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		<i>Press</i>	

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

On the Journey

I recently preached a bit on repentance and the idea of changing one's mind as a demonstration of the *metanoia* to which we are summoned by the scriptures. "Repent" is the message of John as he anticipates the coming of the Messiah. "Repent and follow" is the command of Jesus to his earliest disciples.

In the weeks after that sermon a few people asked to visit with me about repentance and their own faith journey and life walk. Those conversations left me thinking some about how, over time, my mind has been changed and my life redirected. I realize that my mind has been changed because of my relationship with people. As we move into Lent, I wonder how I am being called again to repentance. And I wonder how you also may be called to change your mind because of others who help us come to see life in God's world through a new set of lenses. A column like this could easily become a small book with chapter treatment of these changes; but for the moment a synopsis is really more in order.

I began with a simple question. About what and with whose assistance have I really changed my mind so as to conform more to the teaching of Christ?

Preston Jones, an African-American pastor in the United Methodist Church, changed the way I think about poverty and race during a visit to New York in 1973. He encouraged me to think about what I saw and ask why things are the way they are. He

suggested a book, *Before the Mayflower*, that I would never have found if he had not brought it to my attention.

Karl Stauber, an agnostic, lapsed Presbyterian, North Carolina Fellow, and senior executive in various national foundations changed the way I think about social class in our nation. He challenged me to make sense of policy and politics if I really believed in a "classless society."

Allan Schutt, the then Admissions Secretary at the Pacific School of Religion (PSR), was a devout Christian and an openly gay Reagan Republican who equipped me to see the powerful Christian witness of many diverse people and also helped me to see, in his words, "that not all gay people are alike." Indeed, why had I ever thought otherwise?

Robert McAfee Brown, the finest North American Liberation theologian of the twentieth century, compelled me to confront the suffering of the Holocaust and the larger Christian response to suffering. He introduced me to the thought of Elie Wiesel and also brought me into conversation with Elie as a teaching assistant at PSR.

Karen Grant, Karen West, Penelope Washburn, and other brilliant Christian women brought me to examine the simplistic understanding of Christianity that failed to take seriously the experience and perspective



of Christian feminists. They helped me to listen more and speak less. In fact, though you will find this hard to believe, I did not speak in class for an entire semester while studying with them. How much we learn by listening. They deepened my understanding of the radically inclusive love of Christ for all. They helped me see the often exclusive love of the church for God's beloved.

Charles and Donna Butcher, church officers in Wyoming, forced me to re-think everything I had ever thought about gun ownership, hunting, and hunters. Since I had grown up with a deeply anti-gun and anti-hunting perspective, it was quite something to realize that, once again, I had settled for a cheap, easy, simple, and mistaken view of others.

Bud Thompson, then editor of a Lutheran theological journal, a faithful scholar/pastor, gifted theologian, committed sailor, and night owl drew me deeply into the centrality and beauty of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Joe Small, director of the Office of Theology and Worship, along with many others, refused to accept the glib clichés that often typify the sloppy and essentially unitarian profession that has come to characterize modernist American Christianity. He helped me understand how truly crucial the Trinitarian shape of Christian faith is for our discipleship in the contemporary world. In short, he furthered my understanding that how and what we think matters.

This brief summary is by no means complete. I share it with you because

we are all called to repentance. Repentance is our ongoing conversion to the Triune God. It is the lifelong summons to challenge our comfortable idolatry and push further into the yielding of our certainty, as we lean, by the Holy Spirit, more fully into the grace and person of Jesus Christ.

May your Lenten discipline include a bit of reflection and new energy in the ongoing repentance to which we are all called.

Blessings,

Mark

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The Holiest of Weeks

As we have just recently completed Advent and Christmas Season, it does not seem possible that Lent is already upon us— and yet here it is. While most of us were planning for and celebrating the Christmas Season, others of us were planning for Lent and Easter. The season of Lent originated in the fourth century of the church. It spans 40 weekdays beginning on Ash Wednesday and climaxing during Holy Week with Holy Thursday (Maundy Thursday), Good Friday, and the Saturday before Easter.

