

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

230 NE Ninth Street
Bend, OR 97701
Phone: 541.382.4401
Fax: 541.317.2838
www.bendfp.org
Twitter: @bendfp
Facebook:
First Presbyterian
Church—Bend OR

Worship

Sunday

9:00 am

Contemporary Worship

10:45 am

Traditional Worship

The 5:01

@ 5:01 pm

Music-Message-Meal

Wednesday

6:00 pm

Contemplative Worship

Child care provided at all
worship times

CHURCH OFFICE

CLOSURE

December 25

January 1

Next Faith Notes

Deadline

December 14 at Noon

Next Publication:

December 23, 2009

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

All are welcome, always!

Christmas Eve

Candlelight & Carols

4:30, 7:30 & 10:30 p.m.

December 27

9:00 & 10:45 a.m.

Old Fashioned Hymn Sing

January 3

9:00 & 10:45 a.m.

Journey Toward the Light

"The Journey of the Wisemen: Discovery"

Nursery care available

A CIRCLE OF TRUST

A small group experience based on the work of Parker Palmer will begin the first week in January. The group process focuses on listening to one's inner voice, reflection, listening to others, and developing trust among the participants. It can be especially meaningful for those seeking to discern direction in one's vocation, relationship, and decisions. The time commitment would be for eight meetings, the schedule to be determined by the group at the first meeting. If you are interested, please contact Lorraine Stuart at ldstuart@bendnet.com or 318-0384.

JOURNEY TOWARD THE LIGHT

Our theme for Advent invites us to think about our own journeys. What do you remember about Christmas becoming real for you? Are there significant moments in your spiritual journey associated with Advent and Christmas? Take some time to reflect and to write about your experience . . . and share it with the congregation through our online Advent devotional. This will be available on our church's website with our stories during the season of Advent. Advent began on Sunday, November 29, so it is time now to remember, reflect, and write your story. Please submit your story to <http://bendfp.org/advent>.

Back by popular demand! Alternative Christmas Gifts

You've loved it before, and we'll be here again to sell Heifer International and Habitat for Humanity gift cards. We're also have ornaments that you can give to recipients of your gift cards.

On sale in the Commons between services and after the 10:45 service now through December 20.

CPR Circle

Cascade Horizon Band Holiday Concert – December 13

Cascade Horizon Band's Holiday Concert is just around the corner. We're preparing a combination of Christmas music, marches, show tunes and familiar melodies for December 13 at 2 p.m. at Mountain View High School. . The concert is free, and any donations support scholarship, concert and travel costs. See Jay Dee Conrad to learn more, or check the website at cascadehorizonband.org.

Thank you

Thank you to everyone who offered prayers and support for Al when he had surgery and chemotherapy for colon cancer. The CAT scan results showed him to now be cancer free. We are blessed.

Al & Marla Sandner

We wish to express our sincere appreciation to our wonderful church family for the out-pour of Love, Prayers, Cards, and the huge amount of warm clothing, blankets, and tents donated for the needy in memory of our brother and son. Your kindness was heartfelt! Thank you! God Bless!

Love, Rhonda Chesney and Pauline Wade

Remember in Prayer

Phil Gorton

Donna Barrett

Lloyd Root

Frances Young

Aelea Hall

Spiritual Formation & Education

Rejoice! Reflections on Four Seasonal Hymns Explore the rich emotional and experiential meaning of the lyrics to some of the most beloved hymns of the Christmas season.

3rd Sunday of Advent, December 13: **“O Little Town of Bethlehem,”** led by Rev. Dr. Dan Klingler

Rev. Phillips Brooks was so moved by a trip to Palestine that he penned the lyrics to this hymn around 1868. His Philadelphia church’s music director, Lewis Redner, wrote the music. This session uses the hymn as a starting off point for discussion about dichotomies, apparent contradictions that exist in our faith lives. For instance, we are people of faith, yet we also harbor doubts. We are people of mercy, but we also hold others in judgment.

