

PINNACLE VISTAS

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

PINNACLE HAS SOMETHING FOR YOU BEGINNING IN SEPTEMBER



Wednesday Night Bible Study is only one of the many adult classes beginning this month. For more information, please see the Adult Education brochure or Pinnacle's Web site. For a partial listing of classes, please see pages 3 & 5.



Pinnacle Chancel Choir and the Pinnacle Pealers are looking for new members. If you sing, ring or want to learn, please see pages 8 & 9.

INSIDE...

PASTOR'S LETTER Being a church together. **PAGE 2**

THEOLOGICAL CENTER The present is prologue to the future. **PAGE 12**

September may herald the end of summer, but it also signals new beginnings at Pinnacle. Among events coming up this month:

■ Church School for children and youth begins Sunday, Sept. 13. (See pages 6 & 10.)

■ Celebrate your birthday with the Pinnacle Foundation on Sept. 20 (See page 4.)

■ "Chariots of Fire," the story of Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, opens the 2009-10 season of Time Out for the Arts at 7 p.m. Monday, Sept. 21.

Look for more September events throughout *Pinnacle Vistas*.

BEING A CHURCH TOGETHER

In a beautiful little book written to introduce Christian faith, called *Tokens of Trust*, Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams has written about seeing God at work in the world. He writes this:

God is always at work, but that work is not always visible. God is always at work, but sometimes the world's processes go with the grain of his final purpose and sometimes they resist. But if certain things come together in the world at this or that moment, the 'flow' would be easier and more direct. Perhaps a really intense prayer or a really holy life can open the world up that bit more to God's purpose so that unexpected things happen.



Dr. Wes Avram

As I've spent the past few weeks enjoying the slower pace of an Arizona summer to get to know Pinnacle — not just where the restrooms are and which key goes to what, but to begin to develop a sense of the warp and woof of the place — I am convinced more than ever that on the corner of Happy Valley and Pima roads "certain things have come together in the world" and the Spirit has flowed in an unusual way.

We have been given much as a congregation, and much remains required of us because of that. What is more exciting than this? The flow of the Spirit here has brought so many and so much into its stream that as long as we don't try to grab too many rocks or branches along the way we'll keep with the current and discover wonderful things around the next turn.

Great effort, generosity and imagination have come together here. And most importantly, *heartfelt prayer* has, too — that "intense prayer" that Rowan Williams talks about. That prayer is more important than

Please see **LETTER** on page 4

ADULT EDUCATION

Here is a partial listing of upcoming Adult Education classes:

Class	Leader	Time/Day	Begins
Life Through the Eyes of a Refugee	Christine Hobbi	6:30 p.m. Tuesdays	Sept. 1
Conversation Uncorked	Rev. Kristin Willett	7 p.m. first Monday	Sept. 7
Theology on Tap	John Rosenfeld	7 p.m. second and fourth Tuesdays	Sept. 8
Meaning and Motherhood	Rev. Kristin Willett	9:30 a.m. Wednesdays	Sept. 9
S.A.G.E.	Rev. Fran Park	Noon Wednesdays	Sept. 9
Wednesday Night Bible Study	Rev. Fran Park	6 p.m. Wednesdays	Sept. 9
Jazz Café	Mary LaMagna	7:30 p.m. Thursdays	Sept. 10
Women's Book Group	Sue Larson	10 a.m. second Monday	Sept. 14
Men's Fellowship Breakfast	Rev. Fran Park	7:30 a.m. Thursdays	Sept. 17
The Palestinian Quest for Peace	Dave Schaller	7 p.m. Thursdays	Sept. 17
Men's Book Group	John Thompson	7 p.m. Thursdays	Sept. 17
Chariots of Fire: The Story of Elijah	Brent Hylton	7 p.m. Monday (one-time offering)	Sept. 21
Kerygma – New Testament	Brandon Willett, MDiv.	7 p.m. Mondays	Sept. 21
Jesus the One and Only	Shelly Core	6 p.m. Wednesdays	Sept. 23
Ladies Bible Group	Gena Brown	10 a.m. Tuesdays	Sept. 29

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT EDUCATION RESUMES

Dave Ropp leads the Parabola Discussion Group at 11:15 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 13.

Also Sept. 13, Dr. Alan Stone will explore the life of Muhammad and how many of his teachings are derived from Judaism and Christianity. On Sept. 20, he will discuss the formation of the Koran, the spread of Islam and the Sunni-Shia schism. On Sept. 27, Dr. Stone will consider Islam's confrontation with the West, its roots and its future.

