



PINNACLE VISTAS

The Newsletter for Pinnacle Presbyterian Church, Scottsdale, Ariz. • June-July 2009

THERE'S A LOT HAPPENING OVER THE SUMMER AT PPC

Summer's here, but that doesn't mean things are slowing down. Here's a sampling of upcoming events at Pinnacle Presbyterian Church. Watch Sunday bulletins, our Web site (pinnaclepres.org), our This Week at PPC e-mail blast and our Facebook page for even more activities.



NEW PASTOR'S FIRST SUNDAY Pinnacle's incoming pastor, Dr. Wes Avram's first Sunday in the pulpit will be July 12. Read more, page 4.



EXPERIENCE AND DISCOVER GOD EVERYWHERE Camp E.D.G.E., this year's Vacation Bible School, runs June 1-5.



SENIORS STUDY THE BIBLE S.A.G.E. (Senior Adults Gaining Enrichment) meets at noon Wednesdays in the Chapel Conference Room for Bible study and a delicious lunch. All are welcome. Cost for the lunch is \$5.

THE WALKIN' STICK THAT WENT OUT

In August 2007, I walked into worship with a walking stick made of a Saguaro rib. I leaned that walking stick up between the rocks at the front of the sanctuary chancel. At that service (in my sermon), I shared that the walking stick represented the interim period that Pinnacle Presbyterian Church was about to go through and when that interim period was over I would walk out of the sanctuary with that stick.

On May 31 that is what happened: We finished the interim period at PPC, and I concluded my ministry with you. In many ways there was another walking stick (a metaphorical walking stick) that came in with me five-and-a-half years ago.

When I think about that walking stick, I think about several things:



THE WALKING STICK HAS SEEN A LOT A walking stick goes with the traveler to many different places and witnesses a lot of events on the journey. Indeed, I have had the privilege of being invited into your lives as pastor to walk with you through births and deaths, baptisms, marriage and divorces, addictions and healings, doubts and belief, joy and tragedy, play and serious conversation, stability and transition, mission and worship, and so much more. These are sacred places we have traveled together as followers of Jesus Christ.

THE WALKING STICK GOES WITH US The walking stick will travel with us to the next destination. It is filled with memories of Pinnacle Presbyterian Church. It is a reminder of where we have been. It is a

Please see **LETTER** on page 3



Rev. Mac Schafer,
interim pastor

SCHAFER CONTACT INFORMATION

The Schafers can be contacted at:

Mac & Katy Schafer

11520 East Whispering Wind Dr.

Scottsdale, AZ 85255

Phone: 480.513.0942

E-mail:

katyschafer@cox.net

machenryschafer@mac.com

When the Schafers find out where they are going, we will share their contact information in upcoming publications.

LETTER From page 2

reminder of what you have taught me about ministry. It is a reminder of how you have welcomed and loved my children (Hunter, Hannah, Tory and Skye) and taught them the faith. It is a reminder of how we have grown together. It is a reminder of our attempts to be faithful Christians together.

THE WALKING STICK IS A SUPPORT The walking stick will be a support to Katy and me as we leave a community we have loved and cherished deeply. We have a deep sadness because we will miss you all very much. But we have a tremendous joy for having had the experience of being in ministry and relationship with you and the faith community as a whole.

THE PLACE WHERE THE WALKING STICK WAS There will be a blank spot between the rocks in the sanctuary now. The stick is gone. Its absence means that we have come through the interim time together and that stage in the life of the church is over.

It means that ministry is continuing at PPC in new and exciting ways as a result of your hard work, effort and reliance on Jesus Christ through transition. The Gospel of Jesus Christ will continue to be proclaimed "at the foot of the mountain."

We will miss you, we love you very much, we are thankful for you, and as Dr. Seuss said, "We smile because it happened."

Peace be with you,

— Mac

DEAR NEW FRIENDS AT PINNACLE

Even though our time since being with you on April 18 and 19 has been filled with tasks in Pennsylvania, many of our thoughts and a chunk of our hearts are still with you in Scottsdale.