4th Sunday of Advent, December 20: **“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing,”** led by Rev. John Smart

Charles Wesley and the rest of the team that assembled this great hymn meant for it to take us to soaring places when we sang it, but having reached those places they hoped as well that we would be changed by them. This hymn makes a number of assumptions about who Jesus was, why he was born, and what the purpose was of his ministry. In this final session, participants will identify meaningful phrases and statements about Jesus from the hymn.

This 2009 *Thoughtful Christian* series explains the history behind some of our favorite carols and helps groups encounter the rich wording anew. Focusing on the ways in which words and music can speak to the core of our experiences, groups will spend time in reflection, conversation, and simple enjoyment of these beloved hymns.

We give thanks to Rev. Lorraine Stuart for facilitating the class on **“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”** and to Larry Rauch, who shared his reflections and inspirations in writing and recording his own composition of this hymn. Our gratefulness also to Rev. William Hoffman for leading us in **“Silent Night, Holy Night”** on the 2nd Sunday in Advent.

Come to Listen, Reflect, Sing, and Rejoice! in the Adult Center, 9 am, Sundays December 13 and 20.

HOLIDAY FLOWERS

If you would like to dedicate a poinsettia in our chancel display to someone special, please fill out the form below and return it to the church office with \$8 for each plant. The name of your honoree will appear in the Sunday Bulletin on December 20. The deadline to have the name of your honoree published in the bulletin is Wednesday, December 16, 9:00 a.m. Donations will be accepted through December. You may take your poinsettia home after Christmas.

Chancel Poinsettias

Please return this form and your check payable to First Presbyterian Church and earmarked “Poinsettia” to the church office by December 16, 9:00 a.m. to be included in the December 20 Sunday Bulletin. Donations will be accepted throughout December.

Honoree (*Please print*) _____

Your Name (*Please print*) _____

\$ _____ amount enclosed (\$8 per plant)

Return to: FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 230 NE 9TH STREET—BEND 97701

Children's Ministry

December study focus in Children's Ministry

Treasure Quest (9 a.m. Service – K-3rd grade) will explore a Gospel comparison of the Christmas story. While we celebrate the nativity story as a mash-up of events, in actuality, it is told in separate ways in three of the four gospels. We will explore the story from Joseph's point of view as told in Matthew complete with visiting kings, from Mary's point of view as told in Luke represented by lowly shepherds, and the luminous telling of John. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen His glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth" (John1:1, 13) God finds many voices to spread the good news. And what is the good news of the Christmas story? Emmanuel, God among us, in the flesh.

We are grateful for the leadership of Carol Miller, Natalie Hummel, and Anne Marie Glover for the Treasure Quest workshops.

Fourth and fifth grade students will prepare a Beatitudes unit for presentation to the younger students in January. Thank you to Deb Klotz for guiding our young mentor class.

Godly Play (9 a.m. Service – 3 and 4 year-olds, 10:45 a.m. Service – 3 year olds to grade 5) will hear a series of Advent Stories as we make our way to Bethlehem. We will follow the light of the prophets, the holy family, the shepherds, and the Magi as we approach the light of the Christ child.

At **The 501** on Sunday evenings children will have the opportunity to enjoy worship with their families. A quiet activity center will be available in the back of the room for those with restless hands.

Children are always welcome to stay and worship with their families at all of our services.

Children's Choir

Thank you to the singers in the Children's Choir for their wonderful offering of music at the 9:00 a.m. service on November 22. It was a joy for the congregation and a gift to God.

The Children's Choir meets between the morning services downstairs in Fellowship Hall. Julie Cash, their leader, is helping them to prepare to share a couple of songs for the 4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service. Come and join the fun.

Bethlehem Inn Volunteers

First Presbyterian has signed up to take the responsibility for serving meals at the Bethlehem Inn February 6-19. Innkeepers will be Dan Klingler and Brad Kent. Look for sign up posters in January.

Cookies and Coffee Hour

Persons whose last names begin with the letters I-J-K (and of course any others) are invited to help keep the cookie box in the small Office Kitchen filled during the month of December.

