



*Frist Presbyterian Church
Elko, Nevada*

Pastor Pat Mecham



Consider a “Small Group”!

Friends, I know that our church is not *large*, but anyone coming to worship as a “newcomer” can certainly feel somewhat overwhelmed. Even after attending for many months, it is possible to still feel like you’re not a part of things. If this is you, then I have a suggestion! Rather than trying to get to know the whole church all at once, consider joining a small group. It might be a weekday Bible Study, or a Sunday morning class, or the Men’s Breakfast, or Hobby Group, or the choir, or the jazz combo. The Session (our decision-making body composed of Elders that you elected) has committees, and we benefit from the experience and ideas of folks from the congregation.

If there is not a small group that interests you, feel free to start one! I would be happy to help you tailor it to your needs and interests, and advertise it. For example: A Parents of Preschoolers (POPs) group could meet for playdates and dinners and mutual support. All we would need is someone to plan some gatherings and get the word out! The possibilities are endless.

It’s so easy to feel alone and alienated in our busy world. Let’s find new ways to “encourage one another, and build each other up”!

Faithfully;

Pastor Pat

- Director of Family MinistryCharlyn Van Slyke
- Office Manager.....Bertha Lister
- Financial Secretary.....Heather Norero
- Co-Choir Directors.....Patty Fisk &Erin Mecham
- Pianist/Organist.....Lucille Pryor
- Nursery Attendant.....Josephine Atiemo
- Desert Pulpit Editor.....Bertha Lister
- Church Office.....775-738-3430
- Fax Number.....775-738-0805
- E-mail.....fpchurch@frontiernet.net
- E-mail.....office@ElkoFirstPres.org

Scripture Readings and Sermon Titles

December 4	“Getting Ready for Jesus”	Isaiah 40:1-11 Mark 1:1-8
December 11	“The One Coming”	Isaiah 6:1-4, 8-11 John 1:6-8, 19-28
December 18	“Bethlehem! “Nothing Ever Happens Here”	Children’s Musical Luke 1:26-38
December 24	Lessons and Carols	Luke 2:1-20 Isaiah 9:2-7

Sunday Schedule

- 9:00 Sunday School for All Ages
- 9:45 Choir Practice
- 10:15 Worship Service

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF FAMILY MINISTRY

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

December at a glance:

Youth choir and Jazz band will perform at the Creche Exhibit at the LDS church on 5th street across from Grace Baptist Church.

SCHS High Expectations will sing before worship on Dec 4 at 10am.

EHS Choraliers will sing before worship on Dec 11 at 10am.

Sunrise Ringers Handbell Concert will be on Dec 11 at 7pm in the Sanctuary.

The children will present their Christmas Program "Bethlehem, Nothing Ever Happens Here" on Sunday, Dec 18 during Worship.

The Family Christmas Eve Service will be at 7pm on Saturday Dec 24.

No Sunday School on Dec 25, but we have a regular worship service at 10:15am

The Office will be closed on Fri Dec 23 and Mon Dec 26.

Youth will meet:

Dec 1 6pm Birthday/Movie Night.

Dec 4 9am Sunday school, 1-3pm TWC study/skits

Dec 8 6:30pm @ GBC theatre for the "Forgotten Carols" performance

Dec 11 9am Sunday school, 1-3pm TWC study/music

Dec 15 6pm Movie Night

Dec 18 9am Sunday school, 1-3pm TWC study/skits

Dec 22 6pm Game Night

Dec 25 NO SUNDAY SCHOOL/YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Dec 29 NO YOUTH NIGHT

Dec 31 6pm 3rd Annual Youth New Year's Eve Lock In. We will end after worship on Jan 1.

Wednesday morning Bible study meets at 9:30am each week.

The men of the church are meeting on Saturday mornings @ 8am at different restaurants in town for a fellowship breakfast. You buy your own breakfast and enjoy the fellowship.