Lynne and I can't thank you enough for your hospitality and wonderfully warm welcome when we were there. You provided an inviting occasion for meeting folks, for preaching and participating in the leading of worship, and for getting to know your spirit and personality as a congregation. You welcomed our boys with grace and enthusiasm.

And you affirmed my ministry among you. We take real pleasure in what is now the fact, and not just the idea, of joining you. And we trust that we'll be together as a people of faith and mission for years to come. God is at work at Pinnacle Presbyterian and I am overjoyed at this opportunity to join you and the staff in following that work.

You have created a place of great spirit in the Sonoran Desert. As I said in accepting your call, I realize what a sacred trust it is to become your pastor. Even as I lead, you will teach me. And we will make our way together, by God's grace.

I want to especially recognize the PNC, under the leadership of John Terhune, and the new Transition Team, under the leadership of Scott Forrest. I've been impressed by how you've approached this transition. Your care and forward thinking gives me confidence.

We can't wait to begin, but there are some steps between now and then.

These weeks are bringing the bittersweet task of saying farewell to dear folks in my current congregation and completing my ministry here. We will also be finishing Andrew and Paul in school (which isn't out until

Please see **AVRAM** on page 5



Dr. Wesley Avram,
incoming pastor

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

BAPTISM

The congregation celebrates the baptism of:

Rachel Eugenia Sutherland, child of **Christiane and John Sutherland**
Juliana Marie Crisalli, child of **Amanda and David Crisalli**
Audrey Victoria Bush, child of **Lesley and Jason Bush**
Charlotte Kathleen Murray, child of **Allie and Patrick Murray**
Brielle Nicholson McGregor Hilgers, child of **Becky and Brian Hilgers**
Jack Cronin and Luke Kunze Mason, children of **Stephanie and Todd Mason**
Trey Joseph and Jennelle Renee, children of **Toni and Bob Yarwood**

BIRTH

The congregation celebrates the birth of:

Ian Gabriel Seabright, son of **Jen and Mel Seabright**
Kristen Nicole Uelner, daughter of **Tiffany and Scott Uelner**
Bret Day Jr., son of **Day and Bret Keller**

SYMPATHY

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to:

Elmer Rypkema and family, on the death of Elmer's wife, **Marguerite Cherie and Ted Weis**, on the death of Cherie's stepbrother, **Corey Johnson**

WEDDINGS

The congregation celebrates the marriages of:

Alice Colston and Charles Kelley
Andy Davis and Amy Malizia

AVRAM From page 4

mid-June here). We'll also be making housing arrangements in Scottsdale and preparing to move. We're looking toward a late June move (cool season!). I'll be settling into the church office starting July 1, and look forward to my first Sunday in pulpit on July 12.

In the meantime, I know that you'll be taking time to say farewell to Mac and Katy, and their kids, and to love them into the future God is preparing for them. That's another bittersweet part of all of this, and yet a sign of your love for each other and the strength of his ministry.

You'll pray for us, I know. And we'll pray for you. It's all in the cycle of life we call the church.

God be with you.

Christ's peace,
Wes Avram



Pinnacle Presbyterian Preschool's staff meets with Dr. Lella Gandini, the keynote speaker at the preschool workshop.

PRESCHOOL HOLDS REGGIO EMILIA EDUCATOR WORKSHOP

Pinnacle Preschool held an educators' workshop on April 24 and 25 that included special guest Dr. Lella Gandini.

The conference, "Learning Experiences from the Programs for Young Children in Reggio Emilia, Italy," had 80 educators from Arizona, California and Nevada here to learn more about the renowned Reggio Emilia Approach to Early Childhood Education.

Keynote speaker Gandini, an early childhood consultant, is the U.S. liaison for the Reggio Emilia Approach. She is the co-editor and co-author of over 50 books and articles on the Reggio Emilia Approach and has traveled the world giving lectures, professional development sessions and workshops for educators.

Before the conference, our staff had the opportunity to work alongside Dr. Gandini on Thursday and Friday in their classrooms to dig deeper in our knowledge of this wonderful approach to teaching of our young.