PPC FOUNDATION WISHES YOU A HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Each new season brings with it the joy of anticipation, and so it is that the end of summer this year comes with hopes for cooler fall weather and the excitement of seeing friends back from their travels.



The Pinnacle Presbyterian Church Foundation is delighted to welcome everyone with a moment of fellowship accompanied by a delicious slice of birthday cake on Sunday, Sept. 20.

This monthly Happy Birthday celebration is one small way we focus on the continuing life of our church and the stake in its future that each of us has through the PPC Foundation.

The Foundation was established as a way to build a solid financial base to serve as a connected source of future support for the emerging needs of our church.

If you had a birthday in June, July or August, or if you're celebrating in September, consider contributing \$1 for each year of life celebrated this year.

Look for the table with birthday balloons out on the West Terrace after our 10 a.m. service on Sept. 20 and join us: Enjoy a piece of cake and celebrate our future.

LETTER From page 2

anything. The Archbishop finishes the paragraph I used earlier with a sentence that seems to sum it all up: "We are called to pray," he says, "to trust and to live with integrity before God (to live 'holy' lives) in such a way as to leave the door open, to let things come together so that love can come through."

In the end, it might be just that simple, and just that hard: prayer, trust and good living. These three together will take us into the future — in this place, from this time.

In faith,
— *Wes Avram*

Quotes taken from Rowan Williams, *Tokens of Trust* (Westminster/John Knox Press), p. 45.

REV. MAC SCHAFER'S NEW CALL IN NORTH CAROLINA

We are pleased to announce that our former Interim Pastor, Rev. Mac Schafer, has been called to pastor Hudson Memorial Church in Raleigh, N.C. His first day in the pulpit at Hudson Memorial will be Sept. 13. You can find out more about the church at hmhc.org.



Rev. Mac Schafer

ADULT STUDIES

BIBLE STUDY LOOKS AT BOOK OF JOB

The Wednesday Night Bible Study will begin its September session at 6 p.m. on the 16th in the Chapel Library.

Our study, led by Rev. Fran Park, will take up the Old Testament Book of Job. It is the story of humanity's eternal question: "Why do good, righteous people suffer?" Through prose and poetry the issues are confronted and laid before us for comment and discussion.

Join the Wednesday-nighters to reflect on the meaning of life.

SAGE RESUMES ON SEPT. 9

SAGE – Senior Adults Gaining Enrichment – resumes at noon Wednesday, Sept. 9. SAGE continues its New Testament study by beginning a look at the Acts of the Apostles.

As always, there is food, fun and fellowship aplenty, all for \$5 – the cheapest lunch in town. Our usual gathering place is the Chapel Library and we welcome all returning vacationers to share the joy.

MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP GATHERS ON SEPT. 17

Pinnacle's Men's Breakfast Group will gather for the first time this fall at 7:30 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 17, in the Chapel Library.

The book that's been selected is *The Post-American World*, by Fareed Zakaria, editor of *Newsweek International*. The book is available in the church office for \$11.

Come and join the fellowship and conversation. Our breakfast of juice, Danish or donuts and coffee is \$5.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH SCHOOL BEGINS WITH PICNIC ON SEPT. 13

We'll kick off our new children's Church School year on Sunday, Sept. 13, with loads of kids, families, food and fun.

After the 10 a.m. service, everyone is invited to join us for some fellowship on the Green, watch the kids play games, make crafts and hang out with everyone. We'll have chicken and sides for lunch, ice cold drinks to help you stay cool, and a great setting to catch up with friends.

All are invited to this annual event!

If you'd like to assist in any way, from setting up for lunch to filling bags of popcorn to organizing and helping with a game, please contact Debbie Lisk at 480.585.9448 ext. 203 or dlisk@pinnaclepres.org.

TEACHER DEDICATION IS SEPT. 27

Please join us at the 10 a.m. worship service as we dedicate the teachers who work with children at our Preschool and in our Church School programs.

We are truly blessed to have so many wonderful volunteers working with our children and youth, and we are honored to recognize you during this service.

CLUB 46 GATHERS ON SEPT. 27

This month, all fourth-, fifth- and sixth-graders are invited to our monthly fellowship club, Club 46.

We'll meet from 4-6 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 27.

If you're registered with the Children's Ministries, you'll receive an e-mail reminder. If you're not registered, please stop by the Children's Ministries table after the 10 a.m. worship on any Sunday to pick up a form, or visit PPC's Web site (pinnaclepres.org) to enroll online.

For more information, contact Debbie Lisk at 480.585.9448 ext. 203 or dlisk@pinnaclepres.org.



