

	Volume 11 Number 9	First	February 2009
		<i>Press</i>	

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Special Features

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Building faith-filled relationships with God, one another, and the world.

On the Journey

I recently had the opportunity to share a morning with the new elders and deacons for our faith community. This group of talented men and women is committed to and gifted for the calling to Christian service issued by the congregation in November.

The group ranges in age from teenagers to those who have lived long and productive lives and who continue to be blessed with the vigor, health, and energy that are required for their ongoing service. We are fortunate to have such an energetic, imaginative, loving, and thoughtful group of servants.

In preparation for our Saturday morning together I came across a quote from Herbert Victor Prochnow. Prochnow was an American banker, president of the First National Bank of Chicago, founder of the Graduate School of Banking at the University of Wisconsin, and a toastmaster of renown in his time. He was born in 1897; his life spanned nearly the entire 20th century until his death in 1998.

Given his popularity as a toastmaster, it is not surprising that he was quick witted. Regarding children, he once remarked: "First you have to teach a child to talk, then you have to teach it be quiet." I imagine that Prochnow's parents must have learned this firsthand.

However, I was not drawn to his comments about child rearing. I was drawn to an observation he made of a different kind:

If you would like to live in a community in which you may have

pride, then dedicate yourself in a spirit of humility to your responsibilities in that community.

This insight is particularly important to all who

would lead by being servants in our faith community. Still, it is not only a lesson for our elders, deacons, and staff. It is a lesson for each of us.

First Church is a community with much to celebrate and much work to do. The life that we celebrate has been a gift to us from previous friends and members who have dedicated themselves to their particular responsibilities in our congregation. The work ahead will become a source of pride as each of us, with a similar spirit, takes up his or her own call to service.

I hope you will pray for, affirm, encourage, and develop a trust in those who serve as deacons, elders, and staff in our midst. We have much for which to be thankful. Jesus called his followers to be servants. Those who lead us as servants of the living God lean upon the Holy Spirit and upon the spirit of each one of us. May God bless those who have been called to lead us with every grace sufficient for their ministry.

Blessings and peace,

Mark



Support and Endowment

The Support and Endowment Management Committee helps put on First Church's anniversary celebration and dinner scheduled for Sunday, February 22. The committee will have a planning meeting on Thursday, February 12, at 7:30 a.m. at the Owyhee Plaza Grill.

Friendship Dinner Update

First Church did not host a Friendship Dinner in January; our regular day was New Year's Day.

In addition to the Friendship Dinners on the first Thursday of each month, we will host Friendship Dinners on January 22, April 23, July 23, and October 22, 2009. We are not doing one on December 24, 2009, because of the three services at the church each Christmas Eve.

From the Editor

The ABSOLUTE deadline for the March 2009 issue of *First Press* is Tuesday, February 10. I will be leaving town the next morning to attend a meeting of the Synod of the Pacific and plan to do final work on the issue while I am gone; but I will not have easy e-mail access. If you will have a problem getting material to me by the 10th, **please contact me well in advance of the deadline.** Of course, early submissions are ALWAYS very welcome indeed; don't hesitate to send articles whenever you think of something that ought to be in *First Press*, and it'll go into files right away.

Material can be sent electronically, as separate files in Word or WordPerfect or as e-mails, to austin_bott@rmci.net. ***If your story includes a picture or other graphic, please send it as a separate file as well as within the story itself; that gives the layout people more flexibility.*** Stories can also be put as "hard copy" in the First Press folder attached to the desk in the outer church office.

If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas, please don't hesitate to e-mail me at the above address, call me at 327-0053, or write me at 6508 Hummel Drive, Boise 83709.

Thank you!

Judy Austin

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Have Questions? You're Not Alone

Do you have questions about what being a Christian in the Presbyterian tradition means? Do you have questions about your own faith or specific question about First Church?

On any given Sunday there are people in the pews with you who have the same or similar questions. It is our experience that a question is never isolated to one person. It is also true for all of us that our faith is deepened and we move further along on our spiritual journey through fellowship with others. We experience this in the practice of corporate worship, in Bible study together, and in coming together to participate in classes that give us an opportunity to explore and share with others on a similar journey. One opportunity to do that is the Boise First and You Classes.

