

News From The Pews

News of the First Presbyterian Church

March 2009

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UPCOMING WORSHIP/ EVENTS

March 1, 2009 – Communion Sunday

Rev. Garrard
Worship Theme: "Solutions to Overcoming Sin"
Scripture: Genesis 9: 8-17; 1 Peter 3: 18-22; Mark 1: 9-15

March 8, 2009

Rev. Garrard
Worship Theme: "Trusting Our Future to God"
Scriptures: Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16; Romans 4: 13-25;
Mark 8: 31-38

March 15, 2009 – Mission Sunday

Guest Preacher: The Rev. Doug Garrard, Pastor of the Palm Desert Community Presbyterian Church, will be preaching on the mission trip he and his wife, Jan, took to Africa last summer. Jan will present a video report during Sunday School at 9:15 a.m. Doug is Bob's brother.

March 22, 2009

Rev. Garrard
Worship Theme: "Celebrating God's Grace"
Scriptures: Numbers 21: 4-9; Psalm 107: 1-3, 17-22;
Ephesians 2: 1-10; John 3: 14-21

March 29, 2009

Guest Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Robert Walkley

April 5, 2009 – Palm Sunday / Communion

Guest Preacher: The Rev. Curt Barnett

April 9, 2009 – Maundy Thursday / Communion

Worship Theme: "What a Night that Was"
Scripture: Exodus 12: 1-14; John 13: 1-38

April 10, 2009 – Good Friday / Service of Tenebrae

Worship Theme: "What Jesus Did For Us"
Scriptures: Isaiah 52: 13 – 53: 12; John 18 – 19: 42

April 12, 2009 – Easter Sunday

Worship Theme: "What's Behind the Resurrection?"
Scripture: Acts 10: 34-43; 1 Corinthians 15: 1-11; John 20: 1-18

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Share Your
Faith in Christ





There is a question I have of you who read this. How are you faring spiritually in these unsettled economic times? I personally know people who have lost jobs or retirement funds have dropped in value causing their income to suffer significant cuts. All this causes me to remember that God is ultimately in charge of our lives and is working things out for our good.

The Apostle Paul's insights shared in Romans 8:18-39 are worth considering as we seek comfort during these times. Some highlights from this passage that help me

are:

Verse 18. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us.

Verses 24-26. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.

Verses 31-32, 37-39. What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (New Revised Standard Version)

There are some questions members have asked other members about the transitions going on at our church that have come to my attention. Some I have answered before but bear repeating. Here is one of them.

What is this pastor and program church thing that we have been talking about for over a year? It is a recognition that our church cannot grow or meet the challenges coming to us if every program requires a pastor to start it, to run it and always be present. One person cannot do it all nor does any one pastor have the gifts to do all things well. It is a recognition that we have gifted and talented members who are even more capable than the pastor of beginning and running programs in and for the church.

In many ways, we are already a program church. Our Choirs, Mariners, Prairie Schooners, Presbyterian Women, Youth program, Tuesday Bible Study, the Shepherding Team and Buildings and Grounds Ministry and almost all aspects of our Children's Ministry are samples of programs in our church that function extremely well without a pastor being the spark plug and engine of the events. This does not mean I do not attend or keep in touch on what goes on, it means that you, the laity of the church, are using the gifts the Holy Spirit has given you to lead the church. I get to enjoy following you!

In terms of visitation, we have deacons who have found great joy in visiting the hospital and homebound members. Yet, I still visit just as much as before, but more visits are being done and more members are getting to know each other. This means more ministry in Christ's name is being done.

Some people have expressed fears that there would be little or no access to the pastor. Has anyone had less access to the pastor than before? I have always protected my sermon writing time, so that has not changed. If I am out visiting, I am not readily available to someone dropping by but pastoral contact is occurring with others. It is always best to call and make an appointment to make

sure I am available. We can always work out a time and always have.

