

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

230 NE Ninth Street
Bend, OR 97701
Phone: 541.382.4401
Fax: 541.317.2838
www.bendfp.org

Worship

Sunday

9:00 a.m.

Contemporary Worship

10:45 a.m.

Traditional Worship

5:30 p.m.

Sunday Evening
Gathering

Wednesday

6:30 p.m.

Contemplative Service

Child care provided at all
worship times

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSURE

Monday, April 13

Next Faith Notes

Deadline

February 23 at Noon

Next Publication:

March 4, 2009

Pastor's Column

Michael Lindvall in *A Christian Life: A Geography of God* wrote, "If the brokenness of this world of ours could be said to have a single cause, some core malignancy, it must be this tendency implicit in our common humanity to see ourselves as the center of the universe. It's all about me!" The problem is that if we occupy the center, God cannot.

"Be transformed," the Bible says. It is God's purpose to transform us in such a way that God becomes the center of our universe.

The season of Lent is traditionally a time of repentance. To "repent" simply means to "turn around" . . . to change directions . . . to do a 180°. The season of Lent invites us to turn around and head down the road where we put God in the center of our lives as revealed to us in the journey of Jesus. We reject the notion that our lives are compartmentalized into a "spiritual life" and a "regular life" and God begins to permeate all of our life.

God doesn't exist to be the hero of our story. We are here on this earth to play a significant role in God's story of redeeming the world with love. Each one of us has a unique purpose in God's story of redeeming the world with love—but it is God who is the central character.

Michael Lindvall put it this way,

"Jesus didn't come so that we might have better relationships and more meaningful work. Jesus came to show us how our relationships and work can express the will and love of God. This is 180° from our usual approach—that following Jesus makes me a better person. Of course it does but being a better person isn't the point. The point is to choose to love and claim our role in God's story of redeeming the world with love."

To surrender one's self and place God at the center is not to leave behind who we are, but rather it is to more fully use who we are to bring God's love to the world.

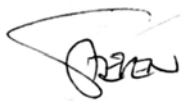
Not long before she died Mother Teresa spoke at the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington D.C. she was introduced "as the greatest woman in the world." She dismissed that introduction by saying if she were the greatest woman in the world, you would think that God would have made her tall enough to see over the podium. She said, "I am nothing close to being the greatest woman in the world but I will tell you something great about my life . . . I have been able to be a tiny pencil in the hand of God through which God writes love letters to the world."

(Continued from page 1)

What an awesome thought . . . you and I are the means which God's love is lived out in this broken, battered and troubled world!

Our theme for Lent is "CHOOSE TO LOVE!"

A traditional practice for Lent is to give something up that you might focus more of your attention on God. I urge you to give up two hours of your week and join a Lenten small group. We are exploring together the book *Same Kind of Different as Me* which is a true story of the life-changing power of unconditional love. I am extremely excited to travel this road with you exploring what it means to "Choose to Love!"



SIGN UP for E-News and Faith Notes On-line

Faith Notes is currently available online at the FPC web site (www.bendfp.org) where you can read the beautiful full color edition. We want everyone to be able to receive this vital publication, as well as the weekly e-mailed editions of the FPC E-News.

With the next edition of Faith Notes, as part of the conservation plan for wise financial stewardship, the more expensive hard

copies of Faith Notes will no longer be mailed.

For the homebound, we shall continue to distribute by mail. Please let us know of any names who should be on that list. The church database maintains a continuing list of homebound wishing to receive these hard copies. For others who wish to have a hard copy, editions will be available in The Commons twice a month, as they are now.

If you have a computer and are not already signed up for Faith Notes and E-News, please do so now by contacting Janice Emerson at jemerson@bendfp.org.

Should you have any questions, feel free to call Boyd Levet, Church Administrator, 382-4401 or blevet@bendfp.org.

