



PINNACLE VISTAS

The Newsletter for Pinnacle Presbyterian Church, Scottsdale, Ariz. • May 2011



Rev. Sarah Johnson preaches on Sunday, April 3.

Pinnacle Welcomes Its New Associate Pastor

Pinnacle's congregation approved the call of Rev. Sarah Johnson as the new Associate Pastor for Christian Formation during a called meeting on Sunday, April 3.

Sarah will be joining the PPC family for the Mother's Day retreat to Tucson. Her first Sunday in the pulpit in her new role will be Sunday, May 29.

"I am deeply grateful for God's call to

ministry at Pinnacle Presbyterian," Sarah says. "In just a short time, I have experienced the overwhelming hospitality and generosity of the Pinnacle community. Pinnacle is full of people willing and eager to serve and grow in faith. I am looking forward to sharing that journey as I begin my ministry at PPC."

Please see
PASTOR on page 3

Celebrate Spring With Strawberry Sunday

Spring and strawberries go together. So, please come and celebrate the season with the Deacons when they present Strawberry Sunday, May 8, outside Fellowship Hall after the 10 a.m. service.

We will have fresh strawberries and luscious pound cake, with whipped cream, plus all the usual refreshments for everyone to enjoy.



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'PROPHETS' Multimedia performance comes to PPC on May 2. **PAGE 6**

A Time to Look Back, Look Forward

Dear friends,

Now in May, we come close to the culmination of our 2010-11 “program year.”

The children’s and youth music programs have completed their rehearsals for the year, seeing growth and enjoying great experiences. Club Wed! has completed a successful year.

Youth programs are shifting gears toward summer mission trips as school will soon be out. Church School eyes Vacation Bible School.

Another season of active adult education offerings winds down, including a very successful Pinnacle Theological Center series and ongoing classes on a variety of topics.

Our Pinnacle Promise Homelessness Initiative, as well as our Haiti-support effort for Harmony Ministries, look back at tremendous work and measurable faithfulness through the year — even as they look forward to more.

The Preschool has also completed a great year. And, so much more could be noted.

And even as we point to programs, it’s important to remember worship, care, support in times of birth and death, new members joining even as we say farewell to a few who’ve moved away. We continue to rejoice with Rev. Willett as she cares for a newborn while doing her ministry, and we continue to pray for Rev. Park as he regains strength during his medical leave. Our ministries carry on, with the support of so many coming alongside and offering prayer, effort, time, and resources.

Much is yet to be done, and much will come. And yet even as we are so busy, it’s important to remember all that God has done among us. God has been faithful, and we are blessed.

Please see **TRACINGS** on page 4



Dr. Wes Avram,
Senior Pastor

MUSIC AT PINNACLE

Phoenix Children’s Chorus

7 p.m. Saturday, May 21, in the Sanctuary

Known as global ambassadors of the performing arts, the Phoenix Children’s Chorus has performed extensively throughout the Valley, the United States and even on the international stage with recent trips to Mexico, Canada and China. Grouped into four separate choirs, these young voices of the Valley range in age from 7 to 18 years. All are passionate about singing, and together they promise to provide an evening of unforgettable beauty in sound. Ticket info at pinnacleconcerts.org or 480.303.2474.



Rev. Sarah Johnson greets at the Sanctuary door following the April 3 congregational meeting.

PASTOR From page 1

Sarah was born in Charlotte, N.C., and grew up in Methodist and Presbyterian churches there and in nearby Greensboro. She is a graduate of Furman University and earned her Master of Divinity at Princeton Theological Seminary.

She will be leaving Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago where she has been Minister for Congregational Care, and before that, a Lilly Endowment Pastoral Resident at the church.

A complete bio is available on the PPC website.

PPC Offers You a Change to Beat the Heat Again This Summer

Come out for some fun and fellowship at 6:30 Thursday evenings this summer.

Here's a quick outline of the activities we have planned:

- Ice Cream Social and Book Exchange, June 16
- Pump It Up, June 23
- Movie Night at PPC, June 30
- Bowling, July 7
- PPC Talent Show, July 14
- Laserquest, July 21
- Family Friendly Hike, July 28

Complete details will be shared in the weekly PPC eblasts, the June/July issue of *Pinnacle Vistas*, the church website and e-mail.