Our transition from pastor centered to program church is not a sudden thing. It is something that slowly evolves as we grow in our faith and desire to reach out to bring people together in Christ's name. In fact, we were much more of a program church in past decades. So our evolution is nothing new. Moving from pastor centered to program church is really not so scary is it?

I will be on vacation and study leave from March 23-April 3. The Deacons will cover the hospital and Rev. Dr. Bob Walkley and Rev. Curt Barnett will cover for funerals.

Peace to you,
Bob Garrard

Who is on our Congregational Nominating Committee?

Brenda Wilson is the Chair. Gary Moore, Gayle Lain, Mary Bausserman, Jean Marie Seitz, Arny Lutz and Tami Mason make up the rest of the committee. These fellow members will find elders and deacons for next year. They will also find members to serve on the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC). **If you are interested in serving, please let them know.** The number of people to serve on the APNC will be determined by the session and the congregation. Who will ultimately serve will be voted on by the congregation at a special meeting in the future. How long will it take to put the APNC together? I do not know, it will depend on how quickly the Congregational Nominating Committee can meet and find people who will say yes to the mission ahead.

Special Recognitions:

Bob Hale - March 8th

Sunday, March 8th, at the 10:30 a.m. worship service we will recognize Bob Hale for his Stephen Ministry work over the past twelve years for our church and Ruth Hale for her great assistance to Bob as they made hundreds of visits to members in the hospital and shut-ins at home. A reception will be held after the worship service to express our gratitude.

Deanna Dyekman – March 22nd

Sunday, March 22nd, Deanna Dyekman will be thanked and recognized for her 8 years of excellent work with our children's choirs. If you wish to send Deanna a gift, please do and send it to her home, 2217 Helen Drive, Cheyenne, WY 82007, or you may bring it to put in the basket at the church that Sunday. We will have receptions after both services that Sunday.

Dora McComas took a long mission trip to the Middle East last October. Here is her report.

The View From An Iraqi Presbyterian
—by Dora McComas

In early October I was among 22 US Presbyterians who went to Damascus to meet with 18 Presbyterians who had traveled from Iraq to talk with us. An elder from the Baghdad church showed us a video about their church life, including pictures of Santa Claus passing out presents to eager families, their sanctuary and fellowship hall decorated with tree and tinsel.

I was surprised and encouraged by that scene that could have easily been in one of our own churches. But the elder went on to tell us something about the unseen background. Their congregation used to have over 350 families; half of them have fled Baghdad due to lack of security over the past five years. Almost none of them walk to church anymore but are picked up by vans when it seems safe enough to gather for worship. They have armed guards to make sure that no troublemakers enter. Four of the pastors of the five Iraqi Presbyterian churches have fled, due mainly to threats they have received. Many of the celebrants in that Baghdad Christmas party last year came from other Christian churches because all the remaining believers enjoy meeting together during these years of crisis.

We pray that their celebration is a sustaining reminder that Jesus came into a world where the empire of that time also brought great suffering, but still God's light is here and the darkness has not overcome it. The faithfulness of those Iraqi Christians is evidence again that God is present with lively grace, even when the world around is cruel.

More than one Iraqi said: "Whenever we leave home, we do not know if we'll return alive." An American Presbyterian asked, "In the face of such dangers, how do you go about your daily lives?" Their reply: "We trust in the Lord." They witnessed to their faith that their precarious lives, as the Apostle Paul said, are always in the presence of the Lord, whether in this life or in the next. But because so many Iraqi Christians have left their homes since the war and occupation began, never to return, their faith statement was especially poignant.

"Pray for us" was a constant request. When asked if there was anything we could do, it was their first response: "Pray for us." And pray for them we shall continue to do. This request became most urgent on December 1 when they told us that the elder who was leading the church in Mosul had been shot three times; even though one bullet was near his heart, miraculously he survived and is recovering. His attempted assassination came after a couple weeks of general persecution of Christians in the city; most of them have fled to nearby areas, some with only the clothes on their backs. While this pogrom seems to have come from a certain group of extremists, the full motivation is still not clear.