Men's Breakfast Announcement

This is to announce my retirement as organizer of the monthly Men's Fellowship Breakfast for FPC. This has been an activity of mine since 2000 and has involved organizing close to 100

meetings. If someone wishes to volunteer as my replacement, I will provide assistance. Also, I have records of all meetings since 2001, which could be of help to

a replacement organizer.

As an alternative to a structured meeting, individuals could continue to meet for breakfast on an ad hoc basis and enjoy the fellowship with one another. The Men's

Girl Scout Sunday

March 8 is Girl Scout Sunday. If you still have your pins or are a current Scout, please wear them that day. We will be greeting and lighting candles during worship that Sunday. Please join us.

Call Stephanie Seed if you have any questions.

News from Bolivia

Read Brad's letters from Bolivia, copy this link to your browser:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20090126/ap_on_re_la_a_m_ca/lt_bolivia_referendum

Breakfast group has been meeting at 8:00 a.m. the first Monday of the month at the IHOP restaurant on Third Street.

Wil Nagel

Adult Education

Concludes February 22 – "How Green is Genesis?"

9:00 a.m. – Adult Center
Facilitated by Dr. W. Daniel Klingler

This is a four-week class taught through February. It is a study of the first eleven chapters of Genesis, to see how the

Bible relates the subjects of humans and nature.

Dr. Klingler will be drawing upon the sources of several authors who ask the twofold question: "Is there bias in the writers of scripture towards humans (anthropocentrism) at the expense of nature?" And

"Is it possible that the Bible is more friendly to nature than we give credit because of our own anthropocentrism?"

A booklet developed by Dan is available. The cost of the booklet is \$1.

Presbyterian Women

Thank You, Bag Ladies!

To everyone who is sewing bags for the Kits for Kids, thank you! More fabric is available at the Presbyterian Women table in The Commons. You can also leave fabric donations there. Call Helen or Jim Smith if you have any questions (382-8502).

THE POWER OF STORIES - Saturday, March 14

Presbyterian Women invite members of the congregation and their friends to hear Heather McNeil presenting "The Power of Words" at 2 PM, Saturday, March 14.

"Young people are hungry for connections with their elders," said McNeil, "and family stories are one way to create bonding, give and take, and trust."

McNeil will present a variety of stories and discuss storytelling techniques to make stories powerful.

Refreshments and a book signing with McNeil will follow the program. There is no charge. For information call Wanda Cashwell, 383-1506 or email ggwanda@bendbroadband.com.

Calling Cookie Ladies!

If you like to bake and can make three dozen cookies for Presbyterian Women, please call Frances Jones (385-9289 or francesjones4@gmail.com).

She will keep the list of Cookie Ladies and will arrange ahead of time for baking. She will do cookie pick-ups. You won't have to deliver them to the church, just do the baking.

We know we'll need cookies on Saturday, March 14, when Heather McNeil comes to talk about the power of stories. We're inviting the community, so we'll need extra cookies.

To be a Cookie Lady, just contact Frances Jones.

An Invitation

The Deacons' Health Care Team invites you to attend a program offered on Wednesday, February 25 at 2:00 p.m. in Heritage Hall to hear Tim Maloney, a geriatric specialist at the Deschutes County Health Department. Mr. Maloney will speak on signs to be aware of with elderly or ill that can signal possible problems with mental or emotional health issues. He invites us to bring our questions and experiences in order that we might learn from one another.

Peacemaking Meeting

Monday, March 2

"Beyond Our Differences," a PBS special featured on the Bill Moyers Show, asks visionaries from diverse faith paths to comment on the way faith and religion play principal roles in inspiring our collective peoples toward a more peaceful and compassionate humanity. A winner of 3 awards in 2008, this film will be shown at the March meeting of Peacemaking. Please join us at 10:30 in the library.

Meg Brookover

Choosing to Love

Choosing to participate in a Lenten Group Experience

Time to make your plans to participate in a Lenten Group Experience. You will soon be receiving a mailing with the full list of Lenten group gatherings. Every member and friend of this congregation has been sorted into local neighborhood groups. You are strongly invited to attend the group in your neighborhood. This approach to small groups this year has been motivated by several ideas.

