



PINNACLE VISTAS

The Newsletter for Pinnacle Presbyterian Church, Scottsdale, Ariz. • December 2007

CELEBRATE ADVENT, CHRISTMAS WITH US



To celebrate the birth of Christ, please join us for one of our Christmas Eve Worship Services on Dec. 24:

3 p.m. Sacrament of Holy Communion in the Sanctuary

5 p.m. Family Service in Sanctuary (childcare provided)

8 p.m. Candlelight Worship with Choir in Sanctuary (childcare provided)

10 p.m. Candlelight Worship with Choir in Sanctuary

DRAFTING OF MISSION STUDY UNDER WAY

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) requires that a church undertake a Mission Study when a pastor leaves and before a new pastor is called. In September 2007, the Session of Pinnacle Presbyterian Church appointed a Mission Study

Please see **STUDY** on page 4

SURVEY RESULTS

INSIDE Read a preliminary summary of the congregational survey conducted in September. **PAGE 5**

THE STAFF'S LETTER



Dear Friends & Members of Pinnacle,

Greetings to all of you as we enter into the season of Advent. In a September 2007 issue of *Reformed Worship*, Randall Buursma wrote, “Advent draws our attention to Christ. When our attention is focused on him, our attitudes are transformed from our human reactions to his life-giving way.”

As a church staff we know that our ministry is to partner with you to create and nurture worship, communication, mission opportunities, fellowship groups, education, care and much more so that “the life giving way” of Jesus Christ is lifted up as the priority and center of what we do.

We hope and pray we are faithful to that priority. We realize as a staff we are here to support and encourage you as members and friends in your ministry.

We are grateful for this opportunity to serve with you in this capacity and enjoy seeing the great diversity of gifts and talents God has blessed

Please see **LETTER** on page 6



ADOPT A FAMILY THIS CHRISTMAS

This is the 13th year that Pinnacle Presbyterian Church is joining with Vista del Camino Social Services of Scottsdale to assist with the Christmas Adopt A Family program.

Last year VDC helped more than 500 families for the holidays. The church will provide gifts for 20 families who are working but struggling. The program emphasizes the needs of the children.

There will be a Christmas tree on the West Terrace Sunday, Dec. 2, where you may select a “wish certificate.” The goal is to distribute *all* wishes and everyone is invited to help!

It’s as easy as 1, 2, 3...

1. Choose a “wish certificate” and register with the committee.

2. Purchase the gift. Attach the “wish certificate” to the item purchased, and please do not wrap the gift.

3. Return the gift item to the church on either Sunday, Dec. 9 or 16. Tables will be set up on the West Terrace to accept these gifts.

Donors may read about the family they are helping on the bulletin boards by the Adopt A Family tree. Family numbers matching the number on the certificate are on the board.

Those who would rather make a financial contribution, may make their check payable to Pinnacle Presbyterian Church and designate it “Adopt A Family.” Please place it in the offering plate or send it to the church office.

Questions are being handled by Jane Barber at 480.563.3404. The generosity of Pinnacle Presbyterian Church is greatly appreciated.

VOLUNTEER

MISSION CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER

Sunday, Dec. 2

New Orleans Mission Team returns

Just Coffee Sales

Knit Wits Sales to benefit homeless veterans

Andre House donation through Dec. 16th

Vista del Camino Adopt a Family

Monday, Dec. 3

Mission Committee meeting

Sunday, Dec. 9

Just Coffee sales

Vista del Camino Adopt a Family

Tuesday, Dec. 11

Andre House

Thursday, Dec. 13

Andre House

Sunday, Dec. 16

Just Coffee Sales

Vista del Camino Adopt a Family gifts to church

Sunday, Dec. 23

Andre House

Vista del Camino food drive



ADVENT LABYRINTH WALKS

Advent is a wonderful time of anticipation and reflection. The Labyrinth at Pinnacle Presbyterian Church can be a very special tool to use for your reflection during this season.

This month, the Labyrinth will be available to walk from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Dec. 9, 16, 23 and 31 in the Fellowship Hall.

On these days from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. the walk will be by candlelight. At 6 p.m., an orientation on how to walk the labyrinth will be offered by Rev. Mac Schafer or someone on our Labyrinth ministry team.

Devotions for your advent walks will also be provided.

Team and charged it with the task of preparing a comprehensive mission study report in preparation for the calling of a new pastor.

