



First Presbyterian Church of Bismarck, North Dakota

# Here and NOW!

February 2009

Volume 56 Number 2

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[www.fpcbismarck.com](http://www.fpcbismarck.com)

## Some Words of Advice

Jacob L. Kincaid, Minister

One author calls them “an ascending order of ethical commitment.” This order contains some words of advice from the world’s most famous figures: from Socrates, “Know thyself.” From Aristotle, “Control thyself.” And from Jesus, “Give thyself.”

If all the moral wisdom of all the ages could be summarized in three phrases, perhaps these are the three. People of good character know themselves. They have an understanding of their strengths and weaknesses. This familiarity with themselves enables them to control themselves and restrain their tendencies to act from weakness. And in the end knowing and controlling themselves, they are able to make of themselves something worth sharing with others.

These simple phrases may well constitute not only “an ascending order of ethical commitment,” but an ascending scale of human excellence. And ascending that scale may well be what life is really all about.

# First Presbyterian Fine Arts Festival

## *Celebrating Creation on the Prairie*

We need your help! Your Fine Arts Festival committee is hard at work planning the affair slated for September 10-13. Our plans include



some of the former familiar Religious Arts Festival events as well as some exciting new additions. And all of this takes man and woman power as well as some serious financial support to make this the biggest, best arts event in the area. We know our church

and its membership are capable of great things and the First Presbyterian Fine Arts Festival—Celebrating Creation on the Prairie will be the perfect catalyst to broadcast our talents as well as those of artists from the surrounding area.

We are currently planning a mailing to potential participants, finding committee chairs, and planning special events. This is where you come in. Please come forward with your elbow grease and financial contributions. There are several categories if you wish your contribution so designated but any amount will be greatly appreciated. Possible dollar designations are Cash Awards selected by the judges, Purchase Awards given and selected by the donors who agree to purchase a work of art and cash gifts to be used where needed to support the festival.

In the days and weeks ahead we will be calling on many of you to chair and man committees but please don't hesitate to volunteer without our call. You may also volunteer on the festival sign-up sheets on the narthex bulletin board or contact any committee member.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Steering committee members: Karen Ehrens, Pinkie Larson, Phyllis Lindblom, Mike Mahlum, Kay Solberg Link, Liz Lucas, Ann Lynch, Jan Schultz, Sue Sorlie, Dick Weber, and Priscilla Wilson.

# Many Faces of Love

## Dinner Party

Please plan to attend the "Many Faces of Love" dinner party at the church on Sunday, February 22, at 6:00 p.m. The fun begins with appetizers and punch in the parlor, followed by an Italian buffet dinner in Ramstad Hall to be served at 7:00 p.m. All you would-be rock stars and troubadours will have a chance for the spotlight when we turn up the music on the karaoke machine after dinner. Tickets are \$15/person.

The Friendship Committee is looking for volunteers to assist with donating hors d'oeuvres and decorating. If you'd like to share a framed photo

of one of your "faces of love"—you and your best friend, spouse, parent, grandchildren, please drop it at the office with identifying information on the



back by February 18. Reserve your spot, bring a guest, and volunteer by calling the church office or signing the reservation sheet in the narthex.

## Hospitality Notes

*When you extend a hand to shake when a guest walks through the church's front door, are they interrupting your conversation with someone else, or do you offer them genuine interest along with a hand shake?*

## Challenge Grant Offered!!

At the outset of 2009, as our nation, state and the Bismarck-Mandan community look ahead, there is a great deal of economic uncertainty. The experts predict there will be several months of continued economic recession before we can expect to turn the corner and start the climb toward better economic times. Some in our church community have already been adversely impacted. There may be others added to that list as the year progresses. Thankfully, there are some of us that have not, or will not experience the same adversity due to the type of employment or profession in which we are engaged.

When the church budget for 2009 was finalized, it was apparent that we were unlikely to receive the normal level of increase in adult pledged income. It was also noted that investment accounts would not provide funding for the budget shortfalls as they had in the past. With a budget that had been trimmed with the elimination of 1 part-time staff position and minimal increases in wages and salaries for staff, it was apparent that to balance the budget for 2009, it would be necessary to rely on the General Fund Equity Balance.

