

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

230 NE Ninth Street  
Bend, OR 97701  
Phone: 541.382.4401  
Fax: 541.317.2838  
[www.bendfp.org](http://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

#### Next Faith Notes

##### Deadline

February 9 at Noon

Next Publication:

February 18, 2009

### Pastor's Column

The Bible says,

“So speak encouraging words to one another. Build up hope so you’ll all be together in this, no one left out, no one left behind . . .

Gently encourage the stragglers, and reach out for the exhausted, pulling them to their feet. Be patient with each person, attentive to individual needs.” (1 Thessalonians 5.11, 14, 15)

Our worship theme for February is Life Preservers in the Storm. Every one knows what it feels like to be in a tiny boat on a stormy sea with no oars. We are to be Life Preservers for one another.

Anne Lamott once said that life is one big emergency room and we’re all in it together. Either you are the one being cared for or the one doing the caring. And, eventually, your roles will change.

Someone shared with me this past week that she considered worship a safe place to be vulnerable. She came to worship struggling under the weight of some heavy burdens. She knew that it would be okay to weep. She didn’t have to pretend that everything was okay. She felt embraced and encouraged in the love of community gathered for worship.

It is not our strength that unites us. It is our vulnerability. What we share most in common are our tears and our fears. Our motto is “All Are Welcome, Always.” I would add to this motto by saying when we say “All” we mean the “whole” of us. Your tears and your fears are welcome in worship. We are to be Life Preservers for one another in the storm.

I invite each of us to see it as our role to make sure worship is an inviting, encouraging and safe place.

“Speak encouraging words . . .

Build up hope . . .

Recognize we’re all in this together . . .

Make sure no one feels left out or left behind . . .

Gently encourage the stragglers . . .

Reach out for the exhausted and pull them to their feet . . .

Be patient to each person . . .

Be attentive to the needs of others.”

I encourage you to pay attention to those around you. Look out for those who

(Continued from page 1)

may be new. After “How are you?” wait for an honest answer open to receive the gift of another’s heart. Give others the benefit of the doubt assuming that every one is struggling with something.

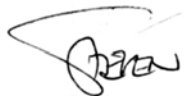
The seas may be a bit rough but we’re in this boat together and God’s right there in the boat with us. Together we’ll get through this!

I am sure you know someone . . . neighbor, friend, family member . . . who could use a life preserver in the storm. I ask you to make a special point of inviting a guest to join you for worship in the month of February.

We will welcome as our special guests leading music for both worship services on Sunday, February 15, the Gospel Choir of the Cascades. Don’t miss it! It will be inspirational!

Remember, inhale the gift of each sunrise, look for the joy hidden under every rock, and be the Grace of God to someone today!

Yours in Christ’s love,



P.S. Mark your calendars for Wednesday, February 25 and join us for a special Ash Wednesday service at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary to begin the journey of Lent.

Our theme for Lent will be Choose to Love.

We will be reading together the book “Same Kind of Different as Me.” There will be small groups meeting for six weeks during Lent exploring the themes of this wonderful book (prejudice, homelessness, sickness and healing, forgiveness, faith and friendship). These themes will be our focus in worship through Lent. Last year we had 250 people sharing this small group experience. Our goal this year is to have 400 of us participating in small groups. Please plan to be part of this exciting journey!

## Thank You

With gratitude and appreciation we thank Sheri Lanegan and Jim Meng for their faithful monthly service as head ushers on Sunday mornings. As long time

leaders at services, Sheri and Jim have brought a warm welcome and consistent attentiveness to the needs of worshipers as they arrive in our

sanctuary. We extend many thanks and grateful love to them.

## Blood Pressure Clinic

The next blood pressure clinic sponsored by the Congregational Nurse/Health Care Ministry of Deacons will be February 15 following each worship service.

## Adult Education

### February 8, 15, 22 – "How Green is Genesis?"

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

This is a four-week class taught on the four Sunday mornings of 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 will be available. (He will be by the Bethlehem Inn sign-up after services. The cost of the booklet is \$1.)

### February 8, 15 "Understanding Iran"

10:45 a.m.—Adult Center Facilitated by Stan Hanna.

