



# First Presbyterian Church Elko, Nevada

## Spiritual Support for Our Military

I'm sure you're aware that there are Chaplains that serve our women and men in uniform, but did you know that you could be a tremendous support to this ministry? I urge you to make a gift to Guideposts Military Outreach, an organization that sends Guideposts and other helpful literature to our Troops. They bring a message of hope and comfort to folks who are often in desperate need of it!

You can mail a donation to: Guideposts Foundation  
Donation Processing Center, P.O. Box 5812, Harlan, Iowa  
51593; or you can call 1-800-932-2145; or you can go online  
at [www.GuidepostFoundation.org/Military](http://www.GuidepostFoundation.org/Military).

What a great way to express our thanks for the wonderful life we enjoy!

Faithfully;

*Pastor Pat*

*Pastor Pat Mecham*



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

## Scripture Readings and Sermon Titles

January 1	Youth Group will be at the Pulpit	
January 8	“What’s the Holy Spirit?”	Genesis 1-1-5 Acts 19:1-7
January 15	“Your Body—a Temple”	1 Corinthians 6:12-20
January 22	“In God Alone”	Psalm 62:5-12
January 29	“Speaking with Authority”	Deuteronomy 18:15-20\ Mark 1:21-28

## Sunday Schedule

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

# MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF FAMILY MINISTRY

*HAPPY NEW YEAR!*

The youth will be starting off the New Year with our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual New Year's Eve Lock In and leading the New Year's Day Worship Service. No greater way to start off the New Year than to Worship our Lord, we will be a little sleepy, but joyful none the less.

I need all medical/permission forms turned in by the Lock in on Dec 31.

6pm Dec 31, 2011- 11:15am Jan 1, 2012 Lock-In

Jan 2, 2012 OFFICE CLOSED

6pm Jan 5, 2012, Youth Spaghetti Feed/Talent Show. \$5/person for dinner.

Youth need to meet at the church at 3pm to set up and prepare the dinner. Dinner will start at 6pm a charge of \$5 a person. Talent show will proceed during the meal. There will be prizes. Please sign the sheet on the office window if you are planning to participate in the Talent portion of the evening. The winners of the talent show will be determined by audience voting. The audience will vote by placing \$1 bills in the jar of the talent they so choose. The Talent with the most \$1s wins. All proceeds from our evening will go to the youth fund to help pay for chaperones, fuel and youth that need help to pay for the ski trip and other activities throughout the coming year.

Sunday School for all ages will resume on Sunday, Jan 8<sup>th</sup> as will Sunday youth activities. The youth will continue studying the book of James during our afternoon study and working on skits and musical numbers for future worship services.

Our regular Thursday night youth activities will continue on Thurs, Jan 12<sup>th</sup> with game/birthday night.

Anyone that would like to play in the Church Jazz band, they have rehearsals on Sundays at Noon. All ages are welcome to join.

College lunch will start back on Weds, Jan 25 @ noon. We meet in the dining area @ noon for lunch and fellowship. You bring \$2 and I furnish the lunch.

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 (Jan 20) 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 happenings during January:

Wednesdays Bible Study 9:30am

Tuesdays Hobby 1pm

Joy Circle, Esther Circle, Choir, Boy/Cub Scouts, Habitat for Humanity, Stitchers, Music Together, Cowboy Poetry, Check the calendar for times and dates.

A new Dave Ramsey Financial Peace Class will start on Sunday, Feb 12 from 1pm-3pm lead by Kevin and Pat Harrington. More information will be coming soon, or call Charlyn for details. 738-3430

Youth Winter Trip to Boise (Bogus Basin) is scheduled for Presidents Day weekend, Feb 18-20. \$100 this covers 2 lunches, 2 Breakfasts, 2 dinners, Roller Skating, lift/tubing tickets. We will stay at the First Presbyterian Church in Boise. They now have showers! More info coming!

Charlyn Van Slyke

Director of Family Ministries

First Presbyterian Church

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Elko, NV 89801

(775) 738-3430

<http://ElkoFirstPres.org>

[ce-youth@ElkoFirstPres.org](mailto:ce-youth@ElkoFirstPres.org)

Dear Congregation,

Because of the change in ordination requirements in the PCUSA, there has been a great deal of discussion among Presbyterians! Below are some websites that might aid you as you familiarize yourself with the issues. This will help us to have a reasoned, Christ-like discussion as we seek the Lord's will for our congregation! "The Presbyterian Outlook" - an online magazine. Note: Responses are from both "sides" of the 10-A issue. <http://www.presoutlook.com/component/content/article/44-breaking-news/11356-responses-to-the-10a-vote.html>. This is a letter from the pastor of FPC Orlando to his congregation. [http://www.fpcorlando.org/Files/InsideFPCO/denominational\\_letter\\_2011.pdf](http://www.fpcorlando.org/Files/InsideFPCO/denominational_letter_2011.pdf). This is the website for The Fellowship of Presbyterians. <http://www.fellowship-pres.org/>.

