's group for those in grades 4-6 — will head out for a rock climbing adventure on Sunday, Feb. 22.

More details on this second-annual event will follow. This was high on the list of activities to do as part of Club 46, and we don't want you to miss out. Check your e-mail for more information!



THE SCOOP ON FEBRUARY CHURCH SCHOOL

3s and 4s are immersed in Jesus' love – how Jesus loves us and knows our names, keeps us safe, gives us what we need and wants us to follow him! What a great month of loving!

Kindergartners will learn about Jesus' miracles and parables – how Jesus feeds 5,000 people, how Jesus and Peter walk on water, how a father finds a son that was lost, and the story of the Good Samaritan.

Our 1st- through 4th-graders will be learning about the Samaritan woman at the well, and how Jesus befriended her.

Our 5th- and 6th-graders will continue in their journey through the New Testament, focusing on Jesus' return, the life and ministry of Jesus, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the work of Peter and John.

Ask your children about what they're learning.

WHAT'S UP AT CLUB WED!

Club Wed! is in full swing again, and you are always welcome to join us for any of our Christian Education classes.

Questers is a group of elementary-aged kids who meet from 5–5:25

Please see **CHILDREN** on next page

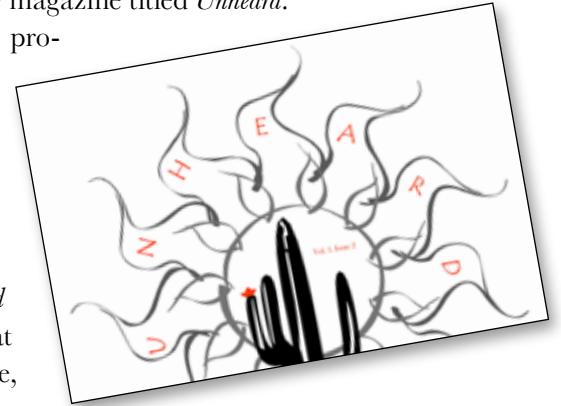
HEAR THE 'UNHEARD IN SOUTH PHOENIX' ON FEB. 23

Come and hear Ryan Tritch's south Phoenix middle school students recite original poetry at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 23, in the Chapel.

Ryan Tritch is a "Teach For America" teacher sponsored by Pinnacle Presbyterian Church.

He has engaged his south Phoenix students by writing poetry and publishing their own literary magazine titled *Unheard*.

The poetry takes a provocative look into the lives of young people who are living and struggling in the low-income neighborhoods of our city. You can learn more about *Unheard* and download issues at the magazine's Web site, unheardaz.com.



Pinnacle Presbyterian Church is supporting teachers in these areas as part of its Mission program.

Congregation members team up with a teacher and his or her classroom to learn more about the challenges and opportunities that public school teachers and students confront.

Teach for America enlists our nation's best and brightest college graduates from all academic majors to teach in low-income schools in our highest-need communities for two years.

CHILDREN From page 10

p.m. Wednesdays for a journey of faith together. Lamb Brigade is designed for our 4- and 5-year-olds and meets from 6:25–7 p.m. Our Lion Pride class, which is 1st-, 2nd- and 3rd-graders, read from the Bible and do an activity based on the Bible story that evening. Lion Pride meets from 6:45–7:15 p.m.

Come join us, won't you?

JOIN LOS LOCOS ON FEB. 28

Los Locos is a social group in the church for those in their 20s to 50s, couples and singles. Los Locos is a great way to get to know other people in the church.

On Saturday, Feb. 28, at 7 p.m., we will be meeting at Carol and Wallace Davis' house, 9939 E. Desert Jewel Dr., Scottsdale.

Please RSVP by Monday, Feb. 23, to Carol at cmdavis@yahoo.com or call 480.419.0567.

GET YOUR TICKETS FOR 'A TASTE OF CHIAPAS'

Just Coffee is a network of Mexican coffee grower cooperatives that grow, roast, package and ship a pure organic Arabica coffee that is grown, harvested and marketed in a spirit of justice.

Learn more about the Just Coffee story, meet members of the cooperative, and sample authentic Mexican food. "A Taste of Chiapas" is from 5-8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 31, at Mountain View Presbyterian Church in Scottsdale. Tickets are \$25 per person. Tickets and information are available at a table on the West Terrace after the 10 a.m. worship service.

YOUTH From page 9

the first weekend of May.

We are asking the congregation to start saving up their used goods now. We will begin collection in late April.

We will take your old furniture, baby gear, electronics and more. Please start saving your resellable items to help the youth meet their goals.

JUNIOR HIGH HEADS TO FLAGSTAFF FOR RETREAT

Our Junior High youth will be heading up to Flagstaff over President's Day weekend to play in the snow.

They will meet at the church at 4 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13, and return the evening of Sunday, Feb. 15.

The trip will include time to get to know each other on more social terms by sledding and playing together in the snow.