CLUB WED! BEGINS SEPT. 16



Join us for Club Wed!, our mid-week program of music and education for children and adults, as it returns on Sept. 16.

Children from age 4 up through sixth-grade can participate in singing and ringing

choirs, as well as Christian education activities.

There are classes for adults and dinner for all ages for the nominal fee of \$5 each (children 3 and younger are free).

Activities begin at 5 p.m., dinner is served at 5:30 p.m. and additional classes for children and adults continue at 6 p.m.

Everyone is welcome and we encourage pre-registration for children participating in the music ensembles.

If your children wish to participate in the Christmas Pageant, which will be presented in worship Sunday, Dec. 13, they must be part of the Club Wed! program for the fall term.

Check out the PPC Web site for information and registration forms or sign up at the Children's Ministry table after Sunday worship.

For more information, call Marilyn Hylton at 480.585.9448 ext. 241 or Debbie Lisk at 480.585.9448 ext. 203. We hope to see you there!

DO YOU HAVE AN HOUR TO SHARE WITH OUR CHILDREN?

If so, please consider adding your name to our list of Sunday School substitutes.

You'll only be contacted once or twice throughout the year, and you would be helping in a class where there are already other teachers familiar with the program. We are in need of substitutes, and we'd appreciate the extra help. Please let Debbie Lisk know if you're interested.

PINNACLE CHANCEL CHOIR WANTS YOU

After a two-month respite, the Chancel Choir will return to the choir loft on Sunday mornings, beginning Sept. 13.

The choir will hold its annual retreat from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 12, in the choir rehearsal hall. The retreat gives singers an opportunity to get a jump on new music and meet the new choir members.



Now is the perfect time for anyone interested in joining the Chancel Choir to give it a try.

Rehearsals are from 7:20-9 p.m. Wednesdays to prepare for the 10 a.m. worship service each Sunday.

Singing in a choir is the most popular form of participation in the performing arts for adults. Recent study findings conducted by Chorus America for adult singers found the following:

- Choral participation remains strong in America with 32.5 million adults regularly singing in at least one of 270,000 choruses nationwide.

- Choral singers exhibit higher levels of civic involvement, with choristers almost three times more likely to be officers or committee members of local community organizations such as the PTA.

- 78 percent of choral singers indicated they “at least sometimes” volunteer their time in their community, while only 50 percent of the general public say the same.

- 74 percent of choral singers agree or strongly agree that singing in a chorus has helped them become better team leaders or team participants in other areas of their lives.

If you are looking for a place to “hang your hat” at Pinnacle, the Pinnacle Chancel Choir is the place to be. For more information, contact Brent Hylton, Director of Music & Organist, at 480.585.9448 ext. 213.

PINNACLE PEALERS RING FOR JOY

Pinnacle’s adult handbell choir, the Pinnacle Pealers, will once again “ring” God’s praises at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 15, in the Sanctuary.

This multi-generational ensemble begins its ninth year ringing God’s praises in our worship services. Marilyn Hylton, director of the ensemble, is currently looking for individuals who have rung before or who are interested in learning the art of handbell ringing.

If you do not read music, Marilyn states that she has several miracles she can draw upon and give you almost instant results.

Handbell ringing is not by any means a new musical art. In 17th century England, the noise from the huge tower bells rehearsing their music was nearly painful to those within earshot. That’s when someone came up with the brilliant idea to make smaller bells.

Originally cast in clay and wattle (a stick framework), the cost was extreme. Once it was discovered sand molds could be used to manufacture bells for much less money, handheld bells were cast and became readily available.

This musical art form could now be practiced and played in the warmth of the local pubs - and you thought bell ringers were dull!

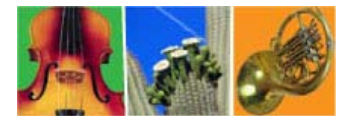
Handbells came to the United States in 1840 when P.T. Barnum made them popular as part of his circus. Later, handbell acts showed up on the vaudeville circuit, and, in the 1940s, they were being rung in churches.

There are over 10,000 bell choirs in North America. We invite you to become part of our wonderful family of musicians and help us “ring for joy” on Sunday mornings at Pinnacle.

UPCOMING CONCERTS AT PPC

If you missed the list of upcoming concerts in Pinnacle Concert Series’ 2009-10 season or Time Out for the Arts, please visit the PPC Web site (pinnaclepres.org/musicperformances.html). There’s a complete listing there.

Watch the Web site for more detailed information regarding both musical series.



YOUTH CHURCH SCHOOL BEGINS SEPT. 13

Youth Church School begins Sunday morning, Sept. 13.