The General Fund Equity Balance is comprised of money left over at the end of the year when income is higher than expenses. Or if expenses are higher than income the balance is reduced. In recent years it was determined that the balance in this fund should not drop below \$ 50,000. There currently is \$ 100,000 in the General Fund Equity Balance. The budget committee presented a budget with a shortfall of \$37,300 which will mean this Equity Balance will be reduced at the end of year by \$37,300 leaving a \$62,700 balance.

A declining General Fund balance should be a concern to all of us. It clearly was a concern to one of our families who have subsequently challenged the rest of us to match a \$ 15,000 special gift of theirs with \$15,000 of additional giving by the rest of the membership. If successful in meeting this challenge, a total gift of \$ 30,000 would be used to offset most of the deficit in our 2009 budget and keep our General Fund Equity

Balance from sustaining such a dramatic reduction.

Increasing what you have already pledged to the church for 2009 is an opportunity for some to “step up” and cover for others who are unable to give at this time due to the economic recession. Helping those in need is what the church community is all about. The \$15,000 challenge grant is one family offering to “step up” and asking others to join them.

What would it take to raise an additional \$15,000? Well, if there are 100 out of our membership of 700 that can increase their giving for 2009 by \$ 150.00, we can meet the challenge put before us. This amounts to less than \$ 3 per week or \$ 12.50 per month. For a couple, it is less than a meal at a modest restaurant each month or a night at the movie with popcorn and a beverage.

Look for more information in early February as to how you can participate in meeting this challenge, and when the time comes to “step up”, let us seize this opportunity to make a positive difference in the life of this church.

Stewardship and Mission Interpretation Committee

## Munch ‘n Mingle

Munch ‘n Mingle is an adult fellowship group for singles and couples in the senior adult age range. Join the group on Wednesday, February 11, 2009, at noon, in the Ramkota Dining Room.



Meet new friends or catch up with longtime friends. No reservations required.

## Adult Faith Formation

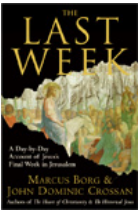
### Being Faithful Stewards

As Presbyterians we believe that stewardship is about being faithful disciples, caring for and managing all that God has given us. February 8 we begin a 3 part series on what it means to be a faithful steward of our talents, our treasures, and our community. Join us Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. in Room 201.

### God on Trial

View the movie, God on Trial, Sunday, February 8, immediately after the morning worship service. If you would like to stay for the movie and need child care, please contact Casey Chapman or Dave Nix.

### The Last Week



During Lent (March 2- April 5) we are reading and discussing the book, *The Last Week*. Using the gospel of Mark as its guide, this book takes a day-by-day look at the last week of Jesus' life. *The Last Week* by Marcus Borg and Dominic Crossan is available at Barnes & Noble or Amazon.com

### Shoe Boxes

We need your help: We need regular size shoe boxes for an art project. Please bring your boxes (with lids) to the church and drop them in the church office. Thanks.

### Home Communion

The congregation will celebrate the Lord's Supper, February 8. The pastors, elders or deacons will be glad to serve communion at home, hospital, or nursing home to anyone who is unable to worship with the congregation. Please call Pastor Kincaid to schedule a time, 223-6091 ext. 11.

## News from Faith Village

In February, we will get to know the Apostle Paul through some of the letters he wrote to the

**Now Showing.....**  
***The Life of Paul***



early church. The rotation begins with a movie on the life of Paul. Our workshops include making spiritual gift soup in the Loaves & Fishes Café; learning to keep our eyes on the goal

through a round of miniature golf in the Game workshop; constructing a church in the Art workshop; and learning to work together as the boy of Christ in the Ropes workshop. Faith Village is for children in K – 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

Our next rotation, which begins in March focuses on the Lord's Prayer and the workshops include Art, Cooking, Games, Movie, Music, and Science. If you are interested in leading a workshop, contact Jan Gilchrist or Linda Chapman.