Originally, Lent was the time of preparation for those who were to be baptized, a time of concentrated study and prayer before their baptism at Easter Vigil and the celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord early on Easter Sunday. But since these new members were to be received into a living community of Faith, the entire community was called to preparation.

We began our preparation for the celebration of the Resurrection with an Ash Wednesday service on the evening of February 25. Ashes are symbolic of the attitude of penitence reflected in the Lord's prayer: "forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us" (Luke 11:4, NRSV).

During this time of preparation we say we repent and follow the Gospel. "Repent" in the original language is a time of a change of mind and purpose and life, for which remission of sin is promised, and to follow the Gospel is to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ.

There are many ways we think about

change of purpose in our lives. During Lent it is typical to think about giving something up, denying ourselves as a form of repentance. Sometimes we give up something that we enjoy, sometimes it is an effort to change a bad habit. When I was younger I stopped biting my fingernails every Lent, thinking that was a penance. As you think about a change of purpose in your life, rather than give something up, or perhaps in addition to giving something up, how about adding something to your life?

As part of instituting change in your life, how about becoming an expression of God's love to another? Send a card to a neighbor or someone at church who might be lonely or might be having a difficult time— a card just to say "I'm thinking about you." And how about marking your calendar to participate in all of the Holy Week services?

Palm Sunday, April 5, is the beginning of Holy Week. This Sunday observes the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem that was marked by the crowds, who were in Jerusalem for Passover, waving palm branches and proclaiming him as the messianic king. We begin worship with palm branches and end worship by draping the cross, pulpit, and lectern in black, symbolizing the beginning of our observance of the events of the last week of Jesus' life.

Maundy Thursday, April 9, at 7 p.m. we commemorate the final meal Jesus ate with those who had followed him for so long. We remember the events by first sharing food together.



Then we listen to the Passover Story, the reason that Jesus was in that upper room with his disciples. They were following the instructions in the Torah to remember God's acts of deliverance in their history as they shared the Passover meal together. And we celebrate the sacrament of communion that was given to us in that last meal. The term **Maundy** comes from the Latin word *mandatum* (from which we get our English word *mandate*), from a verb that means "to give," "to entrust," or "to order."

Friday of Holy Week, April 10, has traditionally been called Good Friday or Holy Friday. On this day, the church commemorates Jesus' arrest, his trial, crucifixion and suffering, death, and burial. The Good Friday service (at 7 p.m.) is a service of **Tenebrae** (Latin for "shadows" or "darkness"). The Tenebrae service includes a series of Scripture readings and meditation done in stages while candles are gradually extinguished to symbolize the growing darkness not only of Jesus' death but of hopelessness in the world without God. Although Friday is a solemn time, it is not without its own joy: While it is important to place the Resurrection against the darkness of Good Friday, likewise the somberness of Good Friday should always be seen with the hope of Resurrection Sunday. As an often used sermon title vividly illustrates: "It's Friday. But Sunday's a'comin'!"

Easter Sunday, April 12, does come— the day Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus the Christ from the dead. Even before theologians ex-

plained the death of Jesus in terms of various atonement theories, the early church saw his resurrection as the central witness to a new act of God in history and the victory of God in vindicating Jesus as the Messiah. This event marks the central confession of faith by the early church and was the focal point for Christian worship, observed on the first day of each week since the first century. Sunday was officially proclaimed the day of Christian worship in AD321.

I hope that you will find a way to add an extra act of kindness and caring to your days; I hope that you will add the above dates to your calendar and make a point of being in worship with us during Holy Week; I hope that you will invite a friend to join you. Participating in these special services will deepen your understanding of the significance of Easter Sunday and increase the joy that we share as we proclaim together with gratitude: "Christ is Risen!"

Blessings and hope,

JbAnn

Joanna

Where Does Lent Lead Us?

