



# PINNACLE VISTAS

The Newsletter for Pinnacle Presbyterian Church, Scottsdale, Ariz. • January 2010

## Become Part of the 'Mission' at PPC



**REBUILDING NEW ORLEANS** Pinnacle volunteers spent a week in New Orleans working on a home for a family displaced by Hurricane Katrina. **PAGE 3**

### Keep the Homeless Warm...

Our homeless population in Phoenix has doubled due to the economic downturn. This winter there is a great need for warm blankets and sleeping bags.

Pinnacle will be collecting them on Sundays, Jan. 3 and 10, for distribution through Andre House. Put your contributions in the "red wagons" near the Chapel and the Sanctuary.

Questions? Call Barbara Gust at 480.315.1701.

### Build a Home...

Pinnacle volunteers will help build a two-story townhouse in Glendale from Jan. 16 through May 22.

The house will be in an 11-home community called Palmera on 54th Avenue, two blocks north of Glendale Avenue. The name of the family who will occupy the home isn't known yet.

Pinnacle will be joining seven other Presbyterian churches from the East Valley, as well as a coalition of West Valley Methodist churches. PPC again will contribute

Please see **HABITAT** on page 4

### INSIDE...

**YOU CAN VOLUNTEER** Find out more ways that you can lend a hand. **PAGE 4**

### Remember Christ in Your New Year's Hope

Dear friends,  
A new year.

We begin with big hopes, don't we? Hopes for the economy abound. Hopes for peace in many places of conflict: Afghanistan, Palestine, Nogales or our own neighborhoods. Hopes for our own communities, and for our church. Hopes for our families and hopes for ourselves in whatever period of life we're in or in whatever events we'll face in 2010.

With so much hopefulness around, it's not a bad time to think about hope itself, both as a word and as an idea.

Hope. In casual English, we tend to put one or another preposition on the other end of hope: "for" or "to" or "in." You hope "for" a new job this year. You hope "to" go on a ski trip to Colorado. You hope "in" the government to straighten things out.

But in the church, another preposition sneaks in, and that's "is."

As followers of Christ, our hope "is" something. It is a gift, pressed down in our laps and given to us to use. It is something we give to others, that they might discover it themselves. It is something outside of us, put in us to give us peace in the midst of strife and confidence in the face of the future. Our hope "is." And to say it directly, our hope "is" Christ himself.

So think about what you hope "for" this year, or hope "to" this year, or hope "in" this year. Put Christ in the place of your hope and see what happens. And think about 2010 again:

"I hope in Christ, who is my hope, in my search for employment."

"I bring Christ with me, who is my hope, as I plan my adventures."

Please see **LETTER** on page 4



Dr. Wes Avram,  
senior pastor

### MISSION AT PINNACLE



The New Orleans mission team included: Doug Brown; Barb and Jim Callison; Barbara and Roy Gust; Beth and Dick Heisler; JoAnn and Bob Lee; Mark Leinweber; Parris and Carl Richie; Mary Lou Roof; Stephanie Webster; Susan Storch; and Lisa Wills.

### PPC Volunteers Return to Help New Orleans

"Thanks to volunteers like you all, I'll be able to bring my family back to New Orleans." This comment came up in a conversation with Mario, the homeowner of a Habitat for Humanity house our mission team worked on the week of Nov. 2.

For the fourth year, Pinnacle Presbyterian Church sent a work team to the Gulf Coast in response to the continuing human needs in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

Our team of 16 "Pinnacles" was hosted by St. Charles Ave. Presbyterian Church and worked at Ferry Place, a Habitat for Humanity neighborhood of 14 homes in New Orleans.

Our homeowner, Mario, works as a grocery clerk and currently lives with his mother. The rest of his family is still temporarily relocated with his wife's family in Jamaica.

Our team had the satisfaction of not only completing the exterior of the home, but also helping to restore a community, reunite a family and view the continued improvements in neighborhoods in New Orleans.