Folks choose to participate in Boise First and You for a variety of reasons. Some are interested in joining First Church in a formal way; others want to know about this particular Presbyterian church. Some folks are new to the Presbyterian tradition and want to know about the Presbyterian Church in general. Still others, who may or may not be members at First Church, have questions about faith, about Presbyterian polity, or about why we do what we do here at First Church. Whatever your question or curiosity, there are others with the same questions.

Our next Boise First and You series will begin on Sunday, February 22, and meet from 12:15 to 1:30. This is a se-

ries of classes designed to build faith-filled relationships as we explore together what it means to be Christian in the Presbyterian tradition and to be Presbyterian in the faith community at First Presbyterian Church.



Our time together is formed from our stated purpose: to build faith-filled relationships with God, one another, and the world. We will share lunch as we visit and explore our questions and our faith. I will be facilitating the classes along with Mark Davis. This will be an opportunity to meet some of the leaders of the church and learn more about the Session and the Board of Deacons: elders and deacons will join us throughout the weeks. Child care and lunch will also be provided for the children.

We all have much to share from our personal faith journeys, and time together discussing matters of faith moves us toward building faith-filled relationships with one another.

The group is limited to twelve to insure opportunities for questions and participation. If you would like to join us for the class and want to reserve your spot or if you want to know more about the class, please give me a call (345-3441, ext. 118) or write Boise First Class on your registration slip. I look forward to our time together.

Blessings,

JoAnn

Joanna



Building Relationships

“Building faith-filled relationships with God, one another, and the world.” What does that mean to you? How do we, First Presbyterian Church of Boise, fulfill this mission to which we have committed ourselves as a community? And how can you be a part of this great mission?

Our mission statement reminds me of God’s desire for humanity to be in relationships. First and foremost is our relationship with God. When one is in relationship with God, God is at the center of one’s life. One image we use with the young is that of a jar with gumballs. If God is the center and the biggest part, it needs to be put in first— then all of the other gumballs. If you try to shove God in last, there isn’t enough room for God. When we are in relationship with God, we try to feel God’s presence, follow God’s will, and nurture that relationship. We come to worship, pray, study, and praise God!

The second part is our relationship with one another. God calls us to be in relationship with others, not to be alone. As a community with God at the center, we strive to support one another, to join journeys to worship, study, and be in fellowship together. We care for each other, we share in ministry together, and we truly grow together as a family of faith.

The last is the world! As a faith-filled community, we come to be good stewards of all of God’s creation. First Church is committed to sharing in ministry outside our walls and outside our faith community

How do we at First Church fulfill this

mission? Relationships take time, work, and commitment. The early Christians “devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” (Acts 2:42) That community was committed to spending time together in fellowship and study, to listening to and learning what the apostles had to share about one’s relationship with God.

We, with God’s help, try to fulfill Jesus’ command: “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19-20) We are called to share the gospel, to teach the gospel, and to grow in faith together.

How can you be a part of this mission? You can share in building faith-filled relationships through many opportunities to share your journey with others in the church. There are study opportunities, fellowship groups, service callings, teaching and facilitating opportunities, mission experiences, pastoral care, ministry teams, and many more. I invite you to read our mission statement, reflect on it, and begin to imagine how your gifts can share in this ministry of building faith-filled relationships!

Blessings and peace,

Joanna

Music News for the Church Pews

THE PRESBYTERIAN HYMNAL
(Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs)

This month I want to write about the hymnal we sing from, because hymnals have several unique features that aren't found in other types of publications.

When you are in church next week, look at the "Organization of the Hymnal" on page 5. There are four main sections of hymns.

In the first section, **Christian Year**, the hymns begin with Advent and conclude with Christ the King/Ascension.

This section is followed by **Psalms**. With the use of the lectionary readings, the Psalms, which in the past had been used on an on-and-off basis, are now read every week. At First Church, we have begun singing the Psalms with two methods: the congregation singing the Psalm to a well known hymn-tune (metrical Psalm), and a cantor singing the Psalm with the congregation singing the response.

The third section is **Topical Hymns**. If a hymn is needed for a particular topic, this is the place to look. Need some Assurance? For-

givenness? Grace? There's a hymn for it!

