



# DESERT PULPIT

First Presbyterian Church  
Elko, Nevada

Issue # 9

September

## FROM FALLOW TO FERTILE

You understand the importance of letting the soil rest, not insisting that it produce a crop every year. You also understand that human beings have rhythms and seasons in their lives. Well, friends, we have just finished a season of refreshment and re-invigoration--and now we are ready for our FALL SEASON!! As I write this, most of our kids are finishing their first day back to school, family trips have been concluded, and the weather is even cooling off!

Fall at First Presbyterian is punctuated with several neat events. Here are a few:

- Sept. 5, **RETURN TO 10:15am WORSHIP SERVICE**
- Sept. 9, Choir Resumes Rehearsals at 7:15 pm
- Sept. 12, HEIFER SUNDAY (outdoor worship followed by BRUNCH)
- Sept. 19, SUNDAY SCHOOL (for all ages) RESUMES at 9:00 am
- Sept. 21-21 Meeting of PRESBYTERY in Bishop, CA.

It's exciting to see things "gearing up" again, seeing folks we've missed, anticipating God's good work in our midst. I am also excited about the Session you have elected, and the Deacons that are already hard at work. I hope you are ready to join in the fun!

Faithfully,

Pastor Pat



**First Presbyterian Church**  
**Pastor Pat Mecham**

Director of Family Ministry.....  
.....Charlyn Van Slyke  
Secretary.....Bertha Lister  
Financial Secretary.....Heather Norero  
Choir Co-Directors.....Patty Fisk and  
Erin Mecham  
Pianist.....Lucille Pryor  
Nursery Attendant.....Andrea Licht  
Desert Pulpit Editor.....Bertha Lister  
Church Office.....(775) 738-3430  
Fax.....(775) 738-0805  
E-mail .....office@ElkoFirstPres.org  
Web-site.....elkofirstpres.org

### *Sermon Titles and Scripture Readings for September*

|              |                              |   |
|--------------|------------------------------|---|
| September 5  | "Molding Our World"          | Jeremiah 18:1-11<br>Philemon 1:21 (no chapter citation, since there are no chapters in Philemon!) |
| September 12 | "Welcome, Sinners!"          | 1 Timothy 1:12-17<br>Luke 15:1-10   |
| September 19 | "Got Your Invitation?"       | 1 Timothy 2:1-7   |
| September 26 | "Godliness with Contentment" | 1 Timothy 6:6-19<br>Luke 16-19-31   |

### **Sunday Schedule**

**10:15 AM**

**WORSHIP SERVICE**

**Starts September 5, 2010**

**Sunday School for all ages  
Begins September 19, 2010**

### **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 Every Thursday Night

**Starts on September 9, 2010**

## THE SPOTLIGHT IS ON YOU!

We're putting you on the spot. Have you seen the light yet? (That you have gifts and you are being called to share them.) Have you realized you can BE the light to those struggling through darkness? It's time to decide whether you'll be participating in our series of comprehensive training classes for prospective Stephen Ministers that begins at 6:15 pm on Thursday, September 9, in the Parlor and continues on successive Thursdays, working around holidays, until Christmas time. **We need more participants to improve the training experience for everyone interested, and we need to order the textbooks NOW.** To apply to participate in these classes and become a Stephen Minister, fill out a Stephen Minister Application form (found on the Stephen Ministry bulletin board) and return it to Pastor Pat, Cleo Hansen, or Kristi Glass by Sunday, Sept. 5. Contact Cleo at 775-397-3447 to answer your questions and/or sign up for the classes.

**Office Closed  
Sept. 6 for  
Labor Day**

## THE PRESBYTERIAN COFFEE PROJECT

Through the Presbyterian Coffee Project, you can enjoy delicious coffee, tea and chocolate while helping small-scale farmers in Latin America, Africa, Asia and the U.S. as they build a better future for themselves and their families.

Through this project, farmers earn a fair price for their products, have access to affordable credit, and gain a long-term trading partner they can trust, a fair Trade Organization called Equal Exchange. With your support these communities invest in education, health care and agricultural improvements.

In addition, for each pound of coffee, tea, or chocolate purchased by Presbyterian churches through this project, Equal Exchange makes a contribution to the Presbyterian "Small Farmers Fund" for projects supporting small farmers and their families.

To purchase these items come by the church office during regular hours or on Sunday.

