



# PINNACLE VISTAS

The Newsletter for Pinnacle Presbyterian Church, Scottsdale, Ariz. • March 2009



## NEW YOUTH BUILDING DEDICATED

Thank you to those who came out after the 10 a.m. worship on Sunday, Feb. 8, for the dedication and helped Pinnacle's youth kick start the ministry that will take place within the new building.

The youth are excited to be in the new building and are still adding the final decorating touches. Feel free to stop by and see the progress of their new space.



The youth lead a dedication prayer in the new Youth Building on Sunday, Feb. 8

### INSIDE...

**PASTOR'S LETTER** Lent is a time to "humble ourselves" before God. **PAGE 2**

**PPC MISSION** Habitat needs volunteers; Haiti team needs supplies. **PAGES 3, 5**

## 'HUMBLE ME, LORD'

*"Humility, that low, sweet root, from which heavenly virtues shoot."* – Thomas More

A few years back I sang an African American spiritual at the end of one of my sermons that went like this, "Humble me, Lord, humble my spirit, humble my spirit. Won't ya humble me, Lord? Won't ya humble me, Lord?" The song is a prayer to change ones posture in life and before God.

I was thinking about the word humility as we approach the six-week period leading up to Easter, which we call Lent. Lent traditionally is a time of turning back to God. It is a time to "reign in" some areas of our life that may have gotten out of control and a time to say "I'm sorry" to God and to each other for the ways we have been neglectful.

In many ways, we might describe this season in the church as a time to "humble ourselves" before God. But what is humility?

The dictionary says it is "a modest or low view of one's own importance." I think we can be confident in who we are, while living in the knowledge that we are always an inch away from making bad decisions in relationships, work and life as a whole.

Humility is knowing we may not always be right. Humility is the awareness that there is always someone out there that knows a bit more than we do. Humility is placing ourselves in the position of learner and listener.

Humility is being real and honest about who we are and where we are in our life's journey. Humility is lowering our pride enough to say "I'm sorry."

Humility is kneeling before God and asking, "Where would you like to send me?" instead of saying to God, "This is what I am doing."

Trappist Monk Thomas Merton once said, "Pride makes us artificial, and humility makes us real." Let's keep it real this Lent.

With Love,  
– Mac



Rev. Mac Schafer,  
interim pastor

## MISSION OPPORTUNITIES



**THEOLOGY ON TAP VOLUNTEERS** On Saturday, Feb. 7, 18 guys from the Theology on Tap group at PPC helped Habitat frame a home for the Perez family. Among those attending were: (back row, from left) Brandon Willett, Phil Beasley, John Rosenfeld, Dave Matthews, Greg Barber, Mike Satterfield, Sake Reindersma, Habitat for Humanity Team Leader and Rory Collins; (front row) Jimmy Beasley, Mick Inoue, Dave Sobek and Brian Bellumini.

## HABITAT VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED

The building for Habitat is underway. There are eight houses being built in this neighborhood and 24 more planned! Location is Oro Vista subdivision near 16th St. and Baseline in south Phoenix.

Although the slab for our Lopez Cazares family was delayed, we still need workers for these dates:

Date	Workers needed	Job to be done
March 14	10	Roof shingles, finish interior framing for drywall.
April 18	4	Install finish carpentry, doors, finish painting.
May 9	Dedication scheduled (any and all invited). But because we were delayed, we could be painting instead and dedication moved.	

Please see **HABITAT** on page 4

## OUR CHURCH FAMILY

### MARRIAGE

The congregation celebrates the marriage of:  
**Megan Hammer** and **Greg McNamee** on Feb. 21

### BAPTISMS

The congregation celebrates the baptisms of:  
**Gracie An Cranford**, child of **Min-Min and Sabin Cranford**, on Feb. 22  
**David Lewis Hayes**, child of **Sara and Jeff Hayes**, on Feb. 22

### SYMPATHY

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to:  
**Barbara and Harlan Stratton** on the death of Harlan's mother, **Betty Stratton**  
**Susie and Ken Brousseau** on the death of Susie's father, **Harold Shokes**

## MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

### HABITAT From page 3



#### MEET THE LOPEZ CAZARES FAMILY

Lilibian's dream is to become a Registered Nurse. Lilibian is a single parent and currently works as a certified nursing assistant. She is excited to be starting her LPN classes soon.

Lilibian feels that having a Habitat home will change their lives. She will be able to offer her 2-year-old daughter a safe and stable place to call home.