Hobby group meets at 1pm each Tuesday in the parlor and the 2nd Tuesday of the month for lunch beforehand.

Our Dave Ramsey classes are about to end, but we will begin new classes in January. Watch for dates and times.

Sunday school classes:

Nursery: Josephine Atiemo

K-2: Erin Munson and Renee Crouch

3-5: Alice Daniel

6-12 (Jr/Sr High): Carolee and Dan Jones

Bible 101: Genesis: Mike Jones

Christian Roundtable: Susie Jones and Frances Schain (Rotate through different topics.)

Charlyn Van Slyke Director of Family Ministries

<http://ElkoFirstPres.org> - ce-youth@ElkoFirstPres.org

FALL RUMMAGE SALE

The fall rummage sale was a great success, due to the efforts of a lot of volunteers, especially Diana Jones, Susie Schuster, Pat Harrington, and Jenny Byars. The sale brought in approximately \$1600 that will be spent on local and national mission projects. The real mission behind the rummage sale, however, was evident in the large number of Elkoans who shopped our rummage sales for necessities, not for frills. Volunteers helped people who had no other source for clothing, sheets, blankets, or dishes. We felt blessed by knowing that the generosity of the donors gave these people some real necessities. Plan to join the spring rummage sale volunteers and share in those blessings.



CALLING ALL CONGREGATION MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

The Youth will be having a Spaghetti feed/ talent show on Thursday, Jan. 5th at 6:00 pm.

All talents are welcome.

If you play an instrument, sing, write poetry, act, tell jokes, dance, etc. Call Charlyn Van Slyke at 738-3430 for more information.

Saint Nicholas - a brief history

St. Nicholas was born in 280 AD, in Patara, a city of Lycia, in Asia Minor. He became the gift giver of Myra. His gifts were given late at night, so that the gift giver's identity would remain a secret. St Nicholas was eventually named the patron saint of children, and sailors, in Russia and Greece.

St. Nicholas was a Christian priest, who later became a bishop. He was a rich person, and traveled the country helping people, giving gifts of money and other presents. St. Nicholas did not like to be seen when he gave away presents, so the children of the day were told to go to sleep quickly or he would not come! Nothing has changed and Santa Claus will not arrive this Christmas unless the children go to sleep early.

A famous story about St. Nicholas, is about a poor man who had no money to give to his three daughters on their wedding day. St Nick dropped bags of gold into the stockings which the girls had left to dry by the fire. The sisters found the gold and ever since, children have hung up stockings on Christmas Eve hoping that they will be filled with presents by Christmas morning.

Vitality Center— Keys to Happiness and Healthy Relationships—12 Session Workshop for Women

Vitality Center's winter 2012 *Keys to Happiness and Healthy Relationships* 12-session workshop for women will begin at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 9, at Vitality Unlimited, 1250 Lamoille Hwy., Suite 208 (next to Gene Russell Photography), in Elko, NV.

The workshop is open to women interested in learning critical life skills and developing more fulfilling relationships with partners, families, friends, employers, or co-workers. It will help participants understand their relationship history, improve their communications, effectively set boundaries, and better handle anger, unmet expectations, criticism, intimacy, and more. Leader Kristi Glass developed and has been presenting this valuable workshop for nonprofit Vitality Center at least twice annually since 2004. Workshops begin in September and January.

The workshop will meet at the same place/time on successive Mondays through March 26. Each session is approximately 2 hours in length.

Cost is \$20 per session with a \$15 discount if the tuition for all twelve sessions is paid at the first session. Credit card payments accepted by prior arrangement; call 738-4118 with details. Welfare, vocational rehabilitation, DCFS, the Elko Band Council, and other social service agencies may provide tuition help for their clients.

Pre-registration is preferred so enough materials can be prepared, but walk-ins will be accepted at the first session. If you cannot make it to the first session on Jan. 9, please contact Kristi Glass at 738-3520 or Kristi@KristiLynGlass.com by Jan. 16 to arrange a make-up session, so you can still continue with the group. No additional participants will be accepted after Jan 16.

