

	Volume 11 Number 8	First	January 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

As we enter the new year, there are opportunities and challenges involving all the members of our faith community. This was the clear message of the town hall meeting held on December 8. Many of you were there; many were not. The attendance was encouraging. Nearly 75 folks showed up to share in a conversation about our concerns and raise questions about a variety of issues.

Others will have their own lists, but a few items stood out for me:

There is an ongoing concern regarding communication. The combination of *First Press*, bulletin boards, letters, handouts, fliers, the website, slides before 9 and 11 worship, and e-mails has not been effective in communicating to the entire congregation the extent of our programs, our needs, and our accomplishments. I made a note that evening that I shared with the Session: *No one has the responsibility for oversight of our communications.* A variety of people are involved in the numerous efforts to communicate, but there is no central format and no shared understanding of how best to tell our story and help folks know more about our common life.

There is a widespread concern among the entire community regarding a multi-year decline in worship attendance. I know how deeply this concerns the Session and the staff. I think it was news to some that the church leadership is very much aware of this decline and has made many efforts to learn what more can be done to encourage our ongoing adherents to be in worship regularly and what we may do

to invite more of our neighbors into our midst.

There is a mutual concern over church finances. A number of questions were raised:

Do we have too much staff for our congregation? There were positive comments offered about the entire staff; but the issue remains, can we afford the staff we have?

Are our salaries in line with similar congregations; is the staff, particularly the pastors (beginning with me), unduly compensated for our work?

How are salaries determined and what is the difference between the cost of a position and the actual compensation an individual receives (few present were aware that nearly 47 percent of the cost of pastoral positions goes to the denomination— Board of Pensions, including health insurance— and to the federal government, not to individual pastors).

Given the macroeconomics of our current environment, is it reasonable to proceed with the renovation of Lindsay Building; and if we don't do so, then just what will we do to care for our property?

How can folks bring their concerns to the Session? Is the Session listening, does the Session care?

How broad and deep is our commitment to mission and how can we come to understand more fully the horizon of mission reach?



It is strange how simply naming our concerns can communicate a particular feeling. By this I mean that these concerns, while real, risk overshadowing the many positive feelings and warm regard of the members of the community, the Session, and the staff for one another. Under the leadership of Ruth Hicks, Paul Shubin, and Susan Hayman, the evening was well managed and a tone of respect and honesty was clearly evident. Paul put it quite well toward the end of the evening: "It seems clear to me that we have a lot of work ahead for all of us, these concerns affect all of us, and their solution will require all of us."

As the new Session begins its work I hope you will make a few commitments:

Be in worship. It is the central experience of formation in the community.

Make the sacrifice you can make in support of the faith community. Give of your money, time, counsel, prayer, and service as you are able. Withhold judgment of others and yourself. Some can give a great deal from one resource, others can give from other resources.

Speak to members of the Session and express your affirmation, your encouragement, and your concerns.

In tough moments remember that the elders and pastors have vowed to serve with energy, imagination, intelligence, and love. Remind others that this is the commitment we have made and this is the effort we are making.

A lasting impression for me from the town hall is how many committed and

caring folks are a part of our shared journey. I trust you will find your own way to be a part of making our faith community a congregation of people whose shared witness is pleasing to God.

Blessings and peace,

Mark

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Who Do You Say We Are?

This month you will be asked to complete a church marketing survey. Unless you have a marketing background, this may sound offensive to you because marketing is something that companies do to sell their products. We aren't "selling" in those terms. We do, however, have some wonderful gifts to offer in faithful discipleship to God through First Church. The survey will help us come to know who we are as a faith community through your eyes and your perceptions. What are our strengths, what are our weaknesses, what drew you here to 950 W. State Street, and why have you continued to come back? Through your eyes we can establish our identity as God's church in downtown Boise in a way that will help us reach out to others who are searching for a church home.

