



*First Presbyterian Church  
Elko, Nevada*



*December 2009*

**Dave Ramsey is RIGHT ON THE MONEY!**

As your pastor, I have striven to be faithful in my giving to the church--but it has been a STRUGGLE. When bills are going unpaid, and other expenses are looming on the horizon, it's hard to be a "cheerful giver"! Enter FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY. This awesome DVD-based program (by Dave Ramsey) is more than a class--it's an Adventure! Lives are being blessed as we are inspired and equipped to take control of our money. Hope is restored and participants are empowered. Dave combines great financial sense with solid Christian principles, and FPU has the potential of blessing our entire church family.

Please be watching for our next offering of Financial Peace University. You'll discover that Dave Ramsey is Right on The Money!

Faithfully,  
*Pastor Pat*



**First Presbyterian Church  
Pastor Pat Mecham**

- Director of Family
- Ministries.....Charlyn Van Slyke
- Secretary.....Bertha Lister
- Financial Secretary.....Cheryl Randall
- Choir Director.....Kathy Reyes
- Pianist.....Lucille Pryor
- Nursery Attendant.....Andrea Licht
- Desert Pulpit Editor.....Bertha Lister
- Church Office.....(775) 738-3430
- Fax.....(775) 738-0805
- E-mail .....fpchurch@frontiernet.net
- Web-site.....elkofirstpres.org

*Sermon Titles and Scripture Readings for December, 2009*

December 6	"Getting Ready"	Malachi 3:1-4 Luke 3:1-18
December 13	Kids' Choir Production "Camel Lot"	Isaiah 12:2-6 Psalm 47
December 20	"Humble Beginnings" and Choir Cantata	Micah 5:2-5a Luke 1:39-45
December 27	RJ Hansen - CLP in Training from Lamoille will be Preaching	Luke 2:41-52

**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

## Stephen Ministry in Action: Caring in Aisle #7



In addition to meeting regularly with a care receiver, a Stephen Minister often encounters situations in day-to-day life in which he or she uses Stephen Ministry skills. Below, a Stephen Minister tells about a chance encounter in which she used her Stephen Ministry skills with a neighbor.

Last week in the checkout line at a store near my home I ran into a woman from my neighborhood. I didn't know her all that well; mainly we crossed paths from time to time when we were each out taking morning walks.

It had been a month or more since I had last seen her, so I said, "I haven't seen you in a while. How are you?"

When she looked at me, tears suddenly welled up in her eyes, and she then told me that her husband had died two weeks ago.

Immediately my "Stephen Minister instincts" took over, and I began caring for her. The cashier caught on to what was happening--my neighbor and I were the only two in the line--and said, "Take all the time you need." He put the chain across the line and moved to a different aisle.

So my neighbor and I stood there in the checkout line talking for more than an hour. She did most of the talking while I listened and cared. As we got ready to leave, I told her that if she needed to talk more, she should just give me a call. I also told her about Stephen Ministry at our church and the possibility that we could match her up with someone to meet with her and care for her on an ongoing basis.

Afterward I realized again how valuable my Stephen Ministry training was. When you ask someone "How are you," you're really not expecting much of a response. Prior to becoming a Stephen Minister, I'm not sure what I would have done. Probably I would have stumbled along for a little bit and then come up with a reason to cut off the conversation. But since I've had my Stephen Minister training, I knew what to do, and I had some level of confidence jumping in and doing it.

I have no doubt this was one of those God-things--that God planned for our paths to cross in the checkout line. I'm so glad that I was able to be there and listen to her when she needed it. I really felt I made a difference in her life.

© Stephen Ministries St. Louis

*Several Stephen Minister prospects are currently undergoing 50 hours of training at First Presbyterian Church. We will be commissioning new Stephen Ministers in early 2010. They will then join our current Stephen Ministers who stand ready to confidentially minister to anyone dealing with challenging life difficulties. To learn more about FPC's Stephen Ministry program or to request the caring services of a Stephen Minister, contact Pastor Pat Mecham at 775-738-3430.*



## ELKO HANDBELLS CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Sunday, December 13, 2009

4:00 pm

First Presbyterian Church

1559 Sewell Drive

Free Admission

Donations Gratefully Accepted



Sunrise Ringers of the Elko Handbells will be presenting their annual Christmas concert on Sunday, December 13, 2009, at 4:00 pm. This will culminate their intensive ringing season of 15 concerts, which will include a presentation during our regular church service on Sunday, December 6. This choir annually performs at the 6 elementary schools, NYTC, GBC pre-school, EHS Special Ed class, and both the morning and noon Rotary Clubs, as well as at other venues as requested, which this year include Christmas in the Nighttime Sky at GBC, Lions Club and Snowflake Festival. We hope all will be able to attend our complete concert on Sunday, December 13 at 4:00 pm.