There was only one pastor from Iraq who attended the meeting. Previously there had been 5 Presbyterian churches with pastors; now there are only 4 functioning churches and just one with a pastor, in Kirkuk. Five pastors have fled the country after death threats. Thousands of other Christians have fled due either to death threats or the pervasive insecurity or the hardships of living in the midst of destroyed clean water and sewage systems.

In the midst of all this, they continue their ministries to their members and to their communities. "Help us with our kindergarten" was a request from the Kirkuk church. Since they live in an area that is dominated by the generally more tolerant Kurds, they have expanded their KG and now have over 175 children, most of whom are Muslim, whose parents know that the all-volunteer Christian staff are giving them the best care and educational opportunity available in the city. They want to expand their

program and also they need to purchase the building, which they've been renting, because the owner has decided to sell. Already many generous Presbyterians have contributed to the Extra-Commitment Opportunity account earmarked for that purpose, and more is still needed. In addition, with stalwart lay leadership the churches have, for instance either a youth program, a women's ministry, a medical clinic or a prison program, serving the congregations and the communities.

We worshiped with two Syrian Presbyterian churches where we also met with many Iraqi refugees. Before worship one tearful grandmother greeted us with these words, "We were a respectable people and look at what has happened to us." As her family gathered around her, she explained how they had lived rather well in Iraq, but had felt compelled to leave due to the general insecurity and threats, after two of their children had been wounded in a bombing. They had had ample living space and good employment; now they live crowded in a couple of small rooms and have no employment in Syria, because that is forbidden by the government that has an extremely difficult time dealing with 1 ½ million refugees. They wait anxiously for what the UN refugee program may be able to do, and for host countries, especially the US, to welcome them to a new life. Every refugee with whom we spoke considered that as Americans we must have some influence with the government. We tried to explain how tough it is for us to help.

There are things we can do. We can tell others of the plight of our Iraqi Presbyterian brothers and sisters and in general of all Christians in Iraq. We hear their plea, "Pray for us" and we shall do so on a regular basis, asking our Lord Jesus to ease their burdens, eliminate the persecutions and help them to find grace and peace and enduring courage and faith during this difficult time.



Presbyterian Women

On March 6, 2009, Presbyterian Women of First Presbyterian Church will be hosting the United Christian Women's World Day of Prayer at 1:00 p.m. Coordinator for this event is Lorna Walkley. We hope many of our church women can come and join us. Our church will be providing finger food and beverages.

We invite all Presbyterian Women to come and help make this event a memorable success.

Congratulations . . .

Ben and Tina Jacquot on the birth of their son, Christopher Ryan,
on February 17, 2009. Christopher was 7 lbs. 3 ozs. and 19 3/4" long.

Proud grandpa is Jon Jacquot.





**HYSTERICAL
HISTORICAL
ARCHIVES**

Submitted by Peggy Williams, Archives Chairperson

Music in Worship in the 1880's

In the non-liturgical church in America there was great variety in music. Congregational music, mainly the hymns, was drawn from the German Chorale, to the "Gospel" song. The organ music was written for use in large churches with a long period of reverberation. There were interludes on the organ between stanzas of the hymns and psalms. Often a hymn was introduced by a short prelude based on the hymn. Today the hymn prelude precedes worship, while in the 19th century hymn the prelude was played as an introduction to the hymn.

The last 100 years have seen a change in the concept of worship which is reflected in our hymnal. There has been a shift from the emphasis of the fear and awe and judgement of God to an expression of love and gratitude to God. The hymns of the 19th century spoke about the promised land and heaven, while the hymns of the 20th century emphasize a more abundant life in this world. Missionary hymns of today express concern and hope for the gospel message of peace rather than salvation for the heathen.

