

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

230 NE Ninth Street
Bend, OR 97701
Phone: 541.382.4401
Fax: 541.317.2838
www.bendfp.org

Worship

Sunday

9:00 a.m.

Contemporary Worship

10:45 a.m.

Traditional Worship

5:30 p.m.

Sunday Evening
Gathering

Wednesday

6:30 p.m.

Contemplative Service

Child care provided at all
worship times

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSURE

Monday, April 13

Next Faith Notes

Deadline

March 30 at Noon

Next Publication:

April 8, 2009

Pastor's Column

“God Grew Tired of Us” is the title of an amazing film about the Lost Boys of Sudan. The film features John Bul Dau, a young man who spent his boyhood tending his family’s herd of cattle in southern Sudan. His village was destroyed in the terrible civil war of the ‘80’s; many of the adult men and women were killed, the rest scattered. John and thousands of other young boys, most of them members of the Dinka tribe, started on a thousand mile trek that ended in a refugee camp in Kenya. The film covers a four-year period from the refugee camp to the United States, where the Lost Boys, young men now, confronted for the first time escalators, indoor plumbing, shopping centers and doughnuts.

John Bul Dau explained how the refugees survived by supporting and taking care of one another. The biggest surprise for the Lost Boys when they came to the U.S., bigger even than indoor plumbing, was the isolation. They weren’t prepared for that. John said, “This is the very first time in my life I’ve ever, ever been alone.”

In the Dinka culture, family and the care of neighbors is central. If someone is sick in the village, several people would carry the person to the nearest hospital 75 miles away. Half would lock arms and carry the person, then they would rotate, so they could always keep running.

I love that image: people working together carrying a sick villager to the hospital, taking turns carrying so the urgent pace could be maintained and the person in need brought to the place of healing, healing that began with the love and compassion and concern of the community.

I enjoy the Verizon cell phone commercials. They promise you that when you buy their cell phone you become part of a large crowd of people, a community, a “network,” who are always there ready to be helpful.

This is part of what the church is for, to be a community, experiencing and sharing the unconditional love and compassion of God revealed in Jesus Christ. The church exists to express Christ’s unconditional, inclusive love and compassion to the world, to be a place of welcome, hospitality, hope and grace.

Diane Butler Bass wrote an interesting book called “Christianity for the Rest of Us” a study of mainline congregations that, contrary to the national trend, are alive, vital and growing. They come in all shapes and styles, folksy and formal, liberal and conservative. A reporter asked Bass what makes a congregation vital, what is it they do that is new and different. She said what they do is as old as Christian faith itself and as central as Jesus himself: they practice hospitality and healing. A church is vital and authentic to the degree they express Christ’s welcome, Christ’s compassion and Christ’s healing touch. In other words, **THEY CHOOSE TO LOVE!**

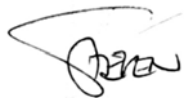
These are challenging times. I am thankful to be part of such a loving community that cares for one another and continually reaches beyond itself with the love and compassion of Jesus. I pray, like that Verizon commercial, you might know you are part of a network of caring relationships ready and eager to help and support.

As we continue our Lenten journey turning our hearts to the heart of God revealed in

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Jesus, may we continue to turn our hearts to one another and all those in need. May we breathe in the amazing truth that God continually chooses to love us that we might indeed CHOOSE TO LOVE.



INVITE A FRIEND TO CHURCH ON SUNDAY, APRIL 5

Friendship is a central theme of our Lenten Book, "Same Kind of Different as Me." The theme of our worship on Sunday, April 5 is "Choose to Accept: Can I be a true friend?" Celebrate the gift of friendship and let someone know how much you value their friendship by inviting them to join you for worship on Sunday, April 5.



The quarterly Red Cross blood drive, sponsored by the Health Care Ministry of the Deacons, will be held in the Youth Center on Friday, April 3 from Noon to 5:00 p.m. Sign up sheets will be available on the table under the Deacon Bulletin Board (across from the office) but walk-ins are welcome.

"A TASTE OF SILENCE" -- A Half-day Prayer Retreat

This retreat, "A Taste of Silence," invites us to make Psalm 46.10 our own: "Be still and know that I am God." The psalmist knew something that few of us have an opportunity to know or experience: that God is present in a powerful way in silence.

For most of us, the world we live in is a world bombarded by noise and one that pulls us into addictive busyness. Much of busyness is good, but silence offers something deeply mysterious and creates a quiet oasis not

found in busy schedules. If you feel the nudge to experience God's presence in a deeper way, perhaps the opportunity to experience times of silence in community might speak to that need.

