



PINNACLE VISTAS

The Newsletter for Pinnacle Presbyterian Church, Scottsdale, Ariz. • February 2012



King Cakes were popular at last year's 'Fat' Sunday.

'Fat' Sunday Is Feb. 19

On Sunday, Feb. 19, the Deacons and Christian Education will provide Fat Sunday treats, including the traditional King Cakes, in the Fellowship Hall after the 10 a.m. worship service. Our Children's Ministries Committee will provide games, beads, masks and more for kids.

So come and indulge your sweet tooth before the start of Lent.

PPC members and staff have written a book of daily devotions for the Lenten season. These special books of personal reflections will be handed out after worship on Sunday, Feb. 19. Also look for an email by which you can request to receive the daily devotions electronically.

Come Walk With Me... for Haiti

In Dr. Avram's Christmas Eve message, he talked about God "making a way out of no way." With God's help, that's what Pastor Luc does with Harmony Ministries in Haiti.

He brings God's Word to the people, baptizing and teaching and caring and leading. And those people, adults and children, strong or broken, put on their Sunday best and come to worship.

They clear the rubble, start building new church buildings, bring their children to school, go to adult

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Mission Study: A Look Back, A Look Ahead

Dear friends,

Vision. Direction. Emphasis. Hope. Optimism. Possibility. Future.

I had a chance this week to look back at Pinnacle's Mission Study published in 2008. Every Presbyterian church does that kind of study before they call a new pastor, especially before they call a senior pastor. It's a chance for a congregation to assess where they are, discern what challenges lie before them, discover what's going well and what needs new emphasis, and describe what they will look for in a new pastor.

The Mission Study also becomes a great tool for that new pastor — a way to get to know a congregation.

Some of the information for these studies can come from surveys of the congregation. Pinnacle did a survey, and some of you remember participating.

Looking back at that study, I was struck by how congruent our emphases of the past couple of years have been with the hopes and dreams of the congregation back then. How wonderful! We're hardly done and have come through some remarkable months on the path to this point. God is faithful, and your commitment is tangible.

Among strengths of Pinnacle, you named music, fellowship, pastoral leadership, and worship. Among strengths you'd like to see *built upon*, you noted increased experimentation with new forms of worship and new attention to stewardship, communication, and finances.

Among emphases you wanted to see *developed* at Pinnacle, the one you named more than any other was an increased participation and support for mission beyond our walls. Second, after mission, you named an ever-increasing emphasis on Christian Education.



Dr. Wes Avram,
Senior Pastor

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education classes, get help with life skills and medical issues. They walk — from a house, a tent, across mountain trails or broken paths; they walk to learn about God, grow their faith and live better lives.

On Sunday, Feb. 12, we'll see pictures of these people and hear from Pastor Luc. After church, we'll have an all-church walk with activities for both kids and adults. We'll have a light lunch. And we'll walk. Like the little children skipping down the path in Leogane, and the bent elderly woman in Thoman, and the moms and dads and aunts and uncles and teens and grandparents — everyone of every age and condition, taking their own faith journey.

Put on your sneakers and come to church. Crazy socks welcome — encouraged! Everyone wear sneakers — pastors, kids, old adults, young adults and teens.

During church we'll hear some stories of the people, and after church we'll walk and celebrate the people of Harmony Ministries.

Please come walk with me. Come walk with Pastor Luc. Come walk with the Cadet family. Come walk with the people of Pastor Luc's ministry.

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As we move into 2012, I want to continue to keep all these emphases in mind — and also in heart. We'll continue building *Pinnacle Promise*, and all of the mission-minded ministries that effort houses. In this, we'll listen for Christ's call to join him in a ministry of love, justice, and reconciliation in a hurting world. And we'll invite others to join us in that effort!

We'll also think about how to reshape, deepen, and broaden our invitation to Christian formation — through children's ministry, youth and adult education, and the Pinnacle Theological Center.

As much as ever, we want to live our faith as informed and engaged Christians, centered in Christ and open to life in all its fullness.

Thanks for your faithfulness.

In service,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Wes Avram".