February 24 this year is Shrove Tuesday— Mardi Gras or Fat Tuesday, different here from the Polish festival— the last day before Lent. It always falls 47 days before Easter Sunday. The name Shrove comes from the old word “shrive,” which means confess. On Shrove Tuesday, in the Middle Ages, people use to confess their sins so that they were forgiven before the season of Lent began. Shrove Tuesday is thought to be the last chance to indulge yourself and to use up the foods that aren’t allowed in Lent. Pancakes were eaten on this day because they contain fat, butter, and eggs, which were forbidden during Lent.

Lent comes from the Old English word *lencten* or spring, the season in which much of Lent falls. In other languages, the word for the season before Easter comes (in various forms) from the Latin word *Quadragesima*, meaning 40— the length of the Lenten season. For Christians, Lent is a time of penance, prayer, preparation for or recollection of baptism, and preparation for the celebration of Easter. Observance of Lent is as old as the fourth century. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, the 40th weekday before Easter. The week preceding Easter is called Holy Week. In Protestant churches, Lent ends at midnight on Holy Saturday.



Ash Wednesday marks a particular time for new beginnings, a time for turning and returning to the Lord. On this day in many churches ashes (often made from palm branches used the previous Palm Sunday) are placed on the foreheads of the faithful to remind them of death, of the sorrow they should feel for their sins, and of the necessity of changing their lives. The use of ashes is a powerful nonverbal and experiential way of participating in the call to self-examination, repentance, and reconciliation. We are reminded of our human mortality, and we confess our sins in the light of God’s redeeming love in Jesus Christ. The practice, which began in the early Middle Ages, is common among Roman Catholics, Anglicans and Episcopalians, and many Lutherans and was adopted by some Methodists and Presbyterians in the 1990s.

Holy Week includes Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. In Christian life it is a week of devout observance, commemorating the Passion and Jesus’ death on the cross. These days may have special features and services. For our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters these rise to a climax with the vigil of the Resurrection on the evening of Holy Saturday, when the paschal candle is blessed with the hymn and Lent, with its fast, ends at midnight.

Palm Sunday, the first day of Holy Week, recalls the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem riding upon a donkey, as his followers shouted “Hosanna!” and scattered palms in his path. In the Roman Catholic and some Protestant churches, ceremonies of the day are the blessing and distribution of crosses made from palm leaves and the recitation of one of the three accounts of the Passion in the gospels. Many wear crosses made of the palm.

Maundy Thursday, the traditional English name for Thursday of Holy Week, is so named because it is considered the anniversary of the institution of the Eucharist by Jesus at the Last Supper, a new commandment; “Maundy” comes from the same Latin root as our word “mandate.” In some churches, Jesus’ washing of the disciples’ feet is symbolically reenacted, while in others there may be a baptismal remembrance and supper. In Great Britain the rituals of the day include the distribution by the Queen of special Maundy money to certain of the poor at Westminster Abbey.

Good Friday is the anniversary of Jesus’ death on the cross. According to the Gospels, Jesus was put to death on the Friday before Easter Day. Since the early church, Good Friday has been observed by fasting and penance. The traditions and observances of this day vary. Some churches have an open sanctuary for reflection, some toll bells around noontime, some observances include prayer and meditation at the Stations of the Cross—fourteen images in succession depicting Christ’s journey to cruci-

fixion, some read the passion narrative, and some observe with a Tenebrae service in which the lights and candles in the church are extinguished.

Lent concludes with Easter celebrations, Jesus’ resurrection! It is the breaking of the world’s sin, the power that God has to turn everything around. In the West, Easter is celebrated on the Sunday following the full moon next after the vernal equinox; it thus falls between March 22 and April 25. Easter begins the paschal season, liturgically marked with rejoicing; “Alleluia” is often said, and the paschal candle is set up. Painting and rolling eggs and wearing new clothes are Easter customs, but there are no other social festivities comparable with those of Christmas.

It should be noted that the Eastern Orthodox Lenten season and Easter do not coincide with that of the Western churches.

Lent is a time for looking forward and backward—backward to those things about our lives and ourselves that we wish to change, with God’s help; forward to Easter’s reminder of Jesus’ sacrifice and God’s grace, which make those changes possible.