Many thanks to all of you who have been bringing cookies and helping to keep the box full. It makes doing Coffee Hour much easier for those individuals and groups who have stepped forward to provide this hospitality between and after services.

If there is anyone who would be willing to help with the Coffee Hour after either service 1-2 times during the year, please contact Mary Anna Swinnerton (Congregational Ministries Coordinator) at 383-3588 or luvmaps2@bendcable.com. She is putting together a schedule for January to June 2010 and would love to include you. You can volunteer for one or both services. All of the necessary ingredients and instructions should be in the Office Kitchen for you and, if needed, the coffee can be picked up and/or returned for you. This is a wonderful way to offer hospitality to all who come to worship and an important part of our ministry to others.

Attention all Groups:

Need a Program? First Presbyterian's Bolivia Team would like to share their visit with the UMAVIDA network in Bolivia last May. They have produced a brief video and would like to introduce you to our Joining Hands partners. Call Gretchen Wil-liver (382-1842) to schedule a presentation.

Deacons Christmas Baskets

Last year we had 100 families. This year our goal is 125 families. Our estimated need to meet our goal this year is \$12,000 in food and monetary donations.

Non-perishable items can be dropped off in the shopping carts in the Commons. This is a congregation-wide effort, and we, as Deacons, are always inspired and humbled by the way so many of you make this a personal commitment. We all undertake this as an act of love and concern for those in need, and I guarantee that you get back much more within your heart and soul than you give!

Chicken Noodle Soup	Tomato Soup	Chili	Canned Corn
Canned Green Beans	Canned Peaches	Canned Pears	Canned Tomatoes
Spaghetti Sauce	Applesauce	Spaghetti Noodles	Wide Egg Noodles (22 oz.)
Breakfast Cereal (Cheerios, etc.)		Jelly	Peanut Butter
Split Peas	Dried Beans	Oatmeal	Pancake Mix
Pancake Syrup	Blueberry Muffin Mix (Jiffy)	Corn Bread Mix (Jiffy)	Cake Mix
Rice (4 lb. bag)	Mac & Cheese	Jell-O Pudding	Jell-O Gelatin
Apple Juice	Cookies (2 lb. pkg.)	Stuffing Mix or other side dish	
Tuna	Soda Crackers	Shampoo	Chapstick
Hand Soap	Dish Soap	Hand Lotion	Tooth Paste

Checks should be made out to First Presbyterian Church and designated for the Christmas Food Baskets. Nonperishable food items can be left in the shopping carts in the Commons.

Session Highlights

At its November 17 meeting, Session:

- Enjoyed a delicious meal at the home of Teddie Allison.
- Rejoiced that the Presbytery of the Cascades voted at their November 13-14 meeting in Medford to approve FPC Bend's request to set aside Presbytery's policy to not ordain a person who is currently employed in a similar staff position and to make an exception in this case and to approve the ordination of Greg Bolt. During dinner Greg related his experiences at the Presbytery meeting to elders.
- Received an update of the results of the Hope Rising! Stewardship campaign. Dr. Koski expressed appreciation for the hard work done by elders in organizing the campaign.
- Received a report from John Clark, chair of the Audit Committee, on the 2008 audit. The scope of the audit was primarily related to reviewing cash receipts and disbursements from an internal control point of view. Session moved to confirm the internal control process as previously approved in November 2008 with the addition of random tests performed during the year to confirm the Accounting Procedures and Practices are fully in place.
- Learned that the Spiritual Formation Team has implemented some of the recommendations that came out of the October 17 Session retreat discussions.
- Heard a report from Dr. Koski that he would be participating in the ordination of Greg Bolt in West Virginia on Sunday, December 6.
- Approved holding the Annual Gathering of the church at Bend Senior High School on Saturday, January 30, 2010.
- Approved the 2010 fundraising calendar and the 2010 Session meeting calendar.
- Received a report on the hiring of a pastor for the Trailhead Ministry. They have hired Zack Hancock, who is currently living in Loveland, Colorado; and he will begin his position on January 1. He is currently working as a carpenter and as the director of campus ministry at the University of Northern Colorado.

