



PINNACLE VISTAS

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

CHRISTMAS EVENT SCHEDULE



The audience joins the Choir to sing at last year's Celebration of Christmas.

Sundays, through December

| | | |
|---------|---------|-----------|
| Worship | 8 a.m. | Chapel |
| | 10 a.m. | Sanctuary |

Sunday, Dec. 6

| | | |
|----------------------------|------------|-----------|
| Celebration of Christmas * | 4 & 7 p.m. | Sanctuary |
|----------------------------|------------|-----------|

Sunday, Dec. 13

| | | |
|------------------------------|---------|-----------|
| Children's Christmas Pageant | 10 a.m. | Sanctuary |
|------------------------------|---------|-----------|

Friday, Dec. 18

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|--|-----------|-----------|
| Phoenix Chorale: "Home for Christmas" ** | 7:30 p.m. | Sanctuary |
|--|-----------|-----------|

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24

| | | |
|---------------------|---------|-----------|
| Communion Service | 3 p.m. | Sanctuary |
| Family Worship | 5 p.m. | Sanctuary |
| Candlelight Service | 8 p.m. | Sanctuary |
| Candlelight Service | 10 p.m. | Sanctuary |

Dec. 26-Jan. 1

| | | |
|-----------------|-------|-----------------|
| Labyrinth Walks | Daily | Fellowship Hall |
|-----------------|-------|-----------------|

* A special offering will be received.

** Tickets are available for this Pinnacle Concert Series program.

God Wants All of Us

Dear friends,

In the center of this month's *Pinnacle Vistas* you'll find a pull-out with my Nov. 1 sermon, "Out in the Deep." It was this year's "stewardship sermon."

We offer it here for your consideration.

The "stewardship sermon" is an interesting custom in our churches, when once each year everyone knows that a sermon will be preached that will be interested in how you use your time, your talents and your treasure for the good of the church. And truth be told, the emphasis is always on treasure. We think about time, talent and treasure all year long, but this one Sunday is given over during a fall campaign for financial support of the church for the next year.

I'm always joyfully surprised to see how well attended worship is on that Sunday. The topic doesn't scare anybody away, and for that we're blessed. That encourages me to tell you the truth: God wants all of us — our imagination, our commitments, our loves, our skills, our hearts, our resources, our money.

We don't ask you to purchase a product. We ask you to give of yourself. And I have no worry asking that, for I know that the return to you and to the church's ministry is real and great. It is God-given.

I offer you this sermon, with appreciation.

Peace,



Dr. Wes Avram,
senior pastor

MUSIC AT PINNACLE

Celebration of Christmas

4 & 7 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 6, in the Sanctuary

This annual event sparkles with the wonder and joy of the Christmas season. Offered as Pinnacle's gift to the greater Scottsdale community, the concert features the Chancel Choir and Pinnacle Pealers along with guest artists Southwest Brass in an inspirational program of holiday music. It's the perfect way to usher in this festive season.

The concert is free, but a special offering will be received to support Casa de la Misericordia, a children's care center in Nogales, Mexico, and to further the fine arts program of Pinnacle Presbyterian Church.



The Phoenix Chorale won a Grammy Award earlier this year for "Best Small Ensemble Performance" for its latest recording, *Spotless Rose*.

Phoenix Chorale presents "Home for the Holidays"

7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 18, in the Sanctuary

The Grammy-winning Phoenix Chorale (formerly Phoenix Bach Choir) returns with a glorious holiday concert. Joined by the Sonoran Brass Quintet, the 24-voice choir directed by Charles Bruffy, will present three Arizona premieres as well as holiday favorites and a sing-a-long. Don't miss this opportunity to hear sublime choral music sung in the beautiful acoustic of the Pinnacle sanctuary.

Premium seating, \$35; general admission, \$25 and \$10; students, \$5.

INSIDE...

SPECIAL PULL-OUT Remember to look in the center of *Pinnacle Vistas* for your copy of Dr. Avram's Nov. 1 sermon, "Out in the Deep."

