



PINNACLE VISTAS

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

Tracings: A Letter from the Senior Pastor



Together for the Work Ahead

Friends,

A simple message this month: I look forward to seeing you at our Annual Meeting on Sunday, Feb. 7!

Door prizes, raffle for a new car, throw a ball and dunk the pastor in a tub of water, jugglers, face painting, and an operetta specially commissioned for the day!

Okay, I exaggerate. We won't have those things I just described. But I can promise you an opportunity to learn more about the work

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Dr. Wes Avram,
senior pastor

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of Pinnacle Presbyterian Church, some details about our 2009 and anticipated 2010 finances, good news about the congregation's response to our December request for support, a brief report from our Foundation trustees, and hopes and dreams for the future. The challenges are real, the opportunities abundant, and grace sufficient. We are blessed, and by that grace will have a good year in the life of our congregation.

In addition to all of this, I will be making a special announcement regarding the mission of Pinnacle Presbyterian. This will be a surprise, and an exciting one at that.

Please stay after the 10 a.m. service on Sunday, Feb. 7, for this meeting and conversation.

See you there.

In service,



GET CONNECTED TO PPC

CHURCH WEB SITE

Please visit PPC's Web site, pinnaclepres.org, for the weekly calendar and activity listings, photos and other important news. You can also listen to sermons online.

ITUNES PODCAST

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



FOLLOW PPC

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



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

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

VISTAS ONLINE Also,

ADULT STUDIES

Here is a partial listing of upcoming Adult Education classes:

Scripture to Sermon

Taught by the PPC pastors
11:15 a.m. Sundays, Feb. 7 & 14, in Fellowship Hall, Room 1

Learn more about how PPC's pastors pass on what they have gleaned from God's Word and how we can best prepare to be receptive to the message.

First Light: Jesus and the Kingdom of God

Taught by Rev. Bill Kirk
7 p.m. Tuesdays through February in Fellowship Hall, Room 2

This is a DVD-based study with John Dominic Crossan and Marcus Borg, two of the world's leading Jesus scholars, on location in Gallilee and Jerusalem.

Engaging the Muslim World

Facilitated by Dave Schaller
7 p.m. Thursdays through February in Fellowship Hall, Room 1

Several recent books concerning the Islamic worldview and American foreign policy will be read and discussed. We will learn about the many ways in which the Western and Islamic worlds can work together for a shared future.

Legacy Planning

Taught by Lisa Doche
11:15 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 21, in the Church Office Conference Room

A true legacy is a combination of emotional and financial elements, placing the family photo albums and CDs right alongside the family fortune. Lisa can help you get started answering the question, "What is most important to us?"



The Art of Stained Glass

Taught by Jim Norton as part of the Time Out for the Arts series
7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 22 in the Chapel

Stained glass has been a form of window and architectural decoration for buildings since before the 12th century in Europe. If you are looking for a fulfilling hobby or just have a burning desire to learn how to create stained glass art, this is the class for you. Join Pinnacle member Jim Norton as he introduces the art of stained-glassmaking.

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Act II Begins 2010 With Focus on Music Therapy

Act II – Beyond Cancer opens its 2010 programs with Kymla Eubanks of Higher Octave Healing at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 16, in the Church Library.

Kymla will speak about music therapy and the extraordinary benefits it provides for a healthy life.

The afternoon will include a short meeting, the speaker and a reception.

Act II welcomes everyone, not just those who have been touched by cancer.



If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Carrol Svedeen at 480.419.0348.

ADULT STUDIES

CLASSES From page 3

A Lenten Conversation: Sin and Forgiveness

Taught by the PPC pastors

11:15 a.m. Sundays, Feb. 21, March 7, 14, and 21, in Fellowship Hall, Room 1

During this season of Lent, spend time reflecting on your faith as we discuss the topics of sin and forgiveness. We will explore aspects of evil, heaven and hell, reconciliation, and salvation as our pastors weave together how our faith interacts with real life in our actions and attitudes toward those needing forgiveness and those needing to forgive.

How to Be a Faithful Parent of a Teen

Taught by Rev. Kristin Willett

7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 23, in the Youth Building

As the season of Lent begins, explore simple ways to nurture and deepen your faith even in the midst of the chaos and craziness of raising a teen. Learn ways to incorporate your faith into your daily life and make it a part of your family interactions. For more information, contact Kristin at kwillett@pinnaclepres.org.