During the workshop, some of our own teachers presented some of the project work that had bloomed with their students through the years.

The staff hopes to have the opportunity to invite Gandini back again.

YOUTH PREPARE FOR MISSION TRIP

A group of 14 youth and six adults will be heading to northeastern Arizona the week of June 14-20. We will be working on the Navajo Indian Reservation.

Our week will consist of helping the local Presbyterian Church address drainage issues, working with a horse therapy program, and organizing activities for youth in the community.

We are all very excited for our trip. Please keep all of the youth and their leaders in your prayers as they prepare for and embark on their journey of service and faith.

THANK YOU FOR MAKING THE YOUTH RUMMAGE SALE A SUCCESS

Thank you all so much for donating to the Youth Rummage Sale. Based on our latest numbers, the Youth were able to raise \$10,166.57! This is truly amazing.



The money will cover the costs of this summer's high school mission trip and the additional needs of our Youth Building.

We are grateful for all of those volunteers who helped sort, price and sell our rummage.

We already have next year's sale scheduled for March!

AFTER-SUMMER KICKOFF WILL BE AUG. 23

Our weekly youth gatherings will take a break over the summer, but mark your calendars for 5-7 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 23, when we will have our Youth Kickoff.

This gathering will begin our fall youth programs. There will be time for food and fellowship along with information about the upcoming year in the Youth Ministry.

A NOTE ON PPC FINANCE

Halfway through 2009, here are some thoughts on financial issues related to PPC:

2009 OPERATING BUDGET

First is the need to provide the funds for day-to-day operations. The church staff has done a fine job containing expenses. It is now up to us to keep our pledges current, especially during the summer months when many leave for cooler temperatures.

Please consider keeping up your pledge during the summer months or paying ahead.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The church has one final payment to be made to the contractor for construction of the youth center, fellowship hall and office space expansion. It is important that pledges to the capital campaign also be met on a timely basis so that payment obligations can be met.

THE FOUNDATION

The PPC Foundation was formed a few years ago as a mechanism to ensure and safeguard the long-term financial interests of the church. A bequest allows church members to create a timeless legacy, making a final testament to their faith and values.

PRESBYTERIAN INVESTMENT & LOAN PROGRAM

The mortgage on our sanctuary is held by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) (PCUSA). The PCUSA has an investment program (PILP, or the Presbyterian Investment & Loan Program) for members that, given today's low interest rates, is competitive with other low risk investments such as CDs.

In addition to a competitive interest rate, there is a rebate on the church's loan. The church recently received \$18,000 as a rebate from investments members have made in the program.

Thank you for your consideration of these various items having to do with the financial well-being and future of our church.

2009 CONFIRMATION CLASS

The 2009 Confirmation Class joined the church on Sunday, May 17. The 17-member class met most Wednesday evenings between January and May deepening their understanding of the Christian Faith and what it means to be a member of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). They had lessons on God, Jesus, the Bible, being Presbyterian, the Reformation, other Christian traditions, worship and more. During this, they have had a PPC member walk alongside them as a mentor. Please welcome them into the fellowship at Pinnacle.



Terri Baker, and mentor Holly Fechtmeyer



Nick Roe, and mentor Cindy Bartkus



Jimmy Beasley, and mentor Brandon Willett



Sarah Beghin, and mentor Carol Stull



Dylan Bender, and mentor Greg Bright

2009 CONFIRMATION CLASS (CONTINUED)



Ted Brenalvarez, and mentor Curt Sorenson



Emily Clearwater, and mentor Peggy Griffith



Cole Henry, and mentor Greg Barber



Mackenzi Ives, and mentor Kaprice Collins



Clare Cline, and mentor Sally Williams



Max Fechtmeyer, and mentor Anton Decker



Allyson Mitchell, and mentor Tanya Rosenfeld



Mac Bartkus, and mentor Alice Roe



Olivia Feldman, and mentor Amy Satterfield



Pete Greene, and mentor Rory Collins



Sophia Shaffer, and mentor Marilyn Harrer



Flynn Stewart, and mentor John Casas

2009 CONFIRMATION CLASS (CONTINUED)

A DAY-BY-DAY ACCOUNT OF HAITI MISSION, PART 2

The following is the second part of a day-to-day journal of the PPC trip to Haiti written by Jan Loichle. The first part appeared in last month's issue of *Pinnacle Vistas*.