A copy of the November 17 Session minutes and the October financial statements are on file in the Session notebook in the Library. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the clerk or one of the Ruling Elders. The next Session meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 15, at 6 p.m. at the home of Scott Hill.

Sharon Lichti, Clerk of Session (388-9982 or slichti@bendcable.com)

Ruling Elders:

Todd Ainsworth, 598-9210
 Teddie Allison, 317-8978
 Betty Bullis, 389-8108
 Ron Carver, 389-4226
 Brian Cash, 549-1663
 Tim Conlon, 388-0292

LeBron Hardie, 550-7541
 Clay Higuchi, 388-2746
 Scott Hill, 383-3964
 Sarah Holtzclaw, 318-7496
 Chuck Piersee, 312-1628
 Sue Nell Phillips, 817-3131

An Invitation to All Women of the Church!

The 2010 Women's Retreat, *Journey Inward, Journey Outward: stitching the stories of our spiritual travels*, will take place March 12-14 at Sunriver Resort with famed author Jane Kirkpatrick as our speaker and retreat leader. Jane has written numerous award-winning fiction and non-fiction books from her ranch on the John Day river while also working in the mental health field, leading workshops, speaking at national conferences, serving as an elder at the Moro Presbyterian Church, and sharing her writing skills with other would-be authors. Cost for the weekend will be \$190.00 and includes lodging in resort condos, two dinners, Saturday's lunch, a brunch on Sunday, and access to the resort's extensive recreational and spa facilities. Limited scholarship funds will be available. Ask for a weekend away for a great holiday gift or give this gift of renewal to another woman.

Registration forms are available on the PW table in the Common Grounds Café or in the church office. Return completed forms early to the box in the office. For more information call Sue Nell Phillips, 1-541-817-3131 (long-distance cell,) or Lori Brizee, 388-0694.

Christmas Joy Offering

Presbyterian Pan American School at Kingsville, Texas, is one of six racial and ethnic schools founded by the Presbyterian Church and supported by the Christmas Joy Offering (CJO). The CJO will be taken at our church on December 20th.

Dr. Jim Matthews, who is the president at Pan Am, received his doctorate from Vanderbilt University. He served at four Presbyterian-related institutions before going to South Texas. What follows is an excerpt from a longer article written by Dr. Matthews: I arrived at Presbyterian Pan American School on a dismal fall day over 10 years ago. If you grasp the logic of sending a college administrator to a secondary school, an Irish scholar to a primarily Hispanic institution, then you understand the Presbyterian way better than I did at the time. God doesn't call the well-suited, instead God re-tailors those called. And it didn't take me long to hear what I can only label a call to mission. Pan Am has been around for a long time – [almost] 100 years since the daughter of a Presbyterian missionary carved out a portion of the King Ranch for the church to build a school for Mexican boys and 50 years since another Presbyterian, ordained son of missionaries himself, merged that boys vocational institute with a similar school for girls nearby to form an International Co-Educational College Preparatory School to prepare young men and women from the Americas and beyond for lives of Christian leadership.



The dorms are actually over capacity thanks to the addition of bunk beds. We have students from Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and Equatorial Guinea and Rwanda, along with kids from Mexico, Guatemala and Ecuador. We are in the midst of a campaign to rebuild the campus. Plans include new dorms and classroom buildings capable of holding up to 300 students, a new assembly hall, gymnasium, and campus center and a larger dining hall. Our vision is the mission and the mission is the kids:

Missionary's son — now a U.S. Ambassador

Girl from Mexico — now an assistant to the Secretary General of the U.N.

Boy from Romania — now finishing his doctorate in biomedical engineering

Girl from Texas — now an attorney, who is an elder in a small Hispanic church

Boy from Guatemala — now a physician leading a medical missionary organization in Central America

Green Team Alert!

