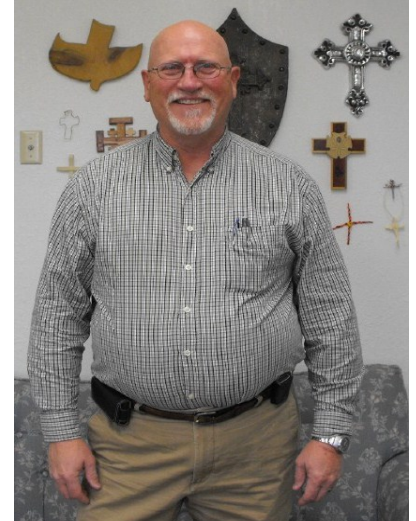




First Presbyterian Church

Elko, Nevada

Pastor Pat Mecham



LOOKING BEYOND EXPECTATIONS

I know how easy it is to make a “judgment” about someone before I have even begun to get to know them! It’s a common human response, this tendency to “pigeonhole” a person just to save us the trouble of listening and relating and caring. But I met someone recently who has blown away all the stereotypes I associated with them! (It’s possible that God sent this person to me with a message.) And now I have a worthwhile resolution to adopt:

TO LOOK BEYOND APPEARANCES

We read in 1Samual 16:7 “The Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.” Will you join me in a resolution for 2012? It might sound something like this:

Be it hereby resolved: I will NOT make premature decisions about anyone I meet this year.

There. That was easy. And now to the real challenge—reminding myself to “postpone judgment” and anticipate the blessings that God is sending me through all kinds of people!

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.....Heather Norero
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

Table with 3 columns: Date, Sermon Title, and Scripture Reference. Rows include Feb. 5, Feb. 12, Feb. 19, Feb. 22, and Feb. 26.

Sunday Schedule

- 9:00am Sunday School for all ages
9:45 Choir Practice
10:15 Worship Service

Message from the Director of Family Ministry

Thank you to the youth that stayed on Sunday, New Years Day and participated in the Youth Worship service. You did a fantastic job after staying up all night. Our 3rd Annual New Year's Eve lock in was a huge success, with 27 kids and 6 adults, many of which led Worship that morning.

THANK YOU to the parents and youth who helped prepare the dinner for our 1st Annual Spaghetti Feed/Talent Show Fundraiser. It was amazing. I am looking forward to next year. Our big talent winner this year was Sarah Nahnacassia with her Tae Kwon Do exhibition. We had 10 talent entries, all of various ages, (6yrs old and up) and categories from vocal music, instrumental, comedy, and martial arts. The food and fellowship was wonderful and our talent amazing. We raised \$710.00. This money goes to help the youth with expenses for our winter trip (fuel, scholarships, etc), snacks for our Thursday nights, and projects that we take up during the year.

THANK YOU to all those that came and shared in the evening!

College lunch resumes on Weds, Jan 25

Youth are again participating in the Souper Bowl of Caring and will be collecting non-perishable foods, toiletries, money, etc for CADV on Sunday, Feb 5th. We will try to fill Charlyn's Suburban.

A new Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University class will begin on Sunday, Feb 12, at 1pm, led by Kevin and Pat Harrington. Anyone interested please contact Charlyn or fill out a form found in the Sunday bulletin. There is a \$95 cost for the kit. Feel free to call Charlyn with any questions.

Youth Winter Trip to Boise is scheduled for Feb 18-20. If interested pick up information in the office or call Charlyn. The cost is \$100 and covers 7 meals, lift ticket or tubing ticket, and roller skating. Adults interested in chaperoning/driving are always welcome.

Confirmation Classes with Pastor Pat will begin on Sunday, Feb 26 during the 9am Sunday school hour. If interested, please contact Pastor Pat or Charlyn.

All men of the church are invited to the Men's Fellowship Breakfast each Saturday @ 8am at different restaurants in town. You Buy Your Own Breakfast and enjoy the fellowship.

The third Friday of each month (Feb 17) families can enjoy a night out @ the Igloo, roller skating, sponsored by the Women's Roller Derby team. There is a cost of \$5 to enter and then a small fee to rent skates if you need.

Other Church happenings:

Sun: 9am Sunday school for all ages. I am looking for a teacher for my 3rd-5th grade class.

10:15am Worship

Noon Jazz band practice

1pm Youth study

2pm Youth skit/music

Tues: 1pm Hobby Group

7pm Handbells

Weds: 9:30am Bible Study

7pm Handbells

Thurs: 6pm Youth Night

7pm Choir

Feb 16, 1pm Esther Circle

Feb 13, 7pm Joy Circle

Charlyn Van Slyke Director of Family Ministries

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

MISSION COMMITTEE

The Mission Committee is seeking volunteers to help with different projects throughout the year. **THESE ARE NOT FULL-TIME JOBS!!**

The committee just needs to know of people who are willing to help out whenever there's an upcoming project like...the Resurge Meal in March... or the Heifer International breakfast in the fall. Any little thing someone can do will help take the pressure off the few, and it's such a wonderful feel-good few hours! Not everyone will be asked to help for every project. If 75 percent of the church members would volunteer to help for a function, we'd probably never have to ask for volunteers again!!