The study's goals are to review and update the church's mission statement, to examine the church's programs and processes critically and determine if they are consistent with the church's mission, vision and priorities; to chart a direction for the long term; and to provide a profile of the church for a Pastor Nominating Committee.

The committee has begun to develop this wide-ranging document. We have surveyed the congregation (via Internet and paper) and conducted a retreat with church leadership to find answers and ideas regarding four questions:

1. What do you see as our purpose as a church?
2. What is functioning well at the church?
3. What areas need improvement?
4. What are our three- to five-year goals?

The survey showed the congregation believes that worship, Christian education, mission/outreach, music and fellowship are functioning well. At the same time, we would like to improve assimilation of new members into our congregation, improve the relevance of the church for the youth, expand mission/outreach efforts, focus on worship and improve stewardship of our resources.

We intend to present a final document to Session for approval by the end of November. We will post the Mission Study on the Web site as soon as it is approved by the Presbytery Committee on Ministry. Please keep the Mission Study Team in your prayers.

SURVEY RESULTS

WHAT YOU TOLD US

Following is a simple summary of some of the things you said in answer to the four questions on the congregational survey taken in September.

Eighty-eight people participated in the survey. Results are ranked in order of responses.

QUESTION #1:

What do you see as the purpose of our church?

1. To Do Mission & Service
2. To Educate
3. Provide Community
4. Worship
5. Be a Spiritual Gas Station
6. Bring People to Christ
7. A Place To Deepen Relationship With Christ
8. To Teach The Bible
9. To Support One Another
10. To Be a Place of Comfort and Safety

QUESTION #2: In



your opinion, what is functioning well?

1. Music
2. Staff/Pastoral Staff
3. Education (Adults & Kids)
4. Children's Ministry
5. Fellowship/Community
6. Worship
7. Pinnacle Theological Center
7. Mission
7. Adding Kristin for Youth Emphasis
10. New Sound System
11. Deacons
12. Facilities

QUESTION # 3: In your opinion what needs improvement?*

1. Mission
2. Assimilation
3. Youth Ministry
4. Education
5. Care/Support
6. Communication

7. Finance

*Diverse Worship Issues: Attendance at 11 a.m., Organ, Preaching, Songs/Hymns/Music, Worship General

QUESTION #4: What do you see as our three- to five-year goals?

1. Growth in Mission
2. Growth in Youth Program
3. Get A Pastor
4. Grow Membership
5. Assimilate Well
6. Faith Growth
7. Be Debt Free
8. Education
8. Stop Building

The Session, deacons and mission study team have reviewed the answers in the survey and are using your responses to help set priorities for the future life and ministry of PPC.

CONCERTS

CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS, at 4 and 7 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 2. The magic and promise of the Christmas season come alive with this annual holiday concert. Admission is free, but a special offering of your choosing is requested to support Casa de la Misericordia in Nogales, Mexico.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT, at 9:30 and 11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 9. All singing and ringing choirs will be performing for the Christmas Pageant during the morning worship services.

CHRISTMAS WITH THE PHOENIX BACH CHOIR, at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 21. Regarded as one of the finest professional choral ensembles in America, the Phoenix Bach Choir is rapidly increasing in national and international stature. Premium seating \$40; adults \$30; students \$5

Visit pinnaclepres.org for more information.

PPC YOUTH'S GIFT TO PARENTS

Merry Christmas! In the spirit of the season the Junior and Senior High youth want to give you a gift. On Thursday, Dec. 6, we are offering childcare and entertainment from 5-8 p.m.

We'll play games, do crafts, watch movies and have fun while you do Christmas shopping or get things in order for the busy season. We hope it will make your Christmas season a little less stressful.

Bring a sack dinner for your kids and drop them off at the Fellowship Hall. If you are interested please RSVP to Kristin at 480.585.9448.

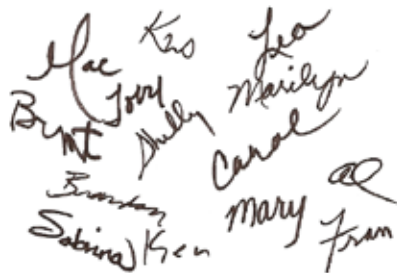
Any donations we receive will go towards the Senior High mission trip next summer.

LETTER From page 2

so many of you with.

During this Advent season our prayer is that you see and experience the love of God through Jesus Christ more clearly as you negotiate the joys and concerns of life. May your faith in the Christ Child be the firm foundation for all else you do and experience this Christmas Season.