Peace,

Joanna

Music News for the Church Pews

“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”
1825

So Moses made a bronze serpent, and put it on a pole; and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived. Numbers 21:9

When the World Trade Center collapsed following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, workers excavating the site found a cross-shaped beam that, standing upright amid the ruin and debris, became a make-shift center of worship. The picture of that cross was published around the world and served as a symbol of hope.

A similar story is associated with this hymn. On the island of Macao in the region of Hong Kong, a magnificent cathedral was destroyed. Only the front wall remained. Atop it was a great metal cross, blackened with age, silhouetted against the sky. It is said that hymnist John Bowring was so inspired by the story of this cathedral that he wrote the hymn, “In the cross of Christ I glory, tow’ring o’er the wrecks of time.”

The validity of that story is questionable, but we do have a verified story about RATHBUN, the tune to which this hymn is set. It was composed by Ithamar Conkey, organist at Central Baptist Church in Norwich, Connecticut.

In 1849, Central’s pastor had planned a series of sermons on the seven last words of Christ on the Cross. According to the

Norwich Bulletin: “One Sunday during the series it was a very rainy day. Mr. Conkey was sorely disappointed that the members of the choir did not appear, as only one soprano came. Mr. Conkey was so discouraged and disheartened that after the prelude he closed the organ and locked it and went to his home on Washington Street. The pastor and choir gallery were at opposite ends of the church, and he could leave without attracting the attention of the congregation. That afternoon, as he sat down at the piano for practice, his mind was distracted with the thoughts of the sermons Dr. Hiscox had prepared and the words of the hymn, “In the Cross of Christ I Glory.” He then and there composed the music that is now so universally familiar in churches of every denomination, known as RATHBUN. He admitted afterward the inspiration was a vivid contradiction of his feelings at the morning service.

But why did he name his tune RATHBUN?

The one choir member who showed up on that rainy Sunday in 1849... that one faithful soprano... was named Mrs. Beriah S. Rathbun.

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We’ll sing this hymn March 15.



Michael

News from Troop 33

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.

In April the Troop will meet on the 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th. The April campout is the Willow Creek Camporee on Big Willow Creek north of Emmett. This event is a tough competition the Scouts look forward to each year. The Camporee is on the 17th, 18th, and 19th.

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 web site at www.boisetroop33.org.

Christian Formation Activities for All

A number of opportunities for study and service will be available at First Church during Lent. They include:

Lenten Adult Small Group Study and Daily Devotional

The book to be read and shared is the Moderator's Lenten Study, *Alive to God in Jesus Christ*. There will be three opportunities for group study and discussion during March— Sunday mornings at 10:05 and Tuesday evenings at 7:00 at First Church, and Monday evenings at 7:30 in Hidden Springs, hosted by Bonnie Lind.

Youth Mission Trip Fundraisers

On March 1 the youth of the church will host a Pancake Breakfast beginning

at 7:30 a.m. They will also have on sale a recipe book with contributions by our youth and their families and friends. And each Sunday we will be reminded that "A little bit goes a Long Way"— there will be a coin counter to collect your pocket change. When we gather our funds together, we can stretch them.

Finally, together with youth from Trinity Presbyterian Church, our youth will participate in the annual 30-Hour Famine March 13-15— a way for us to support World Vision.

Faith Forest Lessons

The theme for March is Palm Sunday and Holy Week.

Cub Scout Pack 33 Update

In December, Pack 33 held its annual Pinewood Derby Clinic. Many boys got their cars cut out and ready to work on over the holidays. Their efforts were duly noted at the Pinewood Derby held in January. This is always a great event.

At the derby, we had a glitch (more like a hard-drive crash) on the computer we use to run the pinewood derby. However, thanks to quick thinking by Drake Shubin and Pete Larson of Boy Scout Troop 33 (and First Church), they devised a grid that allowed us to run the derby and keep track manually. This worked and we had a wonderful race. Thanks to these intelligent and ingenious young men, it was a success.

Thanks to First Church for your support!

*Cydney Shubin
Cubmaster*

Report from Camp Sawtooth

Camp Sawtooth is beautiful any time of year, as you can see from this picture of the snowy road heading into camp.