**The Role of Faith and Prayer in Health and Healing:
What Does Science Have to Say?**

Harold G. Koenig, MD, MHSc.
Thursday, Feb. 9, 7 p.m., Chapel



Dr. Harold Koenig

Dr. Harold Koenig will provide a background on the situation with regard to religion and health care in the U.S. and around the world, noting the high prevalence of spiritual needs in medical settings and the current divorce between religion and medicine. He will then examine the role of religion in coping with illness and other life stress. He will review the scientific research on the relationships between religion, mental health and well-being, and also explore religious involvement and physical health and longevity. Finally, he will present a model that seeks to explain how religious involvement affects health.

Dr. Koenig is board certified in general psychiatry, geriatric psychiatry and geriatric medicine. He is Director of the Center for Spirituality, Theology and Health at Duke University Medical Center, and has published extensively in the fields of mental health, geriatrics, and religion. He is considered one of the world's top experts on religion and health.

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

The Gospel According to The Beatles

A Time Out for the Arts event
Brent Hylton
Monday, Feb. 6, 7 p.m., Chapel

On Feb. 9, 1964, the Beatles, with their Edwardian suits and mop top haircuts, made their first American television appearance — live — on *The Ed Sullivan Show*. A record setting 73 million people tuned in that evening, making it one of the defining moments in television history. Nearly 50 years later, people still remember exactly where they were the night The Beatles stepped onto Ed Sullivan's stage. The genius of The Beatles and the American institution that was *The Ed Sullivan Show* combined to create one of the most defining and indelible moments in the history of music, television and pop culture, in fact making an impact on the world

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that will never be duplicated. Join Pinnacle's music director, Brent Hylton, for an evening in which we will discuss the impact of The Beatles — not only on rock and roll but on all of Western culture.

Spirituality of Healing

Dr. Lynn Jacobs
Sundays, Feb. 12 and 19, 11:15 a.m., Chapel Library

A spirituality of healing implies a unique capacity of the human spirit to strive toward health and wholeness almost intentionally. Every system has within its core an innate balancing mechanism, which, if recognized and appropriated in its pure form, provides a sense of meaning and purpose in life. When lived intentionally, spirituality unifies and integrates every aspect of life into a meaningful whole. It provides a sense of connection with the transcendent, with one another and with the world. It also provides a perspective and resiliency to openly embrace what life has to offer even in the midst of pain and sorrow. Jesus asked the lame man if he wanted to be healed. Do you want to be healed?

Dr. Lynn Jacobs has had various ministries, including roles as a pastor, military chaplain, manager of spiritual care in hospital ministry, seminary and others. She says her most important title these days is "grandmother."

Find Your Joy by Identifying Your Gifts and Passions

Rod Houston
Sundays, Feb. 12 and 19, 11:15 a.m., Office Conference Room

In each of us is a joyful authentic self waiting to be released. Part of finding this person is to identify and understand our God given gifts, passions, and style. Rod Houston will help you find your gifts, passion, and style through what is taught, discussion, and some simple tests. Come for lively discussion and lots of fun in the journey to finding your joy. For more information, contact Rod at 480.471.8482.

Understanding Islam Through Its Jewish and Christian Roots

Dr. Alan Stone
Begins Sunday, Feb. 26, 11:15 a.m., Chapel

On Feb. 26, this 45-minute session is a comparison of the three religions, their similarities, their departures from each other, and what we
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Visit 'Just Coffee' roasting facility in Aqua Prieta, Sonora

Plan to join Dan Abbott and members of the Mission Committee on Friday and Saturday, March 16 and 17, to see, hear, learn and taste why Just Coffee is so good tasting and how big an impact it has on the lives of the coffee growers.

On Friday, March 16, we will travel to Bisbee, Ariz., where we will stay at the historic Copper Queen Hotel. On Saturday morning, we will drive two hours to Douglas, Ariz., where we will be met by fellow Presbyterians who will take us to Aqua Prieta, Sonora, to visit the coffee roaster and learn more about coffee and migration.

We will meet some of the coffee growers from Mexico and eat real Mexican food that is fresh, great tasting and as hot as you like it – or not!

Visit with fellow Presbyterians from Aqua Prieta and learn more about Presbyterians in Mexico. See the border and the fence and learn more about the impact on both communities.