Let the Light of Christ Shine Brightly,



A collection of handwritten signatures in black ink, arranged in a circular pattern. The names are: Mac, Leo, Mairlyn, Carol, Mary, Fran, Ken, Sabrina, and Brandon.

The PPC Staff

EARLY SCOOP ON CHURCH SCHOOL

Three- and 4-year-olds discover that Jesus is God's special gift and angels announced his birth to the shepherds.

Kindergarteners join Mary and Elizabeth as they celebrate their part in God's plan.

First- through 4th-graders learn about Jesus and fulfillment of prophecy.

Fifth and 6th grade discover the signs and wonders used by our faithful God and hear the story of Jesus' birth as part of the promise of the Hebrew scriptures.

Note there is *no Church School* on Dec. 9 (Pageant), 23 or 30.

DECEMBER ACTIVITIES AT CLUB WED!

Lamb Brigade finds out how God cared for a widow and celebrates the birth of John.

Lion Pride listens to the story of Mary and Elizabeth and rejoices at the birth of Jesus.

Questers learn that God is with us all the time and how to spend time with God.

Note there is *no Club Wed!* on Dec. 26 and Jan. 2.

Hope to see you there!

CLUB 46 SHARES ARTISTIC TALENTS

Have you seen the Fellowship Hall windows? Our 4th-6th graders did the artwork at our November Deck the Halls and Windows Too event.

Next, we're off to carol at Westminster Village. Join us Sunday, Dec. 16, right after church for lunch and carpool down to 90th Street and Cactus to sing from Noon-1 p.m. We'll return to the church about 1:30. RSVP to Shelly Core if you plan to come at score@pinnaclepres.org.

CHILDREN DON WINGS AND ROBES FOR PAGEANT

At 9:30 and 11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 9, our children from Club Wed! will present *The Message of Jesus Birth*. This traditional Christmas pageant is an adaptation of the nativity story as told in Eugene Peterson's

Please see **PAGEANT** on page 8

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

BAPTISMS

Madison Megan and **Paige Alyse Satterfield**, children of **Amy and Mike Satterfield**.

Kaelyn Ashley and **Tyler James Gress**, children of **Melissa and Craig Gress**.

Dane Montgomery Helt, child of **Lisa and James Helt**.

MARRIAGES

The congregation congratulates **Destiny Bell** and **Christopher Nason** on their recent marriage.

SYMPATHY

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to:

Marlene Sawottke and the **Scott Sawottke family** on the death of Marlene's husband and Scott's father, **William Sawottke**.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

PAGEANT

 From page 7

translation of The Message Bible. Choirs will ring and sing festive music as we prepare to welcome Christ in our homes and hearts.

HAVE YOU READ THE ALL-TIME BEST SELLING BOOK EVER?

Join us as PPC celebrates the Year of the Bible by encouraging members to read the entire Bible during 2008. Kids can participate too!

Look for details on the church Web site and contact Shelly Core at score@pinnaclepres.org with any questions or to register and be added to our Encouraging Word e-mail list.

ADVENT MATERIALS AVAILABLE

Living in Hope, Advent Meditations from the writing of Henri Nouwen will be available in the narthex in December. Youth can pick up an advent calendar with lots of great ideas to celebrate the season and check out *Advent Seasonings – Recipes for a “Muy Cliente” Christmas* by Peter Mead and Chris Sharp. Children can count down the days using their advent calendar, make a Christmas mobile and determine “What Shall We Name Him?” by joining in the family advent book of Jesus' names.

WELCOME OUR NEW FRIENDS

Say "hello" to our newest members. We'd love to have you join us at Pinnacle, too. Our next New Connection Class is at 10:45 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 9.



Janet & Bill Bale



**Lori, Ashley & McKenzie
Biondo (Michael, not pictured)**



**Mike Clark
(Michelle, not pictured)**



Fred & Nadine Collins



Ruth & Lloyd Fox



Bill Kessler

WELCOME OUR NEW FRIENDS

Not pictured are: Andy Davis, and Todd and Stephanie Mason.



Lani & Don Quast



Mel & Jen Seabright



Mary Ann Vorhauer

ANDRE HOUSE IN NEED OF WINTER ITEMS

The needs of the homeless people served by Andre House are magnified during the winter months due to increased numbers of people who migrate to our warmer climate.