The 1979 hostage crisis marked the end of diplomatic relations between the United States and Iran. Currently, relationships between the two countries are quite hostile. Iran is accused of working to develop nuclear weapons despite sanctions placed by the United Nations.

The U.S. accuses Iran of supporting terrorist groups. Occasionally, one hears that the U.S. government may take military action against Iran, possibly to knock out their nuclear capabilities.

*February 8* – Religion in Iran: Muslim and Christian.

*February 15* – Politics in Iran: Bridging the Gap.

## 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 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.



## Choosing to Love

### Lenten Groups Experience

We are going to have an ALL Church group experience this year for Lent. In the past two years we have had great participation in our group book studies. This year we are going to go all out to get even more people in this community into a group to grow together this Lenten season.

Many people in this church are already in groups; some have been meeting for many years. But this year we are asking everyone to move a bit out of their comfort zone and gather with a random group of people from their neighborhood! You should continue your existing groups, but we strongly ask each person to make a bit more time to participate in this new type of group experience.

The book that has been chosen to be used as a conversation starter (note: this is not a traditional “book study”) is *Same Kind of Different As Me*. This is a self-published, best-selling account of the

lives of Denver Moore and Ron Hall, two men from different walks of life who found unconditional love for each other in spite of their perceived differences.

The discussions will cover the six themes of prejudice, homelessness, sickness/healing, forgiveness, friendship, and faith. Working together in a group that you may feel a bit uncertain about will allow everyone to experience a bit of being the stranger in a gathering.

Groups will be meeting in homes for six weeks for 1½ 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 that we can accommodate all who are interested.

Every member and friend of the church will be pre-assigned to a group in their local neighborhood.

We strongly encourage everyone to go to the group that is assigned to them. If for some reason you are unable to make your local group meeting, you will be welcome to attend any other group gathering that is more convenient.

The books are on sale in the Commons 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 to you at no cost). We recommend that 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.

The focus of the groups will be learning about each other and hearing our stories, more than specifically studying the book. When you read the book, this might make more sense; it is a set of stories taken out of two people’s lives and how they intertwined. Pastor

Koski will be using the seven themes for his Lenten Sermon series, leading up to the Easter promise of God’s unconditional Love for us all.

You will be receiving a mailing in mid-February with all the group assignments and leaders and locations. Times and dates for meeting will be up to the group to determine. We will publish the times and locations the week of Ash Wednesday.

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).

## Peacemaking

This year the Peacemaking Team will focus on how poverty relates to justice and peace. Study guides have been ordered and educational activities will be developed. The team is taking personal time to meditate and reflect on both the subject of poverty and our personal capacity for peace during this Lenten season. Meeting times have been changed to the first Monday of the month at 10:30 a.m. in the library. Please join us on March 2.

- Janet Whitney, Co-Chair, Peacemaking Team

## Singers Wanted

All singers are invited to join the Chancel Choir as they prepare Fauré's "Requiem" for performance during the Good Friday service at First Presbyterian on April 10. One of the world's most beloved choral works, this setting of the Requiem Mass

stands apart from other well known settings because of its consistent tone of deep soothing and comfort. The Chancel Choir will be joined in this performance by the Sisters Community Chorus and their director George Larson. A small orchestra will accompany.

Rehearsals for the performance are every Wednesday evening from now through April 8. Please contact Clyde Thompson at 385-7229 for more information.

## Singers Wanted for New Choir

The Contemplative Service, which is held on Wednesday nights, is creating a choir. If you are interested in using your gift of voice in this prayerful, reflective service, please contact Katrina Starkweather (678-0613).

## 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](mailto:jpearson@bendcable.com)).

### Children's Choir

#### Sing Praises

The kindergarten through fifth grade choir will begin meeting between services on February 8. Singers meet downstairs in Fellowship Hall **from 10:10 AM to 11:45 . The choir is preparing to share their gift of singing in worship monthly through the school year.** Julie Cash is directing and Lori Brizee is providing piano support. Thank you to Julie and Lori for providing a fun and meaningful experience for our children. You can contact Julie at [Julie@thecashs.com](mailto:Julie@thecashs.com) or 549-1663.