On Saturday, March 21, come to Heritage Hall from 9:00 a.m. until noon for a time to experience a form of prayer that may prove life changing for you. If Centering Prayer is a new prayer form for you, a short time of instruction will be provided before you have an opportunity to

experience the prayer. There will be three times of prayer joined together by a meditative walk and an opportunity to have your own time of quiet.

This retreat is sponsored by Contemplative Outreach (www.contemplativeoutreach.org). For more information, contact Rita (382-0086), Elizabeth (382-4401) or Lorraine (318-0384).

Coat Collection

Did your kids outgrow a coat this winter? Do you have a coat in the back of your closet that just doesn't get worn? We are collecting coats and jackets for Palm Sunday. Bring a coat to Sunday Service on Palm Sunday, April 5. The coats will be donated to help keep those in need warm. Early donations will be collected by Janet Pearson in the church office. Luke 3:11

News from Bolivia

To read Brad's letters from Bolivia, copy this link to your browser: <http://www.cascadespresbytery.org/Bolivia.html>

Thank You

To all the writers, artists, and editors of the Lenten Devotional. Your gift to the church inspires us day by day in our Lenten journeys to understand more deeply God's unconditional love seen in Jesus and his journey to the cross. Thank you also to all who printed and collated the booklet.

Children's Ministry

To volunteer, register or get more information, contact Janet Pearson, Director of Children and Family Ministry (382-4401 or jpearson@bendcable.com).

Godly Play

The children attending Godly Play during Lent are hearing the stories of Jesus' life. Each week the story unfolds a little more, culminating in the glorious mystery of Easter. We are looking to expand our Godly Play team and will be offering training in May. If you are interested in learning more about this Montessori based story telling Sunday offering, please contact Jackie Hill, Godly Play Coordinator, or Janet Pearson, Director of Children's Ministry.

Treasure Quest

You are invited to join us on Sunday, March 29, during first service to view a video created by the Treasure Quest classes. The video will show the story of Holy Week from the point of view of two mice friends, Mousekiel and Amouse. They will discuss what they have seen and heard as the events of Jesus' last days on earth unfold before their eyes.

Vacation Bible School – Mark Your Calendars.



July 27 – 30, Nine to Noon

Many families are beginning to make plans for the summer. Now is a great time to share with your friends about Vacation Bible School at First Presbyterian. Encourage them to mark their calendars for the last week in July. Children 4 years of age and older will have a great time learning about the love of God this summer. Adults and youth will enjoy volunteering and catching

the enthusiasm of the children. Vacation Bible School is an outstanding time of outreach and fun at First Presbyterian.

Check out the **Presbyterian Summer Camp** opportunities posted on the bulletin board across from the office. Or go to the website at www.campcascades.org for the latest information about summer camp.

Peace Speaker

On April 5 at 2 p.m. in Heritage Hall, join David Hazen, the Oregon Coordinator for the U.S. Department of Peace Campaign. Learn about U.S. House of Representatives Bill HR 808, which has 66 co-sponsors, and is now before the House of Representatives. Of this landmark measure, Howard Rosenberg says, "The overarching strategy aims to enhance global and domestic security by building and nurturing strong civil society, thereby establishing an environment of healthy and vibrant communities where human needs can be met as the rule rather than the exception."

You may go to www.ThePeaceAlliance.org to learn more of the vision for a Department of Peace.

Peacemaking Team

Meg Brookover

Remember in Prayer

Al Hall, Claire Youngman, Pauline Wade, Judy Beam, Sylvia Gray, Frances Young.

Gathered Together

All are invited to gather together for prayer, silent and spoken, for our church, community, and God's world. We meet the 1st and 3rd Tuesday mornings, 11:15-12:00 noon in the Prayer Room.