Soon world leaders will be meeting in Copenhagen to thrash out a new global climate agreement. There are several ways you can weigh in on the decisions to be made. One you may consider is to join with members of other churches and the community in a candle light vigil at Brandis Square (corner of Newport and Wall) 2:00 pm on Saturday December. 12. Bring your candles in a small jar to assure they stay lit, or bring battery lights. We will have signs, but it is always good to make and bring your own. If you don't have time to make one, come anyway. We will take a picture to send to President Obama. If you need more information please call Thiel Larson 388-4895.

DREAMING OF A GREEN CHRISTMAS

At a time when many of us are trying to reduce our impact on God's creation, Christmas provides an excellent opportunity to start ecologically-minded traditions. The Green Team offers some ideas to help celebrate the season while caring for the earth.

- Did you know that the 2.6 billion cards sold in the US during the Christmas season would fill a football field 10 stories high and requires the harvesting of nearly 300,000 trees? When purchasing Christmas cards, look for those made from recycled material, or buy cards that donate a portion of proceeds to a good cause. You might also consider emailing Christmas cards. You can send photo and holiday e-cards using sites like BlueMountain.com and Amazon.com.
- Buy more locally made gifts. Local craft fairs and artisan shops are a good source for gifts that come without the added environmental impacts of transportation from other parts of the world, use less packaging and help support the local economy.
- Need new Christmas lights this year? Consider purchasing LED (Light Emitting Diode) lights, which use up to 90% less energy than larger traditional holiday bulbs and last up to 100,000 hours. LED holiday lights use .04 watts per bulb, 10 times less than mini bulbs and 100 times less than traditional holiday bulbs. Over a 30-day period, lighting 500 traditional holiday lights will cost you about \$18 while the same number of LED lights costs only \$0.19. As an added bonus, if one of the LED lights burns out the rest of the strand will stay lit.
- Use environmentally friendly wrapping paper made from recycled content. Avoid buying glossy foil or metallic wrapping paper which is difficult to recycle. Save bows, ribbons and gift bags to reuse next year. Also, don't forget to recycle discarded wrapping and tissue paper, cardboard boxes and holiday cards.
- Recycle your Christmas tree. Many local Boy Scout troops will collect the trees for recycling, or you can take your tree to Deschutes Recycling at the Knott Landfill, Negus Transfer Station in Redmond, Northwest Transfer Station between Tumalo and Sisters, or Southwest Transfer Station located between Sunriver and La Pine. Trees cannot have tinsel or flocking.

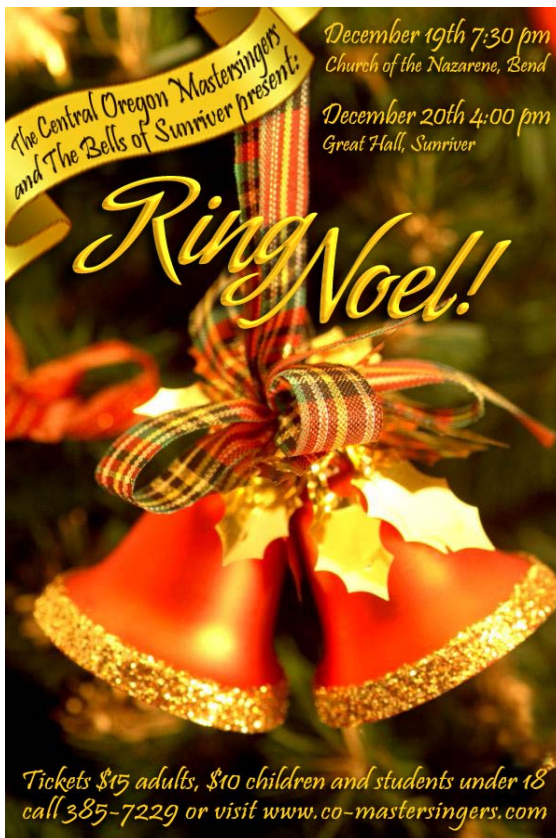
Prayer Chain

If you would like to place a friend of the congregation or a 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 should be placed in the offering plate during worship.