Over the past three years since the arrival of Rev. Dr. Steven Koski, we have seen our Worship attendance nearly double. That means that there are over 200 people who are new to this community in the past two or so years. Many have been reluctant to become involved in

existing small groups since it is hard to be new to a group where everyone else knows each other so well. Having new groups where everyone is NEW makes it much more inviting to the new person.

Second, the book we have selected this year, *Same Kind of Different As Me*, deals with people who appear to be different on the surface but find that they share a common love for another person and each other. Finding our common connections in the midst of external differences is what Jesus has asked us to do when he said love one another, even your perceived enemies. Gathering as a diverse group will enhance your discussion of this book.

Finally, we are working to build up our local community ties with each other. By knowing who

of your local neighbors are also church participants, you will have even greater resources to call upon in times of need.

Of course, if for some reason you are unable to make your local group meeting or you want to continue to meet with an established group, feel welcome to attend any other group gathering that is more convenient.

Groups will be meeting in homes for six weeks for 1.5 to 2 hours. NOTE: We will be offering a special Sunday night gathering for families with children and providing free childcare and a catered dinner! We expect to have several study groups at this time, so we can accommodate all who are interested.

The books will continue to be on sale in The Commons on Sunday mornings for \$11 (cash or

check made out to Bob Pearson). If you are unable to afford this book in these challenging economic times, please ask and one will be provided at no cost.

We recommend you get the book in time to have completed it BEFORE the group process begins. Groups will start meeting after Ash Wednesday, which is February 25.

So this Lenten season we are asking you to choose Love, choose to gather with others to share stories, learn about each other and learn to Love even though we might see the other person as different than us.

For more information contact Bob Pearson (541.408.1380 or bob@brokentop.org) or Deb Klotz (541.385.3109 or dklotz@bendtel.net).

Children's Ministry

To volunteer, register or get more information, contact Janet Pearson, Director of Children and Family Ministry (382-4401 or jpearson@bendcable.com).

Summer Camps offer a variety of experiences

Whether you are in the first grade, a senior high student, or a family with young children, Presbytery of the Cascades Summer Camp Programs have something for you. This summer offers 14 different sessions, including a day camp at Menucha, youth camps at both Magruder on the coast and Suttle Lake in the mountains, and a Family Camp at Honeyman State Park. Open enrollment has begun, so you and your friends can register without being placed on a waiting list. Look at the summer programs at www.campcascades.org or in the brochures at the church. This will be another great summer filled with fun, new friends, and spiritual growth. Register online at the camp website or mail in your registration today. Don't wait, camps fill up fast. Email Biz Larkin or phone her at 503-460-3024 with questions.

Dr. Donna Beegle to Speak at First Presbyterian during Lent

During Lent we have a rare opportunity to hear a nationally known expert on poverty.

Dr. Donna Beegle will speak at the First Presbyterian Church on Tuesday, March 10th from 7 to 8:30 PM. She is an Oregon native. She was raised in poverty, but she currently holds a doctorate degree from Portland State University. She travels all over the U.S. lecturing and training people in the helping professions via her consulting firm, Combarriers in Portland. Dr. Beegle has worked with the Bend-LaPine

School District, COCC and other local non profits.

One of Dr. Beegle's primary concepts asks us to see poverty as a diversity issue. Poverty, like racism and sexism, involves discriminatory practices and biases. However, unlike racism and sexism, we don't discuss poverty. If we do not understand poverty, then we perpetuate it. If we agree that we must educate ourselves and our children about racism and sexism, then we must do the same with poverty. "Poverty needs to be placed at the center of our

struggle as a society toward achieving equity and social justice. Poverty adversely affects potential, opportunity, health and our economy, yet it is an issue we rarely learn about or discuss. Like racism, sexism and all bias, poverty, not addressed, will be perpetuated." [Dr. Beegle]

Dr. Beegle will be in Bend in March to speak with educators at COCC and to address the staff and board of the Partnership to End Poverty. One of our Session members, Sarah Holtzclaw, works for the Partnership, and it was

through her efforts that our church was able to convince Dr. Beegle to speak at our church. Don't miss this opportunity to hear Dr. Donna Beegle. Mark your calendars – Tuesday, March 10th; 7 to 8:30 PM. There is no admission fee, but please bring canned goods or a check to benefit the local food bank.

