



PINNACLE VISTAS

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

Join In to Help Care for the PPC Campus on Nov. 22

Our Fall Clean-Up Day is Sunday, Nov. 22, beginning at 1 p.m.

Please join us for this opportunity to care for our church facilities and have fellowship with other church members.

Look for additional information in the Sunday bulletins in November.



Pitch Your Tent on the Green on Nov. 13

It is time to break out your tents and dust off your sleeping bags! The family Camping on the Green takes place Friday night, Nov. 13, starting at 5 p.m.

Families are invited to join in for a night under the stars complete with a weenie roast, s'mores by the fire, a family activity in the Fellowship Hall and breakfast Saturday morning. This is a fantastic night for making some family memories, spending time with friends and enjoying a very different way to spend

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Shoebox Ministry Collects Toiletries in November

Start saving your shoeboxes! We will be collecting shoeboxes filled with personal grooming items for the homeless and working poor in our community.

Items (travel or regular size) suggested include shampoo and conditioner, shaving cream, toothpaste and brush, deodorant, women's sanitary items, bar soap placed in a

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SHOEBOX on page 4

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Beginning our hike together. **PAGE 2**

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Orchestras, choir, organ and horn highlight November concerts. **PAGE 9**

A Wonderful Start on Our Hike Together

Dear friends,

We have “officially” set off on a good hike together.

In place of a longer Vistas letter this month, I want to offer a simple thanks to the congregation, to our several guests, and to God for the wonderful day we spent together on Oct. 25 as I was installed as the second Senior Pastor of Pinnacle Presbyterian Church.

Among a sermon from David Wood, charges from Ron Kevern and Wilson Kilgore, words from Moderator Glyndon Morris, and participation from Dick Coffelt, Janet Arbesman, Cecil Patterson, John Borden, Carol Eaton, Kristin Willett, Fran Park, Bill Noyes, John Terhune, the Chancel Choir, the Southwest Brass, a special afternoon lecture by Phillip Clayton, the wonderful presence of young Phoenix poets and their teacher Ryan Tritch, promises made by you to me and an opportunity for me to make promises to you, it was quite a day.

We’re now past the “gateway” to this hike of faith we’ve embarked upon. We’ll be patient during the climb. We’ll see the views together. And we’ll encourage each other along the way. May we serve the God of the desert as we go.

Lynne, Andrew and Paul join me in gratitude.

Peace to you all,



Dr. Wes Avram,
senior pastor

‘The Bible Tells Me So’ Class Postponed

The showing of the award-winning documentary, *For the Bible Tells Me So*, originally scheduled for the adult education hour Nov. 1, has been postponed until the spring.

The film focuses on five Christian families with gay children and how they have reconciled their experience to scripture and the church. The length of the film (98 minutes), the important topics it addresses and the desire for an opportunity for full discussion of its contents and implications for the church’s witness suggests that a fuller treatment than a single session might be helpful.

In response, the Adult Education Committee has agreed to plan with the Pastor a two to three session opportunity for the spring. Please watch for details.

The Theology of “The Shack”

Taught by Rev. Peggy Roberts

Sundays, Nov. 8, 15 and 22 at 8:50 a.m. in the Chapel Parlor and 11:15 a.m. in Room 1 of Fellowship Hall



In this work of fiction by William P. Young, a man is invited to spend a weekend with God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. His notions of the Trinity and his preconceptions about religion and Christianity are challenged, and he begins the process of healing several traumatic emotional wounds he has sustained in his life. Over this three week class we’ll discuss what this best-seller has to say about salvation, the Trinity and why bad things happen to good people. Peggy is a Chaplain with Hospice of the Valley and enjoys worshipping at PPC with husband Matt and daughter Maddie.

Homelessness Initiative Update Rescheduled to Nov. 15th

Taught by David Smith

Sunday, Nov. 15, at 11:15 a.m. in Room 3 of Fellowship Hall

In 2006, Pinnacle Presbyterian Church united with other churches and state and local governments in a commitment to end homelessness

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resealable plastic bag and disposable razors, and adult and children's socks and underwear.

Donated items can be placed in the bin located in the Sanctuary Narthex or dropped off Monday through Friday at the church office.

We welcome these items during the year and will see that they get delivered in Scottsdale. We will be collecting items through November and they will be delivered the following week.

For questions, call Rosalea McLemore at 480.585.7629.