Both Junior High and Senior High Church School begins following the Children's Message in the 10 a.m. worship service. Both groups meet in the Youth Building: the Junior High in the kitchen side, and the Senior High in the stage side.

They are dismissed at 11 a.m. to meet their families by the Sanctuary.



YOUTH GROUPS MEET SUNDAY EVENINGS

Junior High Youth Group (seventh- and eighth-graders) meets from 5:30-7:15 p.m. Sundays; and Senior High (ninth- through 12th-graders) meets from 6:30-8:15 p.m. Both groups meeting in the Youth Building.

During the overlap time, the groups share a meal together and sing.

If you are willing to provide a meal for our youth, please contact Pastor Kristin at kwillett@pinnaclepres.org.

There will be no Junior High or Senior High Youth Group on Sunday, Sept. 6, because of the holiday weekend.

YOUTH NEWSLETTER IS AVAILABLE

A bi-monthly newsletter is sent to the families of our junior high and senior high youth.

The newsletter contains their Youth Church School and Youth Group schedules, along with special events and mission opportunities. It also shares events or classes that their parents may be interested in.

Our first newsletter for the year was sent out in early August. If you have not received it and would like to be added to our mailing list please contact Pastor Kristin at kwillett@pinnaclepres.org.

If you have events you would like to be included in this newsletter so that the youth are aware, also contact Pastor Kristin.



CONGRATULATIONS, WES! Rev. Wesley Avram celebrates the 25th anniversary of his ordination into the ministry on Wednesday, Sept. 16. Dr. Avram is pictured above at his ordination service at Carmel Presbyterian Church in Glenside, Pa., in 1984.

TRANSITION TEAM WORKING WITH DR. AVRAM

The Transition Team has been working closely with Dr. Wes Avram since his arrival at PPC in July.

What is the Transition Team?

This committee was put together to help assist Dr. Avram and his family with their integration into the life of Pinnacle. The committee is to help support and provide information that will help Dr. Avram as he learns about our congregation, the different committees, programs and intricacies.

In addition, the Transition Team is here to provide him feedback on what the parishioners may be experiencing during the conversion and be a sounding board for new ideas and practices that his experience will bring to Pinnacle.

The transition is going well, and Dr. Avram is very focused on getting to know people in our congregation.

THE PRESENT IS PROLOGUE TO THE FUTURE

Each era brings with it unique circumstances that challenge Christians to consider deeply what it means to be faithful in turbulent times.

Part of being human is figuring out how to respond to the world in which we live.

Analogous to the crises of the late 19th century, we face crises today: unemployment, housing foreclosures, massive debt, flawed



public education, rising cost of health care, gap between the wealthy and poor, and drug abuse. Add to the list issues stemming from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, nuclear proliferation, immigration and environmental deterioration. Problems such as these leave people feeling overwhelmed.

Comparable to the early 20th century, Christians have developed a new message of hope, A Social Creed for the 21st Century. The Creed is intended to promote discussion about the issues facing our nation and world.

Pinnacle Theological Center's 2009-10 program, Transforming God's Dream into Reality, focuses on the Social Creed.

We recognize that there are no easy or simple solutions to the complex problems of our time. We acknowledge that people of faith occupy a diversity of positions along the political spectrum. Even so, we believe that the future can be something different than it is today. We anticipate that fruitful discussion will lead to action. Our program is designed to enable each of us to reach personal conclusions about how we can contribute to improving society – guided by the perspective of our Christian faith.

We hope our program will encourage creativity in carrying out Micah's revelation: "He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8)

The first presentation in the Pinnacle Theological Center's 2009-10 program will be "Seeing With the Eyes of the Heart," by Dr. Chris Iosso at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 14, in the Chapel.

SYMPATHY

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to:

Beth and Rob Rusy, on the death of Rob's father, **Bob Rusy**

Cindy Bartkus and family, on the death of Cindy's father, **Richard Stemper**

Tanya and John Rosenfeld family, on the death of Tanya's father, **George Koutzen**

The family of **Barbara Christensen**

2010 BUDGET AND STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

STIR UP ONE ANOTHER FOR LOVE, GOOD WORKS

Last year following the theme from Ephesians 4:4 of "One body and One Spirit," we brought Pinnacle under one budget that moved our mortgage payment into the 2009 operating budget, a significant increase over the prior year.

To meet this new challenge, Interim Pastor Mac Schafer and Stewardship asked for each family to consider increasing their pledge by 1 percent of their family income.