Thank you for supporting this project.

## LABOR DAY HISTORY

Labor Day, the first Monday in September, is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country.

The first Labor Day holiday was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882, in New York City, in accordance with the plans of the Central Labor Union. The Central Labor Union held its second Labor Day holiday just a year later, on September 5, 1883.

In 1884 the first Monday in September was selected as the holiday, as originally proposed, and the Central Labor Union urged similar organizations in other cities to follow the example of New York and celebrate a "workingmen's holiday" on that date. The idea spread with the growth of labor organizations, and in 1885 Labor Day was celebrated in many industrial centers of the country.

Through the years the nation gave increasing emphasis to Labor Day. The first governmental recognition came through municipal ordinances passed during 1885 and 1886. From them developed the movement to secure state legislation. The first state bill was introduced into the New York legislature, but the first to become law was passed by Oregon on February 21, 1887. During the year four more states — Colorado, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York — created the Labor Day holiday by legislative enactment. By the end of the decade Connecticut, Nebraska, and Pennsylvania had followed suit. By 1894, 23 other states had adopted the holiday in honor of workers, and on June 28 of that year, Congress passed an act making the first Monday in September of each year a legal holiday in the District of Columbia and the territories.

The vital force of labor added materially to the highest standard of living and the greatest production the world has ever known and has brought us closer to the realization of our traditional ideals of economic and political democracy. It is appropriate, therefore, that the nation pay tribute on Labor Day to the creator of so much of the nation's strength, freedom, and leadership — the American worker.

## Director of Family Ministry

Thank you to all who helped with VBS. It was a huge success. We had a total of 92 children and 46 staff. It was an exciting week.

We will switch our worship service back to 10:15am on Sunday, September 5. The Mission Committee will sponsor the Heifer Brunch on Sunday, September 12 and Sunday school and Afternoon Youth Activities will begin on Sunday, September 19.

Erin Munson and Renee Crouch will be teaching our K-2 class, and I am looking for a teacher for the 3rd-5th graders. Teaching materials have been purchased and are in the Family Ministry office. It is fun and easy and self explanatory. You may stop by and take a look before you decide.

### **Afternoon Youth Activities:**

Children's Choir with Pastor Pat will meet at 1pm.

I am in need of a leader for the Little Kids' Club (K-3 grade), and the Kids' Club, (4-6 grade). 6<sup>th</sup> graders will have a choice of which class they feel comfortable going to. These classes will be from 2-3pm on Sunday afternoon. If you are interested in helping, please contact me, Charlyn, at the Church office, 738-3430. If we can not find leaders for these age groups, we will have to drop the program as I can not lead them all at the same time.

The Jr/Sr high (6-12) will meet for class from 1-2 and we are going to try something new from 2-3pm—a Youth Ministry Team consisting of a music/drama team, alternating weeks. So if you are in 6-12 grade and interested in singing or acting, come join us. Cassi Van Slyke will be directing the youth drama team and has some exciting skits coming up for the holidays.

### **Sunday schedule starting September 19:**

9am Sunday school

Nursery: Andrea Licht

K-2: Erin Munson and Renee Crouch

3-5: *Could be you!*

Jr/Sr High: *Could be you!*

Young Adult: John Daniel

Bible 101: Mike Jones

Christian Roundtable: Susie Jones/ Frances Schain

10:15 Worship

1pm Children's Choir with Pastor Pat

Jr/Sr high Class with Charlyn Van Slyke

2pm Youth Ministry team—alternating Sundays

Music: Aaron Jones

Drama: Cassi Van Slyke

Little Kids Club: *Could be you!*

Kids Club: *Could be you!*

Thank you for your help and support!

Charlyn Van Slyke

## MISSION

The Mission Committee sent \$300.00 from the congregational weekly offering to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for Pakistan. The information that follows is taken from their mailing that explains what they are doing in Pakistan.

The people of Pakistan have suffered numerous natural and human-caused disasters over the past several years. Presbyterians have been in ministry there since before the nation of Pakistan was formed. We stand with them today in their time of need. The recent floods have brought record-breaking destruction to the country, with more than 1,400 people dead and more than 1.5 million displaced.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is responding through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) and working with our ecumenical partners to help meet emergency needs – providing food packages, shelter material, and non-food essentials. Emergency health services are also being provided.