Here is an additional link to a helpful page within the Presbyterian Coalition website: [http://www.presbycoalition.org/what\\_will\\_we\\_do.cfm](http://www.presbycoalition.org/what_will_we_do.cfm) Note: This page contains the link to Rev. Campbell's document: Now That Amendment 10-A Has Passed. Suggestions for Guiding and Strengthening Your Church (or here is the direct link) [http://www.presbycoalition.org/suggestions\\_for\\_congregations\\_campbell.pdf](http://www.presbycoalition.org/suggestions_for_congregations_campbell.pdf) as well as links to other helpful documents such as: Wrestling in Scripture with Staying or Leaving the PCUSA by Rev. Robert Austell.

*Pastor Pat*

## Annual Reports

Each year every committee in the church writes up an annual report of activities in their committee (s). These reports are put together in a booklet and available to the congregation to review. **Reports this year are due on January 27, 2012.** Be the first to get your report to the church office by e-mail at [fpchurch@frontiernet.net](mailto:fpchurch@frontiernet.net) or bring it by the church office during regular church office hours. Annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 12, 2012 and will be held immediately following worship services.

## New Arrival



**CORIN Cyle Ports** was safely delivered at 7:00 a.m. Wednesday, December 21. Baby and mom are both doing fine. He weighs 8 lb. 8 oz. and is 21 inches long and has lots of dark brown hair. Looks just like his big sister Micah. Thanks to everyone for your prayers and concerns as we waited for the him to arrive. He was definitely worth the wait. He is perfect in every way. Grandparents are **Mark & Lois Ports**.

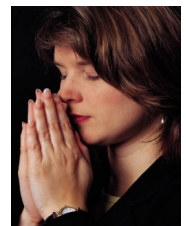
## Answered Prayers

Games can't be won  
Unless they are played,  
And prayers can't be answered  
Unless they are prayed.

***The Lord detests the sacrifice of the wicked,  
but the prayer of the upright pleases him.***

Proverbs 15:8

Pray with a sincere heart.  
Pray earnestly and constantly.



# IN THE NEWS

- **Athena Girard** along with other Elko County Library employees gather around the Sugar Plum Tree at the local Library.
- **Alex Smith** participated in the 10th International Ryukyukan Karate and Kobudo tournament in California.
- **Khuzaymah Perez** qualified for the Elko High School wrestling team, but won't be able to participate due to a knee injury.
- **Curtis Jones** with the Civil Air Patrol participated in an orientation flight with new cadets.
- **Diana Jones** with the Civil Air Patrol teaches self-discipline leadership to new cadets.
- **Morgan Van Blacom** ran for Miss Elko County with the platform "Stop Bullying".
- **Athena Girard** along with others from the Library received a Christmas Tree donated by The Bureau of Land Management.
- **Khuzaymah Perez** was featured in the All Area Football Team as offensive lineman from Elko High School.
- **Janice Collett** talks about a non-traditional form of music she provides for children in classes called "Music Together."
- **Jacob McLeod** is the point guard for the Spring Creek Spartans basketball team.
- **Matt Lancaster** is an outside marksman who plays for the Spartans.
- **Iolanda Gillins** showed her decorated home during the Cattlewomen's Holiday Tour of Homes.
- **Taj Gray**, grandson of Charlyn and Mark Van Slyke, won tickets to the "Forgotten Carols" after winning a coloring contest at the Library.
- **John Collett** with the Elko Desert Sunrise Rotary Club helped donate 80 bags of food to children and members of the community in need.
- **Jacob McLeod** played for the Spring Creek Spartans during the Red Lion Tournament in Spring Creek.
- Sunrise Handbell Ringers, **Ann Nisbet, Troy Gunter, John Daniel, Toni Mendive, Jan Webb** played holiday music for local schools and also preformed a concert at the church.
- **Natalie Kump** and **Alexis Freitag** helped raise money through the Junior Honor Society for Shop with a cop.
- **Glen Guttry** with the Elko Lions Club helped during the sale of See's Candy for the holiday.
- **Patty Fisk** was featured during the welcome back event at the Ruby Mountain Resource Center.
- **Glen Guttry** plans on seeking election to the county seat.
- Cody Jensen, grandson of **Charlie and Mary Lou Cress**, created the artwork on the training room wall at the Humboldt County Sheriff Department in Winnemucca in celebration of their 150th year.