Day 3: March 12, The Clinic in Thomas

God of the New Day, as we move into work and ministry, help us to stay open to the ways you desire to minister to us. As we help and heal, may we stay open to being helped and healed ourselves. May I listen and love today. Amen.

We awake to donkeys braying, roosters crowing, and road construction trucks rumbling through town. We got up at 5:30 and started to get the clinic set up. At dawn local people were working in the fields and starting to line up for the clinic. There was a morning school session with 120 children all dressed in pink shirts and blue skirts or pants. We gave each child chewable vitamins, toothbrushes and toothpaste. The sanctuary filled with families from all around, and Pastor Luc's people organized the flow to the clinic. Each of us served specific roles, from packaging and distributing meds, to taking blood pressure, to the doctors evaluating people, to building cabinets. The line of people was unending, and the medical professionals were tireless and caring. They saw a wide range of maladies, as well as many people who just wanted to be seen and touched and given vitamins.

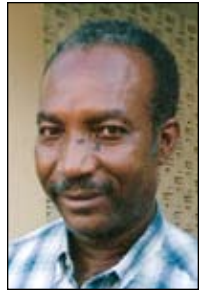
There was heartbreak and frustration given the limitations of a one-day clinic and the inability of those in need to get to hospitals and doctors

Continued on next page



for further treatment. But the people were cheerful, grateful and touching. The children were beautiful, well-behaved and all dressed up in their Sunday finest. They also were small – almost all undersized for their age. They thought we “blancos” were either very funny or terrifying.

The numbers were overwhelming (maybe 600 people), and we stayed two hours past our planned departure time in order to see everyone (and avert possible rioting?). Exhausted, we boarded the tap-tap for the long drive back to Port-au-Prince. Just outside Port-au-Prince we had a flat tire - no wonder given the road and tire conditions. We stayed on the tap-tap, remaining as inconspicuous as possible, while the tire was changed. Shortly later, back on the road, we had another tire blowout. Now things are beyond immediate repair, it's dark, and we're really tired. But our friendly guard Solomon is with us and we're never threatened. After a few phone calls, Pastor Luc has a couple vehicles lined up – a truck for our gear, and a small tap-tap for us. Squeezed into the replacement tap-tap, we finally make it to a mission house for dinner, and then our hotel where Pastor Luc checks us in (no English spoken).



Pastor Luc
Deratus of
Harmony
Ministries, Haiti

Day 4: March 13, The Clinic in Leogone

God of strength, energy, imagination and love. Fill me up with who you are. Give me a spirit of hope and the courage to be present. Thank you for each face I will look into today. For that face has a story and has value. In Christ's name I pray. Amen.

We meet for breakfast in the hotel, then set off for the 2 hour drive to Leogone, most of which is through Port-au-Prince. The roads are crumbled, rutted and rocky. Traffic is horrible and the drivers are crazy. People, motorbikes, cars, tap-taps are everywhere. We go by a huge tin roof and open market where people are selling mangoes, bananas, onions, clothes, belts, motor oil, you name it. We pass UN complexes (and many UN vehicles and troops), an area with refineries, many many partially built buildings or homes. As we near Leogone there are fields of sugarcane, mangoes, gourds, and animals. We arrive and set up the clinic in the church.

Please see **HAITI** on page 14

HAITI From page 13

Today we know better what to expect and how to move people through – maybe 350-400. Nutrition is better here; it's a more agricultural area and they have access to fish. There are some unusual and difficult cases, as well as the more common



ailments. Once again we stay late in order to see everyone. The clinic crowds are much bigger this year than ever before.