If you are interested in this trip and want more information, please contact Estelle Wade at 480.556.1678 or gedaw@aol.com.

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can learn from each other. The sessions will continue on March 4 with Holy War and on March 11 with The Modern Clashes.

Lenten Series: Five Solas

Pinnacle Pastors and Staff

Begins Sunday, Feb. 26, 11:15 a.m., Chapel Library

The Five Solas are five Latin phrases that emerged during the Protestant Reformation and summarize the Reformers' basic theological beliefs in contradistinction to the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church of the day. The Latin word *sola* means "alone" or "only" in English. They articulated five fundamental beliefs of the Protestant Reformation, pillars which the Reformers believed to be essentials of the Christian life and practice. Join Pinnacle Pastors as we explore *Sola scriptura* ("by Scripture alone"), *Sola fide* ("by faith alone"), *Sola gratia* ("by grace alone"), *Soli Deo gloria* ("glory to God alone"), and *Solus Christus* or *Solo Christo* ("Christ alone" or "through Christ alone") during this season of Lent. The class continues on Sundays, March 4, 11, 18 and 25.

Help Us Care for One Another

Many of us grew up in an era when hospitals routinely contacted churches when a member was admitted. Privacy rules today don't allow that to occur. We need your help to serve our congregation's pastoral care needs.

Here are some easy things you can do to be our eyes and ears so that every member of our congregation in need of care is tended to.

If you or a family member is hospitalized or if a loved one has died, please contact the church office. Let us know if you would like to be added to the church prayer chain.

If you know of a member who is in need of a pastor's visit or phone call for any reason, contact the church office with the relevant information.

Thank you for making us aware of pastoral care needs.

Home Communion – A Blessing to All

Once a month, typically the first Sunday of the month, elders and other church members take communion to the homes of those not able to attend church.

After scripture is read and the elements are blessed, pairs of communion servers share bread and juice with our homebound members. We think of this as serving communion "to the farthest pew."

If you would like to be part of the group that serves, please contact Cassie Noel at 480.515.0033 or mattpher@cox.net. All of the liturgy and communion elements are provided.

If you or someone you know would like to receive home communion, please contact the church office at 480 585-9448 or email Mary Albrektsen at malbrektsen@pinnaclepres.org.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

SYMPATHY

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to:

The family of **Barbara West**

The family of **Larry Kruidenier**

Denise and John Beghin family on the death of John's father

Marti and Chip King on the death of Chip's mother

Cory and Gary Zimmerman on the death of Gary's sister, **Barbara Nelson**

Laurie and Brad Jones family on the death of Laurie's grandmother

Erin Kelly and Nathan Jones family on the death of Erin's grandmother

Sara and Scott Cavin and family on the death of Sara's mother

The family of **Jack (John) Sheely**

Take Me Out to the Ball Game...

Catch the Diamondbacks vs. the Giants baseball game with PPC on Sunday, March 4.

Join a group of 100 PPC friends and families to see the D'Backs in their second game of Spring Training. Game starts at 1:10 p.m., but you'll want to get to the Salt River Fields early.

We'll have an area set up for all of us to sit together on the lawn, so bring your towels and blankets for comfortable seating. Unfortunately, lawn chairs and umbrellas are NOT allowed. Tickets are \$8 each, and are available from Debbie Lisk. Tickets will be sold during the coffee hour and POW! until they are all sold.

Questions? Want to reserve tickets? Please call Debbie at 480.585.9448 ext. 203.

Tucson Trip Planned for Mother's Day Weekend

Take Mama Away to Tucson for Mother's Day Weekend.

Zip down to Tucson during the second weekend of May. We've got a block of 15 rooms reserved at the Hilton El Conquistador. The rate is \$136 per night, and we'd love to have your company!

Enjoy a leisurely stay at this beautiful resort. You can lounge by the pool, enjoy the golf courses, try your hand at tennis, or see the sites in the city. There will be a church dinner on Saturday evening, and a casual worship time on Sunday morning. The rest of the time is yours to enjoy as a family, with your loved ones, or just getting away from it all.

Please contact Debbie Lisk or the Church Office for more information.

