

# DESERT PULPIT - JUNE 2011

## First Presbyterian Church Elko, Nevada



Pastor Pat Mecham



### I Am a Newcomer!

Here is some wise advice from an article in another church's newsletter:

**Smile** as I walk in the door. You are my first impression of the folks in this church.

**Help** me find my place in the service. Make sure I have a bulletin and know where we are in the service. If I am alone, sit beside me. Ask my name and remember it. I will remember your kindness.

**Talk to me** again the second, third, and fourth time I come back to church. I am still looking for a church home.

**Invite me to the Fellowship Time** after worship, and speak to me there. I know you want to see your friends and settle that piece of church business, but I may find it hard to believe you truly care for each other unless I first see that you care for the "stranger in your midst."

**Tell me good things** about how the Lord is using your church and its ministry. I want to trust that I have come to a place where people love each other and where they sense they are doing exciting things for Christ.

Faithfully,

*Pastor Pat*

Director of Family Ministry  
.....Charlyn Van Slyke  
Office Manager..... Bertha Lister  
Financial Secretary. Heather Norero  
Co-Choir Directors..... Patty Fisk and  
Erin Mecham  
Pianist..... Lucille Pryor  
Nursery Attendant.....Andrea Licht  
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  
Web-site: elkofirstpres.org

#### Sunday Schedule:

9:00 Sunday School for all ages  
10:15 Worship Service:

#### Church Office Hours

Monday thru Thursday  
8:30 am—3:00 pm  
Fridays: 8:30 am to 1:00 pm

#### Adult Choir

7:15 pm Thursdays  
9:00 Sunday Mornings  
Choir Does NOT Meet  
During Summer

#### Sermon Titles and Scripture Readings for June, 2011

June 5	"Bridging Heaven and Earth"	Acts 1:1-11 Ephesians 1:15-23 Luke 24:44-53
June 12	"The Spirit's Gifts"	Acts 2:1-8 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13
June 19	Father's Day "Father/King"	Psalm 8 Matthew 28:16-20
June 26	"The Power of a Welcome"	Matthew 10:40-42

## Director of Family Ministry

Congratulations to all our Graduating High School Seniors and College Students!!

Thank You to all who helped to make our year of Sunday school and Youth programs a success. Without your help these programs cannot be in place.

**REMINDER: OUR SUMMER WORSHIP WILL BEGIN ON JUNE 5, @ 9:30AM**

*Summer schedule for Jr/Sr High Youth: See calendar insert*

Mondays= Bible Study 10-11:30am

Wednesdays=VBS Prep 10-Noon

Thursday Nights= Movie/Game 6-8pm

Fridays=Coffee and Conversations @ Sierra Java 10-11am

### Cowboy's Rest Camps:

Kids' Camp: June 13-17

High School Camp #1: June 20-25

High School Camp #2: June 27-July 2

Announcing: **SONSURF BEACH BASH VBS coming soon! Aug 1-5, 2011**

Volunteer sheets will be in the bulletins or you may sign up in the office. I will have pre-registration sheets in the office also if you want to get your children registered early. You can pick some up and invite your neighbors and friends. VBS is always an exciting time to show the children in our neighborhood the power of God's love, so come and join us!!

**Sunday June 12, 2011- New Wine Youth Drama group from Cloquet, MN will be performing at Faith Lutheran Church during their worship service at 9:30am.**

A BIG Thank You to John Daniel and Mark Van Slyke for transporting the "Purple Potty". **\$1215.00 was raised for World Vision 30-Hour Famine.**

Charlyn Van Slyke; Director of Family Ministries; <http://ElkoFirstPres.org>; [ce-youth@ElkoFirstPres.org](mailto:ce-youth@ElkoFirstPres.org)

### **Purple Potty Recipients—A fundraiser for 30 Hour Famine by the Youth Group**

Thanks for being such good sports!!



Galen and Debbie  
Schorsch



Mike Jones



Charlie & Mary Lou  
Cress



Larry & Evalyn  
Plumb

## Success story from Heifer International

Here is one more reason why we support Heifer International through our Vacation Bible School and Heifer Brunch in September. (Taken from Heifer.Org).

### A Heifer Brings Hope to Scovia's Family

In her own words, Scovia Kabajurizi says her gift of a heifer makes her feel like a million dollars. This single mother from the Bushenyi district in Uganda cares for her own children, as well as eight nieces and four nephews who were orphaned when their fathers, Scovia's brothers, died of AIDS. "How can a hopeless person like me become a millionaire within days?" she boasts when she talks about the transforming effects of her Heifer calf named Matsiko, which literally means "hope." Scovia is not quite a millionaire, but it's the dramatic difference in her household income since Matsiko's arrival that inspires her enthusiasm.

Matsiko is truly the reason for Scovia's new-found optimism. Her precious "Hope" has given her a positive chance for the future, the opportunity for new life. Heifer animals make a difference in the lives of all recipients. The names project partners give to their gifts are testament to their passion and connection with their animals. Other project recipients have given their gifts such powerful names as Blessing, Grace and Luck.