The committee will try to make sure you're doing something you believe in, that you enjoy doing it, and that you enjoy the people around you.

The Mission Committee consists of Mike & Susie Jones, Judy Bondo, Tom & Mary Dee Norris, Robbie Nickel, Donna Gray, Sally Winsley and Toni Mendive. Give any one of them the word that you're willing to help and one of them will contact you when there's a project to be done to see if you're willing to help.

The Mission Committee has been collecting tin cans for hand-warmers, but it's come to the committee's attention that cans larger than tuna – size are not as efficient to make or to use, so please save just tuna cans for hand-warmers. The youth has done an excellent job of following through and making the warmers.

Don't forget that the Mission Committee sells Free Trade Coffee, available in the Church office. This is a wonderful way to enjoy your gift twice: once by buying, once by drinking!

Submitted by Toni Mendive

The History and Meaning of

Ash Wednesday



Ash Wednesday is the name given to the first day of the season of Lent, in which the Pastor applies ashes to the foreheads of Christians to signify an inner repentance.

Ash Wednesday, originally called *dies cinerum* (day of ashes) dates back from at least the 8th Century. One of the earliest descriptions of Ash Wednesday is found in the writings of the Anglo-Saxon abbot Aelfric (955-1020). In his Lives of the Saints, he writes, "We read in the books both in the Old Law and in the New that the men who repented of their sins bestrewed themselves with ashes and clothed their bodies with sackcloth. Now let us do this at the beginning of our Lent that we strew ashes upon our heads to signify that we ought to repent of our sins during the Lenten fast." Throughout the Middle Ages ashes were sprinkled on the head, rather than anointed on the forehead as in our day.

It is mentioned several times in the Old Testament. What is probably the earliest occurrence is found at the very end of the book of Job. Job, having been rebuked by God, confesses, "Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes" (Job 42:6). Other examples are found in 2 Samuel 13:19, Esther 4:1,3, Isaiah 61:3, Jeremiah 6:26, Ezekiel 27:30, and Daniel 9:3.

In the typical Ash Wednesday observance, Christians are invited to receive the imposition of ashes, prior to receiving the holy Supper. The Pastor applies ashes in the shape of the cross on the forehead of each, while speaking the words, "For dust you are and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19). This is of course what God spoke to Adam and Eve after they had eaten of the forbidden fruit and fallen into sin. These words indicated to our first parents the bitterest fruit of their sin, namely death. In the context of the Ash Wednesday imposition of ashes, they remind each penitent of their sinfulness and mortality, and, thus, their need to repent and get right with God before it is too late. The cross reminds each penitent of the good news that through Jesus Christ crucified there is forgiveness for all sins, all guilt, and all punishment.

**ASH WEDNESDAY
SERVICE: 7:00 PM WED.
FEBRUARY 22, 2012.**

Esther Circle

Esther Circle meets the 3rd Thursday of each month in the Parlor. All women are invited to attend. We are studying the Beatitudes with book and DVD. Come join us for Bible Study and Christian Fellowship.

Submitted by Mary Dee Norris

Confirmation Classes

Pastor Pat will begin confirmation classes on Sunday, February 26 at 9:00 am during Sunday School. Classes will continue through March 18. Call Pastor Pat or Charlyn Van Slyke for more information at 738-3430.

Joy Circle

JOY Circle will meet on Monday, February 13th at 7 PM in the Parlor. The lesson will be #3 in the Bible Study, "Beatitudes" led by Sally Winsley. Devotions will be given by Ann Haglund and Carolyn Rand will provide Refreshments.

KIDS' CLUB

Kids' Club will be held every Wednesday at 3:30pm to 5:00 pm starting February 1, 2012. Ages from Kindergarten through 5th Grade will meet in the children's church room. Come join the fun. Teaching the classes will be Christine Thompson and Jennifer Henry. For more information call Charlyn at the church office at 738-3430.

Hobby Group

The hobby group meets every Tuesday at 1:00 pm in the church parlor. The ladies make tray favors and work on other projects. On the 2nd Tuesday of the month the ladies meet for a buy your own lunch to celebrate monthly birthdays. Everyone is welcome to attend.

T G I S

(Take Groceries In Sunday)



Gifts From the Heart

Warm your heart by helping the needy. The Mission Committee will be collecting paper products to be distributed to local non-profit organizations beginning on February 12. Suggested items are paper towels, tissues, toilet paper, etc. Items should be placed in the box in front of the church office.

Thank you for your donations to the Let's "Sleigh" Hunger campaign.

We ask that your donations be new and placed in the box in front of the office. Thank you for contributing to this service.