April Birthdays

1 Kristen Place	12 Isabelle Campbell	17 Sharon Lichti	26 Cindy Curran
2 Laretta Buchanan	Charles Campbell	19 Sarah Curran	Maggie Pierce
Michael Hardie	12 Sue Frewing	Carol Flores	Kurt Weaver
Betsy Macy	Isaiah Lyche	Liz Mastrangelo	27 Charlie Hjeresen
Lauren Paltzer	13 Pat Karpstein	19 Ann McGranahan	Ralph Litchfield
Charlie Saverude	Thomas Watson	22 Bobbe Crain	Paul Stednitz
3 Bill Bartles	Kecia Weaver	Shoshana Foxwell	28 Dave Hogue
5 Kate Henkel	14 Ashley Hillman	Steve Hogrefe	Mary Ellen Wright
Lucas West	Lloyd Root	23 Bill Dittler	29 Linda Henning
6 Emily Boyd	15 Bill Gregory	Russ Henning	Janet Pearson
Hilary Rothert	Geoffrey Hillman	Ross Robertson	Drew Roderick
8 Ann Custer-Delach	Amy Torrence	24 Virginia Graham	Kay Stout
David Frewing	16 Robert Bloom	Ken Johnson	30 Barney Duberow
9 Victoria Kenney	Katie Breen	25 Fritz Johnston	Patty Marshall
Charleen McKee	Tom Hamilton	Katrina Starkweather	Irene Pankratz
10 Diane Bradley	Barbara Hyta	26 Hannah Anderson	
Ray Ownby	Chuck Mackdanz		

April Anniversaries

- 1 Brian & Kay Case
- 2 Roger & Laura Jo Gildersleeve
Dave & Kim Hogue
- 3 Lyle & Mary Jarvis
- 5 Bill & Marilyn Burwell
- 8 Bill & Mary Brelsford
- 9 Don & Bonnie Altig
- 11 Mark & Andrea Kavanagh
Boyd & Pamela Keyes Lyle
- 14 Lloyd & Rosabelle Root
- 16 Terry & Ted Anderson
- 17 Ron & Mary Carver
- 20 Bruce & Ellen Rogers
- 22 Barney & Rosanna Duberow
Chuck & Ann Frazier
- 23 Frank & Fran Rosga
- 26 Randy & Charlotte Brady
- 28 Gary & Shauna Weltmann

Outdoor Ministry Adventures

We will be meeting again on March 21 at 9:00 a.m. at Strictly Organic Coffee Shop on Arizona Street. We will go snowshoeing at Swampy Snow Park. Plan on about 2-3 hours total. Again, all levels welcome. No one will be left behind. This is not a race.

Rentals are available at: Sunnyside Sports and REI and other sport stores in town.

Please call Iain at 520-909-5167 or Shoshana at 520-909-5718 for any questions. People can carpool out to save the environment, gas and just to have more fun.

If anyone has any ideas of what types of outings they would like to have, please email us at ijfoxwell@hotmail.com with feedback. We will be doing mountain biking, road cycling, hiking, kayaking and any other activities you suggest. We are so excited to be able to serve God in this way! Thanks so much.

In Service,
The Foxwells

Communion to the Homebound

Deacons and elders will be offering communion to the homebound on a quarterly basis beginning on April 5. A person considered homebound is anyone who's current life situation prevents them from attending Sunday morning services. Their absence from worship might be on a short term basis or an ongoing basis. The visits will take place on a Sunday afternoon between 1:30 and 3:30 p.m., in the individual's home, retirement community or hospital. The visit will last approximately 30 minutes. A contact call will be made during the week prior to the Sunday communion will be offered to confirm an interest in a visit. Once someone's name is on the visitation list they can be assured a visit will happen that Sunday. If you, or someone you know would like to be included in a visitation please contact deacon Kathy Higuchi at 388-2746 or Care Ministry Coordinator, Elizabeth Stephan at 382-4401.

Youth Ministry

To volunteer or register or for more information, contact Greg Bolt, Director of Youth and Family Ministry (382-4401 or gbolt@bendfp.org).

ALL MIDDLE SCHOOLERS

Come snowshoeing with us on Sunday, March 29. We will eat brunch after first service and leave for Mt. Bachelor at Noon. We will meet up with our Forest Service guides at Mt. Bachelor and enjoy some fresh air and Central Oregon beauty. Snowshoes provided. Dress warmly. E-mail Greg to RSVP by March 23.

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL (10:30-11:30)

The Flock (6 th -8 th Grade)	Youth Center
The Fold (9 th -12 ^h Grade)	Heritage Hall
Confirmation Class (8 th and up)	Prayer Room (10:30-11:30)

QUILT RAFFLE!

The quilt, donated by Irene Dudley, is displayed in The Commons. The drawing will be held Easter Sunday, April 12, between services. Tickets are \$5 or 3 for \$10.

NEED SOME YARD WORK DONE?

The Fold will do odd jobs for you to raise funds for their mission trip. For questions or scheduling, contact Greg (gbolt@bendfp.org).