Introducing Mingles for Singles at PPC

New at Pinnacle is a singles ministry for adults.

Mingles for Singles gets together from 6-8 p.m. the first and third Thursdays of the month at O'Donoghue's Irish Pub in the "library."

Mingles is open to single members of PPC, men and women, in their 40s and up.

The pub is located on the southeast corner of Thompson Peak and Hayden Roads.

For more information or to get on our e-mail notification list, please call the church office at 480.585.9448 or e-mail PPC.Singles@cox.net.

Mingles to Enjoy Botanical Gardens by Luminaria



For December's third Thursday (Dec. 17), Mingles for Singles will move out of the pub and into the Desert Botanical Gardens for the annual Las Noches de las Luminarias tour. Meet at 4:30 p.m. in the O'Donoghue's parking lot to carpool. Event hours are 5:30-9:30 p.m. The Garden's patio cafe offers sandwiches; beverage stands are scattered throughout the gardens.

Musical entertainment hums throughout the garden every night: mariachis, a New Orleans brass band, flamenco, swing, handbell choirs, Dickens carolers, percussion and bluegrass. A synthetic hybrid ice skating rink is set-up (15 minute sessions, on a space-available basis); admission and skate rental is included in ticket cost, but skaters need to bring their own socks.

Tickets are \$20 for Desert Botanical Garden members and \$25 for non-members. Purchase on your own by calling 480.481.8188 or through the Garden's Web site, dbg.org. Upon payment you will get a ticket order number; tickets will be held at will-call window.

Evening tour tickets are limited, yet Thursdays don't sell out as fast as

Please see **MINGLES** on page 7

Have a 'Mary' Christmas

The image of the Virgin Mary is perhaps one of the most frequently presented in all of Christian Art.

From the Middle Ages through the 19th Century, she has been imagined by many artists, from many countries, and in many ways. Her iconography is rich and varied.

Learn more about the artistic representation of this special woman, chosen by God to be a pivotal part of the fulfillment of prophecy and the Christmas story.

Sherry Koopot, Docent of the Year with the Phoenix Art Museum in 1995, will share her slides and insights at 11:15 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 13, in the Chapel. Sherry has served as a docent for over 20 years.



Detail from *The Virgin in Prayer*, by Sassoferrato (1640-50)

The Year of the Bible: 2010

You are invited to join other members of the congregation in reading through the Bible during 2010.

You choose the version, schedule and pace. We will encourage each other and celebrate the journey.

Here are comments from those who took the challenge in 2008:

"It was quite the commitment, but what a great accomplishment! What a different perspective when you read continuously instead a piece here and a piece there. I am so glad that Pinnacle put forth this challenge."

"What a journey! What a task! It really gives you a feeling of accomplishment."

"I finally have a minute to let you know I finished my Bible reading on the day before Thanksgiving. I wanted to finish by then so I could enter another study for Advent. As you well know I relished every minute of it. It was a discipline and a joy. I appreciated that the week was divided into reading the different areas of the Bible. That gave a cohesiveness to

Please see **BIBLE** on page 6

Can You Spare an Hour for Our Children?

Can you share one hour with our children? If so, please contact Debbie Lisk to be added to the Sunday School substitute list.

We are looking for people to be available to help out just once or twice throughout the course of the year; please contact Debbie at 480.585.9448 ext. 203 or dlisk@pinnaclepres.org.

For your tax records

As part of our continuing commitment to be good stewards of the church's resources, beginning Dec. 12, we will no longer be mailing separate thank you letters for every \$250+ individual donation if the giver receives a quarterly statement of giving. The separate letters for each gift were designed to provide tax receipts.

We are now confident that your itemized quarterly report will serve for tax purposes and so have elected to save on postage and paper.

We remain grateful for every gift, and will express that thanks in appropriate ways. Please direct any questions to Lea Reinke at 480.585.9448 ext. 206 or lreinke@pinnaclepres.org.