Before Matsiko, Scovia was struggling. She lives in her mother's house, and when the banana bunches produced by the family plantation became extremely small, the children suffered from malnutrition. In addition to bananas, Scovia has worked hard to grow beans, peas and vegetables, but there has never been enough to sell for additional income. To earn money, she cooked food and sold baskets in the marketplace. However, her efforts never yielded enough to have sufficient income to send the children to school.

When she learned about Heifer from a neighbor, Scovia joined the Kizinda Farmer's Project. She received training on hygiene, sanitation, pasture establishment and management, food crop production, soil and water conservation, as well as shed construction. She says when she saw her hopeful heifer, Matsiko, entering the compound, "I had never been happier. When my brothers and their wives died, I lost hope, knowing that I would surely follow."

Matsiko thrived under Scovia's care. She bore a female calf in May 2008. Matsiko has not only provided food security for Scovia and her family, but she also gives them a source of income. Matsiko produces 13 liters of milk each day; four liters are consumed at home, providing a remedy for the children's malnutrition, and the surplus is sold for 500 shillings per liter, netting a profit of approximately 4,500 shillings each day, adding up to 135,000 shillings a month. Matsiko's manure has improved the fertility of the soil. Once producing too little, the banana plantation now produces more than enough, yielding plenty for both home consumption and surplus sales. "I now sell 25 bunches of matooke (bananas) every month at 5,000 shillings a bunch, from which I earn 125,000 shillings," Scovia says. The vegetables that Scovia continues to grow have enriched her family's diet and nutritional status. And now with the enriched soil, there is a surplus of vegetables, which Scovia sells to nearby communities and towns. Five bundles of vegetables each day are sold for 100 shillings each, bringing in 500 shillings each day, or 15,000 shillings per month.

The newfound abundance is overwhelming and makes Scovia feel richer than ever before. She sees her income of 275,000 shillings a month as a million dollars, because she has never earned that much money or even dreamed it would be possible.

Scovia's success has influenced others in surrounding communities who have replicated her technological methods of banana management and vegetable growing and improved their standard of living. Scovia's future plans include expanding her dairy enterprise and banana plantation and purchasing additional land on which to plant more fodder and pastures. With expanded ventures and additional income, she will help her biological children and orphaned nieces and nephews complete school.

Scovia is very grateful to Heifer International the giving support that has changed her life. She and Matsiko have provided her family with tremendous hope and self-reliance.

## JOY CIRCLE

I want to thank all members who attended meetings, provided programs, devotions, refreshments, discussion responses, and support of PW activities this past year. You all are a true blessing. We'll see each other in September at a pot luck first meeting. Ann Haglund



**Learn to Ring???? Who, me???**

**Why not?????**

Starting Tuesday, June 14, at 700pm, those interested in learning to ring handbells are invited to come to the church for a 'summer season'. Plans are to rehearse once a week for about an hour at a time. MUST be able to read music and understand how to 'count' tempos. MUST have completed 3rd grade (no younger children, please).

Please call Ann Nisbet, 738-5475, for further information.

*Thank You from CADV*

*On behalf of the victims and their children,  
thank you for supporting Harbor House.  
Without your generosity CADV would be  
unable to provide the services needed to break  
the cycle of violence in their lives.*

*Thank You*

The Evensong handbell group would like to thank Ann Nisbet for giving of her time to teach this group of mostly beginner ringers. Thank you, Ann, for your patience and encouragement. You are very much appreciated!

*The Evensong Handbell Ringers*



**Congratulations!**

**Lori Passmore**

for graduating from UNR with a  
Bachelors Degree in Social Work

# In The News

- **Donna Culp** is featured outside the newly opened business "Our Place" where she will be teaching sewing and will have fabric for sale.
- **Shirley Knapp and Ralph Gamboa** won the Elko Bridge Club Game.
- **Lois Ports**, second grade teacher at Grammar No.2, was selected as the April Staff and Teachers Achieving Results with Students award recipient of the month for the Elko county school district.
- **Renee Crouch** participated in the Elko county Library's Just Dessert fundraiser.
- **Trenton Freitag** came in third place for 3D Modeling during the fifth annual technology fair.
- **Mallary Paoli** has been named to Oregon State honor roll.
- **Jessika Ciszewski** and Zoe Castro placed in top 10 of Future Business Leaders of America for their electronic career portfolio.
- **Erin Mecham** won second place during the Elko High School trigonometry competition.
- **Alicia Culp, Erin Mecham, Genevieve King, Cassi Van Slyke, Shelby Delbridge, Nicole Delbridge and Rebecca King** all participated in the Sound of Music musical held at the convention center.

**T G I S**

(Take Groceries In Sunday)

**Hunger Doesn't Take a Vacation**



The Mission Committee is collecting non-perishable food items to be distributed to local non-profit organizations. These organizations may now have a greater need since families with school-aged children won't benefit from school meal programs. **Please check expiration dates** and place your donations in the container in front of the church.