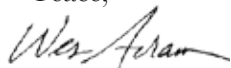
TRACINGS From page 2

We never close. Through the summer, the pace might change but activities go on. We worship every Sunday, love each other and reach out to the world. Mission continues. Planning for the fall heads forward with great energy. Kristin will take a little time with family and in continuing education. I will do the same, including a week teaching in Yale Divinity School's summer program and some time with my family. Others on staff will also take some weeks to refresh and ready themselves for what lies ahead. And in all the comings and goings, Pinnacle is open, active, and anxious to be God's people.

If you're here for the summer, keep engaged. There's something wonderful about the summer feel at Pinnacle. If you're away, we'll keep you in our prayers even as you keep us in yours, and we'll look forward to your return from cooler climes.

God is among us, and in that we are unusually blessed. Thanks.

Peace,



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Vacation Bible School Is June 6-10

The Shake It Up Cafe opens for business June 6-10!

Come join both new and familiar faces at our weeklong Vacation Bible School each morning that week. Our theme is cooking, as we "Live Life According to God's Recipe."



We are starting to fill our classes, and don't want anyone left behind. The cost is \$40 per child, which includes a CD, chef's hat and apron, and all the games, crafts, activities and snacks for an entire week.

We are in need of volunteers and crew leaders. For assisting us that week, the cost drops to \$10 per child. Professional childcare will be provided for volunteers' children under three years of age.

Registration forms can be found at the Preschool Office and the Church Office. If you'd rather the registration form be mailed to you, please contact Debbie Lisk at dlisk@pinnaclepres.org.

We can't wait to see you at VBS!

VBS NEEDS A PHOTOGRAPHER Are you a photographer or good with making photo DVDs? If so, Debbie Lisk would like to talk to you!

We are in need of a photographer to take many photos during VBS (June 6-10) and someone who can compile a DVD for all the children to take home as a memento of their week at PPC.

VBS Props and Supplies Needed

If you've got extra kitchen/cafe supplies, utensils or equipment, and would like to loan it to PPC for our Vacation Bible School, we'd be happy to showcase your items.

We are looking for the following: red/white checkered tablecloths; baker's rack; cafe table and two chairs; used appliances (for props only); baby jars (200 needed; both large and small sizes); glass quart jars with lids (250 needed); handheld "egg beaters"; blenders and toaster ovens to be used for cooking class; handheld food chopper; handheld potato masher; any unique kitchen utensils (kids will have to guess their purpose).

See ‘Prophets’ Come to Life on May 2

PPC will be hosting “Prophets: Live Performance and Multimedia Bring Isaiah and Jeremiah to Life” at 7 p.m. Monday, May 2, in the Sanctuary.



Brad Sherrill in “Prophets”

“Prophets” is a dramatic presentation based on Biblical texts. Actor and storyteller Brad Sherrill brings together two interconnected aspects of his craft: his creativity as an artist and his faith as a member of the religious community. In so doing, he highlights the potential power of both in working to create positive social change.

“Prophets,” which debuted in January 2010, is based on Isaiah, Jeremiah and other Old Testament texts, and incorporates those ancient writings with 21st century imagery, highlighting the modern applications of these teachings.

Sherrill says that though the prophets are often associated with ideas of repentance and “doom and gloom,” they ultimately provide a message of hope, one that is very pertinent to contemporary issues.

“Really, all I’m trying to do is to let these texts, these ancient texts, come alive for us now. And I want to do that in a clean, theologically sound way,” he says. “I don’t want people to say, ‘Wow, that’s a great performance!’ I want people to say ‘Wow, listen to that!’ ”

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

Democracy in Islam

Facilitated by Alan Stone

11:15 a.m. Sunday, May 15, in the Music Rehearsal Hall (just off of the Sanctuary)

Democracy in Islam takes a look into the religious aspects and politics of the Middle East protests. This class will provide an opportunity to recap the events in the Middle East and provide for a discussion of outcome and the future.

PINNACLE PROMISE: HOMELESSNESS INITIATIVE

Homelessness Initiative Continues Pushing Forward

The Homelessness Initiative Committee has been researching the homelessness problem and has launched a comprehensive program to deal with homelessness issues. Six projects have been established to give all members of the congregation opportunities to volunteer and financially participate in homelessness issues.

ANDRE HOUSE Serving meals at Andre House is a continuing program of Pinnacle Presbyterian Church. Andre House is a ministry to the homeless and poor population in the inner city. Pinnacle currently provides between 20–26 volunteers per month, serving hot meals to the homeless on a scheduled basis.

Contact Lin Ogden or Stephanie Webster for more information.

OPEN TABLE Open Table is a program that transforms lives from homelessness and poverty into wholeness and stability “one life at a time.” A “Table” is a group of people that act as life specialists, encouragers, and advocates. By working together with an individual or family, a “Table” overcomes the obstacles that prevent the achievement of stability and self sufficiency. One “Table” is currently underway, with another “Table” scheduled to begin in the fall.