Your response was remarkable; with so many increasing their pledge on Commitment Sunday we met our 2009 budget objective. In these difficult times we are extremely grateful for the generosity of all who helped us meet that challenge.

This year, the Capital Campaign ended and we paid bills for our new Youth Building and office expansion. Again, we are thankful for your generosity.

In 2010, we desire to increase giving as our mortgage obligation remains a big portion of the operating budget. In addition, we are planning to significantly increase Pinnacle's Mission Outreach and fill the currently empty associate pastor position.

Under the leadership of Dr. Avram, our 2010 Stewardship Campaign will follow a theme from the letter to the Hebrews 10:24-25 — "Consider how to stir up one another to love and good works... encouraging one another" — to ask once again that you consider increasing next year's pledge by 1 percent of family income to help us reach our needs.

Your blessings and generosity will allow Pinnacle Presbyterian Church to truly be a difference maker in our world.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Sept. 1

Justin Laurent

Sept. 2

Julia Chandler
Alice Colston Kelley
Bill Hyatt

Sept. 3

Emily Gardner
Autumn Helfert
Barbara Moffitt
Lea Reinke

Sept. 4

Ken Brousseau
Joyce Gant
Beverly Grossman
Aaron Slegers

Sept. 5

Brock Richard

Sept. 6

Luke Chandler
Judy Durocher
Carley Lenniger
Shea Lenniger
Olivia Matheson
Alan Oeste
Katie Rich

Sept. 7

John Collins
Tomoki Inoue
Nancy Martin

Sept. 8

Emily Clearwater
Breanna Granger
Katie Nutter

Sept. 10

Gabrielle Casada
Mekenna Martin

Sept. 11

Sarah Love

Mary Noyd
Charles Rusy
Phillip Wiltfong

Sept. 12

Danny Barber
Cassandra Hendricks
Sue Larson
Grace Rosenfeld
William Schoedinger
Nicholas Sutherland
Scott Uelner

Sept. 13

Amy Belluomini
Joseph Corbett
Robert Dueker
Matthew Lucky

Sept. 14

Joshua Hylton
Theodore Mobley

Sept. 15

Skye Schafer
Barbara Sitzler

Sept. 16

Cindy Bartkus

Sept. 17

Leslie Mann

Sept. 19

Sandra Baker
Ray Bentsdahl
Donald Gardner
Richard Snowden

Sept. 20

Brad Jones
Susan Stanton

Sept. 21

Nadine Collins
Noah Rash
Owen Stewart

Sept. 22

Kimberly Bianco
Gena Brown
Amanda Crisalli
Johnathan Lane
Mara Love
Kathryn Snowden
Ruth Kay Wetzel
Alison Zajacek

Sept. 23

Lili Drinkall
Matt Lucky
Jacob Muth
Patrick Soper
Carrol Svedeen

Sept. 24

Jonathan Coughenour
Bill Pickering
Marilyn Sorenson

Sept. 25

Briana Cooper

Sept. 26

J. A. McConnell
Katelyn Wise

Sept. 27

Annie Frey
Fay Gates
Hale Stewart
Kira Rugen

Sept. 28

Becky Blomquist
Brooke Harris
Diane Pasco
Fran Wise

Sept. 30

Charles Gurler
Vicki Helming
Andrew Newman
Colin Ricketts
Kahili Southworth

REDUCE STRESS WITH TAI CHI

Do you have stress in your life? If your answer is “yes,” join Rev. Deanne Hodgson, RN, for Tai Chi and Qigong for Spiritually Based Stress Management from 9-10 a.m. Mondays, Sept. 21 through Oct. 26, in the Fellowship Hall.

Learn how to apply the basic principles and simple movements of Tai Chi (*tie chee*) and Qigong (*cheegong*) to discover a route to inner peace that can transform your life.

A donation of \$56 includes six sessions, handouts and a DVD for home practice.

To register or for more information, contact Deanne at deannehodgson@gmail.com or 602.538.9237.

PET OF THE PARISH



PETS' NAMES: Roxie and Addie

AGES: Roxie is 10 weeks old; and Addie is 1-year-old.

BREED: Miniature Labradoodles

ABOUT: These half-sisters have the same mother. Addie has been trained as a certified therapy pet and visits a nursing home at their summer home in Illinois. Addie plans to do the same here in Scottsdale this winter.

OWNERS: Carol and Marvin Bower

PPC ON THE WEB



Don't forget to visit us online for the calendars, activity listings and photos of events. Also listen to sermons online.

ITUNES PODCAST

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VISTAS ONLINE Also, you can download PDF versions of *Pinnacle Vistas*. Print them or e-mail them to share with your friends and family.

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