This picture was taken on November 4, 2008, the date of the final walk-through for the Greeling Hall bathroom remodel. Trying to post pictures of a bathroom is difficult, so make plans to come to camp— whether as a Volunteer or as Summer Staff. When you bring your children to camp, be sure to take the self-guided tour (a map & refreshments will be provided) of the projects that have been completed at Camp in 2008 and 2009.

As we say goodbye to Ted and Deb Davis, who gave wholeheartedly of themselves as Camp Directors, and to Pastor Mark Cox (who continues to serve in many capacities at Camp) as Camp Board Moderator, we are thankful for those who have gone before us and worked very hard to prepare this rich heritage for all of us to enjoy for years to come. We are grateful for their vision and service and humbled as the task is now ours to carry on.

Hebrews 11 is the great “Hall of Faith” chapter of Old Testament believers who were faithful in their walk with God. For more than 75 years, campers have been coming to Camp Sawtooth and many of their stories have a similar ring— “even though I was raised in a Christian home and attended church, it was when I went to Camp as a young person that I gave my heart to Jesus and my faith became my own.”

As you reflect on Hebrews 11, think of the many servants of Christ who have served at Camp Sawtooth over the years. Many are among the “great cloud of witnesses” cheering us all on as we step into the summer camping season of 2009. In whatever capacity you may come to Camp this summer, let all we do glorify God and be for the purposes of His kingdom.

In Christ,

*Dave and Marcy Paul
Camp Directors 2009*

CATCH!

Writing this article three weeks before you will read it gets tricky. Our latest CATCH family consists of a mother and her two sons ages 6 and 9. The church quilters have supplied them with three quilts; what a big hit!

There is ongoing need for used or new household items of all kinds. Call the CATCH office (384-4087) and they will arrange to pick up contributions.



For our congregation to continue as a partner in this program, we need your \$\$\$.

Please give a special offering and designate it for CATCH. Be a good neighbor!

New Church Leadership

In late January, First Church installed— and in some cases ordained— new classes of elders and deacons. The new makeup of the Session and Board of Deacons is as follows:

Moderator: Mark Davis
 Clerk of Session: Lindy High
 Treasurer: Steve Severn

Session

Class of 2009:
 Tony Gonzalez
 Lindy High
 Ron Ingalls
 Glenda (Mike) Thomas

Class of 2010:
 John Hicks
 Sharon Lamm
 Bonnie Lind
 Paul Shubin

Class of 2011:
 George Coburn
 Joe Galey
 Terri Muse
 Lisa Szentes

Board of Deacons

Class of 2009
 Peggy Bohl
 Teresa Browne
 Bill Brudenell
 Dena Duncan
 Carol Kuhl
 Louise Nagel
 Terry Nagel

Class of 2010:
 Libby Butts
 Charleen Civiello
 Joanne Coburn
 Jane Crase
 Todd Lundquist
 Diane Sower

Class of 2011:
 Emily Boles

John Harenberg
 Jane Harris
 Kay Pickrell

Class of 2009 Youth Deacons:
 Lauren Christensen
 Pete Larson

Deacons' leadership and ministry teams:
 Moderator: Carol Kuhl
 Vice Moderator: Teresa Browne
 Secretary: Peggy Bohl
 Treasurer: Joanne Coburn
 Advisor: JoAnn Thiry
 Communion Ministry Co-chairs: Charleen Civiello, Todd Lundquist
 Flower Ministry Co-chairs: Libby Butts, Louise Nagel
 Funeral Ministry Co-chairs: Teresa Browne, Kay Pickrell

Friends in Action

The board of directors of Friends in Action has selected gerontologist Stephanie Bender-Kitz as interim executive director.

Stephanie has worked as a gerontologist (an aging specialist) for more than twenty years. Her experiences with nursing homes, hospitals, community-education programs, mental health services, and research organizations across the United States and abroad provide her with a broad and deep understanding of the process of aging. She has served as a volunteer on the board of Friends in Action for more than two years, providing leadership in the development and maintenance of effective and high-quality services.