Guest Speaker, Karen Alford

Sunday, March 8, there will be a gathering at noon in Heritage Hall to learn about Indonesia. Karen Alford, Les and Judy Alford's daughter, will make a presentation about her life and work in Indonesia. The Fold will serve a spaghetti lunch and receive donations for lunch for the Youth Mission Trip fund. No reservations are necessary, but there will be a sign-up sheet in The Commons to give The Fold an idea of how much food to prepare.

This will be an exciting event in that Karen and her family are long-time

members in our church family. Many people will be interested in Karen's story. Young people will also be inspired by hearing her commitment to service and adventure in another part of the world.

Karen Alford became a member of First Presbyterian Church shortly after she and her family moved to Bend in 1987. She graduated from Bend Senior High School in 1991 and from the University of Montana in 1995 with a degree in Wildlife Biology. She then entered the Peace Corps and spent the next

three years in Morocco, living with a Berber tribe and working as a biologist in the High Atlas Mountains. During this time she developed an interest in providing medical care in Third World countries. After her return to the U.S., she entered Nursing School in Tampa, Florida, and, in 2007 completed her Nurse Practitioner degree.

Through her church, Bayshore Baptist Church in Tampa, Karen became affiliated with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, which is a non-Southern Baptist umbrella organization for

Baptist missionary work. CBF commissioned her for missionary service in late summer 2007 after she accepted a job on a medical riverboat in Southeast Asia. Since March 2008 she has served as the director and senior medical person on the riverboat, seeing upwards of 100-170 patients per day. She is currently in the U.S. to visit the many people who provide financial support for her and for the operation of the medical riverboat.

Youth Ministry

To volunteer or register or for more information, contact Greg Bolt, Director of Youth and Family Ministry (382-4401 or gbolt@bendfp.org).

In April this year, after the closing ceremonies of LOGOs night (March 18), we aren't just going to sit on our hands. We are planning a wonderful opportunity for the youth and their families to get involved with; to stay involved with the learning and spiritual growth not only of the youth themselves but for the entire church community. Each Wednesday from 5:30-8:00 we are going to have different opportunities for parents and youth to learn from each other.

The first Wednesday of each month we will have a session called "**Open Source Parenting.**" This will be an opportunity for panel discussions with both youth and adults regarding issues such as the internet, healthy friendships, grieving, spiritual disciplines, etc.

The second Wednesday will be "**Movie Night.**" We will show two movies, one for The Flock and one for The Fold, and have discussions about them. Movies will be things like Narnia, Spider-Man 2 & 3, Juno, Bridge to Terebithia, Golden Compass, Evan Almighty, etc.

The third Wednesday will be "**Book Club.**" The Flock and the Fold will meet together to discuss books like *The Twilight Saga*, *The Chronicles of Narnia*, *A Wrinkle in Time*, etc.).

The fourth Wednesday will be "**Bible Study.**" Both the Flock and the Fold will have an opportunity to discuss books of the Bible, little known stories of the Bible, particular passages, etc.

If there is a fifth Wednesday (April, July, September), it will be "**Fun Night.**" This will be a time for the Flock and the Fold to just hang out, play games, and have some fun unstructured time.

We hope you come, enjoy, and learn with us about all of the ways that our faith impacts our life and how we can together grow spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and as a community. If you have any questions, would like to help out, or would like to be a part of this wonderful ministry opportunity, contact Greg at gbolt@bendfp.org.