The choir was sometimes a chorus, or a solo quartet. The choir sometimes sat in the back of the church, and the congregation turned around to see them when they sang. Other times one person, called a precentor led all the music in the service with voice or cornet. Music differed from church to church.

Don't forget to put your pennies in the Pennies for Stained Glass jar toward the rear of the sanctuary. We aren't able to empty the Penny Jar very often but when we do, we usually find \$100.00 or so. We need to continue saving our pennies as this fund goes toward any maintenance or cleaning needed on our beautiful windows. Try putting your age in pennies every year on your birthday.

If you are interested in serving on this committee or just helping with some of our projects, please contact any member of the committee.

Paula Qualls	638-8805	Glen Oslund	638-8884
Mel Qualls	638-8805	Peggy Williams	634-0147
Frances Creech	638-3787	Colleen Osborn	(Out of town member)
Ralph DeWyke	632-8210		

**REMEMBER, IT IS IMPORTANT TO KNOW WHERE WE HAVE COME FROM AS WE JOURNEY
FORWARD MAKING OUR OWN HISTORY.**



Deacon's Beacons

Submitted by Jane Nelson

Give me the insight, Lord, to feel as others feel. Give me the imagination to stand in another's shoes. Your mercy is great because you know in Jesus what it is to be a man. Help me to share in this mercy.

– Rex Chapman

Christ has entrusted us with the power to pray for the healing of hearts, minds and bodies of people. We are to claim gifts of wisdom, working of miracles and healing. These are nothing other than the manifestations of Christ continuing to do through believers what He did as Jesus of Nazareth.

– Lloyd John Ogilvey

Stacy "Skoumal" Adams	Scott Coulson	Margret Jones	Colleen Osborn
Meryl Adams	Jon DeWyke	Roshni Joseph	Sherry Popham
Lil Barbour	Robert Drummond	Kevin Keller	Bertie Price
Richard Beauchamp	Glen Flyr	Jim Kleine	Midge Reed
Alex Blane	Adam George	Mary Jane Larson	Doris Rogers
Ann Blane	Myra George	Ann Lembke	Celia Schadel
Ike Bowling	Emily Graham	Alice Mabie	Allan Schultz
Betty Brown	Joan Gray	Eugene Martinez	Susan Sexton
Jay Brown	Dianne Grimm	Rex Mauch	Kay Starnes
Lola Brown	Mary Hardway	Bob McCaslin	Margaret Symmonds
R. J. Brown	Marydee Hartsook	Janet McIlroy	Dorothy Wagner
Bonnie Carley	Clyde Hilson	Keith McIlroy	Margy Will
Eddie Clark	Karen Hruby	Kevin McMIndes	Greg Wirfel
	Marcy Jacobsen	Hal Miller	B. J. Wise

Pray for blessings for those who mourn:

In this time of sorrow
 Help us to remember and know
 Deeply
 That if we simply turn to You
 Our hearts will be comforted
 Our loads will be lightened
 Our souls will be understood.

Jennifer M. Spencer

Christ is the Lord of countless new beginnings not just a second chance.

– L.J. Ogilvey

Rev. Janet Brooks – Loss of Mother

♪♪ Notes & Church News ♪♪

- **Instrumental Ensemble: Sunday – May 10th**

Come and make a joyful noise to the Lord!! On Sunday, May 10, we will have an instrumental ensemble perform for the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Any of you who play instruments *of any kind*, are invited to play with us! We will play hymn arrangements so players of all ages and ability levels are cordially invited to join us. Dust off that instrument and help us praise the Lord through music!!

Rehearsal Schedule: April 19: 11:30 - 12:00

April 26: 11:30 - 12:00

May 3: 11:30 - 12:00

May 10: 9:30 - 10:30; play for 10:30 service

- **Church Directory Supplement**

One of the projects of New Life Ministries is to update our church directory. We want our church family to be able to welcome our new members. The new member supplement to the church directory is available by calling Sue Riske at 635-3060 or e-mailing her at s.riske@bresnan.net.

