



First Presbyterian Church of Bismarck, North Dakota

# Here and NOW!

February 2010      Volume 57 Number 2

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## Accomplishing Nothing

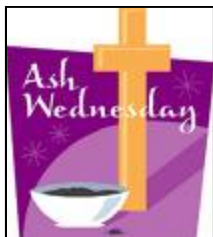
Jacob L. Kincaid, Minister

According to a famous Greek myth, Sisyphus was condemned by the gods endlessly to rolling a stone to the top of a mountain. Each time he reached the summit, the stone rolled back under the force of gravity and Sisyphus' struggle began again. The ancient Greeks believed that there is no greater punishment than futile labor.

Surveys often indicate how many people are unhappy in their work. Not only is there the drudgery of their labor but worse, a sense that they are accomplishing nothing, at least, nothing worthwhile.

Although work, which after all is work, is often like this, as one interpreter of the myth of Sisyphus argues, even under the strain of the most laborious work, we human beings have the power to overcome. We need not be defeated in spirit as long as

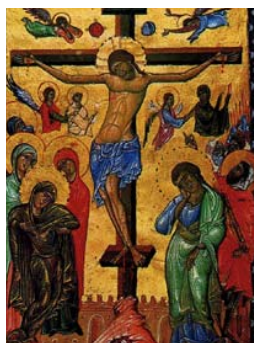
we remember that we choose the spirit in which we do our work. Work may break our backs, but it need not break our spirits. Maybe by refusing to be broken ourselves by what we do, we actually can find happiness. Certainly, we triumph.



## 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. on February 17, 2010.



## The Question of Evil

The Question of Evil is a five-week Lenten study of the most serious of all questions challenging faith in an all-powerful and all-good God: the problem of evil. Attention will be given to a description of the problem, its implications for the meaning of life itself, and to answers provided in the Christian tradition.

*Classes begin February 22, 2010, and will continue through March 22, 2010.* All classes are at noon and

and will be held in room 202. To register please call the church office at 223-6091. The Question of Evil is taught by Jake Kincaid, Ph.D.

## Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

The people of Haiti are in our thoughts and prayers as they begin to recover from the earthquake that hit the island recently. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is responding to this earthquake through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) and its partners. Monies from One Great Hour of Sharing have already been released to provide emergency help, and a fund has been established to help in the recovery effort. We can be part of the response to this disaster through our prayers and our donations. If you would like to donate to the Haiti Recovery Fund, send your checks to:

Presbyterian Church (USA)  
Individual Remittance Processing  
PO Box 643700  
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

Checks should be marked Haiti Disaster (DR000064).

If you would like to make a donation using a credit card, call 1-800-872-3283.

## Fine Arts Festival 2010



The Fine Arts Festival Steering Committee has begun planning for the 2010 event. The festival will be held September 11-12, 2010. We would like to invite church members, guests, and visitors to be part of the volunteer

committees. What is your passion and talent? Is it music, art, or food? We have openings on many of the committees and are seeking additional members to take an active role planning this community event. Please sign up in the narthex with your name, phone number, committee preference, or call Kathy Mayer at 224-1954.

## Fair Trade Sale

The next Fair Trade Sale will be Sunday, February 21, 2010. Organic, very dark chocolate bars with almonds will be on sale for \$2.50, regular price \$3.00.

Coffee, ground and whole bean, tea, seven kinds of chocolate bars, drinking chocolate, baking and hot cocoa mix, and dish cloths will be available.

For the first time pecans produced by a small farmer and worker cooperative in Southwest Georgia will be available. This cooperative is the only African American owned pecan shelling facility in the U.S., and it is operated by women.

All proceeds from sales now support the Child Care Center of First Presbyterian Church.

## Is Your Aging Parent Safe at Home?



**JuLann Wiseman, R.N.**  
Parish Nurse

One of the most stressful issues adult children have to face is how to care properly for aging parents. The realization that an elderly parent can no longer live independently is difficult for

everyone—parents and family members alike. Knowing what kind of help is out there and when it is required can be daunting.

The following checklist can be used to determine whether seniors are still capable of living on their own.