Blessings,
Greg Bolt

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL (10:30-11:30)

The Flock (6th-8th Grade), Youth Center
The Fold (9th-12^h Grade), Heritage Hall
Confirmation Class (8th and up), Prayer Room (10:15-11:15)

DO YOU NEED SOME YARD WORK DONE?? The Fold (9th-12th Graders) will be available to do odd jobs around your house or yard helping to raise funds for their mission trip to West Virginia next summer. If you have any questions or would like to set up a time for us to come and work, contact Greg (gbolt@bendfp.org).

UPCOMING LOGOS NIGHT TOPICS FOR THE FOLD!

- February 18 COSmack (Bring your snow shovels or brooms...We're cleaning up the neighborhood.)
- February 25 Ash Wednesday Service
- March 4 Meet John Calvin Session 1
(We want to do this two-session series because 2009 is the 500th Anniversary of John Calvin's birth. Since he played such a big part in how we came to be as Reformed Christians and Presbyterians, we think it might be neat to learn about him.)
- March 11 Meet John Calvin Session 2

DO YOU HAVE AN INTEREST IN PLAYING MUSIC, IN JAMMING? Come to Heritage Hall Wednesdays from 4:30-5:30 to sit with youth and adults as we gather around music and share our gifts with each other. Contact Greg Bolt (gbolt@bendfp.org) for more details.

March Birthdays

1 Phyllis Neumann Joan Peterson	Julie Lyche Dan Torrence	Dorothy Shepard
2 Stephanie Seed	13 Georgia Gallagher	21 Joanne Anderson
3 Kathy Higuchi Kim Hogue Lonnie Waak	Jose Phillips Debra Warrenburg Maggie Weller	Harriet Langmas
4 Brigitte Dysart Barbara Holmes	14 Fred Newton Claude Sandell Grant Still	23 Mary Brelsford Ron Calkins David Starkweather
5 Madyson Love	15 Alegria Kent Rosabelle Root	24 Brian Case Dale Fleischer Laura Jo Gildersleeve Lola Pemberton
6 Hayden Love	16 Donnie Castleman Austin Souto-Maior Elizabeth Stephan	26 Will Ainsworth Sam Ainsworth Janet Karstedt
7 Gary Cashwell Rosanna Duberow Anita Gassner Edith Gilpin Norman Girdler	17 Patricia Achterman Gwen Anderson Kim Baney Colleen Pickett	27 Sandy Hill 28 Mary Johnston Sue Nell Phillips
8 Bill Burwell Valeri Jones Brenda Simpson Madison Smith	18 David Sheldon	29 Phillip Aines Elmer Boyd Mark Kavanagh George Wells Lyle Zurflu
9 Molly Dugan Chuck Thomson	19 Sandi Carmiencke Devin Cash Janice Dorsett	30 Emily Dudley Jake Paltzer
10 Richard Nelson Anna Pritchett Jon Rhoads Megan Sommers	Irene Dudley Joe Gardner Kelsey Scott Shayla Wilson	31 Lorinda Robinson Grace West
12 Don Kelly	20 Wayne Boone	
12Carolynn Klindt- Stoops	20 Brynn Pierce	

March Anniversaries

- 1 Todd and Lorri Taylor
- 11 Robert and Rhonda Chesney
- 12 Richard and Susan Warner
- 17 Tralve and Lynda Hathorn
Alex and Mary Johnston
Gregg and Barbara Munster
- 19 Jerry and Karolyn Brockmeyer
- 31 Al and Teddie Allison

Prayer Ministry

Write your prayer requests on the blue cards found in the pews or on the shelf under the prayer request box at the back of the sanctuary. The confidential requests intended for the pastors only should be placed in the prayer box and all others placed in the offering plate during worship.

Prayer Chain

If you would like to place a member or attendee of the congregation or an immediate family member on our church's prayer chain, please contact Elizabeth Stephan in the church office. If you would like to join this prayer ministry and be added to the e-mail or call list in order to pray for others, Elizabeth will see that your name is added to the prayer chain list.

Deacons need your help

1. We need to re-supply our cookies/quick breads/bars to be used for memorial services.
2. We need food items that can be taken to families in need. If you are making a big batch of soup, casseroles, chili, etc. please consider making enough for a couple of additional people. When we know of a need within our church family, we can deliver prepared items from the freezer.