From a Pastoral Care and Congregational Life perspective, it will be extremely helpful to me to know what you feel is important, in relationships, in fellowship opportunities, in opportunities to share the gifts God has blessed you with, in opportunities to serve as well as be



served. When you need the church at a difficult time in your life, do you feel cared for and cared about? What can we do better in building faith-filled relationship with God, one another, and the world? The questions are not only to help us establish an identity for the surrounding community; they will help us know how better to care for one another. Caring for all the folks who are part of this spirit-filled, spirit-led faith community is a ministry that belongs to all of us.

From an Inviting Church perspective, if asked by a friend or family member what is so great about the church you attend, what would you say? There are many wonderful things about First Church. We are truly a community of faithful, wonderful people who have received gifts from God in many ways. Please take time to complete the survey. The view from your pew is important!

Blessings,

JoAnn

Joanna



What's in a Name?

“Jesus, name above all names, Beautiful Savior, Glorious Lord, Emanuel, God is with Us, Blessed Redeemer, Living Word.” What’s in a name? Names have great meanings! Parents ponder for days, maybe weeks, maybe months to come up with the perfect name for their child. If you asked my two older ones, we would have “Stitch Dunn” or if you asked the hospital nurses we would have a “Mulan Dunn”. Names are important to people for a variety of reasons. The way we choose a name is so interesting. Some choose family tradition, uniqueness, sound, nickname— however chosen, names are important. If you could change your name, what would it be?

Names are important to organizations or groups too. We have RUSH— Raising Up Spiritual Heroes, FLY— Faith Living Youth, PAC— Parents and Children here at First Church. What comes to mind when you see the “Golden Arches”? McDonald’s— even non-readers know that one.

In a recent meeting, I heard 19 different names for the community at 950 W. State Street! Some I knew; others surprised me: everything from First Presbyterian Church to “the one next to the Y.” I had to ask myself, how do people know us? What do I want people to think or imagine about us when they hear First Presbyterian Church, Boise?

Since I have been here (4 years now), we have been trying new things and reaching out to the community in new ways. I believe we are called to share the Gospel in as many ways as we can support and do well. I hope people know we are an active, vibrant church connecting

people to God and others! I would like youth and families to know we are active and care about young people and their knowledge of God.

Name, message, and image are important!

They can tell someone something about a place! This month, each of you is invited to share your thoughts and ideas about what is important to you about First Church. Your thoughts are important to us. The session, through the Inviting Church Ministry, is looking at our public face— our image— our message to the community. Just think about what catches your eye. What draws you to a place? What brings you back to a place with great memories?

KOKORO— FOG— my youth group and commission— a name means so much— I hear it and it draws me to thoughts both good and bad, but it brings me to my own faith journey! My own experiences with God and grace! When I think of the places God has called me to serve (as a volunteer and professionally) and the names associated with those places, pictures enter my mind: journeys, people, mountaintop highs, types of music and worship!

I invite you to participate in exploring who we are in the world of the Treasure Valley. Watch for a survey, fill it out, and get it back to the church. Remember: Jesus has many names, each with its own “feeling” and “image,” and yet all point to him. In this Epiphany Season, let each of us have that “aha!” moment.

Joanna

Music News for the Church Pews

Hymn Update!

Why did he pick THAT hymn?

What's wrong with the "good old hymns"?

What happened to the Hymn Sing?

The Presbyterian Hymnal includes 605 hymns. Within the two years I have been here, we have sung 140 of them. We have sung three hymns five times, eight hymns four times, eighteen hymns three times, and twenty-seven hymns twice.

So what about the other hymns in the hymnal? Some of them have very unmemorable melodies (the *ugh* factor); some have texts that are too old fashioned or too new fashioned, either of which draws attention away from the meaning.

All of us have several favorite hymns. Many members of our congregation don't have exclusive Presbyterian backgrounds any more, and those people have many favorite hymns that life-long Presbyterians probably haven't sung. One person's "good old hymn" can leave another person scratching his or her head. Are we talking human nature here, or what?

Hymn Sing? During the fall Ministerial Leadership Team meetings we came to the conclusion that when we had to prompt people, or pre-select

hymns in case no one responded, then it was time to shelve the Hymn Sing. If there is enough response, we would be pleased to bring it back.