LOGOs Schedule

March 18	LOGOs Closing Ceremony
March 25	No Meeting (Spring Break)

YOUTH WANT YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS!

If you are interested in what is going on, send Greg an email at gbolt@bendfp.org so that he can compile a list for electronic updates.

The youth program at First Presbyterian is about to enter a new dimension...OK, well that might be a little bit of a stretch, but it got your attention, right? On April 1 we are going to start our new schedule of events. We will still be meeting Wednesday nights from 5:30-8:00; but from April until October, we are going to try a new experiment.

The first Wednesday of the month will be **Parenting 2.0**. In these sessions we will be learning from each other, parents from youth and youth from parents, about issues that affect both the youth and the parents. Our first installment, April 1, will be on "**Social Networks: Friend or Tool of the Devil :-).**" We will look at the most popular networks (Facebook and Myspace) and try to get a handle on how to use them appropriately in today's world. All are welcome, and hopefully we can all learn from each other.

The second Wednesday of the month will be **Movie Night**. In these weeks we will select appropriate movies for both the Flock and the Fold to view and discuss amongst their peers. The movies on April 8 will be "**Nick and Norra's Infinite Playlist**" (The Fold) and "**Bridge to Terebithia**" (The Flock).

The third Wednesday of the month will be **Bendfp Book Club**. This will be an opportunity for members of both the Flock and The Fold to read a book together and

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Prayer Chain

If you would like to place a member or attendee of the congregation or an immediate family member on our church's prayer chain, please contact Elizabeth Stephan in the church office. If you would like to join this prayer ministry and be added to the e-mail or call list in order to pray for others, Elizabeth will see that your name is added to the prayer chain list.

Prayer Ministry

Write your prayer requests on the blue cards found in the pews or on the shelf under the prayer request box at the back of the sanctuary. The confidential requests intended for the pastors only should be placed in the prayer box and all others placed in the offering plate during worship.

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discuss how it informs their faith, life, and interests. The first book, to be discussed on April 15, will be "**A Wrinkle in Time**" by Madeline L'Engle.

The fourth Wednesday of the month will be **Finding Myself in the Bible**. Here we will look at stories of the Bible and seek to find meaning in them for us. We will incorporate several different types of Bible study, ranging from silence to goofy games. On April 22 The Fold will study "**Jeremiah 31: New Covenants**" and the Flock will study "**Genesis 1: The Beginning?**"

If there is a fifth Wednesday (April, July, and September), we will spend that week simply being with one another. We will spend time playing games, hanging out, and getting to know each other better. This time will be a chance for the 6th-12th graders to share stories over games of SingStar and Apples to Apples.

This is a giant undertaking and will take the help of many adult volunteers and parents. If you have any questions or would like to be a part of any of these offerings, contact Greg (gbolt@bendfp.org or 541-350-8074). Thanks for all of your support.

Blessings,
Greg

One Great Hour of Sharing

God works in mysterious ways through the many hands, feet and wallets of believers. Only God fully understands the synergy of people working together. The One Great Hour of Sharing offering is one of those opportunities for synergy.

Many of us are aware of the efforts of the volunteers in the blue shirts representing Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA). Some members of our congregation have worn these blue shirts on the Gulf Coast.

PDA is one of three Presbyterian agencies that receive funding via the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS). PDA

continues to provide financial, spiritual and volunteer assistance in communities along the Gulf Coast washed away by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita more than three years ago. PDA is also working within communities in Texas and Louisiana that suffered the wrath of Hurricane Ike in the fall of 2008.

During the recent ice storms in Kentucky, PDA was there. On January 26, 2009, Kentucky was struck by what has been the called the biggest natural disaster in that state's history. Ninety of Kentucky's 120 counties were declared federal disaster areas. PDA is providing One Great Hour of Sharing funds to all

three presbyteries located within Kentucky (Mid-Kentucky, Transylvania and Western Kentucky).

After-Christmas flooding caused the closing of the I-5 corridor in Washington. For a time, all of Washington's transportation corridors were closed due to flooding in the Chehalis/Centralia area and to heavy snows in the Cascade mountain passes. There was also flooding in northwest Oregon. PDA sent members of the PDA National Response Team to help. Funds have already been sent to the Presbytery of Olympia to help in response efforts.

If you gave to the One Great Hour of Sharing last

year, then your money was there helping after the ice storms in Kentucky, the flooding in Oregon and Washington, and the hurricanes in Texas and Louisiana.