Shoebox Ministry is a non-profit service organization with an ongoing program for the collection and distribution of personal hygiene kits to the homeless and working poor in the greater Phoenix area. To learn more about Shoebox Ministry, visit shoeboxministry.org.



Sunrise on the PPC campus following a Camping on the Green.

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a Friday night.

Pop-up campers and RVs are also welcome to park in the parking lot for the night for those of you who need a more luxurious option.

Cost is \$20 per family. Watch for more information on the church Web site or Sunday bulletins.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

BIRTH

The congregation celebrates the birth of:

Vaughn Franklin to Jennifer and Paul Franklin on Sept. 18.

PINNACLE THEOLOGICAL CENTER

God - Celebrating the Full Humanity of Each Individual

A Social Creed for the 21st Century states in part: "In faith, responding to our creator, we celebrate the full humanity of each woman, man and child, all created in the divine image as individuals of infinite worth."

Dr. Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty will discuss this segment of the Social Creed, "God," as the second presentation in the Pinnacle Theological Center's 2009-10 program at 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 12, in the Chapel.

Dr. Hinson-Hasty served on the Resolution Team, which drafted the Social Creed between 2004 and 2008. She is an Associate Professor of Theology at Bellarmine University in Louisville, Ky. Her teaching and research focus on social gospel theology and Reformed faith and public life. She is also a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Hinson-Hasty received her Bachelor of Arts from William Jewell College, Liberty, Kan.; her Master of Divinity from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary; and her Ph.D. from Union Theological Seminary.

She taught at St. Andrews Presbyterian College in North Carolina as an Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, and joined the faculty at Bellarmine University in 2004.

Hinson-Hasty authored "Beyond the Social Maze: Exploring Vida Dutton Scudder's Theological Ethics." She also co-edited "Prayers for the New Social Awakening" with Chris Iosso, the first speaker in our 2009-10 program, and "To Do Justice: A Guide for Progressive Christians."

See the complete Pinnacle Theological Center schedule on the PPC Web site, pinnaclepres.org. Click on the PTC link on the right side.



Dr. Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty

New Words in Our Worship Bulletin

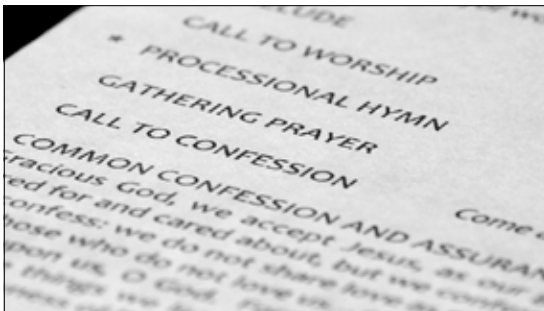
On Sunday, Sept. 27, you might have noticed some new names in our worship bulletin for the things we do when we gather on Sunday mornings.

Our order of worship hasn't changed, but we're trying some new names for the different parts of what we do. This is meant to prompt a new awareness of our worship, to let our worship be more understandable to visitors, and to affirm what we do together as we worship.

For example, our "Prayer of Confession" and "Assurance of Pardon" are now "Common Confession and Assurance," in order to affirm that we confess our condition before God together (in "common").

Our "Prayer" is now our "Common Prayer," for the same reasons, and our "Welcome and News of the Life of the Church" is now "Our Common Life." Our "postlude" has become "sending" music, just as our final hymn is now our "sending" hymn.

Whether you are a long-term worshipper or a new visitor, we hope that you will find new meanings in these changes and a chance to think again about our worship together. — **Wes Avram**



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Nov. 29 Is a Special Sunday

Since Nov. 29 is the First Sunday in Advent, we'll be gathering all the children to make Advent Wreaths, and we need helpers with this.

Please contact Debbie Lisk at dlisk@pinnaclepres.com to help with this fun event. It will all happen during the 10 a.m. worship service and we need several volunteers for this 45-minute period.

Early Scoop on Church School

Here's what's happening in November Church School:

■ 3s and 4s will learn how God helps us in many ways – that God takes care of us in scary times, God keeps God's promises, God loves us and wants us to love God back, and God calls us by name.

■ Kindergartners will learn about how God is in charge and keeps promises made, how Abram worships God in Cannan, how God wants us to trust God all the time, and that God gave Sarah the son that was promised to her.

■ Our 1st–4th graders will be learning about the Plagues and Passover by participating in a Seder Dinner, playing games that remind us of the plagues, and creating hieroglyphics. This group will also be learning about God's people wandering in the wilderness, and the trying time that was.