Tasks are subject to weather and progress of the other six churches also helping on our house. "Blessed are they that are flexible for they shall not be bent out of shape" (13th Beatitude).

Wear old clothes and expect to get dirty. All tools are provided; however, bringing your own gloves and tool belt is suggested. Lunch is provided. Also, children must be 16 to help.

For more information, contact Carl Richie at pncrichie@aol.com or 480.551.6855, or Doug Brown at tcb51@cox.net or 480.515.1361.

#### HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HARDWARE STORES OPEN

Habitat also has three building supply stores in the Valley called ReStore. They take and sell new or gently used furniture, plumbing and electrical fixtures, and hardware. They also pick up.

For more information, call them at 602.268.4266 or visit their Web site at [habitat.org/restore](http://habitat.org/restore).

## MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

### HAITI MISSION TEAM NEEDS SUPPLIES

From March 10-15, a PPC Mission Team will join with Pastor Luc and Harmony Ministries on a medical mission in Haiti.

Those going on the trip are: Jacqueline Olmert, Mark Lienweber, Roy Gust, Linda Jenkins, Holly Fechtmeyer, Richard Ebert, Anne Murlin, Jan Loichle, Jim Callison and Pastor Mac Schafer.

The team will go to the mountain town of Thoman first to build cabinets for the school, paint and run a medical clinic. The next day, the team will go to the coastal town of Leogone to build more cabinets for a school there and run a second clinic.

On Saturday, they will tour Port-au-Prince, and on Sunday will visit the Port-au-Prince church where Pastor Schafer will preach to Luc's largest congregation.

If you would like to help support the trip, these items are needed and can be brought to the church office: adult and children's vitamins, soap, packs of Oreos, power drinks, eyeglasses, Tums and Roloids, ibuprofen and Tylenol.

### THANK YOU FROM LEBANON

Deanna and Mike Womack would like to thank PPC and friends for partnering with them so that they may continue their mission work in Lebanon.

The Womacks have been able to purchase a car, which will help them continue their work in Zahle and expand their ministry in other parts of Lebanon.

"God bless you for your generosity," they said.

The Womacks are friends of Rev. Kristin and Brandon Willett and attended Princeton Seminary with them.

To follow their mission work, visit their Web site, [web.mac.com/mikewomack/Mission](http://web.mac.com/mikewomack/Mission).

### VOLUNTEER

**First Monday**  
Mission Committee

**Second Tuesday**  
Andre House  
Knit Wits

**Second Thursday**  
Andre House

**Fourth Sunday**  
Vista Del Camino Food Drive  
Andre House

## CHRISTIANITY 101 CONTINUES

During this season of Lent, spend time reflecting on your faith as we discuss the topics of worship, the sacraments, the Reformation, other traditions, being Presbyterian, and our Christian Calling.

Bring your questions as we explore these basic building blocks of our Christian faith.

Christianity 101 classes are at 11:15 a.m. Sundays in Room 1 of the Fellowship Hall.

Attend one session or all of them as each will be an independent class.

Date	Topic	Teacher
March 1	Worship	Rev. Mac Schafer
March 8	Sacraments	Rev. Fran Park
March 15	The Reformation	Brandon Willett
March 22	Being Presbyterian	Rev. Mac Schafer
March 29	Christian Calling	Brandon Willett

## HYMNS AND HERS FOR HAPPY HEARTS

A hymn is a poem set to music, an objective expression of praise to God. That expression becomes a hymn when it is set to a musical tune. Thus a hymn becomes part of the music family.

Join our music family — Brent Hylton, Pinnacle Chancel Choir and soloists — as they lead us through the familiar, as well as unfamiliar, hymns of our Presbyterian tradition at 7 p.m. Monday, March 9, in the Sanctuary.

## CAREER TRANSITION WORKSHOP

Is your career in a transition? Are you unemployed, underemployed or unhappily employed? If so this, free four-week workshop may be for you.

You will receive a proven process and tools, plus some insider tips and individual coaching to help you with your career transition.

## CAREER From previous page

The workshop will be from 7-8:30 p.m. beginning Tuesday, March 10, in the Chapel Conference Room.

It is okay if you can't make the first meeting, you can join in later.

The workshop will be led by Chuck Johnston, a seasoned human resources executive and consultant.

## LIFE AFTER LOSS: A GROUP FOR THE BEREAVED

The holidays can be some of the more difficult times to get through when you have lost a loved one.

As the Easter season approaches considering joining experienced grief counselor Fran Wise for this four-week group on living life as best you can after the experience of the death of a spouse or significant family member.