And how do I pick the hymns? We follow the Revised Common Lectionary, and the hymns ought to correspond to the scriptures of the day. I use five sources to help select a variety of appropriate hymns for the various scriptures. Then, in the narrowing process, I try to pick an appropriate hymn for each place in the service. Test yourself— without looking at the lectionary for next week, make a list of your three favorite hymns. Then compare those to the lectionary, which you'll find in "Worship Notes." Do they reinforce the readings? Do they help create an appropriate response to the sermon? Do they "get us out," ready to invite someone to church?

Sometimes I would just like to forget the lectionary. That is why I originally suggested a monthly Hymn Sing, but, alas, you know what happened to that!

Why is everything so cyclical? Is that human nature, or what?



Michael

News from Troop 33

In January, the Troop will meet on the 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th. The January campout will be at Camp Morrison on the 16th, 17th, 18th, and 19th.

In February, the Troop will meet on the 3rd, 10th, and 24th. 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 Troop meeting on the 24th will start at 6:30 p.m. with a potluck supper, followed by a Court of Honor. The February campout will be at Camp Sawtooth on the 13th, 14th, 15th, and 16th.

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, or check out the Troop's website at www.boisetroop33.org.

Cub Scouts' Update

In November, Pack 33 participated in the Scouting for Food campaign by picking up non-perishable food items left in a particular North End area. This area is determined by the Ore-Ida Council and then canvassed with door-hangers during the previous week by Troop 33. The scouts collected a total of 150,000 pounds throughout the city. Donations benefited the Idaho Food Bank. We were very pleased with the pack and troop's participation and assistance in this worthwhile project of service.

In December we finalized our greenery sales by delivering orders and selling additional greenery. Thank you for your sup-

port.

We will hold our pinewood derby clinic in January, preparing cars for the derby later in the month. Watch for photos from the race in the February issue of *First Press*.

Happy New Year to all from Cub Scout Pack 33!

Cydney Shubin
Cubmaster

Coffee...Tea...or...

Happy New Year to all the Service and Fellowship Teams. In February, Service & Fellowship Team #13 will have the opportunity to provide for coffee hours, refreshments, greetings, and Wednesday Night Suppers. It's been twelve months since we provided fellowship to our church family. Take a look below to see if you are on Team 13.

I'll be contacting everyone on the list and look forward once again to coordinating our month of fellowship. We have a few folks who will be out of town or unavailable during the month but as usual, this team seems to step up and volunteer where needed.

Service & Fellowship Team #13: Sidney Asker, Judy Austin, Don Bott, Jean Butts, Libby Butts, Ron Eardley, Betsy Galtney, Ed Galtney, Cheryl Grantham, John Hart, Karin Hart, Ron Ingalls, Yvette Ingalls, JD Isley, Marilyn Jennings, Ron Jennings, Andy Larson, Mike Larson, Terri Muse, Alex Lundquist, Margie Lundquist, Todd Lundquist, Carrie Matsko, Mark Matsko, Russ Slater, Shelly Slater, Lula Sortwell, and Ken Spriggs.

Peace in the New Year,
Russ, Shelly, & Colton Slater

Discovering the Bible Together

For more years than most of us can remember, we've had a Bible Study class meeting regularly on Sunday mornings at First Church. The format of the class has evolved over those years, although one important characteristic has remained constant— the Bible itself is the core of our study.

We've been known by various names— it was Bea Monroe's Bible class when I became a part of First Church. Since then it has been Kerygma, Nine o'clock Bible Study, and just plain old Bible Study class. Then several years ago Gordon Eichmann suggested we call ourselves Discovering the Bible Together because that was exactly what we were doing, discovering the Bible *together*.

The name defines us well. While we use a specific study or book as the basis for our discussions, we study at our own pace and do not confine ourselves to the timelines suggested by those who developed the lessons. For example, one of the introductory Kerygma studies designed to last something like twelve sessions took us three years to complete. Then we felt we were just about prepared to start the study, so we went back through it, taking only two years to complete it that time. It's not that we deliberately poke along, it's rather than we aren't

afraid to deal with the questions that arise from our study. We can ask about anything without fear of being told we are out of line or that it is an inappropriate question. The "answers" often help to refine and articulate our questions and develop out of our lively discussions and/or searching through the Bible itself as a guide for conducting our Christian lives. And sometimes we find no answers but simply share our common concerns and confusion.