More workshop details are online at <http://vitalityunlimited.org/new/del3/templates/keys%20to%20happiness.asp> (Note that the web page lists the wrong meeting date and place.)

Please act quickly to register or pass this information on to others who may be interested in participating in this valuable life-skills workshop for women.

Kristi Glass
(775) 738-3520
Kristi@KristiLynGlass.com



Handbell Concert

ELKO HANDBELLS will present their annual Christmas concert on SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2011, at 7:00 pm at First Presbyterian Church. Sunrise Ringers and Three and 1/2 Belles groups will be performing music of the season. Admission is free, however DONATIONS are always appreciated. Please invite any friends and family to come share this traditional event.

Joy Circle

Joy Circle will meet at 6:00 pm on December 12, 2011 in the Church Parlor. For more information contact Ann Haglund at 738-7072.

ESTHER CIRCLE

Esther Circle invites all women of the church, to their meetings on the third Thursday of the month, at 1:00 p m in the Parlor. We are studying CONFESSING THE BEATITUDES with book and DVD. We would love to have you join us for Christian Bible Study and Fellowship.

Submitted by Mary Dee Norris

Poinsettia Orders



Order forms will be available in the December 4th , 11th & 18th bulletins.
Order a Poinsettia or two in Memory of or in Honor of Loved ones.

Deadline for orders is
Monday, December 19, 2011

After Christmas you may take your poinsettia home with you or you can take it to a shut-in.

Advent

Advent begins on Sunday, November 27, 2011. Advent devotional booklets will be available in the Nartax and by the church office. Booklets for Pre-teens, Teens and College students are also available from Charlyn. Materials for children were handed out November 20th during worship service. Activities for these materials begin on December 1.

Extra will be available in the church office.

T G I S

(Take Groceries In Sunday)



Let's "Sleigh" Hunger!

The Mission Committee is again challenging members of the congregation to bring in one non-perishable food item each Sunday of Advent.

Your donations will be distributed to local non-profit organizations to help stock their shelves after the holidays. Items should be placed in the sled in front of the church office.

Please consider accepting this challenge!

Thank you for your donations.



December 4, 2011
after worship service.
Birthday cake provided by
Bill & Janet Strickland

Bring unwrapped baby gifts.
Place them under the Christmas tree
in the Fellowship Hall.
Baby Gifts will be donated to the
Northeastern Nevada Regional
Hospital Infants Department.

The Church Office will be closed on December 23
and December 26 for the Christmas Holiday

Obituary

Joseph Y. Urrriola passed away on November 4, 2011 at the Paradise Oasis Assisted Living Home in Yuma, AZ at the age of 93. A memorial service will be held at a later date in Eko.

IN THE NEWS

- **Ralph Gamboa** and Liz Rose placed third in the Elko Bridge Club event.
- **Glen Guttry** was present during the National League of POW/MIA gathering.
- **Jill Phillips**, professional organizer, helps residents and small businesses eradicate clutter.
- **Toni Mendive** played Elizabeth Potts in “The Potts’ Hangin’ Ghost” which was held the Nevada Museum’s auditorium. **Jan Petersen** also had a part in the play.
- **Jan Petersen** presented her annual Cemetery Tour. Each year she picks gravestones and researches the history behind them.
- **Toni Mendive** bows her head during the Veterans day Parade.
- **Lexi Baum** was named consolation MVP for the PAL volleyball.
- **Jason Boyce** celebrates a goal during the finale soccer game between Spring Creek and Elko.

Children’s Christmas Program

Sunday, December 18, 2011

Bethlehem... Nothing Ever Happens Here

Two bored citizens of ancient Bethlehem wander into church. They wonder why nothing ever happens in Bethlehem. It’s the same old hometown complaint we hear today. Little do the Bethlehem citizens realize that God is about to do something amazing in their hometown. They complain about everything, even as they meet some pretty exciting people. Of course, our Bethlehem visitors are unaware of the miracle taking place in the village inn down the street.

