



**First Presbyterian
Church**

Faith Notes

Rev. Dr. Steven H. Koski
Senior Pastor
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Phone: 541 382 4401
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- www.bendfp.org
- Twitter: @bendfp
- [Facebook.com/bendfp](https://www.facebook.com/bendfp)

Worship

- Sunday, 9:00 am
Contemporary Worship
- Sunday, 10:45 am
Traditional Worship
- Sunday, The 5:01
Music.Message.Meal
- Wednesday, 6:00 pm
Contemplative Worship

Child care provided at all
worship times

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSURE

- December 24
- December 31

Next Faith Notes Deadline

- December 13 at Noon

Next Publication Date

- December 22, 2010

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

All are welcome, always!

**Christmas Eve
Candlelight & Carols**

4:00 p.m. Children's Service
7:00 p.m. Contemporary Service
9:00 p.m. Traditional Service

Nursery care provided for all services

230 NE Ninth Street, Bend
541-382-4401
www.bendfp.org



Chrismons Remind Us to Love Like Jesus

Advent Adult Education Classes, December 12 & 19, 9:00 a.m. led by Sara & Bill Hoffman

"Chrismons Remind Us To Love Like Jesus"

Have you marveled at the Chrismon tree in our sanctuary during the Advent and Christmas seasons? Chrismons stand for CHRIST MONograms.

In this class you will learn:

- the history of the first Chrismon tree
- the symbols and their meaning
- how to make a Chrismon

Chrismons remind us of God's greatest gift to us all, Jesus Christ.

Deacons Christmas Basket Food Drive

Last year we served 125 families; the goal for this year is 135 families! To meet this goal, we need donations of non-perishable foods and cash.

The following items will be taken from the food carts to be saved for the Christmas Baskets:

Canned soups, vegetables, fruit and applesauce; dry cereal and oatmeal; peanut butter, jelly or jam; pancake or muffin mix, syrup; rice and other side dishes; spaghetti and sauce; tuna.

AED purchased by the Deacons

The Deacons have purchased an AED for use in case of cardiac arrest. It is located in the Commons across from the office. A CPR/AED Certification class scheduled through the American Red Cross is on the Deacon's Bulletin Board. We will be scheduling some classes here at FPC after the Holidays. Let me know if you are already certified. Dennis Dorsett, 541-382-7140, Medical Equipment Deacon.

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 19. The deadline to have the name of your honoree published in the bulletin is Wednesday, December 15, 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 15, 9:00 a.m. to be included in the December 19 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



Session Highlights

November 16 Session Highlights

At its November 16 meeting, Session:

- Heard a report from Boyd Levet, church administrator, on the progress of the *See how they love* stewardship campaign. Elder LeBron Hardie gave a report on the follow-up plan for contacting members who pledged last year but have not pledged this year.
- Discussed the short-term loan to Common Table from the Loomis Fund that was approved at a special Session meeting held on October 31. The discussion centered around the possibility of securing the loan with collateral. Dr. Koski reported on a major redesign of the operation of Common Table that is reducing the costs of operation. Common Table is now open Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.; Sunday: 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; Monday 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. pay as you can; Tuesday and Wednesday, 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; Thursday and Friday 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., is relying more on volunteer help, and is having patrons order at the counter rather than being waited on by servers.
- Received a preliminary report on the 2011 budget from Boyd Levet in which he presented several budget scenarios.
- Heard a report from Rev. Bolt that the Bend Youth Collective (the new partnership between the youth groups of FPC, Trinity Episcopal, and Nativity Lutheran) is going well with 20-25 high school students and 15-20 middle school students attending their respective groups.
- Received a report from Elders LeBron Hardie and Chuck Piersee on the meeting of the Presbytery of the Cascades held in Vancouver, Washington, on November 12-13. The Presbytery voted to concur with the General Assembly to adopt the new Form of Government.

A copy of the November 16 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. Session will not meet in December; instead, Elders are asked to individually engage in either self-study/reflection/meditation on the Advent and Christmas themes or in a form of personal outreach to others who may have spiritual and other needs this season. The next Session meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 18, at 6 p.m. in the church library.

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

Ruling Elders:

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Todd Ainsworth, 598-9210 | LeBron Hardie, 550-7541 |
| Betty Bullis, 389-8108 | Clay Higuchi, 388-2746 |
| Brian Cash, 549-1663 | Sarah Holtzclaw, 318-7496 |
| Tim Conlon, 388-0292 | Scott Nelson, 306-6057 |
| Ralph Delamarter, 388-2128 | Chuck Piersee, 312-1628 |
| Maggie Hanson, 678-5953 | Sue Nell Phillips, 817-3131 |

Presbyterian Women's Books (&more) Sale Was a Huge Success!