Natural disasters are unpredictable, but our giving to alleviate these disasters can be predictable. Give now so that PDA can be prepared tomorrow. The One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be collected Palm Sunday, April 5. Thank you for your generosity!

Study and Fellowship

CPR Circle will meet Tuesday, March 24, at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Carol Miller (61688 Broken Top Drive – 617-0007) for a baked potato dinner followed by an evening of fellowship and prayer. Our program will be Steve Welbourn, a chaplain with the Oregon State Prison System, who will tell us about his job and especially how there might be an opportunity for mentors for recently released women. This is an open circle; all women of the church are invited. Please bring a potato topping to share. Co-hostesses are Beverly Dennison and Kathy Higuchi.

CIRCLE 3 will meet on Monday, April 13, at 1:15 p.m. in the Adult Center. Join us for our enlightening study of the books of Ruth and Jonah. Call Ginny Boone (389-3128) if you would like additional information.

CIRCLE 2 will meet at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 14, in the Adult Center continuing with the eighth lesson of the Jubilee study book, "All Are Invited," led by Dolly Dittler. All women in the church are invited. For more information, call Betty Armer (388-2347).

MEN'S BOOK STUDY GROUP meets in the Library every Monday from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. We're beginning a new study of the book What Jesus Meant by Garry Wills. Come join us.

MEN'S DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY Tuesday mornings, 9:45 - 11:00 a.m. at the home of Chuck Piersee in the Touchmark Community. It's an open discussion based on ideas and texts from the Bible. As the name suggests, we try to discover what the Bible is saying to us. This year we are studying the Gospel of John. All are welcome. Call 312-1628 for directions.

THURSDAY CENTERING PRAYER GROUP meets on Thursdays, 12:00-1:00 p.m., in the Prayer Room. For more information, please call Linda (318-0407).

LISTENING HEARTS is a contemplative prayer group practicing centering prayer together and reflecting on the spiritual journey. We meet Tuesday evenings, 7:00 - 8:15 p.m., in the Prayer Room (we don't meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month). For more information, please call Lorraine (318-0384).

EARLY BIRD BIBLE STUDY - Wednesday mornings 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. in the ADULT CENTER. "Who Do You Say That I Am?" This was the question that Jesus asked his disciples. We too may ask that question, or it may be asked of us. What answer would we give? The study is focusing on this question as we look at the answer through the different lenses of the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. How do these gospels tell the same story, but each from their own unique perspective?

THE TILTERS is a group of women who meet to read and discuss books related to faith. We are beginning to read *Same Kind of Different As Me* by Ron Hall & Denver Moore with Lynn Vincent. Join us on Thursday mornings, 8:00-9:15 a.m. in the library. Call Cheryl Shay at 526-0964 with questions.

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS meets from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. in the Youth Center on the first and third Tuesday of the month. We invite you to join us as we study the book of Ruth and grow as friends in Christ. For more information, contact Leslie at 330-6932.

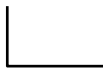
THE TRAVELER'S BIBLE STUDY Women, as you plan your spring activities, consider The Traveler's Bible Study, which meets the 2nd and 4th Thursday at 1:30 p.m. in the Youth Center. For more information, call Carol Piersee (312-1628).

FIRST FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP will meet April 3 with guest speaker Kevin Lair, owner of Wild Birds Unlimited. We meet in Heritage Hall at 11:30 a.m. for soup and salad. We welcome guests, new members, visitors and friends.

Don't forget: Sign up on the easel in The Commons or call Ray and Joyce Ownby (388-1334) or Joyce Purcell (383-2573).

- Every day men, women and children in our community go to bed hungry.
- Our church takes your non-perishable food donations to local food banks for distribution year-round.
- Thank you for continuing to keep our shopping cart in the Commons full!
- Checks are always welcome made out to St. Vincent De Paul Food Bank.

First Presbyterian Church
230 NE Ninth Street
Bend OR 97701



Community Bulletin Board

Faith Notes will include a community bulletin board section for the listing of events not related to church activities. The bulletin board will contain a disclaimer that these activities do not necessarily represent the theology of the church and that they are not necessarily endorsed by the church. The listings will be brief and will be informational only; they will not contain position statements of the party submitting them.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY— Wednesdays, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m., in the Adult Ed. Room.

FLASHBACKS – A service to document your family history. Free consultation. Susie Burns
541-788-5936, davidandsusie@bendbroadband.com