The fourth section is **Service Music**. This section has responses for the various parts of a worship service. At First Church the choir sings only an Introit. At one church where I served the choir sang three responses during a service, and they never wanted to sing the same response more than one week. Consequently, our choir rehearsal time was about equally divided between responses and anthems. I like how we do it here!

The fun starts with the **Indexes**. These are what make hymnals unique! How much has John Calvin contributed to our hymnal? Need a hymn for Matthew 16:16? What are all those names and numbers at the top of each hymn? What if the name of a hymn is different from the first line of the hymn? WHAT DO I DO???? (Angst!!!)

Next month I'll answer these epic questions as well as give enlightenment, elucidation, and discernment about them so you will no longer be troubled by these questions.



Michael

News from Troop 33

In February, the Troop will meet on the 3rd, 10th, and 24th. The Troop meeting on the 3rd will start at 6:30 p.m. with a potluck supper, followed by a Court of Honor. The Troop will observe Scout Sunday on the 8th by helping at the 11:00 a.m. service. We will also help with the coffee hour following the service. The February campout will be at Camp Sawtooth on the 13th, 14th, 15th, and 16th.

In March, the Troop will meet on the 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th. The March campout will be in Owyhee County, probably on Wilson Creek on the 14th and 15th.

The Troop meets in Lindsay Hall basement on most Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. For more information call Brian Anderson, 389-4742, or Bill Harenberg, 344-2369. Check out the Troop's web site at www.boisetroop33.org.

What's Cooking in Christian Formation?

YOUTH!

F.L.Y. - Faith-Living Youth- 6th thru 8th graders

February 1: Souper Bowl of Caring. Please bring a can or dry food to donate to the Idaho Food Bank or bring funds to fill the soup pot!

February 22: Back Light Golf. Watch for details on the church bulletin boards.

Each Sunday at 10:10 a.m. we meet in 502 for Bible study and discussion.

R.U.S.H. - Raising Up Spiritual Heroes - 9th - 12th graders

February 4: Boise Peak Fitness Rock Climbing, 6:30 p.m.

February 20-21: 30-Hour Famine; Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser for Costa Rica and the FLY Mystery Mission Trip

Each Sunday at 10 a.m.: Bible study

Each Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.: dinner and fellowship

PAC (Parents and Children) Fellowship

February 1: Super Bowl Sunday; no meeting!

March 1: Teresa and Emma Jones hosting

April 5: Jim Wolf Family hosting

Sunday Morning Opportunities for Adult Study and Discussion

9:00 a.m.

February 1, 8, 15, 22: Discovering the Bible Together (ongoing study) - facilitated by Louise Ackley

10:00 a.m.

February 1, 8, 15, 22: A study and discussion of The Brief Statement of Faith of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the Belhar Confession - facilitated by Mike Thomas and John Pickrell

When Shall We Play?

The Thursday evening bridge/pinochle group is considering making a change to Thursday afternoons. The time would be from 1 p.m. to 3 or 3:30 p.m., once a month, at the church. The change would not happen until March, at the earliest.

We would welcome new players of any level as well as those interested in adding other games. Please call Barb Shinn at 376-2497 for more information.

Congregational Meetings: FAQs

During the “Town Hall Meeting” at First Church last December, several questions came up regarding meetings of the congregation. Given that interest, I thought it might be useful to make that information available to all members of the congregation. To a great extent, the timing, topics, and conduct of congregational meetings at First Church are subject to the requirements and limitations of the *Book of Order*— the constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)— and the Bylaws of the Congregation of First Church. In accord with the *Book of Order*, when neither document addresses an issue, *Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised* applies.

If there are other questions regarding these meetings, feel free to call me at 336-2647 and I’ll do my best to answer.

Where do we find information about congregational meetings in general?

General information about congregational meetings is found at Section G-7.0300 of the *Book of Order*. Copies of the *Book of Order* are available at the church office. Other information is found in Article II of the Bylaws of the Congregation. Copies of the bylaws are available through the church office. They are also included in the guidebook that is updated each year and given to members of the Session and Board of Deacons.

When are these meetings held?

The *Book of Order* requires each congregation to hold at least an annual meeting and allows it to have “other meetings as necessary.” The Bylaws of the Congregation require this annual (“stated”) meeting

to be held in August at a time and date determined by the Session.