### *Joy & Esther Circles*

Please join Joy Circle & Esther Circle members for PW's annual Christmas gathering to be held on Wednesday, December 9, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. Ham dinner will be provided by the Presbyterian Women Board. Mock-tails and icebreakers before dinner. Bring a wrapped ornament to exchange.

Joy circle will resume meeting on January 11, 2010. For more information contact Ann Haglund at 738-7072.

### PER CAPITA FOR 2010

IS \$37.75

### ANNUAL REPORTS

It is that time of year again. It is time for your committee to put together their annual reports. Annual reports will be due in January, that date has not be set yet.



### *The Eve of Christmas*

Two thousand years have almost gone by since Jesus was nailed on a cross to die. His teachings were done by words and deed and thousand would listen, and thousands would heed. The words of His wisdom, and that of God as many miles on foot would he trod. Let Peace be on earth, would be His command, and nothing less than this should we demand! On the Eve of His birth let us all be blessed and thank our God as we see the end of our quest. Let us all stand together, as brother and friend and pledge our love, and respect to a world without end. Together we stand, in joy and in sorrow and praise the birth of Jesus with the light of tomorrow!



# In the News

- **Kirk W. Mendive** graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio Texas.
- **Lois Ports** received recognition from the Elko County School District for her teaching service.
- **Jan Petersen** gave her sixth annual tour of the old cemetery along with some great historical stories.
- **Donna Bellinger** and Bill Maloney came in third place during the Elko Bridge Club event.
- **Amanda Boyce** with the Spring Creek Spartans Girls Soccer team celebrate their win.
- **Bailey McCann**, along with other members of the Spring Creek Girl Scout Troop No. 395, were pictured receiving a proclamation from Elko City Mayor Mike Franzoia for their charitable works.

To my church family,

Thank you all so much for your support and kindness as I begin my leave of absence. I know that you will keep me and my family in your prayers as I seek God's guidance for my life.

I also ask that you would keep Charlyn Van Slyke in your prayers as she steps in to take over some of my duties at the church. Thank you Charlyn! I know you will do an awesome job for this community of believers.

God's peace and love to you all,  
Julie Blessing



## Poinsettia Orders



*Forms will be in the bulletin  
starting on December 6.*

*Place your order in memory or in honor of a loved  
one.*

*Deadline for orders will be*

## *Christmas Schedule*

**Handbell Playing: December 6 during Worship**  
**Spring Creek Youth Select Choir**  
**December 6 at 10.00**

**Christmas Children's Program: December 13**  
**Elko Choraliers: December 13 before Worship**  
**Handbell Concert: December 13 at 4:00 pm**  
**Youth Group will Sing Offertory on December 20**  
**Cantata: December 20**  
**Christmas Eve Service December 24 at 7:00 pm**  
**Office Closed on December 24 and 25**



**Forgive us Father, when we have failed to live up to our full potential. When we have been content with "C's" when we could have earned "B's"; when we did our work the easiest way instead of the best way; when we have allowed small obstacles to turn us away from our goals; when we have allowed failures to discourage us from trying again; when we have allowed our bodies to become weak and insensitive; when we have failed to speak words of love; when the words we've spoken have hurt instead of healed. Help us to go in search once again of the highest goals and greatest gifts you offer. Amen**

*Christ, the Saviour, is Born*  
 FIFTH ANNUAL ELKO REGIONAL INTERFAITH  
**CHRISTMAS CRÈCHE**  
**EXHIBIT**  
SPONSORED BY THE ELKO NEVADA EAST & WEST STAKES OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