### Treasure Quest

#### The Lord's Prayer

Our focus for the month of February in Treasure Quest is the Lord's Prayer.

- Prayer is the way that humans and God communicate.
- The Lord's Prayer is universal, spoken in hundreds of languages around the world, uniting Christians globally in their faith.
- What is the relationship we have with God when we address God as "Father"?
- What does Jesus mean by "thy kingdom come"?
- How do we discern God's will when we pray?

- How does God provide us with our "daily bread"?
- How does the plea for God to forgive us our debts translate into our behavior toward our debtors?

Anytime we say this prayer, a particular phrase seems to speak to us more than others. The next time we pray, it may be a different phrase. And while saying the prayer, we know that we are bonded in fellowship and grace with other believers around the world. We live in a time, as always, when the world is divided on many issues and the Church is divided into many denominations. What a gift Jesus gave us when he taught us how to pray.

## News from Bolivia

In their third letter from the Kents from Bolivia, Brad describes the election day scene as Bolivians go to the polls for a referendum on a new constitution. We now know that the constitution was adopted - 59% - 41%. Read Brad's letter and a report of the election at [http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20090126/ap\\_on\\_re\\_la\\_am\\_ca/lt\\_bolivia\\_referendum](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20090126/ap_on_re_la_am_ca/lt_bolivia_referendum)

## 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](mailto:gbolt@bendfp.org)).

### **SWEETHEART PANCAKE BREAKFAST FEBRUARY 15!**

Come to Heritage Hall **Sunday, February 15**, to enjoy some pancakes with your sweetheart! The youth will be serving deliciousness from 8:00-11:30 a.m. All proceeds will go to the 2009 Fold Mission Trip to West Virginia. If you have any questions, would like to help, or would like to RSVP, contact Greg (541-350-8074 or [gbolt@bendfp.org](mailto:gbolt@bendfp.org))

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

The Flock (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade) – Youth Center  
 The Fold (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>h</sup> Grade) – Heritage Hall  
 Confirmation Class (8<sup>th</sup> and up) – Prayer Room (10:15-11:15)

**DO YOU NEED SOME YARD WORK DONE??** The Fold (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:gbolt@bendfp.org)).

### **UPCOMING LOGOS NIGHT TOPICS FOR THE FOLD!**

February 4 - Cooking and Booking at Bob and Lori's house  
 February 11 - Nooma Video  
 February 18 - COSmack (Bring your snow shovels or brooms, we're cleaning up the neighborhood)  
 February 25 - Ash Wednesday Service

**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](mailto:gbolt@bendfp.org)) for more details.

**WELCOME TO THE FOLD!!!** Come and join our Senior High Youth Group (9<sup>th</sup>-12 Grades), **THE FOLD**, a community seeking to connect high school students to the unconditional love and compassion of Jesus Christ. Our Wednesday night program (5:30-8:00) includes worship, dinner, lots of fun, and fellowship. Contact Greg ([gbolt@bendfp.org](mailto:gbolt@bendfp.org)) for more details or to sign up contact Charlotte Brady (541-330-6500).

**COME JOIN THE FLOCK!!!** Our Middle School Youth Group (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grades), **THE FLOCK**, meets on Wednesdays (5:30-8:00); come to meet friends, to have fun, to share a laugh, and to get connected to the unconditional love and compassion of Jesus Christ. Our Wednesday LOGOs night program includes worship, dinner, Bible study, and recreation. Contact Greg ([gbolt@bendfp.org](mailto:gbolt@bendfp.org)) for more details, or to sign up contact Charlotte Brady (541-330-6500).

Blessings,  
 Greg

## New @ your CHURCH LIBRARY

Last November at our Writer's Event, David Burns presented us with a copy of his novel, *DAY FOLLOW NIGHT: From Chaos To Redemption*, and delighted us in reading an excerpt from it.