Submitted by Susie Jones

### Esther Circle

Esther Circle will meet on September 16, 2010 at 12:00 in the church parlor. Bring a salad dish to share. For more information contact Pat Tempel at 738-2726.

### CONGREGATION'S HELP NEEDED

Dear members and friends of First Presbyterian Church, In order to make our Fall Rummage Sale an ongoing proposition, we need your help. During set-up and take-down, help is VERY badly needed. Sorting, putting the sorted items out and other jobs takes many hands. In the past we have had willing workers, but fewer and fewer persons are coming to help get it organized. PW is asking you to do devote time and effort during Set-up Thursday, Oct. 14th and Friday, Oct. 15th. The sale itself is Saturday, Oct.16th and we will need additional help for take-down in the afternoon. Diana Jones is in charge of the Rummage Sale this year and will have times and dates posted for workers to sign in. Please help us out this coming fall.

## Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women (PW) is the national women's organization of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). For more than 200 years, PW groups have strengthened the Presbyterian Church and played a major role in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ and witnessing to the promise of God's kingdom.

Presbyterian women are "doers of the Word," working in support of the national and worldwide mission of the denomination's mission program. PW endeavors to build the bridges that transcend generations and cultures, and overcome the barriers that too often divide us. (taken from the 2010 Mission Yearbook)

At First Presbyterian Church of Elko, every woman is a member of PW. Some belong to Circles that study the yearly Bible Study from Horizons Magazine. Some belong to Hobby Group, which sews projects for various missions. Some come to annual events, like luncheons or dinners. Some participate in the Fall Festival or Women's Day. Some work at the two rummage sales. All women are welcome to join any of these groups – or to start another Circle – for the fellowship and service. Please leave your name with the church office if you would like to receive a phone call about PW.

### Heifer Worship Service

September 12, 2010

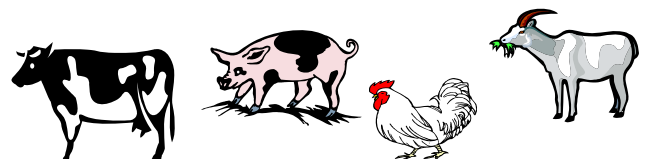
At 10:15 am under the arbor at  
First Presbyterian Church of Elko

### Heifer Brunch

to follow in Fellowship hall

There is no charge for the brunch -

An offering will be taken in support of Heifer International . For more information contact the church office at 783-3430.



# In the News

- **Donna Bellinger** and Loraine Braithwaite tied for third and fourth place during the Elko Bridge event.
- **Joan Zunino** won 3 gold metals during the recent Elko Senior Olympics.
- **John Hobbs** participated in the Elko Men's Amateur Golf Tournament.
- **Tyler Gunter** was pictured with the Ruby Mountain All-Star team who made a donation to the Thomas Scott Memorial fund.
- **Pastor Pat** preached at the Lamoille Presbyterian Church during the installation of Rev. Mary Brondyke as the new pastor of that church.
- **Scott Nisbet** attended Boy Scout leadership training at Utah's Camp Moccasin.
- **Elaine Knight & Chuck Knight** participated in the ninth annual Elko Senior Games.
- **Jared Fisk** competed in the Snake River Swimming Championship in Boise.
- **Shirley Knapp** and Bill Maloney came in second place in the Elko Bridge event and **Donna Bellinger** and her partner came in fourth place.
- **Alyson Frietag** participated in the U16 Elko Edge softball team which posted an overall record of 16-13-1. They placed second at Incline and third at South Tahoe tournaments.
- Local Navy group hosted their annual picnic at **Bill and Ann Nisbet's** cabin in Lamoille.
- **Chuck Harper** was one of several who identified the gentlemen pictured with Bing Crosby in the mystery photo at the museum as Jimmy McPherson.
- **Jim Nisbet** was featured in the Elko High Boys Soccer History articles.
- **Jan Petersen** served as chairperson, organizing and planning for the National Convention of O.C.T.A. held in Elko on August 10-14. Over 400 participated.

## Joy Circle

Joy Circle will meet on September 13th at 5:30 pm in the Parlor for a "New Beginning" Pot Luck Dinner. Any interested women are invited to attend. We will hold a regular business meeting after dinner. Sally has Program #6 in Joshua Bible Study. Joannie has the Devotions. Call Ann Haglund for more information.

### Thank You

Thank you to all who helped with the Arbor. A special thanks to Larry Plumb for his hard work and for organizing and overseeing this project. It is greatly appreciated by all.