- **2009 Per Capita**

The per capita for 2009 is \$36.35.

Coming April 28, 2009

Live, **Jimmy Blackwood and the Blackwood Quartet** will be celebrating their 75th Anniversary. You don't want to miss this legendary group. The concert will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary of the First Presbyterian Church. A love offering will be taken. Mark your calendars!

- **College Scholarships**

First Presbyterian Church is again offering college scholarships to high school seniors and college students. The two scholarships available are the General College Scholarship and the Keith Weigner Memorial Health Care Scholarship. Applicants for both scholarships must be members of First Presbyterian Church of Cheyenne. Application packets are available at the church office; application deadline is March 15. For further information, please call Maïda Wedell, Scholarship Chairman, Christian Education Ministry, at 635-1983.

● **Recent Additions to the Church Library**

Abide With Me by Elizabeth Strout concerns the struggle of a minister in New England in the 1950's as he must relate to the strengths and weaknesses of his community. [Fic Str]

Gloria Chisholm, in Encourage One Another, discusses the importance of encouragement and gives helpful suggestions on ways to encourage others and yourself. [248.4 Chi]

Speaking the Truth in Love, by Ruth Koch and Kenneth Haugk, has the subtitle "How To Be An Assertive Christian." The authors cover such varied topics as what being assertive means and its Biblical foundation, how to give and receive compliments, and ways to handle negotiations. They include a self inventory to use in determining how you react in specific situations. [248.25 Koc]

Know Fear by Ed Young, Jr., helps us understand our fears and find ways to deal with them. He discusses fear of helplessness, of the future, of commitment, of failure, of loneliness, of death and of God, and talks of the hope available to us through Christ. [154.4 You]

Walking the Bible, by Bruce Feiler, is a land journey through the five books of Moses. This inspiring adventure was presented several years ago as a three-part BBC series. [915.6 Fei]

A Second Chicken Soup For the Woman's Soul is a collection of brief true stories about how women dealt with various obstacles and dreams in their lives. [158.128 Can]

New Members

Submitted by Marion
Yoder

The Church was fortunate to receive four new young members on January 25, 2009, all of whom completed confirmation classes taught by Rev. Garrard last fall.

One of our new members is Matthew Carver, son of church members Steve and Caroline Carver. Matt was baptized in the First Presbyterian Church, and is very active in the church. He attends Sunday school and worship regularly, helps in the nursery and, when interviewed for this piece, was cheerfully washing dishes after fellowship following the first service February 15. He says he enjoyed confirmation class, that he learned a lot taking the course and looks forward to being a member of this church.

Matt, 15, is in the ninth grade at McCormick. Sports are among his other activities and interests. Matt plays basketball, baseball and football. He is a linebacker, and football is his favorite sport.

Another new member, Kendyll Ferrall, is the daughter of church member, Rosemary Novario. Kendyll attends East High School, having moved to Cheyenne from Aurora, Colorado nine years ago. She is a soccer player and is active in a number of church activities. She was attracted to First Presbyterian Church and its congregation through its Christian Education program.

Kayla Cook and Madelyn Sato also successfully completed confirmation class with Kendyll and Matthew last fall and joined the church January 25, 2009. Information about these new young members will appear in future newsletters.



THANK YOU!
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!



- Thanks to the following Deacons for helping serve during the February fellowships: Liza Mackey, Bert Trimble, Mary Lou McMIndes, Jory Kaufman, and Jennifer Kaufman.

Also would like to thank: Niki and Linda Stratton, Jim and Nadine Amen, Dave and Carol Moench, Linda McGuire, Pam and Don Mason, and Maida Wedell for serving and providing "goodies."