Looking for a Part-time Job?

We are currently adding to our childcare staff in the Pinnacle Presbyterian Nursery. Shifts generally include Sunday mornings, from 9-11:30 a.m. two to three Wednesday mornings, and from 4:45-7:30 p.m. Wednesday evenings.

If you are interested in learning more about this, please contact Debbie Lisk at 480.585.9448 ext. 203 or dlisk@pinnaclepres.org.

BIBLE From page 5

the reading and reinforced our Biblical literacy. I must say when it was over I missed it!! Guess that means I'm in for next year."

From *Eat This Book* by Eugene Peterson: "We do not read this book and the subsequent writings that are shaped by it in order to find out how to get God into our lives, get him to participate in our lives. No. We open this book and find that page after page it takes us off guard, surprises us, draws us into its reality, pulls us into participation with God on his terms."

Get ready for the adventure! Contact Shelly Core at snscore@msn.com to be part of the expedition.

We will meet at 11:15 a.m. Sundays, Dec. 27 and Jan. 3, in Room 1 of the Fellowship Hall to discuss the process, offer suggestions and answer any questions.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

BAPTISMS

The congregation celebrates the baptism of:

Brady Houghton Baer, child of **Bethany and Bob Baer**, grandson of **Carolyn and Hoagy Baer**, on Oct. 26

Karter Todd Hirsch, son of **Tina and Todd Hirsch**, on Nov. 15

SYMPATHY

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to:

Marilyn and Brent Hylton on the death of Marilyn's father, **Harlan Flink**

Vicki Dillon on the death of her son, **Russ Dillon**

MEET OUR NEW FRIENDS

Please say "hello" to our newest members:

Lynne Avram, and **Andrew and Paul**

Stefanie Lein

Steven and Judy Loken, and **Elliott**

Richard Rogowski Jr. and **Christina Koster**

John and Karen Voris

NEW CONNECTION CLASS Are you interested in joining Pinnacle Presbyterian Church? Our next New Connection class will be held at 11:15 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 24, in the Chapel Conference Room. Please call the Church Office at 480.585.9448 to sign up.

MINGLES From page 4

weekends. Do plan accordingly and note tickets are non-refundable and non-changeable.

Enjoy Dinner Out, Then the Phoenix Chorale

Dine out with Mingles for Singles then enjoy an evening with the Grammy-award winning Phoenix Chorale on Friday, Dec. 18.

The night out will start at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at a local restaurant followed by the 7:30 p.m. Pinnacle Concert Series performance of the Phoenix Chorale, "Home for the Holidays," in the PPC sanctuary.

General admission tickets are \$25 and may be purchased Sundays on the West Terrace after service, through pinnacleconcerts.com Web site links (click on Order Tickets), or calling the PPC Box Office at 480.303.2474.



Get Your Christmas Gifts at Knit Wits' annual sale

Knit Wits will hold their third annual sale on Sunday, Dec. 6.

Please look for their table on the West Terrace after the 10 a.m. worship service.

You'll find hats, scarves and blankets — all hand-made, one-of-a-kind items that make great gifts.

The sale this year will benefit Phoenix Crisis nursery.



COMMITMENT SUNDAY Pinnacle's Deacons hosted a pancake breakfast for the congregation on Commitment Sunday, Nov. 8, in the Fellowship Hall.



CAMPING ON THE GREEN Campers pitched their tents on the north side of the Green on Friday, Nov. 13, for a chilly evening of fun under the stars, ending with breakfast on Saturday morning.



Take a Faith Walk This Advent Season

Advent is a wonderful time of anticipation and reflection.

The Labyrinth at Pinnacle Presbyterian Church can be a very special tool to use for your reflection during this season.



The Labyrinth will be available to walk from 6-8 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 29, in Fellowship Hall. We will have a brief devotion before the candlelight walk.