Contact Linda Jenkins for more information

UMOM UMOM New Day Centers provides shelter and services for homeless families. Families are rapidly becoming the fastest growing segment of the homeless population in our country. The typical homeless family in Arizona consists of a single mother with two or three young children. UMOM provides Arizona’s homeless families with food, shelter, and the tools they need to build a bridge to self sufficiency.

Contact Chapin Bell for more information

INTERFAITH INITIATIVE Pinnacle Presbyterian Church has taken the lead to establish an “interfaith” network of faith based organizations to support the chronically homeless in the valley. Pinnacle has joined with the Valley of the Sun United Way in a campaign to raise \$10 a year from families of faith based organizations in the area. This is the first step in a partnership as the United Way seeks to engage the faith based com-

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BAPTISM

The congregation celebrates the baptism of:

Brooke Anne Coubrough, child of **Anne Marie and Mike Coubrough**

SYMPATHY

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to:

Mary Martin and family on the death of Mary's husband, **William Martin Dr. Larry, Meredyth, and Joe Corbett** on the death of **Courtney**, Larry and Meredyth's daughter, and Joe's mother.

Harold Byers on the death of his wife, **Jean**.

Gail and Charles Lucky on the death of Charles' sister, **Barbara Shannon**.

Mary Lou and Dale Mercer on the death of Mary Lou's mother, **Dolores Trainor**

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munity in support of local social services. Funds raised from this effort go directly to support services to provide permanent supportive housing to chronically homeless individuals

Contact Jonieta Stone for more information.

VETERANS More and more veterans are finding themselves homeless. Returning vets from Iraq and Afghanistan are faced with many challenges as they re-enter civilian life. PPC has established a relationship with Madison Street Veterans Association, a local group of homeless veterans who are actively working to solve homeless issues for veterans.

Contact John King for more information.

FILM DOCUMENTARY Pinnacle Presbyterian Church has provided the seed money to produce a film documentary about homelessness in Maricopa County. The purpose of the film is to raise awareness and financial support for coordinated responses to end homelessness in the region.

The film project is called "One Step Away." The name implies that anyone could find themselves homeless, that too many of us simply turn and step away from the problem of homelessness, and that homelessness is one step away from a solution.

The working title of the film is *Rough Road Home*, which describes the many challenges the homeless face getting back on their feet.

Filming is underway. Fundraising from public corporations and foundations continues. The film is scheduled for an autumn release.

Contact Mark Leinweber for more information.

Many Thanks to Brandon Willett

For the past few months, Brandon Willett has played an important role for us as our part-time Temporary Coordinator for Family Ministries. He is concluding that work this month.

Brandon will continue as a part-time part of our pastoral care team, giving special help to us during Rev. Park's medical leave. He will also continue in the genuinely appreciated role he plays in our Youth Ministry.

We are so fortunate to have him part of our community and have been blessed by his efforts in family ministries. We look forward to his continuing presence at PPC and to the positive influence his work will have as we strengthen our ministries among families.

Following is a letter from Brandon to the PPC family:

Thanks be to God! Allow me to join the chorus of excited voices celebrating the dedicated labor of the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee which culminated early last month in calling Rev. Sarah Johnson to serve our congregation as Associate Pastor for Christian Formation.

If you were unable to hear her preach that day, I would highly recommend listening to it via our church website or by podcast.

Now that a new Associate Pastor has been called my work as Temporary Coordinator for Family Ministries will be coming to a close. It has been a joy and a privilege to work alongside a dedicated pastoral, program, and administrative staff and to participate in ongoing educational programs and occasional ministries. Now, more than ever, I feel blessed to belong to PPC.

What have I been doing? That's a fair question. Over the past six months my primary role has been that of fact-finder about PPC's Family Ministries, past and present. The information I have gathered has come from a variety of sources from informal conversations with members after worship to in-depth discussions while participating in Children's Ministry Committee meetings. The most abundant source of informa-

Please see **BRANDON** on page 10



Brandon Willett

AS@P Helps PPC Singles Meet

Adult Singles @ Pinnacle, or AS@P, is a Christian singles fellowship at Pinnacle Presbyterian Church to assist singles — men and women — in meeting other singles.

We will continue to have our monthly luncheon the third Sunday of the month.

If you find yourself alone on a Sunday morning during the 10 a.m. service, please join us in the third or fourth row in front of our friends in the choir.