Ashley Stratton, Fellowship Committee Chairperson

- Once again New Life would like to thank those of you who have been helping bake and deliver bread to our visitors each Sunday. In addition to Barb Lutz, our fearless leader, we would like to recognize the following for January: Liza Mackey, Betty Jo Mainwaring, Linda McGuire, Ellen Rech, Bev Roberts and Joe Dougherty. We also would like to thank the Youth Group and the Choir who have been responsible for making and delivering bread in February; Mary Lou McMIndes coordinated that effort. Friendship Mariners have bread duty for March.

Children's Ministry



Children's Ministry is still participating in Albertsons' Community Partners program. The program is simple. When you shop at Albertsons', before you finalize your transaction, present your card to the cashier to be scanned. Children's Ministry receives a percentage of every purchase you make. During these hard times, this is a great way to give to the church. There is no out-of-pocket cash from anyone. Each quarter we receive a check from Albertsons'. We will be getting new cards soon. Watch for additional information.

Happy Shopping!!!

One Great Hour of Sharing Children's Missions

On March 1, children will be bring home their One Great Hour of Sharing mission projects. The banks will be returned on or before April 5th, Palm Sunday. Children will lead a palm processional and present their portion of OGHs during the 10:30am worship service on April 5th.

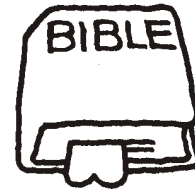
Early Release Day

March 27th will be the last LBSD#1 release day for this school year.. All elementary school age children are welcome to join us beginning as soon as they get out of school. We will provide: lunch, games, homework time, crafts, and other activities. Sign up is required. Sign up sheets are located in the parlor and CE assembly room. You may also contact Caroline Carver at 638-3345 or 632-6479. Hope to see you there!

Children's Ministry

Upcoming Sunday School Lessons

March 8 – March 29:	Fruit of the Spirit
April 5:	TBA
April 12:	No Sunday School - Easter Sunday
April 19:	May 10 - Armor of God
May 18:	Celebration Sunday



Youth Update

Where oh where did January go? Here we are smack in the middle of February and I'm left wondering where the time has gone. Can the year truly be a month and a half into it? There are many things to plan for the remaining of the calendar year, not to mention summer projects.

First and foremost, thank you to Rose Burrows for the beautiful table decorations she made for the Youth's Valentine Dinner/Talent Show on February 13. These wonderful decorations are in my office and available for use by anyone. Please let me know if you need them to make sure there is not a conflict with another group. Also, a heartfelt thank you goes out to the youth, the parents, and volunteers who came early to help set up, perform, clean up, and to those who cooked. The food was magnificent and filled everyone's tummies with warmth on the cold winter's night. We were able to raise \$146.00 for the night and the money will be going to help pay for the expenses of our mission trip to Camp Skyline.

The next big project the youth will be facing for the next couple of months is preparing for Youth Sunday, which will be April 26, 2009. They keep asking for us to start early on this worship service, so that is what we are doing. This day will have music, skits, and scripture all being lead by the youth of the church. Mark April 26, 2009 as Youth Sunday and plan on sharing this special day with them.

Yes, I did say mission trip earlier in the note. The week of June 21-27, 2009 Camp Skyline needs some repairs done as well as the extra help to get it open for the camping season. You, the congregation, are welcome to join us for a day or the whole week. The youth who will be helping with this project will probably be changing throughout the week because of other summer plans, but we will be there and want to share the experience with you. Look at the insert following this article for more information.

ICHTHUS has changed time to 12:30-2:00 on Sunday's. We are enjoying this new time and welcome any who would like to see what we do on Sunday's for youth group.

This brings me to an end. I feel as if I'm forgetting many things, yet I have covered the major topics. Have a wonderful month filled with many blessings. If you have any questions or would like to help in any way please reach me at the church after 4:30 P.M. Monday –Friday (638-3345) or at home (307-575-3125) on the weekends. I'm even available through e-mail (firstpresyouth@qwestoffice.net) all the time; just drop me a quick note. I also have a mailbox at the back of the Sanctuary labeled Youth Director.

Blessings,
Elizabeth "Liz" Rich
Interim Youth Director