On Sunday, February 1, millions of people all over the world will tune in to the Super Bowl football game. There will be parties with abundant food, friendship and fellowship. At the same time, there will be people worrying about staying warm, finding shelter and a warm meal.

Please join our Presbyterians as they share God's love by loving their neighbors through the Souperbowl of Caring. It's a simple, yet significant act of caring for others. Drop \$1 (or more!) in the soup pot as you leave worship February 1. All the money collected after worship will go to Youthworks, which helps homeless young people. Those who need help may not know that you cared, but God will. Thank you for your help!

# Parish Nursing



JuLann Wiseman,  
R.N.

## The Violinist in the Subway

A man sat at a metro station in Washington DC and started to play the violin; it was a cold January morning. He played six Bach pieces for about 45 minutes. During that time, since it was rush hour, it was calculated that thousands of people went through the station, most of them on their way to work.

Three minutes went by and a middle aged man noticed there was a musician playing. He slowed his pace and stopped for a few seconds and then hurried up to meet his schedule.

A minute later, the violinist received his first dollar tip a woman threw the money in the till and without stopping continued to walk.

A few minutes later, someone leaned against the wall to listen to him, but the man looked at his watch and started to walk again. Clearly he was late for work.

The one who paid the most attention was a 3 year old boy. His mother tagged him along, hurried but the child stopped to look at the violinist. Finally the mother pushed hard and the child continued to walk turning his head all the time. This action was repeated by several other children. All the parents, without exception, forced them to move on.

In the 45 minutes the musician played, only 6 people stopped and stayed for a while. About 20 gave him money but continued to walk their normal pace. He collected \$32. When he finished playing

and silence took over, no one noticed it. No one applauded, nor was there any recognition.

No one knew this but the violinist was Joshua Bell, one of the best musicians in the world. He played one of the most intricate pieces ever written with a violin worth 3.5 million dollars.



Two days before his playing in the subway, Joshua Bell sold out at a theater in Boston and the seats averaged \$100.00 each.

This is a real story. Joshua Bell playing incognito in the metro station was organized by the Washington Post as part of a social experiment about perception, taste and priorities of people. The outlines were: in a commonplace environment at an inappropriate hour: Do we perceive beauty? Do we stop to appreciate it? Do we recognize the talent in an unexpected context?

One of the possible conclusions from this experience could be, If we do not have a moment to stop and listen to one of the best musicians in the world playing some of the best music ever written, how many other things are we missing?

## Stewardship Update

Thank you to all who have made their 2009 commitment. Thus far we have received 212 Estimates of Giving totaling \$379,588. We are still waiting to hear from some households. Please let us know your intentions as soon as possible. You may telephone Beth in the church office, 223-6091, to make your Estimate of Giving or to indicate you will not be able to make an estimate this year.

## Statement of Activities

December 2008 & 2009 Budget

Description	2008 YTD Actual	2008 Annual Budget	2009 Annual Budget
<b>Income</b>			
Offerings	445,820	435,350	448,071
Other Income	21,356	24,050	21,740
Transfers	145,043	143,298	103,575
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>612,219</b>	<b>602,698</b>	<b>573,386</b>
<b>Expense</b>			
Personnel	325,931	331,024	336,520
Administrative	26,350	29,350	30,950
Per Capita Assessment	25,791	25,791	29,365
Missions	79,699	79,698	71,650
Food & Kitchen	2,959	3,500	3,300
Session Expense	926	1,650	1,650
Christian Education	27,351	31,200	26,700
Membership	14,704	16,690	12,805
Outreach	8,435	8,000	6,850
Property & Equipment	79,017	82,500	82,500
Stewardship	1,832	2,500	2,500
Worship & Music	4,967	5,150	5,900
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>597,962</b>	<b>617,053</b>	<b>610,690</b>
<b>Income Less Expense</b>	<b>14,257</b>	<b>(14,355)</b>	<b>(37,304)</b>

## Ash Wednesday Service

We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes. This ancient sign speaks of the frailty and uncertainty of human life, and marks the penitence of this community.

Ash Wednesday, the first day of lent, will be marked by a service of self-examination and repentance, appropriate for the season, which will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary February 25, 2009.