Our present study, decided on by the class members as is our usual procedure, is based on a little book published by Westminster Press, *Great Themes of the Bible*, volume 2, which serves as the basis for our discussion. Since last summer we have explored chapters on Death (an interesting place to start!), Discipleship, Faith, Forgiveness, and Hope. Currently we are examining Joy as both an Old Testament and a New Testament theme.

Since we have no official beginning or end to our studies, anyone can join us any Sunday at 9:00 a.m. in Room 603. Take the elevator to the sixth floor, turn left down the first hallway on your left; our room is at the end of the short hallway.

Please come join us.

Louise Ackley

From the Library

Perhaps you start the New Year with thoughts or resolutions for change and new beginnings in some area of your life. Often there are things that cannot be changed easily if at all. If you are looking for help for family problems or caregiving, there may be help in the library. Perhaps one of these books or others on our shelves can be of help.

His Needs, Her Needs: Building an Affair-Proof Marriage, by Willard F. Harley, Jr., a clinical psychologist and marriage counselor, gives pointers about how to fall in love and stay in love in addition to other helps for marital relations.

Love Must be Tough: New Hope for Families in Crisis, by Dr. James C. Dobson, is "written not only for families on the brink of divorce, but also for everyone who seeks a better understanding of human behavior and the complex interrelationships between men and women."

The New Strong-Willed Child is also by Dobson, who is also skilled in pediatrics and child development. This is an updated edition for parents and teachers who have problems with children who believe they should be able to live by their own rules.

Golden Rules for Parenting: A Child Psychiatrist Discovers the Bible, by Dan A. Myers, M.D., is a value-based child-rearing guide that integrates the wisdom of the Bible with modern medical science in a practical, no-nonsense way.

How to Care for Aging Parents, by Virginia Morris, an award-winning journalist who reports on health care and medicine, addresses the needs of both care-giver and cared-for.

A Grace Disguised: How the Soul Grows through Loss, by Gerald L. Sittser, is for those who are grieving some loss.

Library Book Sale! This month! Watch for details to be posted.

*Kathleen McClenahan
for the Library Crew*

From the Editor

The deadline for the February 2009 issue of *First Press* is Saturday, January 10. If you will have a problem getting material to me by the 10th, **please contact me 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

Worship Design

Worship is the central act of the faith community. We are truly shaped and formed over time by our shared experiences in worship. This year we are attempting a new undertaking in worship design.

On January 10 at 2:00 p.m., following new-officer orientation, at least two of us (and we hope more) will meet for the afternoon to pray and study and plan in preparation for our worship services in the season following Easter.

Bonnie Lind and I will lead the afternoon. We will share time in reading and reflection on the texts for the season, asking what we find the Spirit saying to us in the Word. We will raise questions about meaning and music, image and narrative in an effort to bring the best of our imagination and energy, intelligence, and love to the planning of worship for the six Sundays of the Easter season.

The afternoon will be a wonderful opportunity to explore worship more fully and draw upon the insights of those attending as we design worship for that season of life in the faith community. If you want to come but need to know more, please give Bonnie a call at 484-7551 or reach me at 345-3441. Alternatively you can drop us a note. Bonnie may be reached at bkbind@cablone.net and I may be contacted by e-mail as well, mark@first-presbyterian.org. I am excited about thinking together with all of those present about worship in the season of Easter.

Mark

Who Are We Really? and Do We Want Anyone Else to Know?

Elsewhere in this issue of *First Press* I shared some of my impressions from our recent town hall meeting. One of the primary concerns has to do with communication.

We think the best folks to help others understand who we are at First Church and what we stand for in this faith community are none other than you.

So... later this month you will receive a survey that is being as widely distributed as possible. This survey was developed in the fall with an eye to the emotional experiences and rational views that shape our participation in the congregation. The survey covers a very wide array of thoughts, and you can really help us get a handle on who we are and how we tell others about us by participating in the survey.