Classes begin at 11 a.m. Tuesday, March 17, in the Chapel Parlor.

## PARENT CHALLENGE: READ A CHILDREN'S BIBLE WITH YOUR KIDS DURING LENT

Lent begins Sunday, March 1, and continues for six weeks. It is often used as a time to re-focus on your faith.

As parents, one of the greatest gifts we can give our kids is reading Bible stories with them and talking about what they mean together.

Consider committing reading the "My First Message" Children's Bible with your kids during Lent.

As you know, it is often our kids who awaken a deeper faith in us as adults. If you are interested in doing this, Shelly Core will have a table on the West Terrace after the 10 a.m. worship on Sunday, Feb. 22, where you can purchase the Bible or you can e-mail her at [snscore@msn.com](mailto:snscore@msn.com). The "My First Message" Children's Bible costs \$15.

You can also talk to Molly and Mike Edwards, Ian and Debbie Lisk or Mac and Katy Schafer about the experience of reading this Bible with their kids.



Rev. Mac Schafer, Pastor Luc Deratus and Preschool Director Sabrina Ball during Pastor Luc's visit to the Preschool in January.

## **PRESCHOOL PRESENTS DONATION TO PASTOR LUC**

During the recent Haiti Mission Week at PPC, Pastor Luc Deratus from Harmony Ministries visited Pinnacle Presbyterian Preschool and met with Preschool Director Sabrina Ball.

While visiting the preschool, Pastor Luc was presented with a \$500 check for the school in Port-au-Prince. The money was raised through proceeds from the annual Preschool Pumpkin Patch.

### **MANY THANKS TO PPC FOR SUPPORT**

The members and friends of PPC raised over \$13,000 to sponsor students at Harmony Ministries' three schools and for medical supplies, rice and beans.

## **TAKE YOUR MAMA TO MEXICO FOR MOTHER'S DAY**

PPC invites everyone to attend the third annual Take Your Mama to Mexico for Mother's Day!

Sandra at Rocky Point Reservations (602.439.9004, ext. 1534) is eagerly awaiting your call to reserve your room today at the Sonoran Sea. A 10-percent discount is guaranteed for all reservations.

After making your reservation, e-mail Katy Schafer at [katyschafer@cox.net](mailto:katyschafer@cox.net) with your room number and check-in date. Most families carpool or caravan to Mexico, depending on their departure date and time.

PPC guests are booking Thursday, May 7, through Sunday, May 10, or any days in between. Be sure to attend the Sunday morning beach-front worship service at 9 a.m.

For more information, e-mail Jenafer Forrest [jenafer@scfmail.com](mailto:jenafer@scfmail.com).

## **PINNACLE YOUTH**

### **HIGH SCHOOL MISSION TRIP**

The High School Mission Trip is coming and all present 8th-graders through high school seniors are invited to be a part of it. The cost is \$325 for the week of June 14-20.

The youth will be working on the Navajo Reservation in Ganado, Ariz. They will help with maintenance around the church there and help throughout their community.

In addition, the youth will get to work with a local horse therapy program there and plan a game night with the youth on the reservation.

Also, a rafting trip is planned to conclude the week.

Don't miss out on this amazing week of relationships, service and fun!

Contact the church office for registration material. Registration and a \$100 deposit are due by April 5.

### **YOUR OLD STUFF CAN BENEFIT THE YOUTH**

In early May, the youth will be holding a rummage sale. The money the youth raise will go towards the needs of our new youth building and our high school mission trip. So start setting aside items to donate now!

The youth will begin collecting in April.

**Stephen Tharp, Organ**

Friday, March 6, at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary  
 Tickets: \$25, Premium \$35, Student \$5

Stephen Tharp, hailed as “the organist for the connoisseur” by Organ magazine, is recognized as one of the great concert organists of our age. His many international tours and over 800 concerts in North America have earned him the reputation of most-traveled organist of his generation. The critically acclaimed performer is currently Artist-in-Residence at Grace Church (Episcopal) in New York City.



Stephen Tharp

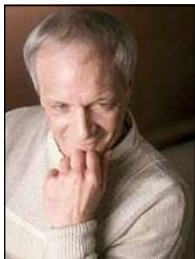
**Mexico’s Three Tenors**

Friday, March 13,  
 at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary  
 Tickets: \$25, Premium \$35, Student \$5

The passionate performances of Mexico’s Three Tenors are musical explosions of operatic tenor



favorites, featuring famous arias such as “Nessun Dorma.” But the fireworks really begin when popular Mexican pieces are introduced. Spanning all generations and styles of Latin music, this trio shines brightest when singing these famous masterpieces. This promises to be a “South of the Border” experience you won’t want to miss.