THANK YOU! The tremendous support with loving, helping hands, generous donations, prayers, and yes, purchases, was greatly appreciated! The proceeds of \$1,936 (& counting!) will continue Presbyterian Women's outreach to the local community organizations, our church activities, and global missions through PW PC(USA). It was a fun event; establishing new friendships, welcoming our neighbors, and seeing the smiles of all the book aficionados with their new found treasures. Thank You!



Lenten Journey Groups - Looking Ahead

This is a new OPPORTUNITY FOR MINISTRY and your invitation to help design and promote the 2011 Lenten Journey Groups! These groups have been an important part of faith-building and community-building in our congregation for five years. Lenten Journey Groups will begin in March for six weeks until Easter Sunday. We are convening a planning team Thursday, January 6, 2:00-3:00 p.m. at church to prayerfully focus on organizing, recruiting facilitators and hosts, and publicity. Will you join us? Please respond to the Spiritual Journey Resource Team by calling the church office (541-382-4401) and leaving your message for us. Thank you!

The Spiritual Journey Resource Team

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| Steven Koski | Lynda Hathorn |
| Brigitte Dysart | Rock Klein |
| Tim Conlon (Session liaison) | |
| Maggie Hanson (Session liaison) | |
| Lorraine Stuart | |

The Longest Night Service December 22, 2010—6 p.m.

When you think about this holiday season do you find it hard to find a place of joy in your spirit? Sometimes these days bring us face to face with an unexpected sense of pain from losses we have suffered. These losses can be from the loss of a loved one, loss of financial security, loss of health, loss of a job, loss of relationship, or old memories that haunt us this time of year. No matter what the loss, the pain is real and it can make this season a difficult time of year.

The Longest Night service will be at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday evening the 22nd of December is a time that honors this pain of loss and claims God's ever-present comfort, healing and love. It is a time to join with others who also struggle at this time of the year. This service will offer some quiet reflective time, prayers, soothing and gentle music, the sacrament of communion around the communion table, and a message offering comfort and hope. You are invited to come and to invite anyone you know who might find such a service a blessing.

Healthy Minds, Healthy Bodies and Healthy Spirits Support Group

Any and all who are trying to improve your health and perhaps decrease your weight are welcome, as well as anyone who has taken our multi-week class in the past!

**Second Thursday of each month, starting January 13, 2011 at First Presbyterian Church
6:00 to 7:30 pm**

Topics will include:

- Safe and effective physical activity and exercise for becoming more 'fit.'
- Emotional eating—how to reign it in.
- Healthy eating—with cooking/food preparation demonstrations and tasting.
- Managing stress in healthy ways.
- Improving our spiritual health...to bring us to full health.

Send us a topic you'd like to see addressed and we'll tackle it!

Suggested donation: \$7.50 to cover the cost of special speakers and materials.

Contact Lori Brizee at 541-388-0694 for more information

On Behalf of the Green Team . . .

Thank you so much everyone for rising to the challenge to separate the (sheep from the goats?) - no, the compostable cups that come from Strictly Organic Coffee from the garbage (napkins, coffee stirrers and non compostable cups) from the recycling (Sunday Bulletins)! It is so gratifying to know that those compostable items will be mixed back into the earth to become rich soil at Fields Farm.

We have two new containers for the compostable cups. They are green and are clearly marked. Together we can care for God's planet!

Thiel Larson



Christmas Joy Offering Supports Stillman College

The Christmas Joy Offering has been a tradition in the Presbyterian Church for almost 70 years. 50% of the receipts go to the Board of Pensions to support retired & active church workers and families, who have extraordinary needs, like large medical bills. The other 50% supports scholarships to six racial ethnic schools founded by the Presbyterian Church over 100 years ago. All of these schools provide excellent educational opportunities to minority kids who need scholarships. One of the schools supported by the Christmas Joy Offering is Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. This college has been supported by the Presbyterian Church since 1875. In 2004 Stillman College received its first ever top tier ranking from *U.S. News and World Report* magazine. Stillman continues to hold this distinction.