I know it can be tempting to think, "oh, one more thing from the church." We believe that it is a very important means for all of us to be a part of developing a much clearer sense of our identity. Resist the temptation to take a pass on this. Your views, our views when put all together, are a valuable source of insight and knowledge. Our learning will be incomplete without your input.

Hoping to hear from you,

Mark

CATCH!

Do you know someone who has lost his job?

Do you know a family who have lost their home?

Can you put faces with the news headlines?

How do you translate "Love thy neighbor"?

There are homeless neighbors in Boise waiting for our help. To continue to support families in the C.A.T.C.H. program,



we need \$\$\$\$\$. Please consider making a pledge to give an amount each month for C.A.T.C.H. Make a note of your support on your registration slip any Sunday or contact Marian Hylan (345-8871) or Kay Alspaugh (344-8689).

New Sawtooth
Contact Information

To contact Dave and Marcy Paul,
Camp Sawtooth Directors in 2009:
P.O. Box 445, Homedale, ID
83628; 208-337-3364
directorscampsawtooth@yahoo.
com ~ www.campsawtooth.org

Friendship Dinner

We served 123 guests at the December Friendship Dinner. We are, as expected, seeing an increase in numbers as the recession tightens its grip in the Treasure Valley.

We thank God for the opportunity to serve and for the many people in our congregation that donate money for the chicken, bring dishes to be served, and participate in the serving of the dinners. To everyone we say "Thank You."

Carl Boehme



A Letter from Faith (Friends!) in Action

To our many friends, volunteers, donors, and supporters:

This December we are completing five years of service for our senior friends and their families as Faith in Action! It's a time for celebrating our achievements and looking toward the future.

So much has been accomplished, and we are very pleased to announce that we now have a new name!

Friends in Action: Our Community Serving Seniors

It's a new name; our work remains the same.

Why a new name? We wanted a name that communicates clearly who we are and what we do— a name that tells our story and includes our entire community. We know it takes a whole community— from families to funding partners to volunteers— to provide the support that older persons need to sustain their quality of life, dignity, and independence.

We were always inclusive, and now our name is too!

What we do and how we do it has not changed— it's just getting better!

What a year! Over 5,000 hours of direct service and an astonishing 266 trips with our transportation program last summer alone. The value of the direct service we offered in our last fiscal year was close to \$100,000. Our partnerships remain strong and continue to grow.

As 2008 comes to a close, please remember Friends in Action as you consider ways to support our community. We know the economy is very difficult and we also know that this is when many of our senior friends need us the most. Our care recipients receive services at no charge, and all contributions remain right here— in our community.

Please share this information with your friends— many thanks!

Interested in helping? Check out our website, www.fiaboise.org, to see our very latest volunteer needs and opportunities.

Abby McLean, Executive Director

Friends in Action

P.O. Box 1516, Boise, Idaho 83701

Office location: 701 W. Fort Street

(under Augustana Chapel)

208-333-1363

Fax (208) 344-0732

abbymc@fiaboise.org

Thank You!

Another Christmas Tea helped to celebrate the season for Presbyterian Women and their guests on Saturday, December 6. Phoenix Circle hosted the event with the assistance of many other Presbyterian Women who furnished food, decorated tables, and helped serve. Thanks to Ron Jennings and Dave Wyllie, who manned the dishwasher, and to Mike and Spence for help before and after in Lindsay Hall.

A life membership and recognition pin for Presbyterian Women were presented to Kathleen McClenahan for her leadership in Phoenix Circle.

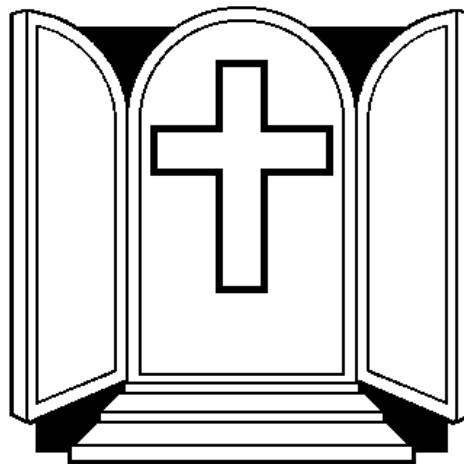
Entertainment by the Chinese Dancers of the area was colorful and delightful. A very generous Thank Offering was received and will benefit many PW projects in this country and around the world.