MISSION AT PINNACLE

Cultural Mixer Follows Feb. 28 Service

PPC's Mission Committee invites you to a Cultural Mixer with the International Rescue Committee following the 10 a.m. service on Sunday, Feb. 28.

There will be four to five families that came to Phoenix as refugees through the IRC. They will be from countries such as Afghanistan, Iraq, Burma (Myanmar), Sudan, Bhutan, Somalia or Liberia.

You will have the opportunity to meet these families and learn a bit about their journeys to Arizona. It will also be an opportunity to learn more about how our community can help the IRC.

We plan on having some yummy food from some of the visiting countries. Please plan to attend.

For more information, contact Christine Hobbi at bajijune@cox.net or 602.793.1448.

Habitat Reschedules Spring Work Dates

The Habitat for Humanity project has been delayed. Our new dates are: Feb. 20, March 20, April 10, May 8 and June 5.

We're looking for 10 to 12 workers for the February, March and April dates, and only about five for May and June.

We also need two couples to make and deliver lunch for about 30 on Feb. 20, March 20 and May 8.

To sign up, look for the Habitat table on the West Terrace.



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 upcoming issue of *Pinnacle Vistas* is the 10th day of the preceding month.

MEET OUR NEW FRIENDS

Say "hello" to our newest members:



Barbara and David Harris

COME JOIN US

NEW CONNECTION CLASS We invite you to make the PPC congregation your place of worship, a place where you will find hope, love, support and a deepening of your spiritual life. The next New Connection Class for new members will begin with refreshments at 11:15 a.m. Sunday, March 14, in the Chapel Library. Please call the Church Office at 480.585.9448 to sign up.

SNAPSHOTS: LIFE AT PINNACLE



AFRICAN DRUM WORKSHOP The African Drum Workshop, held Saturday, Jan. 9, in the Sanctuary, was an opportunity to experience worship with our bodies as well as our minds. ASU professor Dr. Mark Sunkett, above, and members of the ASU African Drum Ensemble led the workshop, which was part of PPC's Time Out for the Arts series.



PINNACLE YOUTH

Join in the Souper Bowl of Caring

Last year, more than 100-million people watched the Super Bowl. If each had donated \$1 to fight hunger think of what we have could done.



That is the idea behind the Souper Bowl of Caring. It uses the hype of the Super Bowl to raise awareness of the serious hunger problems in our country.

On Feb. 7, Super Bowl Sunday, PPC's youth will collect a special offering from the congregation to help fight hunger in our community.

Summer Mission Trip Is Open to 8th-12th Graders

This summer's weeklong mission trip is open to all current 8th graders through high school seniors and will take us to Forks, Wash., on the Olympic Peninsula.

Forks is a small, rural lumber community on the western border of the Olympic National Park.

Our week will be filled with teaching Vacation Bible School in a small Native American church, working in social service programs in Forks, and learning more about the National Parks Services.

We hope to expose our youth to the challenges and struggles of living in a small town.

We also hope to arrange some social interaction between our youth and the youth in their community.

The trip will run from Sunday, June 13, through Sunday, June 20. To

Please see **TRIP** on page 8



Last summer, the youth worked and played during a mission trip to the Navajo Reservation in northeastern Arizona.

Join PPC's Growing Adult Singles Ministry

You are invited to join the Mingles for Singles group at 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 4, in the Fellowship Hall to help them plan the new group's 2010 activities.

Bring your calendar and an appetizer to share; beverages will be provided.

The fellowship group's second meeting in February will be from 6-8 p.m. on the third Thursday (Feb. 18) at O'Donoghue's Irish Pub.

O'Donoghue's, an authentic Irish gathering spot for family and friends, is at the southeast corner of Thompson Peak and Hayden. PPC singles mix and mingle in "The Library," a quiet spot away from the busyness of the dining areas. It's on your left upon entering O'Donoghue's.

For questions, comments or to RSVP, please e-mail PPC.Singles@cox.net, or call the Church Office at 480.585.9448 or Meredith Downing at 480.518.0789 and leave a message.