*Thank you for your previous contributions.*

## **A Change in PC(USA) Ordination Standards**

A majority of presbyteries have approved a change in our constitution. It will remove the requirement that all ministers, elders, and deacons live in "fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman or chastity in singleness." The *new* language reads:

"Standards for ordained service reflect the church's desire to submit joyfully to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all aspects of life. The governing body responsible for ordination and/or installation shall examine each candidate's calling, gifts, preparation, and suitability for the responsibilities of office. The examination shall include, but not be limited to, determination of the candidate's ability and commitment to fulfill all requirements as expressed in the constitutional questions for ordination and installation. Governing bodies shall be guided by Scripture and the confessions in applying standards to individual candidates."

The new provision reaffirms the long-held right and responsibility of ordaining bodies (local church sessions for deacons and elders, or presbyteries for ministers) to determine the suitability of each candidate for ordination. The effect of the new language also opens up the possibility that persons in same-gender relationships can be considered for ordination. The change will take effect July 10, 2011.

## **ELECTION OF ELDERS AND DEACONS CLASS of 2014**

The Congregational Meeting was held May 22, 2011 to elect the following members as officers for the church beginning in July as follows:

ELDERS: John Cavaness  
Nick Thompson  
Diana Jones  
Brian Arthur  
Kathy Reyes

Youth Elder: Nathan Jones

Youth Deacon: Hailey Cavaness

DEACONS: Alan Ciszweski  
Kelly Hobbs  
John Hobbs  
B. J. Hurley

## **MEMBERS RECEIVED 5-22-11**

First Church of Elko WELCOMES

Travis Ian Anderson by Baptism and affirmation of faith, Kerstin Anderson, Peter Klem, Bev Klem, Roger Johnson, by reaffirmation of faith. Gordon Smith, Mavis Smith and Adam George by transfer letter. Baptism of Jeannie Lynn, Braeden Ian and Liam Michael Anderson, children of Travis and Kerstin and Lehla and Sollera Keller, grandchildren of Bev and Peter Klem..

## **REVEREND RALPH C. BOLIN SCHOLARSHIP**

On Sunday, May 22, 2011 during Promotion Sunday, the **Reverend Ralph C. Bolin Scholarship** recipient was announced. Cassandra Van Slyke was awarded the 2011-2012 Scholarship. She was presented with our certificate and also will receive recognition during Spring Creek High School's Awards Program. The committee wishes to express our hopes and prayers for Cassie's success as she faces new challenges.

We would also like to thank everyone who made contributions to the Scholarship fund by purchasing Sunday School chairs in the fall and from donations made during the year.

Members of the committee this year are Brian Arthur, Kim Bolin, Patty Fisk, Jeannie Gillins, Ann Haglund and Barb Pearson.



## **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN SPRING TEA**

**On May 21, almost forty women from the church enjoyed listening to Cassi, Shelby, Trinda, and Erin, sing and watching Mary Dee's slide show about her trip to Israel and Egypt. We enjoyed the luncheon and fellowship with each other as we celebrated the return of sunny weather and flowers.**

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

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**Better to be a nobody and yet have a servant than pretend to be somebody and have no food.**

**Proverbs 12:9**

### BIRTHDAY'S FOR JUNE

06/01 Shirley beck	06/11 Billie Crapo
06/02 Sheila Halton	06/13 Chris Mecham
06/03 Breanna Byars	06/15 Debbie Thiel
06/04 Athena Girard	06/15 Nichaela Stevens
06/04 Mallery Paoli	06/17 Donna Bellinger
06/05 Bob Hays	06/18 Melissa Mecham
06/05 Mary Creek	06/21 Jenny Byars
06/05 Matthew Schorsch	06/23 Ralph Gamboa
06/06 Lee Reiersen	06/23 Reed Moseley
06/07 Joan Zunino	06/23 Ezra Jones
06/07 Cheryl Randall	06/24 Macy Reed
06/08 Carter Kidwell	06/25 Konner Heath
06/09 Jeanette Tognini	06/26 Pamela Passmore
06/10 Roberta Gallegos	06/27 Shai Gray
06/10 Jim Byars	06/29 Ann Schain
06/11 Amy Brownlee	06/30 Helen Gurr



### FELLOWSHIP HOUR

June 5 Jan Petersen, Kevin & Pat Harrington, Carol Hall and Betty Hall, Tyler & Tamra Gunter, Mike & Susie Jones, Clarice Gamboa

June 12 Jody Jones, Charline Hull, Vicki Goicoechea, Nick & Sheila Halton, Bill & Athena Girard, Bev. Gilbertson

June 19 Sue Melcher, John & Faith Daniel, B.J. Hurley, Bob & Kristi Hays, John & Kelly Hobbs, Donna & Alisa Clup

June 26 Joe & Kathy Mcleod, Brian & Jo Arthur, Roger Johnson, Harry Jackson, Cleo Hansen, Sharon Hughes.

**REMEMBER IF YOU CHANGE COFFEE HOURS,  
PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 738-3430.**

**Coffee and cookies are served in the  
fellowship hall after worship service**

*Everyone Welcome!!*