Stephanie completed her bachelor's degree at the University of Illinois, her master's degree in gerontology at the University of Southern California, and her master's in public health and Ph.D. in health services and policy analysis at the University of California, Berkeley.

Friends in Action, of which First Church was a founding organization, is a non-profit, collaborative organization dedicated to sustaining quality of life, dignity, and independence for older persons and their families through education and volunteerism.

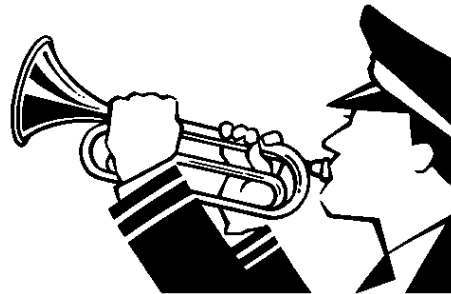
Friendship Dinners

We had the pleasure of serving 115 people Thursday, February 1, at the Friendship Dinner. In addition to those from First Church, volunteers from four other churches helped.

The next Friendship Dinner that First Church will host is Thursday, March 5.

Thank you to everyone who participated, whether by bringing food, by serving, by cleaning up, or by sharing in the meal.

Bill Brudenell



College of Idaho Choir Concert

To kick off its spring tour, the College of Idaho Choir (conducted by Sean Rogers) will perform a concert of sacred and secular music at First Church on Sunday evening, March 27, at 7:00 p.m. Sean will be assisted by Lindsay Kline. A free-will offering will help fund the tour, which includes performances at Pendleton, Portland, Medford, San Francisco, and Reno.



Support our Library!!

SUNDAY
MARCH 8

Come and peruse the offerings. There is something for everybody!!

Some books will be absolutely FREE. Some books will fetch a meager fee.

**Capital idea, what!
I say, splendid, splendid!
Show up and have a gander, I will! Surely, not to be missed, I'd say!
See you there, then!**

All proceeds will go directly into the library fund to purchase much needed supplies. Donations are accepted.



Looking to the New Year, Planning for the Future

As we move forward into a new year, it is usual that we look back at the year just past. We reflect on how the events of the world, of our community, within our work, and our families affected our lives. Some find it helpful to put pen to paper and write— without editing yourself. Let your thoughts of the blessing of the past year flow out through your pen. As we look to the future we find reasons for hope. Perhaps for you it is because we have a new President and we hope for change in our economy and the world situation. Perhaps you have had a marriage in your family or the birth of a new baby. Whatever your blessings and your hopes, it can be very enlightening when you let your thoughts flow through the pen or pencil and then read what you have written.

As I reflected on this past year, I realized the anniversaries of the death of two significant people in my life still impact me greatly. In the same week that I had done my journaling, someone spoke to me about the End of Life Planning Booklets that were developed several years ago, about the same time that my mother died. My mother was a blessing to me throughout her life and, as was her way, she had prepared to take care of my brother and me even at her death. Having lived through the death of two husbands, she understood the multitude of decisions to be made under the most stressful emotional circumstances. Because she wanted a sad and emotional time to be as easy as

possible for us, she planned her funeral years before she died. What a gift that was to us! It was all there in writing, funeral and burial plans, where documents were kept; and she had added my brother to all of her accounts. Most of the decisions and plans had been made, and we needed only to carry out her last wishes.

I have sat with many folks after the death of a loved one. In some cases we reviewed together the last wishes that had been written down and planned a service accordingly. In other cases I have talked through decisions with family members doing the best they could to make decisions. They could only hope their decisions would be according to what their loved one would want, because they had never really discussed it with them.

The end-of-life planning book is a document that can convey our choice of music, scripture, our preference for funeral arrangements, pertinent information about our life to be included in an obituary, and financial and legal information. We included all that it seemed to us from our collective experience would make things as easy as possible for our loved ones who have the responsibility of handling things at our death.

Death is a truth of life. While most of us hope it will come later rather than sooner, we know it will come eventually. As Christians we believe this is only the end of life as we know it, and— trusting in the promise of God and the hope of the resurrection— we believe that there is life beyond what we know.