Additionally, we are planning a meeting in early May as well as additional events in the coming months.

Watch for more details in the Sunday bulletin, weekly eBlast, church website and emails. For more information or to be added to our mailing list, send inquiries to ppcsingles@pinnaclepres.org.

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tion has been the Family Ministry Focus Groups. Ten different families participated in about 18 total hours of conversation about worship, fellowship, education and other matters related to Family Ministry. These discussions yielded a healthy combination of commendation and critique about our past and present Family programs that will be invaluable for giving shape to the future of Family Ministry at PPC.

What have I learned? Simply put, where there's smoke there's fire and the flame is hot in this church family. Considerable momentum and energy have sustained our church family through a series of transitions. We are a congregation of faithful Christians who are generous with our time, talents and resources. We care deeply about others in and out of our congregation and pursue active ways to support one another. We are unwavering in our commitment to our church and wish to enhance current and future programming through open communication, dedicated participation and innovative visioning. Are you impressed? Proud? Me, too.

Fire is on the move at Pinnacle Presbyterian Church. You don't have to look long or hard to see it. In which direction will it burn? God guided the flame at Pentecost. Be at peace knowing God directs and fuels the flame around here, too.

FINANCIAL REPORT

PPC's Financial Support Is Generous, Broad-based

We just wanted to take pause and be grateful for the generosity and the broad-based support of our congregation. We also wish to update you on the financial and stewardship activities of our church since our annual meeting in February.

As you may have noted in Sunday's bulletin on April 3, we received contributions to debt reduction totaling \$26,712 and paid this amount on the principal of our mortgage.

Stewardship reports a total of 382 Pledges for 2011 totaling \$1,264,518.

At a recent Presbyterian Stewardship conference we learned how Pinnacle compares to 'typical' church giving patterns:

Donors	'Typical' church	Pinnacle Church
Major Gifts	60%	40%
Next 20%	20%	27%
Base 70%	20%	33%

Our conclusion is that Pinnacle church has broader participation in our finances than the average church.

Finance/Treasurer's Report: First Quarter 2011

	Income	Expense	(Deficit)
March 2011 YTD Actual	529,774	521,629	8,145
March 2011 YTD Budget	510,994	536,048	(25,054)
(difference)	18,780	(14,419)	

We are blessed with a generous congregation, wonderful programs and ministry, new members and staff, and God's love. Thank you so much for your steadfast support and commitment.

NEXT VISTAS WILL BE COMBINED ISSUE The next issue of *Pinnacle Vistas* will be a combined June/July edition. Let the PPC congregation know what your group is doing this summer. Please submit your articles by Tuesday, May 10, to ensure publication. There are two ways to submit articles to *Pinnacle Vistas*. Contribute via the church's website, pinnaclepres.org/vistas/contribute.html, or e-mail to Pinnacle.Vistas@gmail.com.

Fund Established to Assist College Students

A Student Assistance Fund has been established at Pinnacle Presbyterian Church thanks to the inspirational leadership of Susan Larson.



Sue Larson set up the Memorial Fund honoring her late husband, Ned.

The Fund will provide two annual grants not to exceed \$500 each to students.

Applicants must live in Arizona and be members of Pinnacle Presbyterian Church. They must have been accepted into or attending an accredited post-secondary school program, show community involvement and demonstrate financial need.

A three-member committee will review applications and make final decisions on the awarding of these grants. The committee will consist of one Pinnacle Presbyterian staff

member, one member of the Pinnacle Presbyterian Foundation Board and one member-at-large.

Sue expressed her hope that “this fund would welcome donations from others so it can continue in the future.”

The initial grant of nearly \$10,000 came from the Memorial Fund honoring Ned Larson. Providing assistance to Sue in setting up the Fund were Dorothy and Wayne Stingley, John King, and Kristin and Brandon Willett.

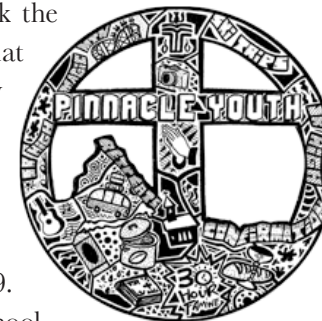
Kristin and Brandon gave enthusiastic support to the program since they received monies from a similar fund at Mountain View Presbyterian Church to cover book costs while attending Princeton Theological Seminary.

The Pinnacle Presbyterian Church Foundation will manage the Fund and its assets. Information on applying for grants will be forthcoming.