#### ON THE WEB

See more photos from the New Orleans mission trip online at [pinnaclepres.org](http://pinnaclepres.org).

## MISSION CALENDAR

### Sunday, Jan. 3

Andre House Blanket and Sleeping Bag Drive

### Sunday, Jan. 10

Andre House Blanket and Sleeping Bag Drive

### Monday, Jan. 11

Mission Committee Meeting

### Tuesday, Jan. 12

Andre House

### Thursday, Jan. 14

Andre House

### Sunday, Jan. 24

Andre House

### Sunday, Jan. 31

Vista del Camino Food Drive

■ Learn more about Mission opportunities on the Events page on PPC's Web site, [pinnaclepres.org/events.html](http://pinnaclepres.org/events.html).



**A MEAL FOR THE HUNGRY** Pinnacle volunteers prepare to serve a meal at Andre House. PPC provides volunteers several times a month. For info, contact Stephanie Webster at [stephaniebwebster@yahoo.com](mailto:stephaniebwebster@yahoo.com), or Lin Ogden at [linogden@aol.com](mailto:linogden@aol.com).

## HABITAT FOR HUMANITY DATES

### Volunteer dates for Habitat are:

Saturday, Jan. 23	12 workers, plus lunch for 30
Saturday, Feb. 20	12 workers, plus lunch for 30
Saturday, March 20	10 workers, plus lunch for 30
Saturday, May 8	five workers

## HABITAT From page 1

\$18,000 to Habitat in 2010.

Please join us for this project. Signup sheets will be available Sundays on the West Terrace.

For information, please contact Carl Richie at 480.551.6855 or [pncrichie@aol.com](mailto:pncrichie@aol.com), or Doug Brown at 480.515.1361 or [tcb51@cox.net](mailto:tcb51@cox.net).

## LETTER From page 2

"I honor Christ, who is hope, as I consider political life."

Hope makes a difference.

I hope it's a good year for you, full of Hope!

See you in church!

## Pinnacle Hikers Map Out 2010 Plans

Saturday mornings through April, adult hiking enthusiasts from Pinnacle embark on a monthly hike of approximately 3 miles in and around our scenic valley.

The hikes range from easy to moderate in difficulty and the companionship is outstanding.

All hikes are on Saturday and leave at 8:30 a.m. from the Chapel parking lot.

Bring plenty of water and snacks, and a walking stick, if needed. Wear sensible shoes.

For more information, call Donna Mobley at 480.513.0150.

## UPCOMING HIKES



Upcoming hikes include:

Jan. 16	Brown's Ranch	3 flat, easy miles
Feb. 13	Lost Dog	3-1/2 miles, gentle slopes
March 13	Taliesin Overlook	4 miles, gentle incline
March 27	Gateway Loop	5 miles, fairly strenuous
April 17	Desert Part	5 fairly flat miles

These hikes are all in the Sonoran Preserve.

## OUR CHURCH FAMILY

### SYMPATHY

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to:

**Avie Bergey** on the death of her husband, **Ellis**

**Lora Lee and Bob Duncan** on the death of their daughter, **Pam**

### BAPTISMS

The congregation celebrates the baptism of:

**Norah Dawn Howell**, child of **Brooke and Matthew Howell**, grandchild of **Don Howell**

**Christian Bruce Reiss**, child of **Iryna and Bret Reiss**

## MUSIC AT PINNACLE

### **The Woody Herman Orchestra**

7:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 15, in the Sanctuary

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

Critics agree that the Woody Herman Orchestra is the best big band in the country today. Not content to relive the glories of the past, this jazz ensemble maintains a youthful vitality and versatility that mixes classics from the Herman band of old with new charts to suit the band's exuberant style. It is pure entertainment from the first note to the last, and this is your only chance to hear the "Thundering Herd" in Arizona.