Whether you are 30 something or 80 something or somewhere in between, as you look to the coming year and make promises to yourself about what will be different this year from last, consider the gift of planning that your loved ones will receive at the occasion of your death. While some of us might find this a difficult thing to do, or even confusing, I can tell you from personal experience that it is truly a loving thing to do.

At the suggestion of a couple of folks, we will have a class on April 26 following the 11:00 service to look over the booklets and begin the process of filling them in. If you would like to know more about the booklet of last wishes or if you would like to participate in the class, please call me: 345-3441 ext 118. We will make it an enjoyable and informative time as we plan together.

Blessings and hope for the coming year,

JoAnn

Presbyterian Women/ Phoenix Circle News

If you haven't contributed to this year's fund drive, it is *not too late!* The money raised supports many local church programs, community programs, and national/international programs.

One of the local church programs is Camp Sawtooth. Many church members have enjoyed this facility and its programs through the years. Presbyterian Women has provided scholarships to *individual children* in our church who have requested them. Direct your requests to Presbyterian Women soon. Registration is due by May 15. Both the February issue of *First*

Press and the church office have lists of camp dates and fees.

Reserve the date— Saturday, May 16— for the Mothers, Daughters, and Friends Luncheon in Lindsay Hall. Watch for more details in the April *First Press*.

PW Triennium will be July 11-15 in Louisville, Kentucky. Early Bird registration deadline is May 15. Any woman interested in attending may request information and help with the registration fee from Estelle Aldridge or Kathleen McClenahan.

Phoenix Circle meets for Bible study on Monday, March 16, at 1 p.m. at the home of Nancy Ives. All women are welcome. For more information, contact Kathleen McClenahan, 344-6719, or Nancy Ives, 411-7833.

Congratulations!

Edward Dunn— Joanna's husband and of course Keola, Melelani, and Kapono's father— has been elected interim executive presbyter of Boise Presbytery. This position was created when the Snake River Mission Area was dissolved at the end of last year and each of the three presbyteries that were part of the SRMA chose its own individual staff.

Edward chaired both the Boise Presbytery mission study task force that participated with the other two presbyteries' task forces to consider dissolution of the SRMA and the transition team that designed the new structure for Boise Presbytery. He will serve at least a year in his new position.

Session Notes

During its January 26, 2009, meeting, the Session:

> **Organized itself for the work of the Session activities in 2009.** As recommended by Mark Davis, the Session groups include:

Facilities Commission: Joe Galey, Tony Gonzalez, Ron Ingalls

Inviting Church Ministry Commission: John Hicks, Paul Shubin

Operations Commission: George Coburn, Sharon Lamm, Terri Muse, Lisa Szentes

Personnel Committee: Bonnie Lind, Lindy High, Mike Thomas

Nominating Committee: Session members are Lisa Szentes, who agreed to serve as convener of the committee, and Joe Galey.

> **Decided to seek cost estimates for the highest priorities for the Lindsay Building project,** which are renovation of the banquet hall, the kitchen, the 9th Street entrance, the upper level, and the garden room entrance. Further discussion of the project is planned for the Session's annual retreat, to be held March 6-8 this year.

> **Authorized First Church's youth groups to hold fundraising activities,** including the "Super Bowl of Caring" project, a pancake breakfast scheduled March 1, a spring rummage sale, a cookbook, and the annual M&M candy-to-quarters project.

> **Elected First Church commissioners to the February Presbytery meeting:** John Hicks, JoAnn Thiry, and Mike Thomas.

> **Reviewed First Church's financial status** as part of the monthly report from Steve Severn, the Treasurer, who reported that contributions during December were high. Still to come is a report from a Trinity Church team on any findings from the team's review of the church's financial records. A team from First Church also reviewed Trinity's records and submitted a report to Trinity.

> **Discussed the status of the sanctuary lighting project,** which has been put "on hold" until after the snow season when all costs of snow removal are known. Last year the Facilities Commission spent \$8,000 on snow removal. This year the commission will wait until the fourth quarter of the year— after snow removal costs are known and any emergency facilities matters taken care of— before working on the lighting project.