We look forward to meeting you!

PINNACLE YOUTH

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learn more about the trip and to sign up, please attend the Mission Trip meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 9, in the Youth Building.

Youth Preparing for Annual Rummage Sale

To raise money for the high school mission trip and furnishings for the new Youth Building, the youth



will be hosting its second annual rummage sale on March 26 and 27.

We are asking the congregation to start saving their used goods now. We will begin collection the weekend before the sale.

We will take your old furniture, baby gear, electronics and more. Please see what re-sellable items you can contribute. Also, we are looking to borrow clothing racks. If you can help, please contact Pastor Kristin.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

BIRTHS

The congregation celebrates the birth of:

Abigail Halyna Bonnie Reiss to Iryna and Bret Reiss

SYMPATHY

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to:

John (Jack) Royston family

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

Lora Lee and Bob Duncan on the death of Lora Lee's daughter **Pam**, and mother, **Grace Buchanan**

Nancy and Jim Schamadan on the death of Nancy's mother, **Zuma V. Myers**

BAPTISMS

The congregation celebrates the baptism of:

Matthew Connor Rummans, child of **John Rummans** and **Mary Louise Mobley**, and grandchild of **Donna and Ted Mobley**

STEWARDSHIP

Thank You for Helping in 2009; Have You Pledged for 2010?

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee, we express our gratitude to those who responded to help the Church through the year-end financial stress by making additional offerings.

We had 158 members respond with prayer and gifts varying from \$25 to \$10,000, for a total of \$170,440. With these gifts all of our expenses were satisfied and we carry a cash balance into 2010 that may permit a significant reduction in our short term bank borrowings. We are deeply grateful for your generous response.

Now that the 2009 year-end challenge has been addressed, we must turn our attention to a serious shortfall in 2010 pledges.

For those of you who have pledged, we deeply appreciate your generosity.

If you have not yet made a pledge, we ask that you do so either on the church's Web site (pinnaclepres.org), by mail or by calling the Church Office (at 480.585.9448) as soon as possible.

Your pledge is critical for the planning and programs of our church, and we need to complete this effort and move forward into the New Year fiscally strong.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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. 6

Susan Adkins

Feb. 7

Mackenzi Ives
Herb Nagel
Tyler Watson

Feb. 8

Elliot Loken
Michelle Patton

Feb. 9

Baiba Clemens
Judy Hodge
Emma Kessler
Linda Pope
Ashley Potter
Pattie Whittington

Feb. 10

Walter Bolliger
Charles Eichof
Aubrey Gress
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

Andrew Avram
Christopher Rasmussen
Mel Seabright

Feb. 16

Scott Powell

Feb. 17

Steven Jesson
Courtney Myers

Feb. 18

Matthew Biggs
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
Steven Loken
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
Kevin DeRuitter
Christopher Koontz
Althea McConnell

Feb. 28

Olivia DeRuitter
Don Dolan
Megan Mathews
Emily Mitchell
Jim Norton
Micah Willett

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

Offer, Or Ask for, Help for Homebound Adults

Have you given up driving due to health issues? Duet invites you to call for rides to doctor appointments or help with grocery shopping.

Or, you may wish for a visitor or need minor home repairs, help with paperwork, or computer training.

Duet recruits and trains caring volunteers and pairs them with homebound adults who need a bit of caring support.

Volunteers come from our own congregation as well as other can-do faith communities.

Request help or volunteer at 602.274.5022.

Not sure about volunteering? See duetaz.org for a map showing people needing your assistance, using general locations and first names to protect privacy.

You'll attend an orientation prior to serving.

PET OF THE PARISH

PET'S NAME: Aussie

ABOUT: Aussie is a 5-year-old Labradoodle. Her mom was a chocolate Lab and her dad a standard cream colored poodle. She is extremely friendly and very sociable. Aussie loves to retrieve, play with other dogs (and people), and run. She especially likes it at her lake place in Northern Wisconsin where she swims four or five times a day, trees squirrels, stalks chipmunks, sits and watches the dairy cows and barks at the



horses. She is especially agile when running away from black bears that happen to wander out of the woods in Wisconsin

or from javelinas on the golf course in Arizona.

OWNERS: Andrea and John Terhune