Stillman College leaders have made a conscious choice to provide student's with a "sense of place." The college is located on an attractive campus of over 100 acres where brick buildings are the norm. Every classroom on the campus is fully equipped with wireless access. Stillman College had wireless capabilities even before the University of Alabama. The campus continues to experience exponential growth and revitalization under the visionary leadership of Dr. Ernest McNealey, the fifth president. Four new structures have been built since 1997: the School of Education building, the Wynn Fine Arts Center, Roulhac

Residence Hall, a stadium with playing fields, and a NCAA regulation track. Under construction are the Thomas E. Lyle Band Center and a NCAA regulation tennis complex.

83% of Stillman's full-time faculty holds a PhD degree. Stillman offers an exceptional college experience with outstanding academic programs, modern well-equipped facilities and small class sizes. Stillman has outstanding programs in biological sciences, business administration and teacher education. Stillman also offers the Harte Honors College, pre-professional programs in law and medicine, along with an accredited nursing program. Stillman College also offers a full range of sports including baseball, basketball, football, tennis, volleyball, cross country and a college band. Stillman students attend chapel once a week at the campus adjoining Brown Memorial Presbyterian Church. To learn more about Stillman College please see this video: <http://www.stillman.edu/stillman-video.html>

Please give generously to Christmas Joy Offering on Sunday, December 19th.

Coffee Hour

Sign-ups are needed for December!

Cookie Schedule: December - T-Z

More church groups are needed for coffee hour so the burden doesn't fall on just a few groups. Thanks to Mary Anna, the process is easy and a way for people in your group to work together. Families and friends are welcome to get together and host also.

Call Charleen McKee (541-382-0483) for more information.

Remember in Prayer

Elaine Larson

Bill & Millie Moore in the death of Bill's father.

Support Groups

Depression Recovery Support Group

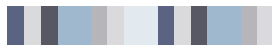
Meets in the Prayer Room at 1:30-3:00 p.m. on the following Wednesdays: December 15, 29.

Care Givers Support Group

Meets at 2:00-3:30 p.m. in the Prayer Room on the following Mondays: December 20, January 3 and 17.

Grief Support Group

We have just completed a grief support group but if you would like to be notified about the next group to be formed please contact Elizabeth Stephan, Care Ministry Coordinator at 541-382-4401.



Human Rights Heroine

On December 12 the Peace & Justice Team is honoring Betsy Lamb with a certificate of appreciation for her dedication and outstanding service to promote human dignity and the rights of people everywhere. December 10 marks the Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the landmark United Nations document created in response to the atrocities of World War II. (For more information, Google: pcusa.org:Sixty Years of Hope.)

The Declaration expressed for the first time a clear and comprehensive vision of basic human rights that all people have, simply because they are human. Many people think human rights abuses happen in far-away places. The reality, however, is that individuals' human rights are threatened everywhere, including Bend. Violence, abuse, neglect, censorship, discrimination, inadequate housing and education, hunger, withholding of due process of law and arbitrary arrest are human rights violations people in America face every day. Betsy is but one individual who works to advance human rights in our community.

Currently, Betsy is working on immigration reform locally, is on the Witness for Peace board, is active in School of the America's Watch, and is the designer of the Embracing Nonviolent Living course here at First Presbyterian. More than 20 years ago, extensive travel in Latin America made Betsy aware of the violence being perpetrated on people there in support of U.S. interests. Betsy first risked arrest in nonviolent direct action when six Jesuits, their housekeeper and her daughter were ruthlessly massacred in El Salvador by soldiers trained at the School of the Americas. With an M.A. in Theology, Betsy then worked for many years developing small parish-based Catholic communities for putting faith into action.

Betsy will be honored as a human rights heroine December 12 in our church library at 10:15 immediately following first service. You are invited to meet and greet Betsy and to talk with the Peace & Justice Team.

Children's Ministry

The purpose of our ministry with children at First Presbyterian is to love them and to nurture their love of God. If you feel called to this ministry and would like to volunteer or to get more information, contact Janet Pearson, Director of Children and Family Ministry (541-382-4401 or jpearson@bendfp.org).

Faith 4mation @ Home.

Simply Christmas for families

Wrapped in the purchase of presents and display of decorations, the focus of Christmas has become so secular and commercial that one might not even know that Christmas is associated with Jesus. It is important that we think about how our own family traditions reflect the good news of the birth of the Christ child.