> **Heard a report on the success of the December "Church Walk,"** held for the first time as a cooperative effort among downtown churches. Michael Civiello reported that about 725 visitors were recorded at First Church, which offered visitors a guide to the stained glass windows inside the church.

*Lindy High
Clerk of Session*

Elders of the Month for March are Paul Shubin, 433-0904, and Sharon Lamm, 375-3658.

New Committee Membership

With the start of a new year and new terms, the following committee memberships are in place:

Ed Low Committee:

Ron Jennings
Barbara Quickstad

Support and Endowment Fund Committee:

Charles Childers
Marian Hylan
Dick Thomas
Sharon Lamm (Session Member)

Nominating Committee:

Joe Galey (Session Member)
Louise Ackley
Margie Fischer
Jim Mowbray
Mary Royce
Rhoby Swartley
Lisa Szentes, Convener (Session Member)

Corporate Trustees:

George Coburn
Ron Ingalls
Lisa Szentes
Mike Thomas

Operations Commission:

Sharon Lamm
Teri Muse
Lisa Szentes
George Coburn, Convener

Facilities Commission:

Joe Galey
Ron Ingalls
Tony Gonzalez, Convener

Personnel Commission:

Lindy High
Mike Thomas
Bonnie Lind, Convener

Inviting Church Ministry:

John Hicks, Co-Convener
Paul Shubin, Co-Convener

From the Editor

The deadline for the April 2009 issue of *First Press* is Tuesday, March 10. I will *not* be leaving town during the editing and production process! However, it's still very helpful to have material in hand on the deadline. So: 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



March Birthdays

March 2	Laverne Winn	March 21	Patricia Turner
March 3	Dorothy Collins		Jack Scripps
	Nancy Nadolski		Daniel Palmer
	Ryan Hart		Kurt Deters
March 6	Shelly Slater		Ashley Ingalls
March 7	Elden Willmschen	March 22	Yolanda Hansen
March 10	Dana Fuller	March 23	Claire Brown
	Keola Dunn	March 24	Cheryl Runyan
March 11	Sally Monk	March 25	Chuck Ruch
	Leona Underkofler		Terry Nagel
	Jim Swartley		Don Bott
	Lynn Gress		Lindy High
March 12	Maxine Randall		Colby Borup
	Sally Ruch	March 26	Linda Burne
	Noah Gray		Janet Adolphsen
March 13	Nicholas Hayman		Tepary Cooley
March 14	Ingrid Brudenell		Connor Aaserud
March 15	Irene Neely		Avery Gaffney
March 16	Betty Holt	March 28	Sandra Sandford
	Joseph Runyan	March 29	Steve Severn
March 19	Joan Canning		Megan Thomas
March 20	Laurie Mowbray		Jack Williams
	Dillon Mowbray	March 30	Austin Marsh
	Brennan Gaffney		

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.

January 11, 2009

First Sunday after the Epiphany

Attendance - 265

Giving - \$5,563.00

January 18, 2009

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Attendance - 207

Giving - \$9,387.82

January 25, 2009

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Attendance - 225

Giving - \$9,886.12

February 1, 2009

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Attendance - 245

Giving - \$8,718.63

February 8, 2009

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Attendance - 250

Giving - \$12,498.53

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.

March 1, 2009

First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 9:8-17

Psalm 25:1-10

1 Peter 3:18-22

Mark 1:9-15

March 8, 2009

Second Sunday in Lent

Gen. 17:1-7, 15-16

Psalm 22:23-31

Romans 4:13-25

Mark 8:31-38 or Mark 9:2-9

March 15, 2009

Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 20:1-17

Psalm 19

I Corinthians 1:18-25

John 2:13-22

March 22, 2009

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Numbers 21:4-9

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

Ephesians 2:1-10

John 3:14-21

March 29, 2009

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16

Hebrews 5:5-10

John 12:20-33 Peter 3:18-22

Mark 1:9-15

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