Your contributions should be placed in the Heritage Hall chest freezer. Please be sure to label the food with the Deacons name and the date you are placing the items in the freezer.

3. If you are willing to occasionally supply a struggling family with a full meal, please call or e-mail Elizabeth Stephan, Care Ministry Coordinator, and she will put your name on a call list that she will use when she becomes aware of a need for a meal. 382-4401 or estephan@bendfp.org
4. Rides to the 10:45 church service for a woman who lives at Bend Villa Court. If you can't make this commitment every Sunday, please consider making the commitment one Sunday out of the month.

Please contact Elizabeth Stephan (382-4401) if this is a way you can serve.

Sacred Art of Living Lectures This Week at FPC

Interfaith lecturer and author, Rabbi Rami Shapiro, will give two lectures on Friday, February 20, and Saturday, February 21, at First Presbyterian Church of Bend.

The Friday lecture, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., is "The Sacred Art of Loving-kindness: Exploring the Common Heart of All Religions." The Saturday lecture, from 9:00 a.m. to Noon, is "Seeking Wisdom through the Divine Feminine: Experiencing God's Creative Energy Within and Without."

Tickets are \$35 per person per event or \$60 per

person for both events. Tickets may be purchased online at www.sacredartofliving.org/circle-of-life.htm or by calling the Sacred Art of Living Center at 541-383-4179.

The event is brought to Central Oregon through the Sacred Art of Living's Circle of Life Inspirational Speaker Series. This speaker series provides a semi-annual opportunity for Central Oregonians and anyone in the Pacific Northwest to hear world-class authors and spiritual teachers. Speakers are chosen because of their outstanding reputation in

areas of interfaith spirituality, personal development and global wisdom.

The Sacred Art of Living is a non-profit educational institute for spiritual formation with programs that encourage people to discover the sacred in every aspect of life. For more information, talk to Katrina Starkweather (318-0101) or Steven Koski or go to: www.sacredartofliving.org.

Remember in Prayer

Judy Beam

The Family of Dora Tornbom. Dora passed away earlier this month. No services will be planned until Dora's son returns from out of the country in approximately six weeks.

Barbara Hyta and her family in the death of Barbara's husband Neil. A memorial service was held at the church on Tuesday, February 17.

Congratulations to Ledlie Szaraniec, the proud grandmother of Jessica Marie Engum who was born February 8.

Gathered Together

All are invited to gather together for prayer, silent and spoken, for our church, community, and God's world. We meet the 1st and 3rd Tuesday mornings, 11:15-12:00 noon in the Prayer Room.

Support Groups

Care Givers Support Group – For those currently providing care for a loved one.

Scheduled Meeting Dates: The 1st and 3rd Monday of the month

Time: 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Meeting Place: Prayer Room

Facilitator - Elizabeth Stephan - Care Ministry Coordinator

For questions regarding this group, contact Elizabeth Stephan (382-4401 or estephan@bendfp.org).

You do not need to sign up to attend.

Depression Support Group – For those experiencing depression themselves or close to someone who is experiencing depression.

Scheduled Meeting Dates: 8 weeks beginning on Wednesday, January 21

Time: 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

Meeting Place: Prayer Room

Facilitator - Laurie Koski - Clinical Social Worker

For questions regarding this group, contact Elizabeth Stephan (382-4401 or estephan@bendfp.org).

You do not need to sign up to attend.

Grief Support Group – For those experiencing grief or loss.

Scheduled Meeting Dates: 6 weeks beginning on Thursday, January 15

Time: 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Meeting Place: Adult Education Room - the last room on the right across from Heritage Hall

Facilitator - Elizabeth Stephan - Care Ministry Coordinator

For questions regarding this group, contact Elizabeth Stephan (382-4401 or estephan@bendfp.org).

You do not need to sign up to attend.