■ Our 5th and 6th graders are continuing in their survey of the Old Testament, and will be focusing on Isaac and Rebekah, their sons Jacob and Esau, Joseph in Egypt, and finally, the Call of Moses.

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who will receive those assets.

Beneficiary planning can have a major effect on whether your estate plans work out as intended.

Please join your Pinnacle Presbyterian Church Foundation members at 11:15 a.m., Sunday, Nov. 22, to learn how to ensure that you have properly designated beneficiaries wherever needed.

PINNACLE PRESBYTERIAN FOUNDATION

Do You Have Beneficiaries for All of Your Assets?

Lisa Doche and Steve Horrell will help you focus on your emotional legacies and coordinate them in your beneficiary designations and estate planning documents during a workshop presented by the Pinnacle Presbyterian Church Foundation.

Most of us think of our "estate plan" as our will or living trust. However, in many cases these documents have no effect on some of your most important assets. Instead, your beneficiary designations control

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SNAPSHOTS FROM OUR LIFE AT PINNACLE: FALL ROUNDUP



On the warm fall evening of Sunday, Oct. 4, Pinnacle families gathered on the Green for the annual Fall Round-Up. Barbecue dinner, singing cowboy Gary J. Sprague and fellowship marked the 20th anniversary of the founding of PPC. See more photos on the church's Web site, pinnaclepres.org.



Schafers Have New Address in North Carolina

Rev. Mac Schafer, Katy and their family are settled into their new home in Raleigh. If you wish to write them, their new address is 1408 Dogwood Lane, Raleigh, NC 27607.

MUSIC AT PINNACLE

Azusa Pacific University Choir & Orchestra

Sunday, Nov. 15, 3 p.m. in the Sanctuary

The concert is free, but a donation to support the choir and orchestra is requested.

This nationally renowned ensemble, directed by Dr. John Sutton, performs in a variety of musical styles with a concentration of contemporary Christian music. Extensive tours have taken the group to a number of Pacific Northwest, Southeast and Mountain states as well as to the Hollywood Bowl for three sold-out performances with the Los Angeles Philharmonic Symphonic Spectacular. This concert promises an afternoon of music that will touch the hearts and souls of all.



Arizona State University Orchestra, featuring Brent Hylton, organ

Friday, Nov. 20, 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Premium seating \$35; General admission: \$25 & \$10; Students \$5

The 100 gifted young musicians of the ASU Orchestra, directed by Dr. Timothy Russell, team up with Pinnacle's organist Brent Hylton to present an evening of powerful music. From the stirring sounds of the Saint-Saëns' "Organ Symphony" to the seldom heard "Antiphonal Fantasy" of Norman Dello Joio, this will be a musical experience to dazzle the ears and renew the spirit. We invite you to share in this magical journey.

CONCERT CANCELED

The Salt River Brass program scheduled for Friday, Nov. 6, has been canceled.

A Horn Player's Journey – Conversations with Eugene Wade

Monday, Nov. 9, at 7 p.m. in the Chapel; Admission is free.

Here is your chance to find out about the inner workings of an orchestra. Join Eugene Wade as he leads us on his musical journey as a French horn player with some of America's finest orchestras. He will share both stories and music as he traces his musical career.

Single? Meet Your Friends from PPC

Come try out the new PPC Singles Ministry at O'Donoghue's Irish Pub, on the southeast corner of Thompson Peak and Hayden, from 6-8 p.m. the first and third Thursdays of the month.

For more information, contact Mary LaValley at 602.770.7045, Meredith Downing at 480.518.0789, Ned Miner at 480.515.1358 or the PPC singles at PPC.Singles@cox.net.

PINNACLE YOUTH

Calling All 8th Graders

We are preparing for Confirmation.

If you are interested in exploring your Christian faith more deeply and becoming a member of Pinnacle Presbyterian Church, Confirmation is for you!

We will begin meeting from 6:15-7:15 p.m. Wednesdays in January.

There is a mandatory Confirmation Orientation for parents and youth at 11:15 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 15, in the Youth Building.

Start thinking about who you would like to ask to be your mentor.



High School Ski Trip Will Be Jan. 15-18

The Ski Trip is open to all high school students who attend Pinnacle Presbyterian and any friends they wish to bring along.

We will be going to Durango Ski Resort, formerly known as Purgatory, Colo. The trip will be over the Martin Luther King holiday weekend (Jan. 15-18). The cost is \$300 per student.