Ken Medema

**Songs On The Spot, an Afternoon With Ken Medema**

Sunday, March 29, at 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary  
 Tickets: \$25, Premium \$35, Student \$5

Ken Medema is a composer, singer and pianist who has been performing in the United States and Europe for more than 30 years. With over 25 albums published, the blind Christian artist has the uncanny ability to create music on the spot. Stories, sermons and even single words can inspire him to compose and perform a song within minutes. You won’t want to miss this uplifting,

entertaining afternoon of music.

**ARAB-ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN PEACE IS AN URGENT PRIORITY**

Recent fighting and heavy loss of life and destruction in the Gaza Strip emphasize the importance and timeliness of Ron Young’s upcoming talk, “Arab-Israeli-Palestinian Peace is an Urgent Priority,” which is part of the Pinnacle Theological Center series.

Young will be speaking at Pinnacle Presbyterian at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 19. Young has spoken and written widely on the Middle East and interfaith cooperation.

He is the founder and executive director of the U.S. Interreligious Committee for Peace in the Middle East. The committee is a national organization of 2,500 American Christians, Jews and Muslims working together for peace in the Middle East based on the deepest values expressed in the three traditions.

Young’s work with the committee involves developing united advocacy positions and mobilizing public support for active, fair and firm U.S. leadership for Arab-Israeli-Palestinian peace. He organizes briefings and actions leading toward possible mutually acceptable solutions to Middle East issues.

Young has taught as an adjunct professor at Haverford College and has lectured at the Chautauqua Institution, speaking on peace in the Middle East and “Religion as a Source of Violence or Peace.” He authored Missed Opportunities for Peace: U.S. Middle East Policy, 1981-86.

Young and his wife lived in Amman, Jordan, as the Middle East representative for the American Friend Service Committee from 1982 to 1985. During that time he traveled regularly in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza, Egypt, Syria and Lebanon to explore Arab and Israeli views about prospects for peace and how the United States could assist in the process.

Young was educated at Wesleyan University and participated in the Student Interracial Ministry in Memphis as assistant to Rev. J.M. Lawson Jr. He also served as a youth minister in a Congregational Church in Connecticut.

This presentation is another in the continuing series sponsored by the Pinnacle Theological Center.

## A GRAMMY AWARD-WINNER IN OUR CHOIR

The Phoenix Chorale won a Grammy Award for “Best Small Ensemble Performance” on Sunday, Feb. 5, for its recording *Spotless Rose: Hymns to the Virgin Mary*. Pinnacle’s own Kira Rugen is a featured soloist on the CD.



Kira Rugen with her nomination medal

She joined conductor Charles Bruffy and 19 other members of the Chorale on stage to accept the award during the pre-telecast ceremony in Los Angeles.

Rugen is in her fifth season with the group. Besides singing the soprano soloist in the Chancel Choir, she has sung in Carnegie Hall’s Young Artist Concert Series, toured nationally and internationally as a soloist and has won numerous vocal awards.

“Miss Kira” also directs the children and youth choirs at PPC.

## PINNACLE THEOLOGICAL CENTER

### PRESENTATION ON BUILDING PEACE, MARCH 15

War and conflict dominate discussions about U.S. foreign policy today – Iraq, Afghanistan, Israel/Palestine, Iran, Darfur, Somalia.

Dr. Chip Hauss will discuss “Peace Building: The New Administration and Beyond” at 11:15 a.m. Sunday, March 15.

Hauss will address four issues:

- How can we prevent conflicts?
- What makes for “peaceful” states?
- How can we collaborate with and influence the Defense Department?
- How is the new administration likely to approach these issues?

Hauss is a professor of comparative politics and conflict resolution at George Mason University. He also serves as Government Liaison and on the Board of Directors of the Alliance for Peace Building, an umbrella organization that includes most of the major U.S. based conflict resolution and peace building organizations. He has led several hundred workshops in places such as Belgrade, the West Bank and Maine.

## LABYRINTH CANDLELIGHT WALK FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



The Labyrinth will be open to begin the season of Lent from 6-8 p.m. Sunday, March 1, in the Fellowship Hall.

“Walk in” this time of reflection, repentance and listening through the spiritual tool of the labyrinth.

The labyrinth allows you time and space to pray, listen to your life and think through what God is calling you to do next.