Care Navigators

CareNavigators and TMT Home Remodelers will sponsor *Navigating The Future* at the Bend Senior Center on Thursday, February 26, 2009, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. The complimentary, interactive evening will explore self-directed in-home care services and home improvement remodeling or adaptation concepts. Enjoy wine, appetizers and raffle drawings for local area restaurants. For additional information, contact 541-306-6754 or register online at <http://navigatingthefuture.eventbrite.com>.

Interfaith Climate Stewardship Advocacy Days

A few years ago a carload of people was headed to Salem for the Interfaith Climate Stewardship Advocacy Days put on by Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon. We encountered heavy ice on the highways and turned back.

This year (God Willing and the Creeks Don't Rise) we will be headed off again. Only this year we have some support from our church neighbors in Salem. Keiser Presbyterian

Church in Salem and, some other churches, are opening their homes to us Tuesday evening, March 3, and providing sleeping accommodations so we do not have to make the trip to Salem in one day. We will be carpooling the afternoon of March 3 and will stay with families that night so we can attend the conference on March 4 from 8:30-4:00.

We would love to have at least two carloads of

people from our area attend the conference. The keynote speaker is Gov. Ted Kulongoski. The registration fee is \$15 (\$10 for seniors) if you sign up by February 20 and \$20 after that.

Here's how you can download a brochure: www.emoregon.org/pdfs/2009_Interfaith_Climate_Stewardship_Advocacy_Day_brochure..pdf (If for some reason this does not work, go to Ecumenical Ministries of

Oregon and look for this event and click on it there.)

This is a chance to explore climate justice issues and learn how to effectively offer your views to legislators. Please let me know if you plan to attend and I will arrange carpools. Let's not forget that God asks us to put our beliefs into action.

Thiel Larson

Monetary Support for Happy Learners Preschool

Albertson's grocery store has a program called the Community Partner's Program. Via this program, you can support one or more charities. Basically, when you sign up for this program, Albertson's will donate your 'savings' to the charity of your choice automatically.

Happy Learners Preschool at our church is supported by the Albertson's Community Partner's Program. There is an '800' number to call to join this program. Simply dial the number – 1-877-932-7948 – and give your contact information, including any Albertson's card number that you already have, and then

give the preschool information: Happy Learners Preschool at First Presbyterian Church, 230 NE 9th Street, Bend, OR 97701. Albertson's will mail checks directly to HLP at our church. Thanks!

- Every day men, women and children in our community go to bed hungry.
- Our church takes your non-perishable food donations to local food banks for distribution year-round.
- Thank you for continuing to keep our shopping cart in the Commons full!
- Checks are always welcome made out to St. Vincent De Paul Food Bank.

Airline Miles Needed

If you have more airline miles than you can use, the Mission Ministry Team would ask you to consider donating them for mission trip use. This could expand our church's mission team outreach and broaden our understanding of distant projects. Please contact Mission Ministries Coordinator Tom Hall at 593-1103.



2009 Kits for Kids

The Board of Presbyterian Women has unanimously agreed that our mission this year (and in the foreseeable future) will be to coordinate with the Family Access Network (FAN) once again to provide hygiene bags to homeless school students in the Bend-LaPine School District.

Last year First Presbyterian provided almost 550 kits; this year the number of homeless students has already exceeded 600 and is still growing.

It is our vision to invite other faith groups to join this effort and make it truly a community project.

This year we plan to tackle this project in phases. Phase I, now under way, is to inform and get commitments from other churches and faith groups in Bend.

Phase II (which will run from now until mid-June) will be to gather material for the bags and get them assembled for the last phase.

Phase III in August is when the bags will be filled and given to FAN.

Your enthusiastic support last year ensured its success. We again ask your support by:

- financial contributions
- donating material for bags
- sewing bags and/or filling a bag (or bags) with hygiene items

Because of storage problems, we will not be actively seeking items for the kits until the latter part of July. If individuals

want to fill the bags earlier and store them in your homes, that is certainly welcomed.