### **Michael Unger, organ**

7:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 29, in the Sanctuary

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

Organist Michael Unger is hailed as a marvelous player with fleet fingers and feet and an adventurous sense of programming. In 2008, he was the first prize winner in two prestigious organ competitions, the National Young Artists competition in the United States and at the Musashino International Organ competition in Tokyo. A native of Toronto, Unger is completing doctoral studies at the Eastman School of Music while establishing a thriving performance career. Co-sponsored by Central Arizona Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

### **Drumming in Worship: Experiencing God's Heartbeat**

1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 9, in the Sanctuary

Admission is free.

For more on this drumming workshop, part of the Time Out for the Arts program, by ASU's Dr. Mark Sunkett and the ASU African Drum Ensemble, please see page 11.

### **Hymn Festival with John Ferguson**

4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 24, in the Sanctuary

Admission is free, but a free-will offering will be collected.

Led by the Pinnacle Presbyterian Chancel Choir and choirs from around the Valley, this Time Out for the Arts hymn festival will celebrate our rich Christian traditions through song. Dr. John Ferguson, renowned organ professor at St. Olaf College, will be at the Richards, Fowkes organ to guide and direct this inspirational afternoon of music.

## Single? Join Mingles for Singles at PPC

Mingles for Singles, a singles ministry for adults, gets together from 6-8 p.m. the first and third Thursdays of the month in the "library" of O'Donoghue's Irish Pub, a family restaurant at the corner of Hayden Road and Thompson Peak Parkway.

Mingles will also meet the fourth Thursday of January (Jan. 28) and will be joined by our new Senior Pastor, Dr. Wes Avram.

Mingles is open to single members of PPC, men and women, in their 40s and up. O'Donoghue's is located on the southeast corner of Thompson Peak and Hayden Roads.

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

## PINNACLE YOUTH

### **Junior High Head to Winter Retreat, Feb. 12-14**

The Junior High Winter Retreat is open to all middle school youth at Pinnacle Presbyterian Church and their friends.

We will meet in the church parking lot at 4:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 12 and head north for the weekend. We will spend the weekend outside playing in the snow (hopefully!). We plan to arrive back at church at 6 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 14.

The cost is \$150 per youth. Contact Pastor Kristin for more details.



### **High School Mission Trip 2010**

From June 13-20, the high school youth will be headed to Forks, Wash., to help out in this once-thriving lumber community.

Today Forks is a quintessential "small" town. Our youth will be exposed to the challenges of life in a small town and also have the opportunity to learn more about our National Parks System since Forks is surrounded by the Olympic National Park.

The trip is open to present 8th graders through high school seniors. Contact Pastor Kristin for more information.

## Club Wed! Returns on Wednesday, Jan. 13

If you missed joining Club Wed! in the fall, you are welcome to participate in our classes beginning Wednesday, Jan. 13:

- Questers is a group of elementary-aged kids who meet from 5–5:25 p.m. and are on a journey of faith together.

- Lamb Brigade is designed for our 4- and 5-year-olds and meets from 6:25–7 p.m.

- Lion Pride class, which is for first, second and third graders, read from the Bible and do an activity based on the Bible story that evening. Lion Pride meets from 6:30–7 p.m. Come join us, won't you?

Also, please join us for dinner in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 5:30 p.m. Wednesdays.

## Club 45 Gets Ready for 2010

New Club 45 activities are planned for January through May. Mark your calendars for an afternoon of learning, sharing and fun on Sunday, Jan. 24. Details to follow!

You never know how much fun you'll have at Club 45 unless you give it a try. We've had a crazy Christmas party, cleaned up the Church, gone ice skating and had a great time at Organ Stop Pizza.

Join us on Jan. 24 and bring a friend. Remember, Club 45 is open to all fourth and fifth graders.



### 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](http://www.pinnaclepres.org/vistas/contribute.html), or e-mail to [Pinnacle.Vistas@gmail.com](mailto:Pinnacle.Vistas@gmail.com).