First Church’s bylaws provide for a called congregational meeting to be held in the fourth quarter of the calendar year to hear the report of the nominating committee and elect officers for the coming year. Typically that meeting is held in November.

Section G-7.0303 of the *Book of Order* also provides that congregational meetings must be called (a) by the Session whenever it determines that such a meeting is necessary, (b) by the Presbytery when it determines that such a meeting is necessary, or (c) by the Session whenever it is requested in writing to do so by one-fourth of the members on the active roll of the church.

Who can participate in these meetings?

Anyone who is interested can attend and listen, but only members of the church can participate in the meeting. According to the *Book of Order*: “The congregation is made up of all members on the active roll of a particular church. All such members who are present at a congregational meeting are entitled to vote.”

In accord with *Robert’s Rules*, only members may speak unless a non-member is granted permission to speak by a majority vote of the members present and voting.

What can be discussed at these meetings?

The Bylaws of the Congregation set forth the purpose of the August annual meeting: to receive the official reports of all boards, commissions, committees, and organizations from the preceding year (those are printed in the Annual Report, which is prepared for the annual meeting);

to approve changes in the terms of call of the pastors; to receive the annual budget as approved by the Session; to recommend any budgetary changes to the Session; and to conduct any other necessary business of the congregation.

However, the *Book of Order* is more limited in listing what business can be transacted at meetings of the congregation. Section G-7.0304 reads as follows:

a. Business to be transacted at meetings of the congregation shall include the following:

- (1) matters related to the electing of elders, deacons, and trustees;
- (2) matters related to the calling of a pastor or pastors;
- (3) matters related to the pastoral relationship, such as changing the call, or requesting or consenting or declining to consent to dissolution;
- (4) matters related to buying, mortgaging, or selling real property... ;
- (5) matters related to the permissive powers of a congregation, such as the desire to lodge all administrative responsibility in the session, or the request to presbytery for exemption from one or more requirements because of limited size.

b. Business at congregational meetings shall be limited to the foregoing matters (1) through (5). Whenever permitted by civil law, both ecclesiastical and corporate business may be conducted at the same congregational meeting.

First Church's congregational bylaws provide that the fourth quarter (November) meeting of the congregation is intended "to hear the report of the Nominating Committee and elect officers for the following year, and to conduct any other business of the congregation as may be specified in the call for the meeting."

Both the *Book of Order* (G-7.0302(b)) and the Bylaws of the congregation (Article II, Section 6) make it clear that business conducted at special meetings is limited to items specifically listed in the call for the meeting.

At First Church, who sets the docket for a congregational meeting?

The Session sets the docket, consistent with the above limitations and requirements. Generally, that occurs at a Session meeting prior to the annual or called meeting. The Session often goes beyond those limitations to add information-only items to the docket (for example, the last congregational meeting included a report to the congregation on the Inviting Church Ministry and its goal to increase attendance). Those additional items are intended not as "business" matters but rather as a way to keep the congregation informed about decisions and activities of the Session.

Where do we find the call for a meeting?

The *Book of Order* requires that public notice of a congregational meeting must be given on any two successive Sundays prior to the meeting and that the meeting "may be convened following the notice given on the second Sunday." First Church's bylaws require that public notice of the time, place, and purpose of a congregational meeting must be given at least two weeks prior to the appointed time. The bylaws provide that calls for special meetings "shall clearly state the purpose of the meetings, and no other business save that specified in the call may be considered."

What is a quorum for doing business and how it is determined?

Both the *Book of Order* and the congregational bylaws provide that a quorum is one-tenth of the active membership of the church.

In First Church's case, the quorum is determined by the Clerk of Session. The process is simple: I count active members before a congregational meeting until I reach the number equal to one-tenth of the active membership. I only count people I know are active members; if I don't know whether someone is active, I don't count that person.

Why is the annual budget presented if it is already approved by the Session?

The *Book of Order* requires a church Session to "establish the annual budget, determine the distribution of the church's benevolences, and order offerings for Christian purposes, providing full information to the congregation of its decisions in such matters." To that end, the budget is published each year in the Annual Report. But for many years, the Session has thought it important to go beyond that minimum requirement and make sure members of the congregation have a chance to ask questions or make comments on the budget. For that reason, the Treasurer's report on the budget has been a part of the annual meeting agenda.