The trip is open to current seventh- and eighth-grade youth. If you are interested contact Pastor Kristin to get registration material.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

BIRTH

The congregation celebrates the birth of:

Audrey Victoria to **Jason and Lesley Bush**

BAPTISM

The congregation celebrates the baptism of:

Lauren and Gabrielle Casada, children of **Arti and Mark Casada**

SYMPATHY

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to:

Bill Walker on the death of his wife, **June Walker**, on Dec. 25, 2008

BEATITUDES CENTER/DOAR

'GIFTING' BEYOND THE HOLIDAYS

Ribbons, paper, tape and tags are probably by now all neatly tucked away until the next big holiday. Through Beatitudes Center DOAR's VI-CaP Faith in Action program, you can continue to *give* another gift all year long to homebound individuals and no wrapping is required.

That gift - your gift of time - would provide grocery shopping, respite care, minor but vital home repair, visits or calls, your "eyes" to read mail, computer assistance or driving someone to a medical appointment. You choose the service. This is their *gift* list.

Contact Beatitudes DOAR at 602.274.5022 or visit www.centerdoar.org for more information and upcoming volunteer orientation dates.

JAZZ CABARET TO BENEFIT DOAR

Enjoy four sensational concerts for the price of one! Our partner in service, Beatitudes Center DOAR, presents Jazz Cabaret at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 15, at the Arizona Biltmore.

Jazz Cabaret stars vocalists Margo Reed, Nancy Gee, Delphine Cortez and Sherry Roberson, and includes an auction and food and dessert.

Admission is \$85, with reservations due by March 6. All proceeds will help homebound adults and their caregivers, grandparents raising grandchildren, and congregational health programs.

Contact Beatitudes DOAR www.centerdoar.org or call 602.274.5022 for donations, sponsor opportunities and reservations.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Feb. 1

Michelle Decker

Feb. 2

Greg Barber

Kathy Cline

Robert Collins

David Frederiksen

Feb. 3

Fred Dodge

Michelle Lonergan

Feb. 4

Luke Niemann

Feb. 5

Christopher Black

Feb. 7

Herb Nagel

Tyler Watson

Feb. 9

Baiba Clemens

Judy Hodge

Emma Kessler

Linda Pope

Ashley Potter

Pattie Whittington

Feb. 10

Walter Bolliger

Charles Eichof

Jan Loichle

Feb. 11

John Klemmer

Ben Kolesar

David Kolesar

Feb. 12

Jim Blankenbaker

Christian Fechtmeyer

Feb. 13

Jace Everett

Ruth Ann Kelsey

E. Lee Magruder

Feb. 14

Wendy Brown

Kendall Smith

Flynn Stewart

Feb. 15

Terri Baker

Christopher Rasmussen

Mel Seabright

Feb. 16

Scott Powell

Feb. 17

Steven Jesson

Courtney Myers

Feb. 18

John Crow

Marcus Downing

Robert W. Staley

Sara Stockett

Feb. 19

Laurel Davis

John Prenzno

Molly Rosenbaum

Toni Yarwood

Feb. 20

Katie Cavin

Nancy Dueker

Donald Luke

James Moore

Tristan Roenfeldt-Racine

Sophia Shaffer

Feb. 22

Amber Lenniger

Grant Lisk

John Simpson

Feb. 25

Colleen Diedrich

L. Wilson Kilgore

Trisha Mancini

Todd Mason

Feb. 26

Lynn Alsager

Barb Callison

Norman Pilgreen

Nicholas Roe

Feb. 27

Paige Clark

Althea McConnell

Feb. 28

Don Dolan

Megan Mathews

Emily Mitchell

Jim Norton

NOT LISTED?

We must not have your birthday on file. Please call 480.585.9448 or e-mail Carol Skewes at cskewes@pinnaclepres.org.

JOIN OUR CHURCH SCHOOL TEAM

You're invited to join our Church School team. We have a need for an additional adult to work with in the 4-year-olds class or the kindergarten class once a month. Both teams have two experienced teachers, and you would complete the trio of teachers.

Plus, we're always adding to our list of substitutes.

To learn more about these exciting opportunities, please contact Debbie Lisk at 480.585.9448 ext. 203 or dlisk@pinnaclepres.org.

PODCAST REVIEWS NEEDED

Do you listen to the Pinnacle Presbyterian Church Sermon Podcast via iTunes? Consider writing a brief review to encourage other iTunes listeners to download our sermons.

PET OF THE PARISH



MEET GOOCHY She's a 4-year-old Lhasa Apso, the much-loved pooch of the Zamora family. The Zamoras say that Goochy throws toys to herself, comes when told to and guards the house while on the couch.

PPC ON THE WEB



Don't forget to visit us online for the latest information about Pinnacle Presbyterian Church. You'll find calendars, activity listings and photos of events. Also listen to sermons online.

ITUNES PODCAST

Now you can log onto the iTunes Music Store and subscribe to the free PPC Sermon Podcast to have them automatically downloaded to your computer or iPod. Search for "Pinnacle Presbyterian."

VISTAS ONLINE Also, you can download PDF versions of this and previous issues of *Pinnacle Vistas*. Print them or e-mail them to share with your friends and family.

Find out more about all of this by going to pinnaclepres.org.