## Thank You

The First Presbyterian Child Care Center staff would like to offer a hearty thank you to everyone who supported the Center in 2008. It truly is through your prayer support, generous financial gifts and donations that the Center can carry out the mission of the church.

Also, thank you to all who gave to the Christmas party and gift bags for the Center staff. We had a lovely time at the supper and looking through the gift bags! Your thoughtfulness is appreciated.

Thank you to the Circles that gave milk money to the Center. We value your eagerness to assist in this much needed area. Grocery prices are rising and it is amazing how much milk little toddlers can drink!

Presbyterian Women and Deacons, once again we thank you for your on-going commitment to the Center. The selfless giving shown to this important mission does positively impact children and their families. Thanks for being part of the village.

## Circle Meetings

Circle 1 will meet Thursday, February 5, in the church parlor beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Circle 2 will meet Thursday, February 5, in Ramstad Hall, beginning at 1:00 p.m.

Circle 5 will meet Thursday, February 5, in the church parlor at 1:30 p.m.

Circle 3 will meet Saturday, February 7, 8:30 a.m., in the church conference room.

## Start Spreading the News!

The new Sunday Schedule with one service at 10:00 a.m., which began the first of January, has evoked a new and lively spirit. The sanctuary is almost full each week. A greater variety of music is offered. Congregational singing is more vibrant. And an increased sense of community seems to prevail before, during, and after the service. One long-time member recently characterized the change as a new “synergy.”

But why take other people’s words. Come and see for yourselves. And if you are already a part then start spreading the word. Invite members who have been absent and newcomers you meet. That’s the best way to keep the “synergy” going.

February Acolytes	
10:00 AM	
1	Riley Quick
8	Emily Ehrens
15	Isaac Blake
22	Mark Jensen

## Family News

### Deaths

Our deepest sympathy to the families and friends of those who have died:

Sarah Kleinschmidt, December 2008

Alice Cunningham, January 2009

Dorothy Bischof, December 2008

Robert McPherson, brother of Iva Fink, December 2008

### New Address

Eldora Kinnischtzke, 1111 N 1st Street, Box 22, Bismarck, ND 58501-3523

Sandy Westerlind, 1125 Tacoma Ave #302, Bismarck, ND 58504

Jennie Moum, 240 Ponderosa Ave., Hill City, SD 57745-6062

Ed and Erna Lahr, 2500 Valley View Ave #165, Bismarck, ND 58501

Marion Roseberry, The Baptist Home Room 260, 1100 E Boulevard Ave, Bismarck, ND 58501

Jennie Moum, 240 Ponderosa Ave, Hill City, SD 57745-6062

If you would like to share family news with the congregation, please submit the information to the church office by the 16th of each month. You may e-mail to [fpresby@btinet.net](mailto:fpresby@btinet.net) attn: Beth, or call 223-6091, ext. 10.

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Phone 223-6091, Fax 255-7344  
E-mail: [fpresby@btinet.net](mailto:fpresby@btinet.net)  
[www.fpcbismarck.com](http://www.fpcbismarck.com)

#### Sunday Worship Schedule

Regular Worship: 10:00 a.m.  
Education Hour: 9:00 a.m.

**Office Hours** Monday - Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon & 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

#### Our Staff

Pastor-Head of Staff	Rev. Dr. Jacob L. Kincaid
Associate Pastor for Program	Rev. Vicki J. Rucker
Administrative Assistant	Beth Lipp
Secretary	Vickie Haas
Organist	Jan Candee
Choir Director	Debi Rogers
Bell Choir Director	Lael Hoerauf
Custodian	Lloyd Fischer
Child Care Center Director	Shawn Stettner
Parish Nurse	JuLann Wiseman
Membership Services	Judy Lentz
	Barb Schulz

Here and Now!

For the Latest News  
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### Mission Statement First Presbyterian Church

We are a community called to love God  
Through worship and prayer,

Receiving and serving our neighbors  
With the compassion of Christ,

Open to new beginnings  
And the spiritual growth  
Of children, youth and adults.