



DESERT PULPIT

*First Presbyterian Church
Elko, Nevada*



January 2010

The New Year

Did you ever notice how many *new* things get promoted at the beginning of the *new year*? Diets, fitness clubs, personal transformation--so many endeavors get started now. In Isaiah 43, God says, "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland." There is nothing NEW about doing something *new*!

Now is always a good time to pay attention to what new thing God is doing in our world, and in our lives. If your life is a "desert wasteland" right now, cling to God's promise of a stream of life-giving water flowing through your life! Jesus says he is ready to be a "spring of water, welling up to eternal life" in each of us. This is not a call to "get yourself in gear and get moving"; instead, this is a call to surrender everything to God! I keep returning to the wisdom found in James 4: "Submit yourselves to God. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up!"

Faithfully, *Pastor Pat*



**First Presbyterian Church
Pastor Pat Mecham**

Christian Education and Youth
Leader..... Charlyn Van Slyke
Secretary.....Bertha Lister
Financial Secretary.....Cheryl Randall
Choir Director.....Kathy Reyes
Pianist.....Lucille Pryor
Nursery Attendant.....Andrea Licht
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Sermon Titles and Scripture Readings for January, 2010

January 3	"Gentiles in the Family"	Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12
January 10	"Passing through the Waters"	Isaiah 43:1-7 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
January 17	"Ready to be a Miracle?"	I Corinthians 12:1-11 John 2:1-11
January 24	"More than a Sum of Its Parts"	I Corinthians 12:12-31a
January 31	"Godly Love in Our Age"	I Corinthians 13:1-13

Sunday Schedule

9:00 am Sunday School
For All Ages

10:15 am Worship Service

Church Office Hours

Monday thru Thursday
8:30 am - 3:00 pm
Fridays
8:30 am to 1:00 pm

Adult Choir Practice

7:15 pm every Thursday evening
9:00 am every Sunday morning



Financial Peace University

with Dave Ramsey

Beginning in January, 2010

Registration form due January 3, 2010

Return form w/check payable to "FPC," with "FPU" on the memo line, in the amount of \$95 .00 to:

FPU Registration
 First Presbyterian Church
 1559 Sewell Drive
 Elko, Nevada 89801

Name (s): _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Day of the week that is best for you to meet?: **Sun M T W T F Sat**

Alternate day: **Sun M T W T F Sat**

One registration form per household. Fees include complete FPU kit with resources and media collection.

Scholarship help needed?: Yes No if yes, amount needed: \$_____.

Financial Peace University is a life-changing program that teaches you how to make the right decisions with your money. You'll be empowered with the practical skills and confidence needed to experience true financial peace. The \$95 pre-registration fee is required by January 3, 2010. Email Charlyn Van Slyke at vanslyke@frontiernet.net or call the church office at 738-3430 for more information. Classes will begin the

ANNUAL REPORTS

It is that time of year again when all committees of the church are asked to submit their annual reports. Your report will be due on **February 5, 2010**. The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on February 21, 2010. Start getting your information together and be the first to turn in your report. Reports can be e-mailed to fpchurch@frontiernet.net or bring them by the office.

The New Year

What will you do with this year that's so new?

The choice is yours - God leaves that to you!

You crown the year with your bounty.

Psalm 65:11

Accept the challenges and the possibilities of
 the year that lies ahead.

IN THE NEWS

- **Alex Byars** and **Jim Byars** participated in the raising of the colors (flag) during a flagpole dedication ceremony during the Elko Institute for Academic Achievement event.

Per Capita is \$37.75

Are You Experiencing a "Winter" in Your Life?

In addition to the cold weather outside, many people experience "winters" in their personal lives. A recent loss through death, divorce, or relocation may leave them feeling lonely. A hospitalization, cancer diagnosis, or ongoing medical problems may leave them feeling isolated. The loss of a job, the fear of layoffs, or a financial setback can devastate one's self-esteem. Family and personal struggles may leave them with nowhere to turn for support.

If you are going through a difficult time, our Stephen Ministers can bring God's warm love back into your life. They provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care. They will meet with you privately on a weekly basis to listen, support, and encourage you, to pray with and for you, and to walk with you for the duration of your crisis.

To find out more about Stephen Ministry and how you or someone you know could be matched with a Stephen Minister, talk with *Pastor Pat Mecham*. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you!