The long ride back was uncomfortable but uneventful. At the hotel we gathered and shared reflections. Again, the medical professionals were tireless, kind and effective. Everyone worked well together in our various roles. The Haitians are friendly and gracious despite language differences. The experiences have been both gratifying and heartbreaking. We are overwhelmed by the poverty, hunger, lack of infrastructure, and presence of walls, concertina wire, and armed guards and troops.

Day 5: March 14, The Church, School and Clinic in Citi Militaire

God of the City, your spirit moves through the crowded streets and honking horns. It weaves through the paint of a tap-tap and the basket of a hopeful entrepreneur sitting on a curb. It moves through quiet alleys and busy intersections. It enters a small rusty tin home and a roaring market. Have mercy on Port-au-Prince, dear God.

Today we take the relatively short drive to Pastor Luc's church, school and permanent clinic in Citi Militaire, part of Port-au-Prince. All are in a walled complex, surrounding a plain courtyard. We are surprised at the size of the church, cement block with tin roof, which seats nearly

Continued on next page

1,000. There are several classrooms in the school for various grade levels, and a library and clinic. We tour the facilities, talk with various people, and then unpack, sort and stack all the remaining meds and supplies in the pharmacy. We also have Oreos for the school kids, along with drink mixes, toothbrushes, and various foods and supplies. Nothing is wasted. Also, Mark checked out the electrical situation and worked out a plan with Luc to send a used transformer and generator. After we finish at the pharmacy and have some lunch, we set off for a tour of more of the city including the Presidential Palace and some of the nicer areas in town. The pervasive poor conditions are almost unbelievable.

Day 6: March 15, Church and the Journey Home

God of the Great Pause, it is time to stop and center in on you. It is time to worship and find our rest and foundation in you. Restore me. Renew me. Help me to see you in new ways through the worship of the people in Citi Militaire. Thank you for Pastor Luc's ministry and leadership. Guide Harmony Ministries in all its work. Amen.

From every church we pass, we hear beautiful singing. Pastor Luc's church is full – nearly 1,000 people, all dressed up and looking wonderful. There's lots of singing, and lots of encouragement for self-respect and respect for God. Dr. Jacque is introduced and speaks to the women about the importance of seeing a doctor annually, about caring for themselves so they can care for their children. She has touched the women; you can feel a spark of appreciation and admiration through the crowd. Pastor Mac delivered an inspired sermon that was received with many hearty AMENS. The church service continued, but we had to leave.

Once again, Pastor Luc and Solomon accompanied us and made everything go smoothly at the airport. And once again, our flight is greatly delayed causing us to miss all our connections and not get back until the following day. But by now we realize, "It's Haiti" and you just go with the flow. A few more travel hiccups, and we're back home appreciating all we have here.



Find out more about the Haiti Mission Trip on PPC's Web site, pinnaclepres.org.

MISSION AT PINNACLE



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY Volunteers from Pinnacle and other Presbyterian churches in the Valley have spent the spring building a new home for the Lopez-Cazares family in the Oro Vista subdivision near 16th St. and Baseline in south Phoenix. Liliana (below at right) will share the house with her 2-year-old daughter. 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.



VISTAS CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME

Because this is the combined June-July issue, deadline for the August issue of *Pinnacle Vistas* is Friday, July 10.

Contribute via the church's Web site, www.pinnaclepres.org/vistas/contribute.html, or e-mail to Pinnacle.Vistas@gmail.com.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

June 2

John Beghin
Sarah DeWeese
Dominic Mancini
John Woodside

June 4

Felicia Kurz
Dylan Waugaman

June 6

Lisako Inoue
Kate Rosenbaum

June 7

Trevor Balvin
Austin Jones

June 8

Marilyn Hargitt

June 9

Alex Cabrera
Marlene Sawottke
Toby Spessard

June 11

Jennifer Franklin
Tom Hampton
Emma Rodriguez
Elizabeth Wilson

June 12

Georgia Cranford
William Hackbarth
Danilo Orescanin II
David Sobek

June 13

Mark Cline
David Fitzgerald
Matthew Noel
Kevin Prenzno

June 14

Alice Gerald

June 16

Brie Hilgers
Drake Kress
Connie Thompson

June 17

Peggy Gurler
Dean Hutton
Matthew Shell

June 18

Steve Bonniwell
Matthew Dahlby
Cap Dean
Barbara Heidbreder
Greg Mantle
Merrill Turley
Sarah Zamora