- Is there a chance they will wander away from the home or become disoriented?
- Can they identify danger signals, such as smoke or the sound of a fire alarm?
- Are they physically able to get to a phone and communicate? Do they know procedures for contacting emergency services?
- Can they prepare themselves a meal when they become hungry? Is there risk they will forget to turn off the stove?
- Do they have the ability to manage properly their medications?
- Can they identify who should and should not be let into the home?
- Can they use the toilet and the shower and tub safely?

Regularly reassess parents' capabilities to determine whether they are still safe living on their own. The most important thing you can do is communicate regularly to make sure they are coping well and taking proper care of themselves. Stop in for visits to make sure needs are being met, and encourage neighbors and relatives to stop by also. If it is clear that living at home presents a danger, you should investigate some alternative arrangements.

## Adult Faith Formation News

Living the Questions 2.0

People know that at its core Christianity has something good to offer the human race. At the same time, many have a sense that they are alone in being a "thinking" Christian and that "salvaging" Christianity is a hopeless task. What is needed is a safe environment where people have permission to ask the questions they've always wanted to ask but have been afraid to voice for fear of being thought a heretic.

Living the Questions goes beyond the traditions and rote theologies to help folks discover the significance of Christianity in the 21st century and what a meaningful faith can look like in today's world. The format of each session includes a video, guided discussion, spiritual exercises, and Bible study.

*This study begins Sunday, February 21 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 202.*

## Small Groups for Lent

Adult Faith Formation is sponsoring small group studies for Lent. These groups will meet weekly for six weeks during Lent. The study guide we will use is *The Shape of the Christian Life* and will be available for purchase in the church office. We are offering these groups Thursday evenings and Thursdays at noon. The sign up sheet is on the bulletin board in the church narthex.

## You are Invited!

You are invited to

Gwen Bradley's 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration

On her Valentine Birthday

February 14, 2010

2-4 p.m.

In the Church Parlor

For more information, please call 255-3095



## Questions: Sermons for Lent and Easter

Questions occur again and again throughout the gospel accounts of Jesus' last days. Sermons during this holy season will explore these questions and their meaning for modern disciples. The series begins Ash Wednesday and continues through Easter Sunday.

Ash Wednesday

February 17

"Why All This Waste?"

Matthew 26:8

First Sunday of Lent

February 21

"Where Do You Want Us to Get the Passover Meal Ready for You?"

Matthew 26:17

Second Sunday of Lent

February 28

"Is It I, Lord?"

Matthew 26:22

Third Sunday of Lent

March 7

"Who Is It That You Are Looking For?"

John 18: 4, 7

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 14

"Lord, How Can It Be That You Reveal Yourself to Us and Not to the World?"

John 14:22

Fifth Sunday of Lent

"Are You the King of the Jews?"

Matthew 27:11

Passion/Palm Sunday

March 28

"Do You Want Me to Nail Your King to the Cross?"

John 19:15

Easter

April 4

"Why Are You Looking Among the Dead for the One Who Is Alive?"

Luke 24:5

## Dinners for Eight

Interested in good food and good company? Then Dinners for Eight is for you. This program provides opportunity for small groups of six to eight, couples or singles, to share meals and each other's presence in someone's home.

If you are interested, sign your name to list posted on the bulletin board in the narthex or call Phyllis Lindblom at 255-4525.

## Troop 6

Scouts from Troop 6, sponsored by this congregation, will participate in the Sunday service on February 21, 2010. This year Scouting celebrates its 100th anniversary. Troop 6 is the oldest Scout Troop in North Dakota.