Deadline for *Pinnacle Vistas* is the 10th of the preceding month.



**CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS** This annual musical event sparkles with the wonder and joy of the Christmas season. Offered as Pinnacle's gift to the greater Scottsdale community, the concert on Sunday, Dec. 6, featured the Chancel Choir, soloists and Pinnacle Pealers along with guest artists Southwest Brass in an inspirational program of holiday music. A special offering was collected to support Casa de la Misericordia, a children's care center in Nogales, Mexico, and to further the fine arts program of Pinnacle. See more photos from this and other events on the Web at [pinnaclepres.org](http://pinnaclepres.org).



## Jesus: Connecting With Our Human Family

The Pinnacle Theological Center believes that the issues raised by The Social Creed for the 21st Century are important. We are not suggesting, however, that you agree or disagree with the Creed or any constituent part. We recognize that people of faith occupy various positions along the political spectrum.

Even so, in fulfilling our mission to function as a place for people to come together and deal with the great issues of life in a non-threatening environment, we are bringing outstanding speakers to address the issues raised in the Social Creed. We encourage you to attend, listen, ask questions and draw your own conclusions.

Our next speaker, Lidia Serrata Ledesma, brings a compelling story to our series. She speaks as part of the 2009-10 program, Transforming God's Dream into Reality, at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 14, in the Chapel.

Lidia is a third-generation American. Her Catholic grandfather was a Texas cowboy who was converted by a Presbyterian evangelist and who helped found the Nicea Iglesia Presbyterian Church in Kingsville, Texas.

Lidia boarded at the Presbyterian Pan American School, a high school in Kingsville with Hispanic students from the United States, Mexico and Cuba, among other Latin American countries, and currently serves on its Board of Trustees.

She graduated from a local two-year college before attending Trinity, a Presbyterian university in San Antonio, where she received her B.A. in 1970. She went on to earn an M.A. from the School of Social Work at the University of Texas in 1972.

In 1977, Lidia graduated from the University of Texas Law School with a J.D. Following graduation she was appointed Assistant District Attorney in her hometown, Victoria. She later founded her own firm and specializes in family law.

Lidia has continued her lifelong activity in the Presbyterian Church and recently chaired the Social Creed Resolution Team.

Lidia's presentation will focus on the Creed's second segment, "Jesus," and particularly on "the deep connections within our human family and seek to awaken a new spirit of community."

### Drumming in Worship: Experiencing God's Heartbeat

Taught by Dr. Mark Sunkett

1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 9, in the Sanctuary

The music of the drums creates a conduit of the Divine. This workshop is an opportunity to experience worship with our bodies as well as our minds. Join ASU professor Dr. Mark Sunkett and the ASU African Drum Ensemble for an exciting afternoon of music making with African djembe drums and other percussion instruments. This is a true "hands-on" workshop.

### The Sistine Chapel Ceiling

Taught by Sherry Koopot

11:15 a.m. Sunday Jan. 10, in the Chapel

Thanks to AT&T all of us recognize Michelangelo's magnificent image of the hand of God reaching out to touch the hand of Adam to bring him to life, which is the center panel of the ceiling of the Sistine



The "God Creates Adam" panel from the Sistine Chapel Ceiling, by Michelangelo

Chapel in Rome. We might even recognize the panels showing the Fall of Man and Noah and the Great Flood. But what about the rest of the Sistine Chapel ceiling? How do each lunette and the corners of the ceiling work together to present one amazing truth revealed through Scripture? Come and discover the meaning that underscores the reason behind the remarkable creation that is Michelangelo's masterpiece. Sherry Koopot was Docent of the Year with the Phoenix Art Museum in 1995 and has served as a docent for over 20 years.