The Labyrinth will also be open daily from Dec. 26 through Jan. 1.

Labyrinths have been a part of the course of human history for over 4,000 years.

They tell us of the needs of the ancients for order, beauty, peace and understanding. Currently, they are being used world-wide as a way to quiet the mind, find balance and encourage meditation.

Please contact Sally Williams at 480.585.1813 with any questions.

Check Out the Changes in the Church Nursery

We have had many new and exciting changes happen recently in the nursery. We have added a beautiful mural to the wall that the children, and parents, really love.

We were also lucky enough to get some fantastic new stimulating and educational toys for the little ones to enjoy.

Best of all, we are introducing the children to short Bible stories, saying grace before snack and engaging the kids in child-friendly Bible songs.

The children really enjoy a fun-filled time learning about the wonder of God's love. All this makes the transition to the 3-year-old classroom a lot easier for them.

If you haven't visited the nursery yet to see us, please do. We have a wonderful, caring staff ready to welcome your little one with open arms.

Contact our supervisor, Liz Giovanoni at lizgiovanoni@cox.net with any questions or concerns.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Early Scoop on Church School

Here's what is happening in December's Church School.

Please note that there is *no Church School* on Sunday, Dec. 13, so families may enjoy our Christmas pageant, "Matt and Lucy's Version Births," and on Sunday, Dec. 27, for winter break.

- 3s and 4s will learn of Jesus' birth, how Jesus is God's Son, promised long ago, and born in a stable.

- Kindergartners will also learn of Jesus' birth, that Jesus is the Savior God promised and was born in Bethlehem.

- Our 1st-3rd graders will be learning about the Nativity, being a part of the Christmas pageant and participating in a Christmas carol sing-along during Children's Chapel.

- Our 5th and 6th graders are continuing in their survey of the Old Testament and will have a special Christmas Session in December.

Rehearsals, Caroling at Club Wed! in December

Because of the rehearsal schedule for the Christmas Pageant, Lion Pride and Questers will begin meeting again in January. Lamb Brigade kids will continue their classes in December.

Everyone is invited to join us for caroling on Wednesday, Dec. 16.

All Club Wed! classes will be on break on Dec. 23 and 30, and Jan. 6. We'll see you again on Wednesday, Jan. 13.

Club 45 to Hold Christmas Party on Dec. 13

The Club 45 Christmas Party and Goofy Gift Exchange will be Sunday, Dec. 13.

Mark your calendars for an afternoon Christmas cheer, goofy gifts, games and more! Details to follow!

We've had some great meetings this year with the scavenger hunt, ice skating, Organ Stop and campus clean-up, and we can't wait to see you at our party.

Join us in December, and bring a friend. Club 45 is open to all 4th and 5th graders.



Youth Groups to Attend Celebration of Christmas

On Dec. 6 in lieu of normal Sunday evening Youth Group, both the Jr. and Sr. High groups will attend the Celebration of Christmas Concert at 7 p.m.

The concert is free but an offering will be taken to help pay for the teachers at a missions school in Nogales, Mexico. We will meet outside the sanctuary in the canyon at 6:45 p.m.



Time to Party, Christmas-style

You are never too old for Christmas Parties! The Sr. High Christmas Party will be from 7-9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 19. Invite your friends for some festive fun.

Please bring a \$10 gift for the gift exchange and a holiday snack to share with the group.

Watch your e-mail for more information.

Jr. High: We Wish You a Messy Christmas

The Jr. High Christmas Party will be at 7-9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 18. We will play messy games so be ready.

Please bring a \$10 gift for the gift exchange and a snack to share with the group. Watch your e-mail for more information.

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 on a weekly basis in mid-January. If you are interested or want more information call Pastor Kristin at 480.585.9448 to RSVP. Hope to see you in January.

Youth Offer Babysitting Time to Parents

Our youth want to give you a Christmas present by helping to relieve some of the holiday stress for the parents in our congregation. On Saturday, Dec. 5, we will be offering parents an afternoon of babysitting to give them time to do some holiday shopping or preparation.