Harriet Langmas (langmas@bendcable.com) has invited any/all who would like to come to her home (she has five sewing machines) on Thursdays anytime between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. for bag sewing parties.

For additional information/questions, contact Helen/Jim Smith at 382-8502 or hsmith@bendcable.com.

Study and Fellowship

CPR Circle will meet Tuesday, February 24, at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Laura Jo Gildersleeve (61571 Odell Lake Drive, 389-1097) for a baked potato dinner followed by an evening of fellowship and prayer. Deb Klotz, Congregational Life Coordinator, will present a program on the new members classes that are offered by the church. This is an open circle; all women of the church are invited. Please bring a potato topping to share. Co-hostesses are Sue Eichner and Sabra Cleveland.

CIRCLE 3 will meet on Monday, March 9, at 1:15 p.m. in the Adult Center. Join us for our enlightening study of the books of Ruth and Jonah. Call Ginny Boone (389-3128) if you would like additional information.

CIRCLE 2 will meet at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 10, in the Adult Center continuing with the fifth lesson of the Gospel of Luke, led by Cathy Casebolt. All women in the church are invited. For more information, call Betty Armer (388-2347).

MEN'S BOOK STUDY GROUP meets in the Library every Monday from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. Come join us.

MEN'S DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY Tuesday mornings, 9:45 - 11:00 a.m. at the home of Chuck Piersee in the Touchmark Community. It's an open discussion based on ideas and texts from the Bible. As the name suggests, we try to discover what the Bible is saying to us. This year we are studying the Gospel of John. All are welcome. Call 312-1628 for directions.

THURSDAY CENTERING PRAYER GROUP meets on Thursdays, 12:00-1:00 p.m. in the Prayer Room. For more information, please call Linda (318-0407).

LISTENING HEARTS is a contemplative prayer group practicing centering prayer together and reflecting on the spiritual journey. We meet Tuesday evenings, 7:00 - 8:15 p.m., in the Prayer Room (we don't meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month). For more information, please call Lorraine (318-0384).

EARLY BIRD BIBLE STUDY - Wednesday mornings 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. in the ADULT CENTER. - "Who Do You Say That I Am?" This was the question that Jesus asked his disciples. We too may ask that question, or it may be asked of us. What answer would we give? The study is focusing on this question as we look at the answer through the different lenses of the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. How do these gospels tell the same story, but each from their own unique perspective?

THE TILTERS is a group of women who meet to read and discuss books related to faith. We are beginning to read *Same Kind of Different As Me: A Modern-Day Slave, an International Art Dealer, & the Unlikely Woman Who Bound Them Together* by Ron Hall & Denver Moore with Lynn Vincent. Join us on Thursday mornings, 8:00-9:15am, in the library. Call Cheryl Shay at 526-0964 with questions.

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS meets from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. in the Youth Center on the first and third Tuesday of the month. We invite you to join us as we study the book of

Ruth and grow as friends in Christ. For more information, contact Leslie at 330-6932.

THE TRAVELER'S BIBLE STUDY Women, as you plan your winter activities, consider The Traveler's Bible Study, which meets the 2nd and 4th Thursday at 1:30 p.m. in the Youth Center. For more information, call Carol Piersee (312-1628).

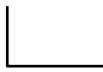
First Friday Fellowship Most know about Habitat for Humanity. Come and hear Director Sophie Paez tell about another "face" of this organization. The date is Friday, March 6, at 11:30 in Heritage Hall for soup and salad. We welcome guests, new members, visitors and friends.

Don't forget: Sign up on the easel in the Commons or call Ray and Joyce Ownby (388-1334) or Joyce Purcell (383-2573).

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Community Bulletin Board

Faith Notes will include a community bulletin board section for the listing of events not related to church activities. The bulletin board will contain a disclaimer that these activities do not necessarily represent the theology of the church and that they are not necessarily endorsed by the church. The listings will be brief and will be informational only; they will not contain position statements of the party submitting them.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY— Wednesdays, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m., in the Adult Ed. Room.