### Scripture to Sermon

Taught by Dr. Michael Hegeman and the PPC Pastors

11:15 a.m. Sundays, Jan. 17, 24, 31 and Feb. 14, in Room 1 of Fellowship Hall

How does a pastor choose the Scripture readings? What process does

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**ADULTS** From page 11

he or she use to mold and fashion and interpret Scripture to draw out the meaning and relevance of the text? How should a congregation listen to a sermon? On Jan. 17, Dr. Michael Hegeman, Ph.D. in Homiletics from Princeton Theological Seminary, will share insights into this exegetical process. In the following Sundays, each of our pastors will preach a sermon and share their journey from Scripture to sermon. The sermon has been called “the audible sacrament” in which a congregation actively hears and takes into themselves the Word of God. It is an active participation, a listening that is an act of faith. Come and learn more about how pastors pass on what they have gleaned from God’s word and how we can best prepare ourselves to receive the message.

**Ladies’ Bible Study**

Taught by Gena Brown

For 12 weeks beginning at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 19, in the Chapel library

The story of Jesus does not end with the crucifixion and resurrection. It continues in Acts with the ascension, marking not Christ’s departure, but a change in the way He performs His ministry of salvation and grace. The acts of the disciples go on down through the ages and leave a legacy of faith for us to live out and pass on. What God did for them, He longs to do for us, too. God wants to work in and through us even when the storms of life come. The Ladies’ Bible Study will use Max Lucado’s book *Life Lessons: Book of Acts, Christ’s Church in the World*. Cost of the book is \$9. This 12-week study also uses the DVD “Acts.” It is the only dramatization using the actual scriptures word-for-word from the New International Version of the Bible. For more information, please call Jan Premo 480.563.4778 or Gena Brown 480.451.7613.

**First Light: Jesus and the Kingdom of God**

Taught by Rev. Bill Kirk

For 10 weeks beginning at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 19, in Fellowship Hall Room 2

Why did Jesus happen when he happened? Why the tiny villages

Please see **STUDIES** on next page

**STUDIES** From previous page

around the lake? Why the confrontations in Jerusalem? Why then? Why there? Why were the titles of Caesar Augustus taken from a Roman emperor on the Palestine plain? Was it low lampoon or high treason? Either way, the Romans were not laughing. What were the priorities of Jesus’ proclamation of the Kingdom? How was the status quo of Roman imperial theology subverted by this obscure Galilean whose message continues to indict empire today? First Light is a DVD and Web-based study with John Dominic Crossan and Marcus Borg, two of the world’s leading Jesus scholars, on location throughout Galilee and Jerusalem.

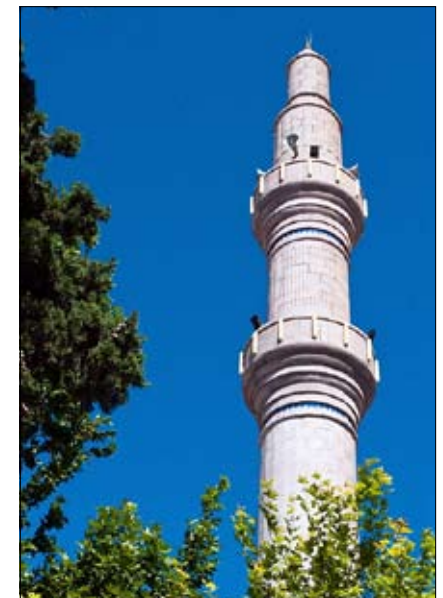
**Engaging the Muslim World**

Facilitated by Dave Schaller

For 12 weeks beginning at 7 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 21, in Fellowship Hall Room 1

The 1 billion Muslim people in the world cannot be ignored in today’s complex multicultural society. Violent conflicts have resulted from the varied perspectives on Islam. Over 12 weeks we will read and discuss several recent books concerned with the Islamic world view and U.S. foreign policy, and learn about ways in which the western and Islamic worlds can work for a shared future.