Phoenix Circle will meet again on Monday, January 19, at 1 p.m. at the home of Louise Ackley, 1816 Belmont Street. All women are welcome.

From the Deacons

The Board of Deacons would like to thank all who generously supported the Adopt-A-Family project by purchasing gifts, donating cash, and delivering gifts to our families.

We appreciate your help in making Christmas brighter for some of Boise's newest residents!



Grace Note

To First Presbyterian Church members—

I just want to attempt to put into words how grateful I am for the kindness you've shown me and my sons.

Our first night here, I surprised them with our new home. See— I stopped getting their hopes up after about the third place fell through. I just kept trying to find us a place, and I know now that God wanted me right where I am now!

So, their grandma brought them to the house. I opened the door and said "Welcome Home!"

They tore through the house, jumping and smiling, planning where things would be in their room! They immediately made a sign for their door announcing whose room it is!

My biggest joy was making us all a spot (in their room) and falling asleep together that night. It had been a long time since we'd spent the night together.

Then, waking up to their lit-up faces— and seeing a weight removed from them.

Thank You hardly seems appropriate, but I am grateful beyond my ability to even express it.

God Bless,
Tracy Scholz

Tracy and her boys are one of the families that First Church has been able to support through your contributions to Project C.A.T.C.H. We're grateful to Tracy for sharing with us the joy which that support has brought them.

January Study Series

John Pickrell, an honorably retired minister of word and sacrament (whew!) and husband of Deacon Kay Pickrell, is not only a woodworker and guitarist of great skills, he's also wise in the ways of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

John is leading a class this month on Presbyterian Polity and the Book of Order, Or... Why we do the things the way we do... . The schedule for that class, which meets during the 10 o'clock time period each Sunday in January and the first in February, is as follows:

January 4, The Presbytery; the special presenter, Randy Marshall, a member of Southminster Church and moderator of Boise Presbytery

January 11, Why we have a Book of Order and Constitution: The history of our polity and its purpose; John Pickrell, study leader

January 18, The Congregation, Presbytery, and Synod; John Pickrell, study leader

January 25, The Why of the General Assembly and how it works; John Pickrell, study leader

February 1, The Confession of 1967; John Pickrell, study leader (he was in on the writing)

A Belated Thank You to All Members of Teams 8 and 9

I am very late in issuing this heartfelt thank you to all of you who were so great about helping with Service and Fellowship activities in September and October.

Service and Fellowship is a way for all of us to participate in the life of the church. It is a way of spreading the services through many hands and serving our fellow members without taking too much time from our busy lives. For those of you who so graciously say yes, we would like to issue this thank you. A special thank you goes to Lisa Szentes and Mary Royce, Red Hearts who led team 8 when no leaders within the team could be found.

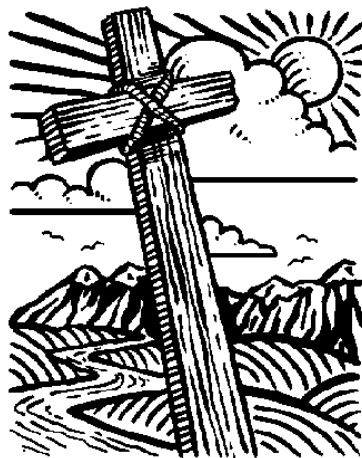
The leaders for team 9 were Emily Boles and Jennifer Yewer. You did a superb job and we all thank you. Every team member who helped should pat him- or herself on the back and say “a

job well done.”