The gift will run from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. We will play games, watch movies and make crafts with the children.

Any donations that are received will go towards the Sr. High mission trip planned for next summer.

Please plan to bring a sack lunch for your child and RSVP by Nov. 29 to Pastor Kristin.

Pinnacle Sr. High Plans Ski Trip

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

We will be going to Durango Ski Resort, formerly known as Purgatory, Colo., over the long 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.

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 14th to guarantee you a spot.



Emma and Haylie on last year's Sr. High Ski Trip.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Dec. 1

Thomas Jimerson
Monette Lasater
Flannery Miller

Dec. 2

Ava Bianco
Michael Biondo
Betty Garrod

Dec. 3

Tracee Balvin
Ellis Bergery
Bryce Fitzgerald
Taylor Norman
Stephanie Webster
Anne Wells
Derek Wilson

Dec. 4

Karen Moore
Mary Westoby

Dec. 5

Alexandra DeWeese
Ryan Gropel
Catherine Kalina
Sarah Klemmer
Andreas Kress
Michael Pascucci
Owen Rhodes
Curtis Sorenson
Caitlyn Walker

Dec. 6

Paul Premo

Dec. 7

Alyssa Coughenour
Barb Dios
Dianne Drake
Harlan Stratton

Dec. 8

Richard Ebert
Leyla Hobbi
Andy Yaconis

Dec. 9

Christopher Hylton
Brodie Moore

Dec. 10

Dean Coughenour
Vicki Dillon

Dec. 11

Jeanee Dean
Rosalea McLemore
Margaret Swanson

Dec. 12

Alexander Bright
Arlene Johnson

Dec. 13

Kelsey Casas
Tony Walker
Rev. Kristin Willett
Catherine Yelanich

Dec. 14

Marcia Sobek

Dec. 15

Terri Baker
Jeffrey Miller
Grayson Morris
Parris Richie

Dec. 16

Paul Avram
Doug Brown
Taylor Clarkin
Sharon Dolan

Dec. 17

Jamee Balvin
Faith Brandt
Kamryn Smith

Dec. 18

William Kessler
Blair Myers
Hans Peyer
Lauren Pille
Elyce Walthall

Dec. 19

Janet Halliday
Nancy Noyes
Greer Pattison
Henry Rasmussen

Dec. 21

Justin Augustine
Clare Cline
Jarett Upchurch

Dec. 22

Carolyn Baer
Jack Mason

Dec. 23

Jade Wells

Dec. 25

Virginia Belt

Dec. 26

Rodger Wilson

Dec. 27

Ralph Pucci

Dec. 28

Sydney Clark
Linda Coder
Alice Roe

Dec. 29

Davis Hartman

Dec. 30

John Brenalvirez
Tom Clark
Brent Whittington

Dec. 31

Wallace Davis
Becky Le Shana
Hunter Schafer
Mary Vedder

Los Locos' White Elephant Extravaganza Is Friday, Dec. 4

The fifth annual Los Locos White Elephant Extravaganza will be held at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4, at Wes and Lynne Avram's home.

Please bring an appetizer and beverage of your choice. Don't forget to bring your "white elephant" gift for the infamous gift exchange — something fun and creative and under \$10.

Los Locos is a fellowship group for people in their 30s to 50s.

To RSVP for this gathering, e-mail Jenafer Forrest at jenafer@scfmail.com or call 480.201.9474.

PET OF THE PARISH



PET'S NAME: Wilson

ABOUT: Wilson, a black-and-white Multi-Poo, is just over a year old. Wilson is loaded with spunk, loves running and wrestling with the big dogs, and gives as good as he gets. He is very affectionate and very smart. Once Mom grabs her purse, or Dad says "time to go bye-bye" he immediately runs into his crate, where he resides until we return home.

OWNERS: Doug and Tina Brown

PPC ON THE WEB



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

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