Sunrise Ringers Perform for Christmas

We played at 7 elementary schools, high school special ed class, a preschool, at Senior Citizens' center, state boys' prison, at Christmas in the Nighttime Skies at our local college (2 hours straight), for Lion's Club holiday dinner, and 2 Elko Rotary clubs this past week. We performed downtown for an hour at the snowflake festival, and our concert was Sunday 12/13 in the

The Office will be closed –
Jan. 1st for New Years and
the 18th for Martin Luther King Day

FISH Christmas Food Baskets

This year, our church spent \$456.75 to purchase fruit and vegetables for food baskets that were distributed by FISH to 450 people (166 families) living in our community. Each person was given an apple, banana, and orange. In each basket was placed a 1 pound bag of carrots, 1 head of green leaf lettuce, and 1 onion. A total of 1,046 pounds of food was donated to FISH. The cost of the fruit and vegetables per person was \$1.08.

Thank you to all of you for supporting Mission Projects and to Bonanza Produce for their continued support of this project.

Update from Julie:

Hello!

Wanted to give everyone an update. I am in Red Lodge, Montana. My mother and step dad, Phil, own a lodge, cabins and retreat center and I am staying here with them. Mom and Phil are wanting to do some traveling this winter and I told them I would run the lodge while they traveled. My sister and her husband also live here, which is very nice.

I continue to ask for your prayers for guidance and direction for my life. If you would like to contact me you can email me at jdblessing@yahoo.com, call or text me on my cell phone at 775-388-0304, call me at Medicine Flower Lodge at 406-425-2600, or write to me at P.O. Box 1570, Red Lodge, MT, 59608.

I would also like to thank Charlyn Van Slyke for stepping in at church and taking on many of my duties. I really appreciate all she is doing and the vision she has for First Presbyterian and the children and youth of the community. Thank-you, Charlyn, you are awesome!!!

Wishing you all a blessed Christmas!

Julie

About the Poinsettia

Dr. Joel Poinsett was the first United States ambassador to Mexico. Impressed by the beautiful Christmas plants that he saw growing there, he brought one home with him when he returned from his diplomatic post. Botanists in this country called the plant "poinsettia" after Dr. Poinsett.

In Mexico, where it was the custom in every church to place the figure of the baby Jesus in a manger near the altar on Christmas Eve, every person in the town would bring a gift for the baby Jesus to their church that night. But in one small village, according to legend, there lived a little boy who was very poor, and it made him sad to think that he had no gift to present to the Christ child. He prayed for a way to show the Christ child how much he loved him. As he walked along the path toward the church on Christmas Eve, the little boy saw some dried weeds that he thought looked pretty. He heard an angel's voice saying to him "Pick the weeds and place them on the altar tonight as your gift." He obeyed the voice and plucked the weeds. Now, at least, he had something to give.

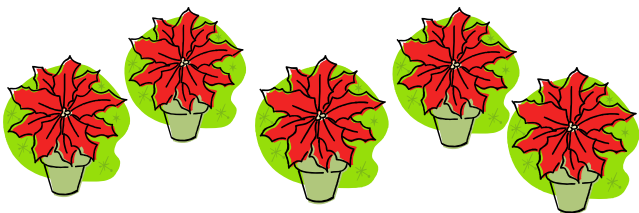
When he arrived at the church, he went inside and was amazed by how the simple sanctuary was decorated with all kinds of ornaments and hundreds of candles. He watched all of the people of the village as they went to the altar one by one and presented their gifts to the Christ child. When his turn came, he walked reverently down the aisle to where the baby Jesus lay in the manger. He knelt down and said to prayer. He looked at the baby with all the love in his heart, and then he laid his bunch of dried weeds beside the other gifts.

Everyone said that what happened next was a miracle. Before their very eyes, the bunch of dried weeds turned into a beautiful flower. Its leaves all along the stem were a deep green, but the flower itself was shaped like a star and was very red. To the little boy's surprise, the flower wasn't dead, but was alive and magnificent.

Every person held his or her breath, but the flower did not fade away. They looked in awe at the little boy who had given it, and gave thanks to God because his prayers had been answered.

Ever since that night, the plant has been called "Flor de la Noche Buena" or "The Flower of the Holy Night", because it is in full bloom at Christmastime.

During Christmastime at the First Presbyterian Church in Elko, Nevada we celebrate the poinsettia's in Memory of or in Honor of Loved Ones by decorating the sanctuary with the beautiful flowers.



Albertson's Community Partners

One of the ways the church gets money to use for mission is by earning a percentage return on groceries bought at Albertson's when a Preferred Card is linked to us as a Community Partner. Please verify that your card is linked to the Presbyterian Church.