May nominations for church office be made from the floor?

Yes. Section G-14.0232 of the *Book of Order* provides that active members may nominate candidates for elder or deacon. However: "Persons to be nominated from the floor shall have given prior permis-

sion to be nominated and declared assent to serve if elected, or, if present, shall be asked to declare willingness to serve."

Hint: Ask first, nominate later.

May secret ballots be requested?

Yes. Normally this has not been an issue at First Church; most often someone will make a motion that nominations cease and that a unanimous ballot be cast for the members nominated by the Nominating Committee. The *Book of Order* (G-14.0233) provides that the congregation may vote by voice vote or show of hands when the number of nominees is equal to the number of offices to be filled.

A secret ballot must be taken when the number of nominees is greater than the number of offices to be filled. A majority of all voters ("voters" are active members on the rolls of First Church) present and voting is required to elect.

In addition, *Robert's Rules of Order* provides that a motion for a secret ballot must be seconded, is non-debatable, and requires a majority vote.

How are First Church's bylaws amended?

The bylaws may be amended at any congregational meeting by majority vote of those present. However, the proposed amendment must have been printed in the church bulletin at least two Sundays prior to the meeting and in the church newsletter immediately prior to the meeting.

The bylaws were last amended in November of 2008, at the recommendation of the Session, to increase membership of the Ed Low Endowment Committee from three to four members by adding a third member-at-large to represent the congregation.

CATCH!

Did you “catch” the lovely letter from Tracy Scholz that was published in the January issue of *First Press*? If not, go back and take a look. Through Tracy’s words the real purpose of C.A.T.C.H. comes alive.

The financial support our congregation provides to C.A.T.C.H. is *not* a part of our regular budget. Individuals and families have offered their additional gifts to support this program.



Now we are up against the wall. We have funds to continue supporting C.A.T.C.H. only through February. Please step into this gap and give whatever you can!

Contact: Marian Hysten (345-8871) or Kay Alspaugh (344-8689).

From the Library

In recent years we have received from donors several books written by or about past presidents of the United States.

Jimmy Carter is the author of the following four books in the library:

An Hour Before Daylight: Memories of a Rural Boyhood;

Living Faith, in which Carter tells of his life as a Christian;

Sources of Strength: Meditations on Scripture for a Living Faith— fifty-two of Carter’s favorite Bible lessons from the 1,500 he has taught over the years;

Christmas in Plains, in large print, which can be enjoyed at any season.

A very recent addition is by **Bill Clinton**, entitled *Giving: How Each of Us Can Change the World*. Because of his desire to be of help to those in need around the world, Clinton has been involved in a variety of service projects. These are accounts of many acts of giving he has witnessed.

Our sixteenth president is extolled in **Lincoln’s Virtues: An Ethical Biography**, by William Lee Miller. Miller describes Lincoln

as “a man whose conduct rose to a higher moral standard the higher his office and the greater his power.”

Other recent donations include:

Home to Holly Springs, by Jan Karon, author of the Mitford Series with main character Father Tim Cavanaugh. This book takes Father Tim to his childhood home, after 38 years away, on a very personal journey during which he learns “a truth that will change his life forever.” This book is quite different from previous ones in the series.

for one more day, by Mitch Albom, who wrote the non-fiction bestseller *Tuesdays with Morrie* (also in our library). This is a book of fiction asking the question “What would you do if you could spend one more day with a loved one?”

God Knows You’re Grieving: Things to Do to Help You Through, by Joan Huntzelman. This can be a “consoling source of support if you’re facing loss and grief.”

As you see, we welcome donations. Even more, we welcome **readers**. Come check out the church library— just beyond the office area.

News From Camp Sawtooth

Yes, it's "only" February; but the process of staffing Camp Sawtooth for the summer of 2009 is beginning. All positions require a demonstration of personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ with commitment and desire to serve the Lord in the realm of camping ministry. For complete job descriptions and application forms, check the camp website: www.campsawtooth.org.



PAID POSITIONS (includes room/board) June 1–August 1

Program Staff: Design, coordinate, and lead camper activities, small groups, worship, and Bible Study with a team of 3 males/4 females; must be over 19 years old (2 years out of high school is preferred).