About the Author... Burns wanted to be a writer since the age of six. He became a newspaper correspondent, reporter and feature writer for 20 years, writing features for The Oregonian, the Oregon Journal, the Hillsboro Argus, Tonawanda Times, and Niagara Publishing Group. He's a graduate of the Institute of Children's Literature and Portland Community College. *Day Follow Night* is his first published novel. David is currently writing his memoirs and a variety of children's stories and many other projects. He has been married to wife Susie for almost 40 years and is proud of his two married daughters,

wonderful sons-in-law, and fabulous, energetic grandchildren. He still misses his "writing partner" and best friend, Chance, an Australian Shepherd/Border Collie mix, who went on up the trail ahead toward Home last January. David and Susie Burns were welcomed as new members last year and both are sharing their creative gifts with us.

The book presents a story of an orphan boy, Everett Carson, from the Pacific Northwest, who triumphantly survives a vividly-drawn violent upbringing; growing up, struggling with PTSD and depression. He joins the U.S. Navy and is trained as a Sonar Technician. Everett's Navy days take place during the turbulent 1960s, and he spends four years on a destroyer chasing submarines in the oceans and seas. His life's journey takes him into hair-raising and often

humorous circumstances. All the while, Everett's episodes with PTSD and alcoholism take their toll on his psyche. His heart is won by "a wholesome Christian gal" who comes to his aid in immeasurable ways. A thrilling showdown and climax occurs on the Oregon Coast.

In the end, author Burns would call this a novel of redeeming hope! On special display @ your Church Library.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!**  
Church Library turns 33!  
Come and join the celebration on Sunday, February 15. The Library Team will be hosting coffee fellowship and opening the doors wide, welcoming all to "check us out" and see what the age of 33 looks like!

## Help FPC Reduce Expenses!

Receive your Faith Notes by email and cut down on paper and postage. If you'd like to receive the newsletter via email, email Janice (jemerson@bendfp.org) to sign up!

## 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.

## Session Highlights

At its January 20 meeting, Session:

- Approved the 2009 operating budget which will be presented to the congregation at the annual gathering on Saturday, February 7, at 5 p.m. at Bend High School. Elders will also be available during both Adult Education class times during February to answer questions about the budget. Copies of the 2009 budget are available in the office.
- Approved a request from Russ Henning that the church charter a Venture Crew. Russ explained that girls lose interest in Girl Scouting at about the seventh or eighth grade, but they enjoy outdoor activities. A Venture Crew gives girls an opportunity to get into the same programming as Boy Scouts and to get into the outdoors. The chartering organization provides a place to meet and in some cases helps with funding; however, Russ said that there would be no need for funding. The activities would be outdoor related and would include camping and rock climbing; the girls will decide on the activities. Initially the group will meet every other week and never more than once a week for 1½ hours. They would not meet the same night as the Boy Scouts.
- Approved the 2009 allocated expenditures from the First Presbyterian Church of Bend Foundation.
- Heard a report from Ron Carver, Nominating Committee chair, that the committee hopes to have a full slate of nominees for elders and deacons in the class of 2012 to present at the annual gathering for election.

A copy of the January 20 Session minutes and the December financial statements are on file in the Session notebook in the Library. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the clerk or one of the Ruling Elders. The next Session meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 17, at 6 p.m. in the Library. The Session will hold a retreat on Saturday, February 21, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sharon Lichti, Clerk of Session (388-9982 or [slichti@bendcable.com](mailto:slichti@bendcable.com))

Ruling Elders:

Todd Ainsworth, 598-9210  
 Teddie Allison, 317-8978  
 Ron Carver, 389-4226  
 Brian Cash, 549-1663  
 Aelea Hall, 539-1103  
 Lynda Hathorn, 388-2736

Scott Hill, 383-3964  
 Sarah Holtzclaw, 318-7496  
 Chuck Piersee, 312-1628  
 Sue Nell Phillips, 817-3131  
 Spencer Schock, 385-6794

## Remember in Prayer

Pauline Wade, Jim Norton, Amy Tracy, Dianne Crocker, Marty Murphy.

### *Thank You*

I want to thank all of you on the prayer chain for keeping Jason Fauth on the prayer list this last year. Jason returned home safely from Afghanistan on January 13. Thanks for your faithfulness.