A CELEBRATION OF  
 THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST

*Thursday through Sunday*  
**DECEMBER 3 THROUGH 6, 2009**

**11:00 AM - 8:00 PM DAILY**  
FREE ADMISSION EVERYONE WELCOME

**3001 N. FIFTH STREET, ELKO**  
(THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS)

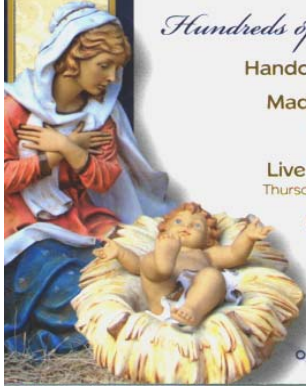
**FEATURING**

*Hundreds of Nativity Displays including:*

- Handcrafted Quilts & Wall Hangings
- Madonna & Child Art Collection
- Three 1940-era Murals
- Live Christmas Nativity Re-enactment  
Thursday & Friday Evening 5 - 8 PM, Saturday Afternoon
- Original Children's Nativity Artwork
- Music (See reverse for schedule.)

**WWW.ELKOCRECHE.ORG**

To display your Nativity, volunteer to help,  
 or for more information, call 778-3535 or 738-4142



**MUSICAL PERFORMANCES**

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3**

- 5:00 PM Spring Creek High School Select Choir
- 6:00 PM First Presbyterian Church Youth Choir
- 7:00 PM LDS East Stake Adult Choir & Soloists

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4**

- 5:00 PM Organ and Piano Recital
- 6:00 PM Elko High School Choraliers
- 7:00 PM LDS West Stake Adult Choir & Soloists

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5**

- 1:00 PM Mountain View Elementary School Choir
- 2:00 PM LDS East Stake Primary Children's Choir
- 3:00 PM Elko High School Strings
- 4:00 PM Musical Performances en Español

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6**

- 4:00 PM Sunrise Ringers of the Elko Handbells
- 5:00 PM Annual Messiah Sing-A-Long  
(Sponsored by the Elko Religious Leaders Association)
- 7:00 PM Christmas Devotional  
featuring the Mormon Tabernacle Choir plus an  
 inspirational Christmas Message (via satellite)

# Adult and Children's Mission Yearbooks Have arrived!!!!

**THEY ARE LOCATED ON THE DESK BY THE CHURCH OFFICE WINDOW  
 OR CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE  
 AT 738-3430**

## Albertsons Cards

Remember to use your Albertsons Cards when grocery shopping at our local Albertsons Store. A percentage of your grocery bill is donated to the church which is then used by the Mission Committee to buy food for F.I.S.H.

### Stewardship

*Stewardship letters and pledge cards will be in the mail soon. The Session of the First Presbyterian Church invites you to prayerfully consider your pledge in order for the church to be able to serve in Christ's love to all whom it touches. Services provided by the Church are dictated by the pledges of our members. Dedication of your pledges will take place on December 13, 2009.*

First Presbyterian Church  
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*May the holy remembrance of the first Christmas Day be our reassurance  
Christ is not far away.*

**Birthday List for December**

12/01 Simon Schaffner	12/27 Tamra Gunter
12/02 Diana Jones	12/27 Bill Nisbet
12/02 Tiffanie Reieron	12/27 Julie Blessing
12/03 Joseph McLeod	12/28 Don Harris
12/03 Brian Pearson	12/28 Janice Collett
12/05 Ashley Lauver	12/29 Doug Petersen
12/06 Brett Heard	12/30 Lori Passmore
12/07 Susie Jones	12/31 Charlie Cress
12/08 Aaron Jones	12/31 Ruth Hoskins
12/14 Alan Ciszewski	
12/16 Sydney Osmun	
12/17 Jack Ames	
12/19 Dorothy Read	
12/19 Maxine Garcia	
12/20 Jeannie Gillins	
12/24 Kathy Reyes	



**Fellowship Hour**

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

- Dec. 6 Rebecca Mullikin, Bev Gilbertson, Danny & Iolanda Gillins, Karen Mori, Ed & Jeannie Gillins, Bill & Athena Girard.
- Dec. 13 Kristi Lynn Glass, Mike & Kim Grigg, Tyler & Tamra, Gunter, Tony & Laura Gunter
- Dec. 20 Glenn & Casey Guttry, Ann Haglund, Betty Hall Nick & Sheila Halton, Cleo Hansen
- Dec. 27 Charles & Mary Harper, Kevin & Pat Harrington Don & Gwen Harris, Bob & Kristi Hays, John & Kelly Hobbs, Sharon Hughes

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

*Everyone Welcome!!*