Thanks to You, Rummage Sale Raises Over \$14,000 for Youth Mission Trip

The teens of our church want to thank the congregation for all of the donations that were contributed to their sale and a very special thanks to all of those who helped out with the preparations and the sale. We couldn't have done it without you!

Due to your generosity of donations and time, the teens were able to raise \$14,239. The proceeds will help fund our high school mission trip this summer.



Senior Recognition Sunday Is May 22

Every May we celebrate the high school seniors: their achievements and their presence within the ministry of Pinnacle. Senior Recognition Sunday will be May 22.

Please keep our graduating seniors in your prayers as they take the next step in their life journey.

If you are a senior or know one within our congregation, please contact Pastor Willett as soon as possible to ensure you all can participate.

Confirmation Class Joins Church, May 15

This spring, 17 eighth graders in our congregation have been a part of Confirmation. They have spent every Wednesday evening exploring together theological themes of our faith.

Their confirmation journey will come to a conclusion on Sunday, May 15.

As they finish up they will be preparing their statements of faith and presenting them to the elders of our church. Please keep these teens in your prayers as they finish up their confirmation time and choose to become members of Pinnacle.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

May 1

Brooke Coubrough
Lloyd Fox
James Mitchell
Allison Wiltfong

May 2

Nancy L. Heinonen
Andrew Helfert
Tucker Honing
James Pappas
Laura Perin

May 3

Shelly Core
Jack David
Harrison Hackbarth
Jennifer Smith

May 4

Nicholas DiFilippo
Christine Jones
Kathleen Powell
Matthew Sidoti
Madeline Sobek

May 5

Jean Dodge
John Murillo

May 6

Michael Edwards
Carter Forrest
Nicolas Gropel
McKenna Hollander
Alyssa Loneran
William Noyes
Kayli Preston
Benjamin Rugen
Stella Zamora

May 8

Andy Davis
Alex Horrell
Cherie Weis

May 9

James Goulka
Cyrus Hobbi
Arlene Knight Kilgore
Anthony Matheson
George O'Connell

May 10

Abby Drummond
Chris Watkins

Aiden Whittington

May 11

Chip King
Jayna Prenzno
James Strohan

May 12

Jarrett Pille

May 13

Mary Beth Eichof
Len Zamora

May 14

George Decker
James DeWeese
Ruth Fox
Adam Stockett

May 15

Sue Frandson
J. D. Helms
John Terhune

May 16

Eleanor Frederiksen
Colby Heuser
Deborah Moore

May 17

Brittni DeMaagd
Nancy Froehlke
Sara Hayes
JeanEtte Hyatt
Carole Lauck
Kilee McCaleb
Hazel Ricketts

May 18

Ashley Biondo
Ned Miner
Patrick Nolan

May 19

Thomas Clarkin
Lilly Hackbarth
Nancy Holloran
Stefanie Lein
John Richard

May 20

James Davis
Jennifer Esser
Amy Satterfield
Olivia Smith

May 21

Jo Anne Chamberlain

Willis Warner

May 22

Gary Fechtmeyer
Luke Lewis

May 23

Cory Zimmerman

May 24

Tracey Martin

May 25

Sabrina Ball
Kathleen Blomquist
Avery Gay
Carolyn Keyser
Tomas McIntosh-

May 26

Fletcher
Shirley Simandl
Robert Yarwood

May 26

Max Fechtmeyer
Debra Lisk
Shelby McCabe
Alex Powell
Barbara Reiter

May 27

Richard Alsager
Roger Decker
John Frabotta
Logan Myers
Blake Whittington

May 28

Parker Lauen
Diane Oeste

May 29

Linda Coughenour
Anna Hughes
Linda Jenkins
Judy Loken
Mary Lou Warner

May 30

Rebecca Cooke
Dillon Surmick
George Zajacek

May 31

Erik Heuser

CLUB WED!



Club Wed! Awards Honor Young Performers

A large crowd was on hand as participants of the Club Wed! program were honored at an Awards Brunch held April 10.

Medals and certificates were given to the members of the Wee Singers, Cholla Chimers and Cholla Choir and Canyon Ringers and Canyon Singers.

Special gifts as well as certificates were given to children who participated in the Christian education classes of Club Wed!, such as Lamb Brigade, Lion Pride and Kids Can...

In addition, members of the Youth Music Program were recognized for their outstanding contributions this year.

Club Wed! provides music and Christian education opportunities for children ages 4 through 5th grade. Families are encouraged to attend adult Bible studies at the same time and a fellowship dinner is provided for all. Club Wed! returns in September.