## Obituary

**Christine Boyd Gordon** passed away on December 12, 2011. Christine was a long time member of the First Presbyterian Church. She had been at the Highland manor for many years. A memorial service was held on Dec. 19, 2011 at Burns Funeral Home.

Memorial Services for **Mark Porter** will be held Saturday, January 7, 2012, at our Lamoille Community Presbyterian Church. The service will begin at 10 am with Pastor Pat Mecham from First Presbyterian Church of Elko officiating. The Scouts will be doing a flag ceremony. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall. We would like to present a surprise cash Love Offering to the Porters at that time. If you would like to be a part of this needed mission, please call Linda Stapley at 753-6183, or Sandy Wilmot at 777-7815.

## 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.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

Janice Collett, Music Together  
**Igniting Creativity: We do it with Music!**

As parents we want healthy, happy, capable children, and the greatest gift we can give our children is creativity and flexibility to deal with our changing, challenging world. To ignite creativity I recommend music!

Music provides a special gateway into the creative brain because music uses more of the brain than any other activity we humans know. Even tiny babies react to music.

We dance, chant, and sing in Music Together classes to stimulate the creative brain. All children are creative and musical, if they grow up in an environment rich in creative, musical experiences. There is no time when a child learns more rapidly than the months right after birth. The brain begins, around age 6, 7, 8, to shift to an analytical/adult way of thinking, so it's important we expose children to music and movement while they're very young.

Young children before about age 8 learn differently from adults. They learn through play. It has been said that "play" is a child's "work:" freely chosen and directed by the child, and it must be fun. During play the child experiments much as a scientist does. Pieces from ordinary life are seriously "practiced" over and over. How many times can a parent read a favorite storybook before the child tires? The adult will tire long before the child. "Read it again Daddy."

Music Together classes capitalize on the child's love of play with no "rules." The child explores and teaches himself. Areas in the brain specially set aside for language and music learning are stimulated by the environment. If not stimulated by age 7 or 8 these neural centers are shunted off or used for something else. It's more difficult to learn to carry a tune, keep a rhythm, or learn another language in adult years. Easier for the young child because the brain, while young and still in the process of forming, responds readily to musical stimuli. Never is learning more rapid than during the very early months after birth.

Music Together classes make wonderful gifts for young children and grandchildren, too! Call me for special "Gift Certificates" for those you love, 753-7825. Music Together classes begin Jan 3, 2012: Mondays and Tuesdays in the mornings and an evening class Tuesdays.

## **NEW YEAR QUOTES**

Youth is when you're allowed to stay up late on New Year's Eve. Middle age is when you're forced to. ~Bill Vaughn

An optimist stays up until midnight to see the new year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves. ~Bill Vaughan

Many people look forward to the new year for a new start on old habits. ~Author Unknown

A New Year's resolution is something that goes in one year and out the other. ~Author Unknown

Be always at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let each new year find you a better man. ~Benjamin Franklin

No one ever regarded the First of January with indifference. It is that from which all date their time, and count upon what is left. It is the nativity of our common Adam. ~Charles Lamb

Never tell your resolution beforehand, or it's twice as onerous a duty. ~John Selden

Year's end is neither an end nor a beginning but a going on, with all the wisdom that experience can instill in us. ~Hal Borland

People are so worried about what they eat between Christmas and the New Year, but they really should be worried about what they eat between the New Year and Christmas. ~Author Unknown

Glory to God in highest heaven, who unto man His Son hath given; while angels sing with tender mirth, A glad new year to all the earth. ~Martin Luther

Many years ago I resolved never to bother with New Year's resolutions, and I've stuck with it ever since. ~Dave Beard

## BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS

Our Birthday for Jesus project was a gift of true giving with your support of 100 gifts. The baby items were again donated to the OB Department of Northeastern Nevada Regional Hospital and were warmly received by the nurses. There is a great need in our community for this project and in twenty years you have given over 1,600 infant gifts. Thank you to everyone for your generous contributions.

Janet Strickland  
Clarice Gamboa

## RESURGE INTERNATIONAL

We have a group of ladies that are making NO/NO's for the cleft palate surgeries. The kits are available in the hall outside of the office in a large laundry basket. The American doctors and nurses from Resurge International, went to Peru, and Vietnam this last summer, so we will be replacing the No/No's that were used. The Mission Committee, will be having a fund raiser lunch sometime this Spring. Thank you for your continuing support for this rewarding mission project.