- 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.



Youth Ministry

To volunteer or register or for more information, contact Greg Bolt, Director of Youth and Family Ministry

New Sunday Night Schedule

4:00-5:00	The Flock
4:30-5:00	The Fold Hang Out and Set-Up Time
5:01-5:45	The 5:01 (Worship Experience)
5:45-6:30	Community Dinner (Soup and Salad)
6:30-7:30	The Fold
6:30-7:00	The Flock Hang Out and Take Down Time

If you have any questions or would like to lead one of these amazing opportunities, contact Greg (ggbolt16@gmail.com or 541-350-8074). If you would like to help out with dinner, contact Charlotte (cbradyappaiser@aol.com).

Support Groups

Depression Support Group

Meets in the Prayer Room on the second and fourth Wednesdays, 1:30-3:00 p.m.

December 16

Care Givers Support Group

Led by Elizabeth Stephan

Meets in the Prayer Room on the first and third Mondays of each month, 2:00-3:30 p.m.

December 21

Peacemaking Team

Thanks for generous Peacemaking Offering.

Even in these harder economic times, our congregation looks not just to ourselves and our families, but to a greater vision of peace. Our donation was \$4,400. This is good to see. The Peacemaking programs of Presbyterian Church USA are designed to educate, assist and encourage congregations and individuals through workshops, conferences, resources, and mission networks. Twenty-five percent of the offering was given to a local group, Peace Center of Central Oregon, which educates high school students, adults and groups in Compassionate Communication skills that lead to cooperative problem-solving strategies and will create a culture of peace.

"We are to recognize and speak the truth, love others, and ensure justice for all, especially those who usually experience injustice, so that we may all live in true peace," says the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program.

Thank you for your offering and seeing the need for this program and its work.

Washington Report to Presbyterians

This is a reminder of a program that many enjoy because it keeps one aware of important legislation. It is a bimonthly publication that covers a broad range of public policy issues of concern to the General Assembly and keeps readers up-to-date on programs of the Washington Office. Look especially for this link, as the Peacemaking Team is planning a letter writing campaign in January. Help Eliminate Nuclear Weapons. Urge Support of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

Get the Report delivered directly to your email. www.pcusa.org/washington/washreport.htm

Study and Fellowship

MEN'S BOOK STUDY GROUP meets in the Library every Monday from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. We're studying *Christ of the Celts* by J. Phillip Newell. Come join us.

MEN'S DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY meets 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 - 8:00-9:00 a.m. Wednesdays in the Adult Center. Leader Dr. W. Daniel Klingler. Current subject is the Book of Hebrews. Beginning November 11 through Christmas we'll study the book of James.

TILTERS is a group of women who read and discuss books related to faith. We are reading *The First Christmas: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus' Birth* by Marcus J. Born and John Dominic Crossan. We are excited to celebrate Advent through our discussion. Order a copy and 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 Acts and grow as friends in Christ.

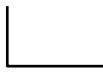
TRAVELER'S BIBLE STUDY will be meeting this month at 1 p.m., December 10 at the home of Carol Piersee. Call Carol for directions: 312-1628. This will be the last meeting for the year. Traveler's will resume January 14, 2010, at the usual time of 1:30 p.m. in the Youth Center.

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.

First Friday Fellowship will next meet on January 8

Questions? Call Ray and Joyce Ownby (388-1334) or Harold and Jean Hull (385-6557).

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.

A Country Christmas – you are invited to shop on Friday, Saturday & Sunday, Dec. 11-13, & 18-20 at Celebrate the Seasons, 61515 American Loop. Jane & Eldon Wilson are one of several participants.

LOOKING FOR WORK Jerry Schultz owns a small business that provides “Computer Solutions,” experienced help in network assistance, hard drive crash repair, virus and spyware problems and more. Phone 541-390-3045 or jerrys@bendbroadband.com.

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