In addition, youth will also be responsible for the cost of rentals and lift tickets. Price options for these additions will be available closer to the trip.

Even if you are not a skier, you are still encouraged to be a part of the trip and just hang out in the snow.

Get your \$100 deposit in by Dec. 14 to guarantee a spot.

PINNACLE PRESBYTERIAN PRESCHOOL

Preschool Registration for 2010-11

Our Parent Informational Meeting for new families will be at 10 a.m. Friday, Nov. 13, in the Fellowship Hall.

Come and hear about the curriculum and philosophy of the Preschool and tour the campus. If you have friends or family who have preschoolers, please let them know about the upcoming meeting.

Registration packets for the 2010-11 school year will be available on Monday, Nov. 16, for returning families and will be placed in preschooler's cubbies.

If you have a younger child that will be attending next year, please stop by the office to pick up your packet.

Siblings of former students, current students or church members of six months or longer will have priority registration. All priority forms for the 2010-11 year will be due Dec. 11. Open registration applications are due Jan. 15.

PPP's Series of Parent Workshops Continues

The Preschool's next parent workshop will be "Simplifying Routines: Smooth Sailing or Daily Struggles?" presented by Casey Hargett of Miss Organization and PPP teacher Cindy Dean. It's 9:15-10:15 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 18.

Join the discussion about how to establish consistent routines at home and take the stress out of difficult transitions with your preschooler.

The class fee is \$5; childcare will be available.



Just Coffee Returns in November

Starting Sunday, Nov. 1, Just Coffee will again be for sale on the West Terrace after the 10 a.m. service.

Costing \$10 per 16 oz. bag, Café Justo is a great holiday gift and a delicious way for you to have your morning coffee and support a great mission project.

Café Justo is a coffee grower cooperative in Chiapas, Mexico, with roasting, packaging and shipping facilities in Agua Prieta, Sonora, and Douglas, Ariz. Your coffee purchase has a direct and dramatic impact on the local community and helps address one of the root causes of labor migration from Mexico to the United States. Besides that, the coffee is delicious! Thank you for your support of this PPC mission.



MEET OUR NEW FRIENDS

Please say “hello” to our newest members.

If you’ve been attending Pinnacle and would like to join, our New Connections class on Sunday, Nov. 22, is for you. The class, for new and affiliate (part-time residents) members, will be held at 11:15 a.m. in the Chapel Conference Room. Please call the Church Office at 480.585.9448 to sign up.



David and Susan Adkins, and Jack



Matthew and Maria Biggs



Erik and Angie Heuser

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in Maricopa County. Much has happened but more work is still to be done. Join Maricopa County Manager Dave Smith as he updates us on the progress this critical initiative: How has the recession has affected the 12,000 homeless people in our county? What are service providers such as shelters, food banks, volunteers, doing to cope with these worsening conditions? What are the proven solutions nationally? And, what is the role for the faith community in all of this? Bring your questions.

Luke and the Contemporary Church

Taught by Rev. Vernon Meyer

Tuesdays, Nov. 24 and Dec. 1 and 8, at 7 p.m. at Pinnacle Presbyterian Church (Nov. 24, Dec. 8) and Living Water Lutheran Church (Dec. 1)

Be a part of this unique ecumenical experience as each of these sessions will alternate between the two churches. Week one will cover “The World of Luke’s Gospel” and will be held at Pinnacle. Our topic for week two is “The Reign of God and the Infancy Narratives” and will be at Living Water Lutheran Church, 9201 E. Happy Valley Rd., Scottsdale. The third session will be held at Pinnacle and will cover “The Journey Narrative.” Join with brothers and sisters from our larger community of faith as we seek new insights and challenges from this text. Rev. Vernon Meyer is a theologian and Biblical scholar at St. Patrick’s Catholic Community.