1. Talk with your family.
What are the traditions that make Christmas? Each one name one. What are the things that wouldn't be missed if eliminated? Each one name one. Which traditions point to and reflect "Loving Like Jesus?"
2. Make Jesus central to the season.
Observe a daily or weekly Advent practice of being in the story of Jesus' birth. Use a crèche/manger scene to retell the Biblical account of the birth of Jesus. Read aloud Christmas stories or watch movies that focus on the love of God born into the world.
3. Keep Christmas gifts under control.
Give your child one nice present instead of several. Ask grandparents and extended family members to give no more than one gift to each person. Make a homemade certificate giving the gift of a special outing with a parent, such as to a museum, science center, sledding, beach day, camping, etc. In lieu of a gift, invite children to think of a favorite memory that they share with a family member and to draw a picture that reminds them of the memory. Create a family book to hold these pictures and on Christmas morning, invite everyone to tell about their picture.
4. Be a Blessing
Look for opportunities to serve as a family. Encourage family members to donate something individually or as a family, rather than buy gifts. Help your family make the connection between Christmas, Jesus' birthday, and loving like Jesus, the servant king.



Advent Journey @your Church Library

Watch for the Light : readings for Advent and Christmas (242.3 Wat). Selections for every day from the beginning of Advent to Epiphany, may be opened at leisure or followed as a guide to daily devotions. A wide spectrum from classic and contemporary writers C.S. Lewis, Thomas Merton, Philip Yancy, Madeleine L'Engle, Henri Nouwen, Kathleen Norris, Dietrick Bonhoeffer, Meister Eckhart, just to name a few; offers wisdom, beauty, and spiritual nourishment.

A Child in Winter : Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany by Caryll Houselander (242.33Hou). The author was a laywoman, mystic, and poet whose timeless vision of spiritual childhood comforted and challenged the English-speaking world through the ravages of World War II and the London Blitz. Her writings are selected here by editor Thomas Hoffman and organized into daily meditations with scriptural passage, comments, and prayer. "A Child in Winter invites you, even in the midst of winter, to grow large with the presence and love of God."

Midnight Clear : stories for the Christmas season, by Katherine Paterson (J Fic Pat). This much-loved and award-winning children's author (*Bridge to Terabithia*, to name one) illuminates the meaning of Christmas in 12 modern-day stories written over the years for her husband, a Presbyterian pastor, to read to his congregation on each Christmas Eve.

Christmas in My Heart : a timeless treasury of heartwarming stories, compiled by Joe Wheeler (813 Whe). Another good book to gather around and read aloud. Treasures from master storytellers like Pearl S. Buck, Madeleine L'Engle, Taylor Caldwell, and includes the classic from O. Henry, *The Gift of the Magi*.

Stories Behind the Great Traditions of Christmas compiled by Ace Collins (394.2663 Col). Learn more about the origins of many traditions as researched by this author, such as the Christmas tree, caroling, nativity scenes, yule log, mistletoe and holly.

The First Christmas : what the Gospels really teach about Jesus's birth (232.921 Bor), by Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan, two authorities on the life of Jesus drawing on the gospels of Matthew and Luke to tell the story of Jesus birth and to place its lessons in context with the modern world. Borg and Crossan help us to see this well-known narrative afresh by answering the question, "What do these stories mean?" in the context of both the first century and the twenty-first century. They successfully show that the Christmas story, read in its original context, is far richer and more challenging than people imagine.

The Nativity Story (232.92Tyn) the official companion book to the movie, poignant excerpts from the Bible and gripping photographs taken on location tell the moving story from the perspectives of those who witnessed that wonder-filled night. Gifted to our library by Jamee and John Hardwicke in honor of their daughter, Catherine Hardwicke, director of the film "The Nativity Story : the journey of a lifetime, a story for all time" (two copies of the DVD also available for check-out).

Picture Books for ALL Ages! New and old favorites grace our shelves:

B is for Bethlehem : a Christmas Alphabet, by Isabel Wilner (E Wil) ; Rhyming verses introduce the letters of the alphabet and the events surrounding the birth of Jesus.

The Crippled Lamb by Max Lucado (E Luc). A lamb who has always felt different and sad because of his black spots and his limp feels his true worth when he is called upon to help keep the baby Jesus warm. (VHS video also available)

Margret & H.A. Rey's Merry Christmas, Curious George (E Rey) Separated from the man with the yellow hat while at a Christmas tree farm, Curious George ends up in the hospital, where he delights the child patients with his own brand of tree trimming.

The Christmas Day Kitten by James Herriot (E Her). The famous veterinarian/writer shares the true story of how an independent-minded stray cat gives a woman and her three Basset hounds a Christmas present.

The Drummer Boy by Loren Long (E Lon) After accidentally being thrown away, a beloved toy drummer boy goes on an adventure that eventually brings him back to a warm home, where he is placed near baby Jesus in a manger scene.