Submitted by Mary Dee Norris

## ESTHER CIRCLE

*Esther Circle ended the year, with a Christmas Party in the Fellowship Hall on Dec. 15, 2011. Nine members enjoyed a delicious potluck with Pastor Pat and Bertha joining us for lunch. We exchanged Christmas Ornaments with each other, and read special Christmas verses from the Bible.*

*In January, we will continue our Confessions of the Beatitudes Bible Study. We meet in the Parlor on Jan. 19, 2012, at 1:00 p. m. We will be having election of officers at that time. All women of the church are invited, and we would love to have new members.*

Submitted by Mary Dee Norris

## Life Line Screening

Life Line Screening is the leading provider of community-based preventive health screening in the U.S.

1. **Stroke/Carotid Artery Screening—\$60.00**  
Ultrasound evaluation of the carotid arteries that screens for buildup of fatty plaque—the leading cause of strokes.
2. **Heart Rhythm Screening (Atrial Fibrillation) \$60.00**  
A quick and easy test using EKG electrodes placed on the arms and legs to identify the presence or absence of an irregular heartbeat at the time of the screening.
3. **Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening \$60.00**  
Ultrasound is used to screen for the presence of an aneurysm in the abdominal aorta that could lead to a ruptured aortic artery.
4. **Peripheral Arterial Disease Screening \$60.00**  
Evaluates for peripheral arterial disease (plaque buildup) in the lower extremities.
5. **Osteoporosis Risk Assessment \$45.00**  
An ultrasound measurement of the heel bone to determine abnormal bone mass density.

Get all 5 screening for \$159 and save \$129.

Life Line Screening will be screening at First Presbyterian Church in the Fellowship Hall on February 2, 2012. You can pre-register by calling 1-800-679-5192, use priority code: HSC3338. For more information see poster on the window by the Church Office and in the Fellowship Hall.

## The Lord's Prayer Activates the Happiness/ Energy Area of the Brain

A study done by Danish researchers showed that reciting the Lord's Prayer while having MRI scans of the brain, they discovered some surprising differences. Prayers activated a part of the brain called the *dorsal striatum*, which is associated with the release of dopamine (a neurotransmitter that fights tiredness, depression and cravings), the Lord's Prayer had more than double the positive effect. The researchers speculate that due to the fact that the Lord's Prayer is sanctioned by Jesus as encompassing all important aspects of life.

## Keys to Happiness Workshop

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](mailto: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

# 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!*

## A Thank You Note

Dear Church Members;

Thank you so much for your donation of art supplies for the horizon center. It will really help the kids to work on their projects.

Thank you,

Billie & Libbie - Horizon Hospice

## Presbyterian Youth Sing while collecting money for Salvation Army



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Accept the challenges and the possibilities of the year that lies ahead.  
*You crown the year with your bounty.*  
Psalm 65:11

## BIRTHDAY'S

1/04 Louise Collett  
1/04 Analisa Girard  
1/06 Rick Glass  
1/09 Liz Better  
1/09 Abby Grigg  
1/10 Vern Blessing  
1/12 Sally Winsley  
1/14 Michael Hanley  
1/16 Jessica Flint  
1/16 Justin Harrington  
1/18 Emily Hanley  
1/18 Avery Dobis  
1/19 Frances Schain  
1/21 Jamie Blinn  
1/22 Lorraine Pappas  
1/25 Pam Cartier  
1/26 Ann Nisbet  
1/30 Evan Munson



## FELLOWSHIP HOUR

Jan. 1 Charles & Mary Harper, Ann Haglund, Rod & Jessica Flint, Ed & Jeannie Gillins, Bart & Susan Freitag, Dorothy Hansen.  
Jan. 8 Jan Petersen, Kevin & Pat Harrington, Carol Hall, Tyler & Tamra Gunter, Mike & Susie Jones, Clarice Gamboa.  
Jan. 15 Jody Jones, Charline Hull, Vicki Goicoechea, Nick & Sheila Halton, Bill & Athena Girard, Bev. Gilbertson.  
Jan. 22 Sue Melcher, John & Faith Daniel, B.J. Hurley, Bob & Krisit Hays, John & Kelly Hobbs, Donna Culp.  
Jan 29 Joe & Kathy McLeod, Brian & Jo Arthur, Roger Johnson, Harry Jackson, Cleo Hansen, Sharon Hughes.

**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!***