### No/No Shipping Update

Hi Tom & Mary Dee, No I haven't forgotten about you and all the fine volunteers making no nos. It has been quite an adventure getting our no nos to Nepal. The 1,000 pair of no nos were shipped to Nepal by DHL way back in April. They arrived at the airport in Nepal safely. They were taken in by custom agents and have been there ever since. The Customs agents determined that we needed to pay \$600.00 to get them out. So for several months we have been going back and forth about these custom fees. Customs finally told us pay the \$600 or the boxes will sit in customs. I gave Interplast a check for \$600.00 and the wire has been sent to Nepal. The \$600.00 is part of the matching funds I offered for the money you raised in March. The doctors in Nepal should have their no nos shortly. Meantime we have been working with Nicaragua. We think we got a lucky break with them. They get a number of donated goods from the United States. They come through a group in Miami. So I am packing another 1,000 pair which will go Fed Ex ground to Miami and will be included in one of the groups shipments. The rest of my matching funds will hopefully pay for this shipment to Miami. We have some funds left from your donation and will use them on upcoming shipments. That's the latest. It has not been easy. Good things don't come easy. I will keep you updated on Nicaragua and others we are following up on.

Thanks for all your good work.  
Ken Becker



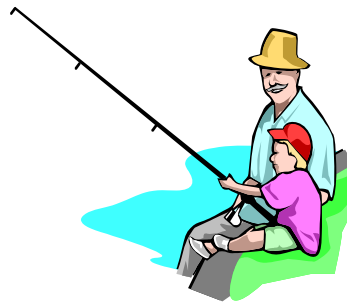
**Mark & Michaela Ports** are the proud parents of **Micah Elaine Ports** born on July 27, 2010 weighing in at 7lbs. 14 oz. 20 inches. Grandparents are Mark & Lois Ports and Great Grandparents are Chuck and Elaine Knight.

**T** **G** **I** **S**

(**T**ake **G**roceries **I**n **S**unday)

Fishing to MEAT the need!

**Canned Tuna**  
**Canned Roast Beef**  
**Canned Ham**  
**Beanie Weenies**  
**Peanut Butter**



The Mission Committee is collecting **CANNED MEATS** and **PEANUT BUTTER** that will be distributed to local groups. Please put food items in the swimming pool that is located outside of the church office.

**Thank you for your donation!**

First Presbyterian Church  
 1559 Sewell Drive  
 Elko, Nevada 89801  
 office@ElkoFirstPres.org  
 elkofirstpres.org

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Listen to advice and accept instruction, and in the end you will be wise.  
 Proverbs 29:20

**Birthdays in June**

|                     |                         |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 09/02 Dale White    | 09/22 Shauna Guttry     |
| 09/03 Pat Tempel    | 09/23 Dustin Gilbertson |
| 09/03 Jerry Cooney  | 09/25 Leon Reyes        |
| 09/03 Lois Ports    | 09/26 Kevin Harrington  |
| 09/04 Judith Boyce  |                         |
| 09/06 Cecelia Koch  |                         |
| 09/09 Saige Flint   |                         |
| 09/11 Bill Girard   |                         |
| 09/11 Jenna Kidwell |                         |
| 09/15 Cara Passmore |                         |
| 09/26 Alyssa Hobbs  |                         |
| 09/17 Sharon Murray |                         |
| 09/17 Jared Fisk    |                         |
| 09/19 Lee Gago      |                         |
| 09/19 Allan Stefka  |                         |
| 09/20 Bart Freitag  |                         |

**Fellowship Hour**

9/5 John & Shawn Cavaness, Tyler & Amber Vavak, Marv & Julie Churchfield, Alan & Mary Ciszewski, John & Alice Daniel.

9/12 Hugh & Louise Collett, John & Janice Collett, Jim & Leta Collord, Jim & Jerry Cooney, Kim Bolin, Charlie and Mary Lou Cress.

9/19 Carol Cuthbertson, Patty Fisk, Janice Farris, Rod & Jessica Flint, Bart & Susan Freitag, Clarice Gamboa

9/26 Bev Gilbertson, Danny & Iolanda Gillins, Karen Mori, Ed & Jeannie Gillins, Tony & Laura Gunter, Phil & Roberta Gallegos

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

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

**Everyone Welcome!!**