Clement C. Moore's **The Night before Christmas**, delightfully illustrated by Mary Engelbreit making this edition glow with the sense of wonder, spirited wit, and nostalgic warmth that is her signature around the world.

You will find these and many more selections throughout your church library. Look for the special green Christmas stickers on the spine label.

May you enjoy the journey during this Advent season ... reading, seeing, hearing, listening, sharing ... and oh yes, we do have **Unplug the Christmas Machine : A Complete Guide to Putting Love and Joy Back in the Season!** a perennial favorite by Joe Robinson and Jean Coppock Staeheli that thousands still turn to for sound, no-nonsense advice on how to combat Christmas commercialism and create a joyful, stress-free holiday season!



Study and Fellowship

CPR CIRCLE will meet on Tuesday, January 25, at 6 p.m. for a baked potato dinner followed by an evening of fellowship and prayer. This is an open circle; all women of the church are invited. Information on the location of the gathering will appear in the next edition of Faith Notes.

CIRCLES 2 & 3 For December, Circles 2 & 3 will have their Christmas Potluck on December 14 at Noon. Please bring a dish to share and your own table setting. For more information, contact Betty Armer at 541-388-2347.

MEN'S BOOK STUDY GROUP meets in the Library every Monday from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. We're studying Islam, A Short History, by Karen Armstrong. Come join us.

MEN'S DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY GROUP meets Tuesdays at 9:45 a.m. at Chuck Piersee's house in Touchmark. Phone: 541-312-1628. This year's study will be on the book of Hebrews.

TOUCHMARK BIBLE STUDY meets Tuesdays at 3:00 p.m. in the small dining room in the Terrace Lodge. The Rev. Dr. Brad Kent will lead the discussion.

THURSDAY CENTERING PRAYER GROUP meets on Thursdays, 12:00-1:00 p.m., in the Prayer Room. For more information, please call Elizabeth (541-382-4401).

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 - Wednesdays, 8:00-9:00 a.m. This class, led by Dan Klingler, is doing a year-long study of the Wisdom Literature of the Old Testament. We began with Proverbs, then will proceed to Job, Ecclesiastes and the Song of Solomon. Depending upon the time remaining in the school year, there be a briefer review of two later Wisdom Books found in the

Apocrypha: The Wisdom of Ben Sirach and the Wisdom of Solomon.

TILTERS is a group of women who discuss books related to faith. We invite all women to join us in reading an older Henri Nouwen book, Reaching Out: The Three Movements of the Spiritual Life. We meet Thursday mornings, 8:00-9:30 a.m., in the Library. Welcome! Call Cheryl Shay at 526-0964 with questions.

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS meets from 9:30 to 11 a.m. in the Youth Center on the first and third Tuesday of the month. Due to the holidays, we will have a slight change in schedule. We will meet on January 11 and January 25. We will resume our regular schedule in February. We invite you to join us as we continue our study on 1 and 2 Peter and grow as friends in Christ.

WOMEN'S AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY The group meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at 1:30 p.m. in the Youth Center downstairs. We will begin a new study with the Book of Acts. The group completed their study of the Gospel of Matthew and will now look into how the church grew; how the Holy Spirit empowered the early Christians and how this applies to our lives today.

Traveler's is a discussion type study in which you may participate, discuss as much as you wish or just listen. We welcome anyone interested in learning more about the Scriptures who would enjoy an afternoon study. Our goal is to learn and encourage one another as we journey the road of faith.

For more information, contact Carol Piersee at 541-312-1628 or carolpier@aol.com

TRY TRANSFORMATIVE YOGA ON THURSDAYS AT 9:45 A.M. IN YOUTH CENTER





Submitted After the Deadline

Last week a member of our community Debbie Cushman sent me some of her reflections on Christmas. I was moved by her words and I thought they would be helpful for all of us as we navigate this Advent season. They are printed below, with her permission.

It is always a joy as a pastor to hear stories and reflections from our community. Thank you so much for your willingness to share.

Blessings, Rev. Greg Bolt

Christmas Reflections

I feel blessed to have lived through 61 Christmas seasons, each of them as different as can be, but all of them founded in hope. I can't even remember the first three or four years of course because I was busy just growing and embracing the world and all of its wonders. I imagine that for my parents, the anticipation of laughter and pleasure was on their minds and perhaps the hope of my future.