**Teens and Technology**

Taught by Rev. Kristin Willett

Beginning at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 12, in the Youth Building

Technology can be both helpful and harmful. The harms can be magnified when dealing with the obsessive nature of teens. Explore the good and bad sides of popular technologies — cell phones, iPods and Internet sites — and learn how to encourage a healthy use instead of an addiction.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

### Jan. 1

Lily Mueller

### Jan. 2

Bryan Babits  
Mitchell Christensen  
Erma Heisler  
F. Lamar Kelsey  
Dania Kinney  
Beverly Rowland

### Jan. 3

Elizabeth Niven

### Jan. 4

Garry Frandson

### Jan. 7

Tyler Bartkus  
Ashley Lonergan  
Richard Lonergan  
Sandra Mitchell  
Lynn Veale

### Jan. 8

Gabrielle Morris  
Waverley Simpson  
Paulette White

### Jan. 9

Michael Bankoff  
Doris Bowers  
Jim Callison  
Charlotte Murray

### Jan. 10

Brent Diedrich  
Peter Helming  
David Patton

### Jan. 11

Edward Babits  
Holly Fechtmeyer  
Maurice Lucky  
Rebecca Slegers  
James Stull

### Jan. 13

Joan Dopp

### Jan. 14

John Biermeier  
Sofia Mancini

### Jan. 16

Phillip Ball  
Lois Benson  
Audrey Bush  
Laura Stone

### Jan. 17

Andrew Dahlby

### Jan. 20

Betty Dresser

### Jan. 22

Jennifer Kaul  
Hayden Lewis  
Mary Anne Mullen  
Tristan O'Connor

### Jan. 23

Chelsea Ball  
Susan Brousseau  
William Dresser  
Laura Henry  
Katherine Rosenfeld  
Morgan Sheaffer

### Jan. 24

Sean Doche  
Molly Lampkin  
Lisa Patel

### Jan. 25

Tyler Phillips  
Doug Pope  
Janet Premo  
Vicki Smith  
Emma Wilson

### Jan. 26

Viviana Biggs  
Emily Joachim  
Mary Helen Lynn  
Ruth O'Brien  
Candace Richards  
Carol Stull  
Gary Zimmerman

### Jan. 27

Kaprice Collins  
Logan Leonesio  
Sake Reindersma  
Kallie Schmidt

### Jan. 28

Evan Armstrong  
Lesley Bush  
Isabelle Emig  
Mike Foley  
Evan Rosenbaum

### Jan. 29

Sue Borman  
Elsa Davis  
Jordyn Doche  
Jewel Hunt Hoffmann  
Spencer Sawottke  
Carley Turner

### Jan. 30

Jack Fantetti  
Ginny Lonn  
Isabel Matheson  
Kathy Wise

### Jan. 31

Jacob Copple  
Kallianne Downing  
Dan Fowlkes  
Curtis Retrum

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

## Duet Plans Special Picnic

Grandparents and the children they are raising are invited to a picnic sponsored by Duet from 12:30-3:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 20, at Sahauro Ranch Park, Glendale. Bring a dish to share, and RSVP at 602.274.5022.

Duet provides free services to homebound elders, family caregivers, faith communities and grandparents raising grandchildren.

For more information, call the number above or visit [duetaz.org](http://duetaz.org).

## PET OF THE PARISH



**PET'S NAME:** Chalet

**ABOUT:** Chalet is the Veale family's newest guide dog puppy-in-training. Born Sept. 26, Chalet is too young to attend church, but is progressing in her training at home. A yellow Labrador retriever and full of puppy spunk, Chalet will hopefully become a working guide dog in the spring of 2011. House training and a calm, quiet demeanor are Chalet's current goals. Once attained, her reward will be Sunday mornings in church. Watch for her to arrive soon.

**OWNERS:** The Veale family

## 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."

**VISTAS ONLINE** Also, you can download PDF versions of *Pinnacle Vistas*. Read *Vistas* online or e-mail them to friends and family.

**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](http://pinnaclepres.org).