Frances Hampel

## Gathered Together

All are invited to gather together for prayer, silent and spoken, for our church, community, and God's world. We meet the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 PM  
 Meeting Place: Prayer Room  
 Facilitator - Elizabeth Stephan - Care Ministry Coordinator  
 For questions regarding this group contact Elizabeth Stephan 382-4401 or [estephan@bendfp.org](mailto: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 PM  
 Meeting Place: Prayer Room  
 Facilitator - Laurie Koski - Clinical Social Worker  
 For questions regarding this group, contact Elizabeth Stephan 382-4401 or

[estephan@bendfp.org](mailto: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  
 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](mailto:estephan@bendfp.org)  
 You do not need to sign up to attend.

## INVITATION

### First Presbyterian 2009 Lenten Devotional

The Spiritual Formation Team hopes to publish a 2009 Lenten Devotional incorporating a theme of “Unconditional Love: Appreciating His Journey to the Cross.” This simple booklet will be made available to all at First Presbyterian as a gift to inspire deeper prayer and reflection during Lent.

Your written contributions are needed! Everyone is encouraged to submit,

individually or collectively, written “pages” so that in 2009 we will have an original expression of insight to serve as one day’s reminder, lesson, observation, or reflection for each of the Forty Days of Lent. Your story from the heart on the above subject will be a wonderful addition to the final product! Simple complementary artwork can be included as well.

Susie and David Burns and Bill Dittler will edit, lay out and publish this offering. Please let the Burnses know if you intend to submit material for the booklet. Their email address: [davidandsusie@bendbroadband.com](mailto:davidandsusie@bendbroadband.com); their phone number: 541-312-2195.

The final deadline for all written submissions to the Burnses is February 15.

You may wish to cite a scriptural reference,

followed by a message, and summarized with a prayer. Other styles are also welcome. Perhaps God would have you just relate a story from your heart about the theme or subject. You can submit your contribution in handwritten, typed, or e-mailed versions to the Church Office or to David, Susie or Bill. Suggested entry length is 650 words or less.

## Environmental Conference Notes

A huge thank you to all who participated and helped make the Conference "And God Saw That It Was Good" successful. What a team of caring and giving individuals! We hosted 120 people for the lecture on Friday Night and 57 people all day Saturday.

We asked people to bring their own coffee mugs and use real dishes, bowls, and silverware to serve lunch and snacks. Our team washed those dishes downstairs in less than an hour.

We asked participants to scrape their own dishes (just as Logos does each Wednesday) and put all

food waste into the cans provided to each table. The miracle is that we generated less than one-half garbage can of waste and only a third of a can of food waste for the entire conference.

It just proves to me that when we ask each person to be aware and share responsibility for our environment, they really rise to the occasion and make it happen.

A huge Thank You to Steven Koski and Mark Brocker, who gave such inspiring sermons on the Environment, and for both the Praise Team and the Chancel Choir who inspired us by their

wonderful music. I Praise God for your gifts to our Creator.

The Green Team has a suggestion for those of you who put on luncheons and dinners at the church. This is something we used to do at the church and was quite successful. If everyone were asked to bring their own table service and there were some extra plates and silverware available to those who forgot or didn't get the word, the dish washing detail would be greatly reduced and we would use less paper and plastic products.

One of the presenters at

our conference is the distributor of GREENWARE, bio-degradable cups, plates, silverware, garbage bags, and napkins. These products are made from corn and other natural materials. He says you can even eat the plates and silverware. (So if you don't like what they are serving, ...) His name and e-mail address is :Owen Mitz, [lavaedge@gmail.com](mailto:lavaedge@gmail.com)

Please let me know if we can help you plan in any way.

Thiel Larson and The Green Ministry Team

## 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) to once again 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 underway 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](mailto: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](mailto: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. 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, February 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, February 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 James 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday at 1:30 p.m. in the Youth Center. For more information, call Carol Piersee (312-1628).

**February First Friday** Save Friday, February 6, for a program on "Changing Attitudes on Aging." Betty Fairham will use humor and dance to entertain us.

Soup and salad will be served in Heritage Hall at 11:30 a.m. We welcome visitors, guests, and new members. Invite a friend and join in our fellowship.

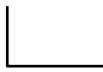
Don't forget: Sign up on the easel in the Commons or call Ray and Joyce Ownby (388-1334) or Jean and Harold Hull (385-6557).

- 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!

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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.

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