As I grew and my mind began to experience and store the exquisite sights, sounds and pleasures of the season, I developed what would become my memories of Christmas past. Now, much older and, I hope a little wiser, Christmas is everything I can imagine and can make real and dream of and hope for. It will never be Christmas past ever again nor should it be. My world and myself in that world have changed, as it should have by now. Some loved ones and friends are no longer living, I no longer live in the same home or in the same community for that matter, I don't look the same nor feel the same and yet Christmas returns year after year.

So, what am I to do with these memories of Christmas past and how do I embrace Christmas present? It might seem that with so much missing that this time we call Christmas might be dark, empty, sad and just a memory of things as they were. But, then there is the thing that has been in Christmas since the beginning. *In the darkest of time is the light of Hope.* As we grapple for meaning at this time, it is so easy to everything that Christmas is not and to say that these things are needlessly stressing everyone out. Just as we choose any direction in the course of our lives, we have the free will to define meaning in what we do during Christmas.

We have enormous choices: shopping until our legs fall off, baking cookies, remembering the love of parents and grandparents, being with friends and family, light-

ing candles, ringing bells, party-going, singing, worship, solitude, group activities, How The Grinch Stole Christmas, decorating, cooking traditional foods, It's A Wonderful Life, lighting the neighborhood, card-writing, feeding and clothing the poor, Miracle On 34th Street, visiting a nursing home, helping the abused and lonely, giving of ourselves to charity, expressing thanks, contemplating God's love and his endless love of all, living as God told us to live, and the list goes on.

I'm thankful that so many people all over the world are employed because of the things that people do at Christmas. From manufacturing to retail to consumer, people benefit with a roof over their heads, food on the table, clothing to wear and the ability to give back to those who do not have enough. I am grateful for the music that people make, the shows they create, the cookies they make, the traditions they repeat, the bells they ring, the loving notes they write, the happy greetings they express, the lights that illuminate the night. For all of these things are expressions of joy, love, hope and charity. Ultimately, Christmas is just the beginning of the Resurrection and my choice to believe.

Sincerely,
Debbie Cushman

The next CPR/AED class is January 22, 2011, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Heritage Hall. Cost \$32 payable on the day of class. Call Dennis Dorsett to register (541-382-7140) REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS JANUARY 18.

First Friday Fellowship

Join us on Friday, January 7th as we journey the Oregon Trail with Lynda Paznokas. Lynda, Professor Emeritus at Washington State University, spent many summers photographing the trail, a trail her relatives came on in 1846.

Bring a friend to share chili and cornbread in Heritage hall at 11:30. We especially welcome new members and visitors. Don't

forget: sign on easel in Commons. Questions: Jean Hull, 541-385-6557, or Joyce Ownby, 541-388-1334.





Submitted After the Deadline

Holiday Magic Concerts Return to Summit High School!

Friday, December 10th, 7pm and Sunday December 12th, 3pm, Benefiting Central Oregon Resources for Independent Living

Several of our members and friends of First Presbyterian are involved in these concerts that are now in their sixth year! James W. Knox directs the 80 plus voice COCC Cascade Chorale and full Orchestra along with returning soloist Lindy Gravelle. Tickets are \$15 via the CORIL website www.coril.org or call 388-8103 Ext 200 and ask for Lisa. Doors will open at the Summit High Auditorium one hour before each show and it is open seating. Selections will include Symphony of Carols and Gloria, Many Moods of Christmas, Drummer Boy and selections from Handel's Messiah. All previous performances have brought the audiences to their feet in standing ovations so don't miss this opportunity!

CORIL is a local nonprofit here in Bend whose mission is to celebrate all the wonderful achievements that people with disabilities experience here in Central Oregon with growing their independence, work productivity and full inclusion when provided the right opportunities and supports. To find out more about this most inspirational organization contact Jim Lee at jiml@coril.org or give him a call at 771-6184. It is a wonderful place to volunteer or just hang out and join in the fun! Bend First Presbyterian member, Barbara Munster, is the current CORIL Board President and Jim Lee is the Executive Director.

See How They Love

Campaign pledge cards continue to be received in the office, both hand-delivered and by mail. They may also be placed in the offering plates anytime on Sundays. "Thank you" to all who have sent in their pledges for the 2011 ministries of First Presbyterian Church of Bend! Everyone is encouraged to be a part of the See How They Love campaign; so if you need another pledge card or another copy of the campaign packet, let us know in the office and we're delighted to provide you with the materials you seek. 541 382 4401.

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.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT with 30 plus years administrative office and management experience looking for full-time, long-term office work. Will be happy to provide work and local references upon request. Please contact Katherine Wagner at 541-390-9822.