- 1) Check your receipt. If it does not say that you are linked, then let us help you link it. If you wish to change your linking partner, we can also help with that.
- 2) Susan Jones can help you link to the church if you give her your Preferred Card number and the phone number you used when you first received a Preferred Card. Please call her at 738-5995 if you would like her help or leave her a note in her mailbox in the church office.
- 3) If you would like to do this yourself, please follow these steps:
 - A) Go to www.albertsons.com
 - B) Enter your zip-code in the **Get Started** section
 - C) Click on "**In the Community**" at the very bottom of the page
 - D) Click on the **Community Partners** Logo on the right side of the page
 - E) Click on "**Shoppers**" login or register with your Preferred Savings Card first
 - F) Under the "**Sign in:**" enter the number from the back of your Preferred Card and your telephone number
 - G) Click on "**Find a Partner**" in the sign post on the right
 - H) Enter "**First Presbyterian Church**" "**Elko**" and "**Nevada**"
 - I) On the next page, select the **First Presbyterian Church** under Add a Partner

You should be linked! Check your next receipt when you buy groceries at Albertson's. Thank you from the Mission Committee.

Submitted by Susie Jones

CE and Youth

Happy New Year. I pray everyone had a joyous Christmas with family and friends.

First, I would like to say Thank You to everyone for their support as I try to take on the job of Christian Ed and Youth. These two programs are close to my heart. I feel these are two very important areas to make our church family grow.

Our regular Sunday School schedule will resume on Jan. 10th at 9 am.

Mike Jones & Judy Bondo are leading a Bible 101 and are in the midst of the New Testament.

Susie Jones has agreed to lead the Christian Roundtable. They are in the middle of a CD sermon series entitled "The Pursuit of Happy-ness" based on The Beatitudes by Dr. Dave Peterson. If you recognize the name, you are correct, he was once minister to our congregation.

Tyler and Julie Vincent are teaching a Young Adult video class called "H2O-A Journey of Faith"

Andrea Licht, our nursery attendant, is giving a lesson to the kids in the nursery during this time. This is a wonderful way to introduce our children to Sunday School on their level and in small amounts, so they still have wiggle time and snack.

Esther Gago is teaching our K-2 and Sally Winsley in teaching 3-5.

Our Sunday afternoon youth activities will resume on Jan. 10.

1-2 pm: The Children's Choir meets with Pastor Pat. They did a wonderful job on their Christmas program. Now to start on the Spring program.

2-3 pm: The Kid's club meets with Sharon Hughes for a lesson.

1-2 pm: The Jr/Sr high youth meet in the youth room for a lesson, fun and food. The youth have been taking turns teaching a short lesson, then playing a game, then off to the kitchen for some fun with food. They made fancy caramel apples, gingerbread houses, and chocolate dipped pretzels.

2-3 pm: The Jr/Sr high Youth Choir meets with Pastor Pat and Aaron Jones for music.

The youth (6-12th grade) meet on Thursday night for either movies or games. It is a great time for fellowship and fun.

We have some awesome youth!! If you ever have the chance to volunteer to hang out with us, please do.

Acolytes:

Calling all 3rd-6th graders. If you are interested in becoming an acolyte, please contact Charlyn (753-4667 or 738-3430). We can get together, have a training session, and then we can put you on the list for the new year. As you can see there is a lot to choose from. So don't be shy, come join in the fun, fellowship, and learning.

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He who seeks good finds goodwill, but evil comes to him who searches for it.

Proverb 11:27

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

01/02 Eileen Murdoch	01/19 Frances Schain
01/04 Louise Collett	01/22 Lorraine Pappas
01/04 Analisa Girard	01/25 Pam Cartier
01/06 Rick Glass	01/26 Ann Nisbet
01/06 Al Fry	01/27 Penny Pruitt
01/07 Troy Murray	01/27 Steven Boyce
01/07 Ty Murray	01/30 Evan Munson
01/09 Liz Better	
01/09 Abby Grigg	
01/09 Ellen I. Gilliam	
01/10 Vern Blessing	
01/12 Sally Winsley	
01/14 Michael Hanley	
01/16 Jessica Flint	
01/16 Justin Harrington	
01/17 Regan McCann	
01/18 Clint Gilliam	
01/18 Emily Hanley	

Fellowship Hour

(If you change coffee hours, please call the church office.)

Jan.3 Ruth Hoskins, Charline Hull, B.J. Hurley, Harry Jackson, Diana Jones, Dan & Carolee Jones.

Jan. 10 Matt & Jody Jones, Mike & Susie Jones, Lorelee Justus, Mike & Becky Kerna, Sally Jimenez, Craig & Jennifer Kidwell

Jan. 17 Shirley Knapp, Chuck & Elaine Knight, Jake & Karen Kump, Eric & Carlene Lancaster, Aida Matthew, Nick & Christine Thompson

Jan. 24 Joe & Kathy McLeod, Pat & Melissa Mecham, Sean & Jean McCann, Tom & Susan Merschel, George & Mavis Morley, George & Donna Gary

Jan. 31 Reed & Linda Moseley, Erin Munson, Dave & Sharon Murray, Toni Mendive, Ed & Robbie Nickel, Roy Niebling

Coffee and Cookies are served in the Fellowship Hall after Worship Service.

Everyone Welcome!!