# Statement of Activities

December 2009

Description	2009 YTD Actual	2009 YTD Budget	2009 Annual Budget
<b>INCOME</b>			
Offerings	478,628	448,071	448,071
Other Income	19,682	21,740	21,740
Transfers	84,417	103,575	103,575
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>582,727</b>	<b>573,386</b>	<b>573,386</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>			
Personnel	315,210	336,520	336,520
Administrative	35,892	30,950	30,950
Per Capita Assessment	29,365	29,365	29,365
Missions	71,650	71,650	71,650
Food & Kitchen	3,717	3,300	3,300
Session Expense	824	1,650	1,650
Christian Education	12,204	26,700	26,700
Membership	7,461	12,805	12,805
Outreach	6,466	6,850	6,850
Property & Equipment	78,782	82,500	82,500
Stewardship	642	2,500	2,500
Worship & Music	5,936	5,900	5,900
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>568,149</b>	<b>610,690</b>	<b>610,690</b>
<b>Income Less Expense</b>	<b>14,578</b>	<b>(37,304)</b>	<b>(37,304)</b>



## Women's Circles

- Circle 1- Thursday, February 4, 9:30 a.m.
- Circle 2 - Thursday, February 4, 1:00 p.m.
- Circle 5 - Thursday, February 4, 1:30 p.m.
- Circle 3 - Saturday, February 6, 8:30 a.m.

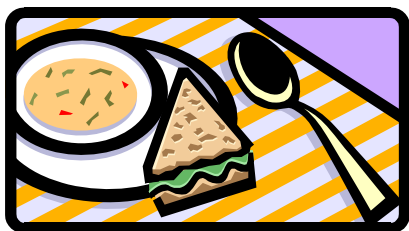
### February Acolytes

10:00 AM	
7	Christopher Hellman
14	Riley Quick
21	Dylan Beck
28	Emily Ehrens

## Hospitality Notes

Practicing Christian hospitality isn't about glittering, glamorous table settings or platters of picture-perfect food; it's about practicing servanthood . . . More important it's about loving others through Christ and making people feel special.

Kathy Chapman Sharp



## Munch and Mingle

Munch and Mingle is an adult fellowship group for singles and couples in the senior adult age range. Join the group on Wednesday, February 10, at noon in the Ramkota dining room. Meet new friends or catch up with longtime friends. No reservations required.



## Home Communion

The congregation will celebrate the Lord's Supper, *Sunday, February 14th*. 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.

## Family News

### Deaths

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

Linda Jordre upon the death of her mother, Avis,  
 Carol Peterson upon the death of her mother,  
 Wayne Ruzicka upon the death of his father.

### Correspondence

January 1, 2010

Dear Members of First Presbyterian Church,

I miss our association and long-time relationship but have transferred my membership to the Macalester-Plymouth Church here in St. Paul where I am now living.

My new address is 1840 University Avenue, W., Apartment 315, St. Paul, MN 55104. I now am in an independent living apartment.

Best wishes to all.

Inez Baker

The Sixth Day of Christmas

Dear Members and Friends,

I am certain that Mark's death has not only been a shock for us, but also for you. Your desire to console was immediate and swift. There are truly no words that can express our gratitude and deep appreciation for the many ways you've supported us these past weeks. We are humbled by the outpouring of your love and concern.

Carol Bayert and Family

First Presbyterian Church of Bismarck  
214 E. Thayer Avenue  
Bismarck, ND 58501-3887

Address Service Requested

### First Presbyterian Church

214 E. Thayer Avenue, Bismarck, ND 58501  
Phone 223-6091, Fax 255-7344  
E-mail: [janellr@fpcbismarck.com](mailto:janellr@fpcbismarck.com)  
[www.fpcbismarck.com](http://www.fpcbismarck.com)

#### Sunday Worship Schedule

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

#### Office Hours Monday - Friday

8:00 a.m. - 12:00p.m. and 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

#### Church Staff

Pastor-Head of Staff	The Rev. Dr. Jacob L. Kincaid
Associate Pastor	The Rev. Vicki J. Rucker
Ad. Asst., Program and Communications	Janell Rath
Ad. Asst., Business and Finance	Vickie Haas
Organist	Jan Candee
Choir Director	Debi Rogers
Bell Choir Director	Lael Hoerauf
Maintenance	Les Hornbacher
Child Care Center Director	Shawn Stettner
Parish Nurse	JuLann Wiseman
Membership Services	Judy Lentz
Membership Services	Elise Hocking

Here and Now!

For the Latest News  
[www.fpcbismarck.com](http://www.fpcbismarck.com)

First Presbyterian Church  
Bismarck, North Dakota

### A Vision

To be a welcoming, serving,  
worshipping, and nurturing community.