Head Cook: Plan menus, purchase food and supplies, prepare food, serve nutritionally balanced meals & snacks, and supervise cooking staff and helpers. Must be available for Opening Weekend May 22-25.

Assistant Cook: Assist the Head Cook in meal preparation and clean up. Must be available for Opening Weekend May 22-25.

VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

Opening Weekend - May 22-25, Memorial Day Weekend – MAKE RESERVATIONS WITH CAMP DIRECTORS

The community of God comes together in fellowship, praise, AND LOTS OF FUN to prepare Camp Sawtooth for the camping season. All skill levels are

needed to open, repair, and prepare the camp. All ages welcome!

VOLUNTEER FOR A WEEK OF CAMP

Cabin Parents: Receive a **50% discount** for your child. Discounts are limited to 3 male/4 female Cabin Parents/camp.

Program Staff-In-Training (PSIT): Leadership training, mentoring, and assisting Program Staff and Cabin Parents. The PSIT fee is 50% of the tuition of the camp the PSIT will be attending. PSITs must be entering 9th grade.

Camp Host: Help with the daily operation of the camp; build fires; re-stock firewood, minor repairs, & projects.

For more information contact Dave and Marcy Paul, Camp Directors, at directorscampsawtooth@yahoo.com or 208-337-3364.

CAMP DATES AND FEES

(Register before May 15, 2009, to save \$20)

June 14-19: 5th and 6th grades, Camp #1; Redfish Lake trip; \$240/\$260

June 21-26: 7th and 8th grades, Camp #1; ice skating; \$240/\$260

June 28-July 3: 9th and 10th grades; trip to Baldy; \$240/\$260

July 5-8: 3rd and 4th grade; swimming; \$150/\$170

July 5-8: 3rd through 8th grades hearing impaired; swimming; \$150/\$180

July 12-17: 5th and 6th grades Camp #2; Redfish Lake trip; \$240/\$260

July 19-24: 7th and 8th grades, Camp #2; ice skating; \$240/\$260

July 26-31: 11th and 12th grades; white-water rafting; \$280/\$300

Session Notes

During its meeting of December 15, 2008, the Session:

> Approved a **single worship service on Sunday, February 22, 2009**, for the purpose of celebrating the anniversary of First Church. During an anniversary luncheon following the single service, a free-will offering will be taken, with proceeds earmarked for First Church's endowment fund.

> Moved from the **active membership rolls to the inactive rolls** members of the congregation who have not been active in the life of the church for more than a year and who did not respond to a request to decide whether to remain active or be placed on the inactive list. The Session also approved requests from members who had asked to be removed from First Church's membership rolls, often because they have moved elsewhere or are attending another church.

> Heard an Operations Commission decision to allocate the **Christmas Eve offering** to First Church's operational costs. In the past, the offering has been split between South African mission work and activities of church youth. This year, however, the South African ministry has not been as active as in the past, and the church youth have carry-over funds from the previous year to support their activities.

> Reviewed impressions of the **Town Hall Meeting** held earlier in the month, although a full discussion of issues raised and questions asked will be delayed until the Session's annual retreat. The retreat is scheduled March 6-8 at Meadow Wood Lodge north of McCall. During the retreat, Session members will review progress on 2008 goals and set new goals for 2009. Session members expressed their apprecia-

tion to Ruth Hicks for moderating the Town Hall meeting.

> Scheduled **new officers' orientation** on January 10. During the orientation, new members of the Session and the Board of Deacons will learn about meeting schedules and preparation, activities, and expectations for the coming year. Break-out sessions are planned to orient Elders and Deacons to their unique responsibilities.

> Heard a report on the **financial records review exchange** between First Church and Trinity Presbyterian Church. Each church organized a team to review the other church's financial records and procedures, and each team will submit a report on its findings and recommendations. The First Church team of Jerry Ferguson, Terri Muse, and Dave High reviewed Trinity's records under a protocol designed by Steve Severn, First Church treasurer, while the Trinity team met with First Church bookkeeper Kathy Bilderback. Last year's exchange included a recommendation from Trinity that First Church prepare quarterly donation reports for members of the congregation.

> Reviewed plans for a **survey of the congregation** on how to "market" First Church to increase awareness of worship, programs, and activities at the church. Paul Shubin, leading the effort on behalf of the Inviting Church Ministry team, said this "branding" activity will provide clarity regarding the role of First Church in the community and among potential members. The survey is part of the Session's goal of increasing attendance at First Church.