Come enjoy this Christmas Program put
on by the children of our church.

Sunday, December 18, 2011



New Arrivals



Renee and Andrew Crouch are the parents of Vander Lee Crouch born on October 23, 2011. He weighed 9lbs. 5 oz. 22 inches long. He has a sister, Killista, & a brother, Andrew Jr. **Liz Better** is their Grandmother.

Tamara L. Laughter and Jeffery J. Laughter are the parents of Carson Robert Laughter, born on Oct. 6, 2011. He weighed 6 lbs. 9 oz. 19 inches long.



Justin Harrington and Chrystal Johnson are the parents of Tymberlee Janeane Harrington born on October 21, 2011. She weighed 8 lbs. 5 oz. 21 inches long **Kevin & Pat Harrington** are the Grandparents.

Christmas Creche

DECEMBER 1 – 4, 2011
3011 N. FIFTH STREET
ELKO, NEVADA

The youth Choir and Jazz Band
from the church will perform
on Saturday, Dec. 3 at 4:00 pm.



Salvation Army Bell Ringers!!!

Elko First Presbyterian Church will be helping to ring the bell and collect donations for the Salvation Army again this year. The Salvation Army helps people in need in the Elko area, and we send people to them and to FISH when they call the church.

There will be a sign-up sheet available at church or call 738-5995 to volunteer. Ringers will be needed in front of Raleys for an hour at a time from noon to six on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays between November 25th and December 24th.

*Bring your family and to help spread the joy
of Christmas!*

First Presbyterian Church
 1559 Sewell Drive
 Elko, Nevada 89801
 fpchurch@frontiernet.net
 office@ElkoPres.org
 elkofirstpres.org

U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 ELKO, NEVADA
 PERMIT NO 9



Merry Christmas

I will give thanks to the Lord because of his righteousness and will sing praise to the name of the Lord Most High.....Psalm 7-17

BIRTHDAY'S

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 12/02 Diana Jones | 12/29 Doug Petersen |
| 12/03 Joseph McLeod | 12/29 Teresa Noland |
| 12/03 Brian Peterson | 12/30 Lori Passmore |
| 12/05 Ashley Lauver | 12/30 Teddy Gray |
| 12/06 Brett heard | 12/31 Charles Cress |
| 12/07 Susie Jones | 12/31 Ruth Hoskin |
| 12/08 Aaron Jones | |
| 12/14 Alan Ciszewski | |
| 12/15 Kaitlyn McLeod | |
| 12/19 Dorothy Read | |
| 12/19 Maxine Garcia | |
| 12/20 Jeannie Gillins | |
| 12/24 Kathy Reyes | |
| 12/24 Darren Gilbertson | |
| 12/25 Carol Cuthbertson | |
| 12/27 Bill Nisbet | |
| 12/27 Julie Blessing | |
| 12/27 Tamra Gunter | |
| 12/28 Enid Zunino | |
| 12/28 Janice Collett | |



FELLOWSHIP HOUR

- Dec. 4 Kevin & Kristi Tomera, Jill Phillips, Tom & Susan Merschel, Paula Bergeron, Craig & Jennifer Kidwell, Janet Webb.
- Dec. 11 Mark & Lois Ports, Mike & Jan Baum, Tom & Mary Dee Norris, Toni Mendive, George & Marvis Morley, Buck & Judi Boyce.
- Dec. 18 Travis & Kerstin Anderson, Betsy Basso, John & Shawn Cavaness, Patty Fisk, Clarice Gamboa, Ann Haglund.
- Dec. 25 **NO COFFEE HOUR**

Remember, if you change coffee hours.

Please contact the church office at 738-3430

**Coffee and cookies are served in the Fellowship Hall
 after Worship Service**

Everyone Welcome!