In our continued support of the mission of Andre House, Pinnacle Presbyterian Church will conduct a drive for donations of the following winter supplies for the homeless:

- Blankets
- Sleeping bags
- Coats
- Warm hats
- Gloves

Please place donations in the tubs marked “Andre House” in the Narthex, above the stairs in the nursery area, or near the choir entrance. Donations will be accepted through Dec. 16.

PLEASE VOLUNTEER Pinnacle’s upcoming volunteer dates to prepare meals at Andre House are from 3 to 7 p.m. Dec. 11, 13 and 23. During the busy holiday time it is important to remember our commitment to serving our friends in need. For questions, to volunteer or to reschedule, call Lila Kleinkopf at 480.893.3646 or e-mail her at lkleinkopf@cox.net.

GLOBALIZATION AND OUR ROLE IN IT

Angel Cabrera, president of Thunderbird School of Global Management and a senior advisor on Global Impact on Academic Affairs for the United Nations, analyzes the “Globalization and Our Role in It” as the conclusion to the Pinnacle Theological Center’s Globalization series. The program begins at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 6.



PINNACLE YOUTH

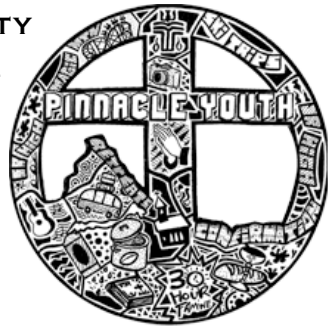
YOUTH TO ATTEND CHRISTMAS CONCERT

On Dec. 2, in lieu of normal Sunday evening Youth Group, both the Junior and Senior High groups will attend the Celebration of Christmas Concert at 7 p.m. The concert is free, but a special offering will be taken to help pay for the teachers at a missions school in Nogales, Mexico. We will meet outside the sanctuary in the canyon at 6:45 p.m.

SENIOR HIGH CHRISTMAS PARTY

You are never too old for Christmas Parties! The Senior High Christmas Party will be from 7-9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8. Invite your friends for some festive fun.

Please bring a \$10 gift for the gift exchange and a snack to share with the group. Watch the mail for additional information!



JUNIOR HIGH CHRISTMAS PARTY

We wish you a Messy Christmas! The Junior High Christmas Party will be from 7-9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15. We will play messy games, so be ready... Please bring a \$10 gift for the gift exchange and a snack to share with the group. Watch the mail for addition information!

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL, YOUTH GROUP

Sunday School and Youth Group are canceled on Dec. 23 and 30.

NEW YEAR'S EVE HIGH SCHOOL LOCK-IN

We are counting down to the New Year by celebrating the past year. This will be a night filled with dancing, bouncing, memories and God willing... no sleep. We are opening this up to the rest of the senior high Presbyterian youth groups in the Valley, so encourage your friends from other churches to attend.

As always bring your friends for some guaranteed fun: Dance Dance Revolution, Bounce House, Guitar Hero, PlayStations and much more.

We will be doing a slideshow of the year, so if you have pictures you want to contribute please share. Don't miss out on a full night of chaos! Any questions contact Kristin at 480.585.9448 ext 230.

SIGN UP FOR SKI TRIP

The Ski Trip is open to all high school students who attend Pinnacle and any friends they wish to bring along. We will be going to Durango Ski Resort, formerly known as Purgatory. The trip will be over the long Martin Luther King holiday weekend (Jan. 18-21). The cost is \$300 per student. In addition youth will also be responsible for the cost of rentals and lift tickets. Price options for these additions will be available closer to the trip. If you are not a skier you are still encouraged to be a part of the trip and just hang out in the snow! Get your \$100 deposit in ASAP to guarantee you a spot!



CONFIRMATION... CALLING ALL EIGHTH GRADERS

We are preparing for Confirmation. If you are interested in exploring your Christian faith more deeply and becoming a member of Pinnacle Presbyterian Church, Confirmation is for you!

We will begin meeting on a weekly basis in mid-January. If you are interested or want more information call Kristin at 480.585.9448 to RSVP. Hope to see you in January!



Rev. Mac Schafer leads a worship service on the beach during last year's Take Your Mama to Mexico Trip.

SIGN UP TO TAKE MAMA TO MEXICO

It's not too early to make your reservations for the second annual "Take Your Mama To Mexico" weekend trip, May 8-11.