Thank You for your Support



- Calling all students in 4th grade, 8th grade, high school seniors and graduating college students. Call Charlyn with names and grades. She will be ordering Bibles for Promotion Sunday and needs to know how many to order. Please call Charlyn at 738-3430 as soon as

Wednesday Bible Study Group

Come join the Wednesday Bible Study Group. The group meets every Wednesday at 9:30 am in the room across from Charlyn's office. They will be studying "Jesus the One and Only" starting Feb. 1. This is a study of the life of Jesus and culminating in the meaningfulness of communion. This is a 10 week study ending on Easter week. Contact Kathy Reyes at 738-6894 for information and for the study book.

Per Capita and General Mission Giving

To honor the wishes of some of our members to support the PCUSA, as well as the wishes of others of our members to NOT support the PCUSA, the Session has elected to re-direct a portion of our Per Capita assessment and our General Mission Giving to Nevada Presbytery and local mission concerns.

The Per Capita payment is \$35.00 for 2012. This money provides staffing for the GA, the Synod of the Pacific, and the Presbytery of Nevada. It also covers the cost of the meetings of these various decision-making bodies.

The General Mission Giving from our church is 20% of our total giving. It goes to support international, national, Presbytery and local mission concerns.

We understand that this is not a perfect solution, but it does reflect the widely-varying feelings of our diverse congregation!

RESURGE INTERNATIONAL

The Mission Committee will be putting on a Spaghetti Lunch, after church on March 25, 2012, to benefit Resurge International. We will be shipping all the NO/NO's that have been made in the last year. We are very thankful to all of the ladies that are so faithful to the No/No program. For new people to our church, a No/No is a piece of cloth with large craft sticks sewn inside, to prevent a child with cleft palate surgery from pulling out their stitches. American Doctors donate their time to 3rd world countries to teach and operate on their people with cleft palate deformities. This will be the 6th year First Presbyterian Church has worked on this mission project. We would like to invite anyone in the church who would like to help on this project to contact Tom or Mary Dee Norris at 744-2554. We could use help with providing food, cooking, or clean up. Thank you so much for your participation in this great mission project.

Submitted by Mary Dee Norris

IN THE NEWS

- **Jacob McLeod** with the Spring Creek Spartans scored seven of 12 points in the basketball game against Fallon.
- **Brian Pearson** with Elko High School scored a basket during the basketball game against Fallon.



SOUPER BOWL OF CARING—FEBRUARY 5, 2012

The youth will be collecting food and or money for the Souper Bowl of Caring.

More than 20 years ago, the Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group: "Lord, as we enjoy the Super bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those without even a bowl of soup to eat." Since that day, more than \$60 million dollars has been raised for local charities across the country through the Souper Bowl of Caring. It has become a powerful movement that is transforming Super bowl weekend into the nation's largest youth-led weekend of giving and serving. Throughout this mission, young people learn what it's like to make a positive difference in the world-as they collect food, raise money and volunteer to work in charities that provide shelter to the homeless, food to the hungry and compassion to those in need.

Be a part of this movement that is sharing God's love with those in need. Please give generously on Super Bowl Sunday.

We would like to fill the back of Charlyn Van Slyke's SUV with food for CADV. So please bring non-perishable items (please check expiration dates on all items) on Sunday, February 5, 2012. If every family brings something, we will be able to fill up the SUV.

Use the big box located outside the Church Office for your donated items.

HELP THE YOUTH SUPPORT CADV ON SUPER BOWL SUNDAY DURING OUR SOUPER BOWL OF CARING.

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Praise the Lord. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.
Psalm 106:1

BIRTHDAY'S

02/01 Ewuabena Atiemo
02/02 Luciana Gillins
02/02 Mary Dee Norris
02/03 Kendra Heard
02/03 Susan Stefka
02/03 John Stefka
02/04 Mark Paoli
02/06 Mark Ports
02/08 Joseph Norero III
02/09 Justin Munson
02/12 Hugh Collett
02/17 Clarice Gamboa
02/17 Linda Trontel
02/18 Dennis Petersen
02/13 Nick Bisson
02/15 Tamra Boyce
02/20 Kim Grigg
02/20 Kristi Hays
02/20 Floyd Fisk
02/22 Cherie Welch
02/24 Nathaniel Bisson
02/25 Nick Halton



FELLOWSHIP HOUR

Feb. 5 Reed & Linda Moseley, Carlene Lancaster, Jake & Karen Kump, Mike & Becky Kerna, Diana Jones, Kristi Glass.
Feb. 12 Bill & Ann Nisbet, Erin Munson, Maureen Monks, Betsy Basso, Tony & Laura Gunter, Dan & Carolee Jones.
Feb. 19 Bill & Janet Strickland, Jill Phillips, Pat & Melissa Mecham, Tom & Susan Merschel, Aida Matthews, Jennifer Kidwell.
Feb. 26 Steve & Ruth Bishop, Tom & Mary Dee Norris, Gordon & Marvis Smith, George & Marvis Morley, Nick & Christine Thompson

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!