Team 8: Alan, Alicia, and Mary Anderson; Barbara and John Bender; Christina Black; Ann and Don Collins; Tom Conn; Becky and Jim Fordham; Dennis and Marla Heeb; Marian Hysten; Teresa Jones; Ann Kluckhohn; Bill and Jean Laxson; Darlene Meyer; Scott and Terry Nicholson; Anne Orzepowski; Bob and Mary Louise Parsons; Jennifer Rhees; Michael Royce; Karen Rydalch; Robert Schulkey; Donna and Lee Thompson; and Elaine Winslow.

Team 9: Barb and Brian Anderson; Emily and Eric Boles; Elinor Brown; Bob and Julia Franklin; Yolanda Hansen; Drew Jacobs; Jim and Julene Knapp; Sharon Lamm; Alex, Dee, and Todd Miller; Linda Palmer; Andrew and Beth Scherfee; Diane and Jim Sower; Jeff and Wendy Turner; Leona Underkofler; Ax and Jennifer Yewer.

*Mary Royce
for the Red Hearts*



Session Notes

During its meeting of November 24, 2008, the Session:

>Authorized the Clerk of Session to send letters to “missing” members who have not participated in the life of the church for more than a year. This annual review is required by the *Book of Order* and focuses on church members who have not been active, who are believed to be worshiping elsewhere, or who have moved away. A determination of who has been “missing” is based on information from the weekly registration slips, records of contributions, and memories of the Session and church staff. Resident members who decide not to remain active in the church will be moved to First Church’s “inactive” rolls.

>Heard a report on the successful Harvest Dinner, held November 23 following the congregational meeting. Peggy Bohl, reporting on behalf of the Board of Deacons, said 185 people attended the dinner and, in a free-will offering, contributed \$260 to defray expenses of the Deacons in preparing the dinner.

>Reviewed year-to-date revenue and expense information. Steve Severn, First Church treasurer, said revenues were about \$40,000 below anticipated levels as of the end of October; at the same time, staff has held expenses about \$25,000 below budgeted levels. Steve said the shortage is related both to the traditional “slow” months of church giving and to the national economic situation. At the same time, Sharon Lamm, reporting on behalf of the Support and Endowment

Committee, said First Church’s portfolio has declined from \$1,296,070 as of Dec. 31, 2007, to a current level of \$925,194. She said the decline is also a result of the national economy but added that funds manager Mark Matsko had done a “very good job” considering the volatile market: First Church’s rate of loss is “significantly less than the national average.”

>Approved, if required, a transfer of funds from First Church to Arbroath West Kirk (formerly St. Margaret’s Church of the Church of Scotland) to fulfill terms of the Ed Low Trust. Scott Muir said First Church and Arbroath West Kirk are among the annual recipients of the trust fund, but because of restrictions imposed by the U.S. Patriot Act and other federal laws, the fund trustee—Wells Fargo— is unable to pay the annual distributions directly to Arbroath West Kirk. Under a solution proposed by Ron Jennings and approved by the bank and by First Church’s attorney, the Arbroath West Kirk portion will be paid to First Church, which in turn will remit the distribution to Arbroath West Kirk, minus any expenses incurred by First Church in the transaction.

>Moved ahead with a plan to exchange financial records reviews with Trinity Church. Scott Muir reported that a team from First Church— David High, Terri Muse, and Jerry Ferguson— will review Trinity’s financial records, while a group from Trinity will do the same for First Church. Last year the Trinity review suggested that giving records be mailed to donors on a quarterly basis, and that change has been implemented.

>Reviewed the status of a variety of facilities-related projects. Tony Gonzalez, convener of the Facilities Commission, said a “due diligence” review is being planned for the proposed Lindsay Building project. Among other things, this involves working with a variety of city departments to make sure plans for the project comply with all building and health requirements. The Facilities Commission is still awaiting bids on a new security system at First Church that will include installation of a motion detector system to alert onsite staff members of after-hour intruders.

>Heard plans to add a second Friendship Dinner for the homeless and the needy during months with five Thursdays. In those months, First Church will host the dinners on the second and fourth Thursdays and other churches will be responsible for the first, third, and fifth Thursdays. The additional Friendship Dinner will be added once each quarter.