Last year, we had 43 families (147 people) go to Rocky Point: couples, singles, grandparents, teens and more. Call Rocky Point Reservations at 602.439.9004 ext. 1543 and speak with Sandra. Tell her you are with the Pinnacle Presbyterian Church group and receive a 10-percent discount.

LOS LOCOS 'WHITE ELEPHANT' CHRISTMAS PARTY

The White Elephant Christmas Party will be at Scott & Jenafer Forrest's house at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 14. Everyone who comes should bring a gift that does not exceed \$10 in cost and is not so serious!

RSVP to Jenafer by Dec. 12 at 480.502.8532 or jenafer@scfmail.com.

Los Locos is a social gathering for friends and members of Pinnacle Presbyterian Church and is a great way to meet others in a fun and informal setting. People who come are couples and singles in their 20s through 50s. Those attending the events often help by bringing appetizers, side dishes, drinks or dessert.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY LOOKS AT BIBLE'S WOMEN

Ladies Bible Study begins anew on Tuesday, Jan. 15. For the next 13 weeks we will study Old and New Testament women. Come and join us as we learn who these women are, what each did to be remembered in the Bible, and how we can benefit from their example. Our goal is to get to know them as real people who face the same issues in life as we.

There will be two identical sessions each Tuesday: Morning Class, from 10-11:30 a.m. in the Chapel Conference Room; and Afternoon Class, from 2-3:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall, Room 2. (Note: The first meeting of the morning class will be in the Chapel, after that, back to the conference room as usual.)

Each lesson is a complete unit, so feel free to join either class at any time.

There is no book to purchase. All our lessons, syllabus and other information for these studies are available online at the Pinnacle Presbyterian Web site, pinnaclepres.org. Look for the "Ladies' Bible Study" link on the Adult Education page. Click on "Spring 2008" to find all the necessary notes, references and forms.

No computer? No problem. Call Gena Brown at 480.451.7613 if you do not have a computer or are not comfortable using one. She will make certain you get all the materials as you need them.

HABITAT AT PINNACLE ENTERS 12TH YEAR

For the 12th consecutive year, Pinnacle Presbyterian will be partnering with other area Presbyterian churches to build a home for a deserving Valley family.

This year we will again be building on land donated by our presbytery, the Presbytery of Grand Canyon, in Guadalupe, on the southern border of Tempe. With our sponsorship, 400 hours of the family's "sweat equity" and a 25-year no-interest mortgage from Habitat, they will become owners of a modest new home.

Pinnacle Church will be responsible for four Saturdays of construction, ranging from framing the home to painting the interior to planting flowers, and providing lunches for the volunteer workers from January through April. We will begin signing up volunteers on Sunday, Jan. 6.

PRESCHOOL PRIORITY REGISTRATION DUE

Pinnacle Presbyterian Preschool registration for the 2008-09 school year is currently taking place. Applications for priority enrollment are due no later than Dec. 14.

Priority registration is reserved for those families that have children currently enrolled at Pinnacle Presbyterian Preschool, have children that are siblings of current or former students, or have been church members for a minimum of six months.

PRESCHOOL DONATES TO FIRE RAVAGED PRESCHOOL

Malibu Presbyterian Preschool has lost its facility recently due to the devastating fires in Malibu, Calif.

As they begin to assess the damage and rebuild their preschool and church, Pinnacle Presbyterian Preschool will be donating a portion of the proceeds made from the pumpkin patch sales to Malibu Presbyterian Preschool.

Donations can be done either online at malibupres.org or mailed to Malibu Presbyterian Church, 3324 Malibu Canyon Road, Malibu, CA 90265.

They deeply appreciate any contributions made and are thankful for all of the prayers and support they have received from all over.

EARLY DEADLINE FOR VISTAS

Deadline for the January issue is Dec. 8, because of the holidays.

TAKE NOTE...

WHOLENESS AND HEALING

Wholeness and Healing Service to be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 12 in the Chapel. We will pray for healing and wholeness for our world, our country, our community, our church, for ourselves, and each other.

BE A PART OF NEW PICTORIAL

DIRECTORY Sign-up sheets for the photography appointments will be in the Sanctuary Narthex beginning Sunday, Dec. 9, or by visiting our Web site, pinnaclepres.org, and clicking on the link to sign up online.

Pictures will be taken Jan. 22-26 and Feb. 5-6. The pictorial directory is a wonderful tool for everyone to get to know one another better (and to match that illusive name with a familiar face!). Remember, it won't be complete without you. For additional information, contact Carol Bower at carolbower@att.net.