June 19

Taylor Fairbanks
Benjamin Sidoti
Andrea Terhune
Estelle Wade

June 20

Nicholas Bianco

June 21

Kourtney O'Connor
Isabella Rusy

June 22

Paul Franklin

June 23

Ryan Giles

Andrew Stone

June 24

Beatrice Clubb
Scott Forrest
Kelly Nolan
Kolton O'Connor

June 25

Carol Bower
Richard Heisler
Penelope Holland

June 26

Steve Esposito
Lauren Henry
Mary Lou Mercer
Donna Mobley
Carolyn Reid

June 27

Haylie Lauen
Kailin Silbert

June 28

Elizabeth Borsos
Brook Davis
Kaye Morris
Cameron Wright

June 29

Emily Cabrera
Amelia Decker

June 30

William Rasmussen

NOT LISTED?

We must not have your birthday on file. Please call 480.585.9448 or e-mail Carol Skewes at cskewes@pinnaclepres.org.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! (CONTINUED)

July 1

Kenadie Manzeck

July 2

Roxanna Hobbi

July 3

Averi Mancini
Tracy Rhodes

July 4

Chuck Pasco
Henry Wessel

July 5

Chris Barber
James Beasley
Monique Reindersma
John Thompson

July 6

Tyler Casas

July 7

Keith Reese

July 8

Marilyn Onstott
Trey Yarwood

July 9

Anita Baudler
Rick Hess
Richard Kurz

July 10

Harriet Clarke
J. Alan Cramer
Allie Murray
Emily Vedder

July 11

Emily Fitzgerald
Carlton Richie
Julia Weis

July 12

Ashley Beasley
Marina Martin

July 13

Nolan Edwards

July 14

Sara Beresford
Rick Blomquist
William Hall
Michael Newell

July 15

Anton Decker

July 16

Sarah Beghin
Beverly Everist
William Lampkin
Kristin Stewart
Paul Wise

July 17

Ann Goulka
John Griffith
Lisa Helt
Sue Klinefelter
Kay Lyon
Jim Yeakley

July 18

Luke Chandler
Joseph Sidoti
Robert Smith
Annie Zeumer

July 19

Zack Hobbi
Terri Hollander

July 20

Marvin Bower
Emerson Collins
Brent Hylton
Kellan Pattison

July 21

Jeanne Kress

Janet Macfarlane
Tom Martin

July 22

Sara Crosby-Hartman
Mollie Hughes
Yuko Inoue

July 23

Carie Frabotta
Ethan Vorhauer

July 24

Jason Bush
Mackenzie Kaul

July 25

Megan McIntyre
Johnny Rosenfeld
Nancy Waugaman

July 26

Mary Albrektson
Richard Harrer
Bill Robertson

July 27

Jane Barber
Elizabeth Cabrera
Brian Pomp
Fletcher Rich
Allison Rugen
Katy Schafer
Peter Vedder

July 28

Sharon Daetwyler

July 29

Nicole Quenzler

July 30

David Stingley

July 31

Stephanie Hampton

PET OF THE PARISH



MEET DJ DJ, the pet of Fran and Paul Wise, is a 4-year-old Cairn Terrier. The Wises say, "DJ is so smart and talented. He knows 25 commands including roll over, dance, jump, crawl and dead dog. Of course he gets a treat every time!"

Pet-of-the-Parish Nominees

To enter, simply complete the form below and submit it along with a photo of your pet to the church office.

Pet's Name: _____

Age: _____

Breed: _____

Please describe any unique tricks or skills, heroic feats your pet has performed, or any embarrassing moments your pet has caused you: _____

Owner's Name: _____

PPC ONLINE



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