Luke, as painted by Andrea Kinndio (1431)

Christianity 201 – Fundamentals of Our Faith

Taught by the Pastors of Pinnacle Presbyterian Church

Sundays, Nov. 29 and Dec. 6 and 20, at 11:15 a.m. in Room 1 of Fellowship Hall

During this Season of Advent, spend time reflecting on your faith as Rev. Wes Avram leads a discussion on the Trinity, Rev. Kristin Willett dialogues with us about Predestination, and Rev. Fran Park guides us into a deeper understanding of Mary. Bring your questions as we explore these important components of our Christian faith. Attend one session or all of them as each will be an independent class.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Nov. 1

Caroline Jones

Nov. 2

Barbara Clark
Dennis Niven
Jacqueline Olmert

Nov. 3

Ryan Candelaria
Tara Candelaria
Julia LeClaire
Lani Quast

Nov. 4

Dabney Buckley
Parker Redd
Giavanna Smith
Alexander Stein

Nov. 5

Betty Cope

Nov. 6

Addison Bush
Lillian Kilbridge
Steven Swanson

Nov. 7

Christine Blomquist

Nov. 8

Barbara Buzzelli
Lisa Nolan
Sheila Whittington

Nov. 9

Lillian Bliss
Jack Hart
Kacie Keller
Kennedy Keller

Brennan Redd
Connor Upchurch

Nov. 10

Tyler Gress
Lauren Leinweber
Michael Vedder
Shannon Wilson

Nov. 11

Serena Fechtmeyer
Sam Pullen
Jordan Rodriguez
David Schaller
Thomas White

Nov. 12

Stephen Horrell
Alexis Mann
Peggy Stanley
Jillian Vorhauer

Nov. 13

Katherine Uelner
Savannah Watson

Nov. 14

Troy Ball
Margaret Kurtz

Nov. 15

Jessica Heid
Jessie Lampkin
David McIntyre
Bret Reiss

Nov. 16

Robert Adams
Alex Feldman
Gabrielle Frabotta
Charles Leonard

Sue Menard

Nov. 17

Benjamin Bankoff
Kaelyn Gress
Madelon Lucky
Lisa Lucky
Erik Pille

Nov. 18

Cathy Coker
Jeffrey Jensen

Nov. 19

Susan Beasley
Jane Chapman
Betty Durham
Robin Esposito
David Hayes

Nov. 20

Julie Fiala
Loreen Harris

Nov. 21

Ryan Waugaman

Nov. 22

Charles Belluomini
Diana Englund
Stanley Hutchison
Heather Lewis
Eleanor Simpson
Ray Williams

Nov. 23

Rhegan Blankenship
Thomas W. Garrod

Nov. 24

James Hogshire III
Ken Moffitt

Nov. 25

Brad Beasley

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Meredith Downing

Curt Stewart
Brandon Willett

Nov. 26

Connor Bright
Harold Byers
Stephanie Mason
Suzane Park
Christian Reiss

Nov. 27

Heather Black
Chuck Rowland
Jackson Wilson

Nov. 28

Devin Southworth
Robert Walker

Nov. 29

Jarrin Jensen
Ian Lisk
David Mathews
Kathleen Matney
Kenneth Salt
Ted Weis
Isabelle Zamora

Nov. 30

Betty Alters
Homer Holland

PPC ON THE WEB



Please visit PPC online for the calendars, activity listings and photos. Also listen to sermons online.

ITUNES PODCAST

Subscribe to the free PPC Sermon Podcast through the iTunes Store and have sermons automatically downloaded to your computer or iPod. Search for "Pinnacle Presbyterian."

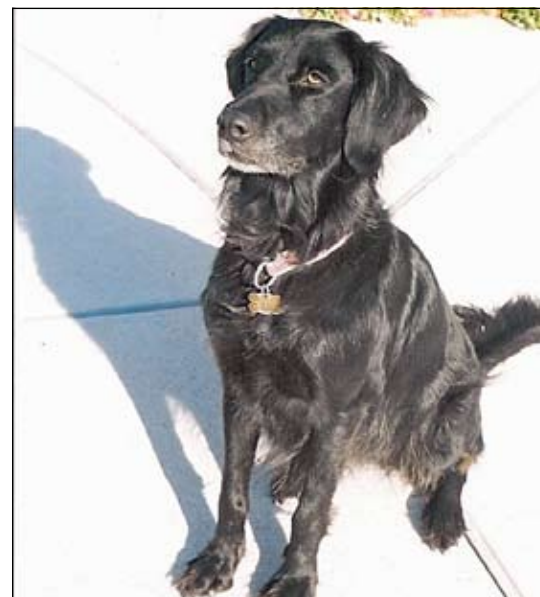
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FOLLOW PPC Join PPC's Facebook page or follow PPC on Twitter to keep up with church events, news, photos and more.

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



PET OF THE PARISH



PET'S NAME: Gracie

ABOUT: Gracie is a 5-year-old retriever. She has no tricks, no skills, just one big devoted heart.

OWNERS: Chuck and Peggy Gurler

Not listed?

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