## PPC FOUNDATION CELEBRATES YOUR BIRTHDAY

2008 was a year filled with many notable events for the world, for our country and for our city. One very quiet new event launched within our church community a year ago January was the Pinnacle Presbyterian Church Foundation Happy Birthday celebration.

Hopefully, you have noticed the table with birthday balloons on the West Terrace after 10 a.m. service and have enjoyed at least one piece of tasty cake with us. You may not, however, know what the celebration is all about.

The monthly Happy Birthday presence celebrates the continuing life of our church and the stake in its future that each of us has through the PPC Foundation.

The Pinnacle Presbyterian Church Foundation was established as a way to create a connected source of future financial support for emerging needs of our church.

While still in its infancy (not quite 3 years young), the focus is on building a solid financial base to be made available to our church as it grows and changes. In a very simple way, contributing \$1 a year of life celebrated on your next birthday will add to the financial foundation designed to assist with future needs. Over 24 families and individuals did just that last year, and the \$2,576 they donated will make a difference to all of us.

So please come out and see us on Sunday, March 15, enjoy a piece of cake and celebrate our future!

### THE SCOOP ON MARCH CHURCH SCHOOL

Here's what's coming up on Church School during March:

■ 3s and 4s are immersed in learning about Jesus: How Jesus helped 10 lepers, and how he rased Lazarus from the dead. We'll also learn about how Jesus entered Jerusalem as a king, how he shared a special meal with his friends, and that he prayed to God.

■ Kindergartners will learn about Peter and Easter, that Peter and John healed a lame man, and Peter also helped Tabitha. This will lead the kindergartners into the Easter story, and how Jesus washed his disciples' feet and prayed in the garden.

■ 1st- through 4th-graders will be participating in the Workshop Rotational Model as they learn about Mary Magdelene.

■ 5th- and 6th-graders will continue in their journey through the New Testament, focusing on some of prominent men after Jesus' death: Stephen, the First Martyr, Philip and the Ethiopian Official, a Debate in Jerusalem, and Saul, a New Believer.

Our 1st- through 6th-graders will be staying in church on March 1 for Youth Sunday.

Remember to ask your children about what they're learning in Church School.

### CLUB WED! WON'T MEET MARCH 18

Club Wed! is going strong, and we're always welcoming new faces!

Please note, though, that we will not be meeting on March 18 due to Spring Break.

There are only seven weeks left, so come on out for food, fellowship and learning. Come join us, won't you?

### CLUB 46 PLANS AFTERNOON OF MUSIC

Club 46 has an afternoon of music planned for the last weekend of the month, on Sunday, March 29.

Please join us for a concert with composer Ken Medema (see page 4). This is sure to be an extraordinary event. Be sure to check your e-mail for more information.

Beatitudes Center DOAR Presents the 28th Annual  
**Jazz Cabaret**  
 featuring **The Jazz Divas**  
 Nancy Gee, Margo Reed, Sherry Roberson & Delphine Cortez

**Music • Silent & Live Auction**  
**The Arizona Biltmore – McArthur Ballroom**  
 2400 East Missouri Avenue, Phoenix  
**Sunday, March 15, 2009 • 2-5:30 p.m.**

Wine • Sumptuous Food • Dessert  
 \$85 per person • Reservations required  
 Master of Ceremonies – Blaise Lantana, KJZZ Music Director  
 Event Chair Adero C. Allison • Auctioneer Rabbi Marty Scharf  
 For reservations or to receive an invitation, call 602-274-5022 or visit [www.centerdoar.org](http://www.centerdoar.org)

 **Beatitudes Center DOAR**  
 DEVELOPING OLDER ADULT RESOURCES

Benefiting Beatitudes Center DOAR, a nonprofit interfaith organization serving homebound adults and their caregivers, congregational health programs and grandparents raising grandchildren.

**MEET OUR NEW FRIENDS**

Say "hello" to our newest members.



Mike Albrecht



Cindy Bartkus



Dona Campbell



Alison and Kevin DeRuiter



Judy Durocher



Ed and Nancy Hargest

**MEET OUR NEW FRIENDS**



Tom and Tracey Martin, with  
Mekenna and Marina



Allistair Murray, with Charlotte



Bret and Iryna Reiss



Linda Wade



Ann and Ben Wells, with Jade

**JOIN US**

**NEW CONNECTION CLASSES**

We'd love to have you join us at Pinnacle, too. Our next two-part New Connection class is March 22 and 29. The classes are held in the Chapel Conference Room and meet at 11:15 a.m. for two consecutive Sundays. Please call the Church Office at 480.585.9448 to sign up.



## BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

### March 1

Kate Fantetti  
Elizabeth Norman

### March 2

Andrew Bush  
Alison DeRuiter  
Kim Schaller

### March 4

Anne Drake  
Steve Schroeder  
Lucas Woods

### March 5

Joseph Gramling  
Claire Gramling  
Grace Gramling  
Ed Hargest

### March 6

Michelle Clark  
Dorothy Hill  
Lee Loichle  
Donna McIntosh-  
Fletcher  
Taylor Mobley  
Chloe Mobley  
Briana Mobley

### March 7

Sheila Bright  
Kristi Downing  
Peter Glanville  
Gary Wefel

### March 8

Emmily Black  
Charles Hollander  
Lauren Moore  
Helen Spessard  
Nancy Wood

### March 9

Victoria Sheaffer  
Cristina Silbert

### March 10

Nancy Hargest

### March 11

Russell Reese  
Tanya Rosenfeld

### March 12

Grant Sobek

### March 13

Phil Bianco  
Andrew Cooper  
Michael Hammer

Jerry Harris  
Keegan Kowal  
Tiffany Uelner  
Ian Waugaman

### March 14

Alison Armstrong  
Laura Fitzgerald  
Graysen Forrest  
Gary Kleinkopf

### March 15

Gail Cleve  
Ashley Cramer  
Lora Lee Duncan  
David Smith

### March 16

Andrew Belluomini  
Mike Clark  
Glenda Davis  
Joseph McKown

### March 17

Megan MacGregor  
Jenny Schroeder  
Stacy Smith

### March 19

Fred Collins  
Austin Feldman  
Kathryn Hamilton  
Judy Helms

### March 20

Molly Edwards  
Brian Sidoti

### March 21

Caroline Cranford  
Carol Davis  
Tracy Hughes

### March 22

Patricia Bergstrom  
Robert Duncan  
Kendyl Hirsch

### March 23

Ron Davidson  
Allan Everist  
Erica Honing  
Mary LaMagna  
Chip Wise

### March 24

Olivia Feldman  
Brooke Harper  
Payton Turner  
Braden Veale  
Alexa Veale

### March 25

William Hamilton  
Harrison Noyd  
John Sheely

### March 26

Bradley Babits  
Paul Rooker  
Jonathan Stone

### March 27

Donald G. Heinonen

### March 28

Mckenzie Biondo  
Stephanie Honing  
John Richards

### March 29

Reece Augustine  
Jacqueline Bliss

### March 31

Kathy Candelaria

## PPC SUPPORTS THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION IN THE SOUTHWEST

Did you know that for the past three years Pinnacle Presbyterian Church has hosted the Parish Focus Doctor of Ministry Program of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary?

Pittsburgh Seminary, the oldest Presbyterian seminary in the country, has one of the most respected D.Min. programs in the world. The program is facilitated by Dr. Susan Kendall and is a professional doctoral degree providing space for renewal, growth, companionship among peers and rich dialogue with faculty.

The Parish Focus at PPC will meet for two weeks in January and in June and have seminars in these areas: Pastoral Leadership, Theology of Church & Ministry, Pastoral Care, Congregation & Community Issues, Homiletics, Education, and a Biblical Seminar.

According to the PTS doctoral manual, "The purpose of the Doctor of Ministry Degree Program is to engage the challenges, opportunities and vocation of ministry through a systematic and sustained curriculum involving disciplined study and reflection over a period of three to four years. Those undertaking the degree are to develop a habit of reading and study, writing and rewriting that provide a pattern of sustained engagement. In addition, the cohort model is to facilitate peer relationships and shared learning."

Thanks to the members and friends of PPC for creating the space for pastors to grow and learn in their deepening call to ministry.



The 2009 cohort consists of eight past-theologians: front, from left, Rev. Renato Alvarez (Phoenix - Presbyterian Church USA), Rev. Randy Mayer (Tucson - United Church of Christ), Rev. Lorelei Hillman (Tempe - Presbyterian Church USA) and Rev. Mac Schafer (PPC - Presbyterian Church USA); back, Dr. Susan Kendall, Rev. Noah Campbell (Ohio - American Baptist), Rev. Rick Barnes (Mesa - Non-Denominational), Rev. Katherine Harts (Scottsdale - United Church of Christ), Rev. Dave Ragan (Sedona - United Church of Christ).