*Lindy High
Clerk of Session*

Elders of the Month for February are Ron Ingalls, 344-3326, and Lindy High, 336-2647.



1st Presbyterian The Church Family

February Birthdays

February 1	Omri Cooley	February 19	Barbara Quickstad
February 3	Valentino Daltoso		Mary Beth Nutting
February 4	Elaine Winslow		Angkana Lewis
February 5	Bill Laxson	February 20	Eva Langrell
February 7	Lorraine Griffiths	February 21	Todd Nutting
	Logan Brudenell	February 22	Alice Hewes
	Jacob Rhees	February 23	Paula Durand
February 8	Paul Shubin		Becci Armstrong
	Stephanie Muir		Jordan Borup
February 9	Anne Orzepowski	February 24	Shirley Monnette
	Katherine Reardon		Ted Yewer
	Sarah Fordham	February 25	Lynn Bond
	Jessica Fordham		Grant Aaserud
February 10	Bob Ruesink	February 26	Calvin Yee
February 11	Tom Payne		JJ Gould
February 14	Bill Hafterson	February 27	Elinor Eakin
	Cydney Shubin		Karen Rydalch
	Zach Gray	February 28	Julene Knapp
	Jordan Liebich		Marshall Gray
February 15	Cynthia Heasley		Neil Pyke
February 16	Karen Matsko		Connor Gilchrist
February 17	Ellen Gilbertson	February 29	Ty Gray

PW Meetings

An alert for women in the congregation: during the winter months, Phoenix Circle of Presbyterian Women meets afternoons (rather than evenings) of the regular days, at 1 p.m. at Louise Ackley's home.



It's (Always) Pick-up Time!

Our kitchen maven, Estelle Aldridge, sends a plea to all: Please claim your dishes in the church kitchen. If you have questions, call Estelle at 342-5427.

ATTENDANCE AND GIVING

Attendance includes all Sunday services and those on special days in the Church calendar (for example, Ash Wednesday and Christmas Eve) and services led by First Church at nursing homes. Giving reflects donations to the ongoing work of the church, both pledges and undesignated giving. It does not include special offerings, designated donations (such as contributions for the Sunday-morning flowers), or rent of First Church facilities.

December 7, 2008
Third Sunday in Advent
 Attendance - 223
 Giving - \$17,725.54

December 14, 2008
Fourth Sunday in Advent

Attendance - 223
 Giving - \$10,173.00

December 21, 2008
Fifth Sunday in Advent
 Attendance - 282
 Giving - \$19,605.46

December 24, 2008
Christmas Eve
 Attendance - 388
 Giving - \$2,198.37 (Christmas Joy Offering)

December 28, 2008
First Sunday after Christmas
 Attendance - 331
 Giving - \$28,361.21

WORSHIP NOTES

The scriptures listed below are those from the Revised Common Lectionary, used by mainline Protestant denominations across the world. They are often but not always the scriptures read during Sunday worship at First Church. If you are interested in art that is relevant to the particular days in the liturgical calendar, check the Vanderbilt Divinity Library's lectionary website (<http://divinity.library.vanderbilt.edu/> lectionary) for examples. This is the website, produced by the library of Vanderbilt Divinity School at Vanderbilt University, from which we draw the lists of lessons.

February 1, 2009
Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
 Deuteronomy 18:15-20
 Psalm 111
 I Corinthians 8:1-13
 Mark 1:21-28

February 8, 2009
Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
 Isaiah 40:21-31
 Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
 I Corinthians 9:16-23
 Mark 1:29-39

February 15, 2009
Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany
 II Kings 5:1-14
 Psalm 30
 I Corinthians 9:24-27
 Mark 1:40-45

February 22, 2009
Transfiguration Sunday (Last Sunday before Lent)
 II Kings 2:1-12
 Psalm 50:1-6
 II Corinthians 4:3-6
 Mark 9:2-9

February 25, 2009
Ash Wednesday
 Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or
 Isaiah 58:1-12
 Psalm 51:1-17
 II Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

March 1, 2009
First Sunday of Lent
 Genesis 9:8-17
 Psalm 25:1-10

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