*Lindy High
Clerk of Session*

Elders of the Month for January are Lindy High, 336-2647, and Paul Shubin, 433-0904.

Support and Endowment Committee Announces Churchwide Celebration

During the November meeting of the Support and Endowment Committee, Mark Matsko, investment manager of Burroughs & Hutchinson, reviewed the performance of the endowment. The En-

dowment portfolio’s value is down to \$925,194.04 from \$1,296,070.65 on December 31, 2007. Mark is currently buying short-term bonds of not more than one year and is starting to get back into stocks of quality companies that have a strong cash position, are making money, and are paying high dividends. Mark stated that we should not expect a quick turnaround with the current financial situation.

On February 22, 2009, we will have our annual Church Anniversary Celebration. Following a single service at 11 a.m., the Support and Endowment Committee will host a churchwide luncheon in Lindsay Hall.

A free-will offering will also be taken at that time to help defray the cost of the dinner. Any surplus left over will be credited to the Endowment Fund.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the Endowment, please feel free to contact any of the members of the commission. The members are Sharon Lamm, Paul Shubin, Marilyn Fordham, Marian Hysten, and Bob Ruesink. Charles Childers will be taking Bob Ruesink’s place in January. Dick Thomas is the committee’s treasurer.

*Sharon R. Lamm
Paul Shubin*

The Support & Endowment Management Committee will meet January 22 at 7:30 a.m. at the Owyhee Plaza Grill for a no-host breakfast. The major topic of discussion will be promotion of the endowment at the anniversary luncheon.



1st Presbyterian The Church Family

January Birthdays

January 1	Dick Fischer	January 17	Mark Szentes
January 2	Kristina Cockerille		Vinnie Stoppello
January 3	Kay Pickrell	January 18	Alan Anderson
January 5	Carolyn King	January 21	Martha Owen
January 6	Grant Thompson		Ron Winans
	Yvette Ingalls		Carrie Matsko
	Emma Gibson	January 23	Pat Dautel
January 7	Joyce Ruesink	January 24	Gary Peterson
January 8	Max DeLawyer		Mathew Eardley
January 9	Caroline McDaniel	January 25	Vickie Shelton
January 10	Chris McDermott		Libby Butts
January 11	Connie Wyllie	January 26	Lauryn Pyke
	Bill Swartley	January 27	Audrey Williams
January 12	John Lundquist	January 29	Claudette Hodkinson
January 14	Alicia Anderson		Margaret Smyser
	Ethan Boles		Dave Wyllie
January 15	Hayden Schulkey	January 30	Floyd Hodkinson
	Aiden Brudenell	January 31	Eleanor Acorda

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.

November 16, 2008

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Attendance - 262

Giving - \$8,557.20

November 23, 2008

Christ the King Sunday

Attendance - 181

Giving - \$7,010.20

November 30, 2008

First Sunday in Advent

Attendance - 218

Giving - \$5,316.00

December 7, 2008

Second Sunday in Advent

Attendance - 263

Giving - \$17,726.54

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.

January 1, 2009

**Holy Name of Jesus
(Mary, Mother of God)**

Numbers 6:22-27

Psalm 8

Galatians 4:4-7 or Philippians 2:5-13

Luke 2:15-21

New Year's Day

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

Psalm 8

Revelation 21:1-6a

Matthew 25:31-46

January 4, 2009

Second Sunday after Christmas Day

Jeremiah 31:7-14 or Sirach 24:1-12

Psalm 147:12-20 or Wisdom of Solomon 10:15-21

Ephesians 1:3-14

John 1:(1-9), 10-18

January 6, 2009

Epiphany

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12

January 11, 2009

**Baptism of the Lord
(First Sunday after the Epiphany)**

Genesis 1:1-5

Psalm 29

Acts 19:1-7

Mark 1:4-11

January 18, 2009

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

I Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20)

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

I Corinthians 6:12-20

John 1:43-51

January 25, 2009

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Psalm 62:5-12

I Corinthians 7:29-31

Mark 1:14-20

February 1, 2009

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalm 111

I Corinthians 8:1-13

Mark 1:21-28

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