Valentine's Day Party to Support Haiti Ministries

Come Walk With Me — on Sunday, Feb. 12 — and support Pastor Luc's Harmony Ministries.

You may have already read the article about this special day, and we have loads of activities for children. Our elementary children will see lots

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of photos from the recent trip to Haiti, and have an opportunity to ask questions about the children in Luc's ministries.

After church, we'll walk around the church grounds, and everyone is invited to our Hearts for Haiti/Hearty Party in Fellowship Hall to decorate a cake for Valentine's Day. There will be a variety of cakes, and we'll provide the frosting. You can decorate as simply or elaborately as you'd like. We'll also have T-shirts available for sale — you're encouraged to color them in your own special style.

Finally, we'll have a petting zoo on the Green, where kids can pet and interact with some of the same animals that can be found in Haiti.

And of course, there will be a lunch for all to enjoy. We hope to see you on this Special Sunday!

What's Up at POW!

POW! — Pinnacle On Wednesdays! — is in full swing again, and you are always welcome to join us for any of our Christian Education classes.



Kids Can... is our children's mission group, where children come together to be the hands and feet of Jesus finding ways to serve others. Kids Can... meets in Fellowship Hall Room 3 from 5–5:25 p.m. and is open to all children in elementary school.

Wee Ones is designed for our Senior 4s and Kindergarten children, where they hear a Bible Story, then see a Beginner's Bible or Veggie Tales video. This class meets in Fellowship Hall Room 4 from 6–6:25 p.m.

Finally, we also offer our Bible Adventurers class for our 1st and 2nd graders. We read a different story each week, then play a game, complete a craft, or reinforce the lesson through creative play. This class meets from 6:45–7:15 p.m. in Fellowship Hall Room 3.

Vacation Bible School Is Coming June 4-8

Vacation Bible School – Operaton Overboard: Dive Deep With God — will be held June 4-8. Registration materials will be coming out soon.

We will be exploring God's love, and how deep our relationships are with God. Save the dates — and sign up to be part of this incredible week!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Feb. 1

Michelle Decker

Feb. 2

Greg Barber
Kathy Cline
Robert Collins
David Frederiksen

Feb. 3

Fred Dodge
Michelle Lonergan

Feb. 4

Luke Niemann

Feb. 5

Christopher Black

Feb. 6

Susan Adkins
Landon Biggs
Richard Reese

Feb. 7

Mackenzi Ives
Rev. Sarah Johnson
Herb Nagel
Tyler Watson

Feb. 8

Elliot Loken
Michelle Patton

Feb. 9

Baiba Clemens
Judy Hodge
Emma Kessler
Linda Pope
Ashley Potter
Christie Slegers

Feb. 10

Walter Bolliger
Charles Eichof
Aubrey Gress
Jan Loichle

Feb. 11

John Klemmer
Ben Kolesar
David Kolesar

Feb. 12

Jim Blankenbaker

Christian Fechtmeyer
Alan Smith
David Van Driel

Feb. 13

Aaron Hill
Ruth Ann Kelsey
E. Lee Magruder

Feb. 14

Wendy Brown
Kendall Smith
Flynn Stewart
Lyle Willson

Feb. 15

Andrew Avram
Sarah J. Boyd
Dawson Dopp

Feb. 16

Steven Croll
Scott Powell

Feb. 17

Steven Jesson
Courtney Myers

Feb. 18

Matthew Biggs
John Crow
Marcus Downing
Robert W. Staley

Craig Starkey
Sara Stockett

Feb. 19

Laurel Davis
Robert Pollock
John Prenzno
Molly Rosenbaum
Toni Yarwood

Feb. 20

Katie Cavin
Nancy Dueker
Steven Loken
Donald Luke

James Moore
Sophia Shaffer

Feb. 21

Sherry Gamble

Feb. 22

Amber Lenniger
Grant Lisk
John Simpson
Lisa Willis

Feb. 24

Jo Ann Dixon
Marti King
Susan Storch

Feb. 25

Colleen Diedrich
L. Wilson Kilgore
Trisha Mancini
Todd Mason

Feb. 26

Lynn Alsager
Barb Callison
Anne Marie Coubrough
Norman Pilgreen
Nicholas Roe

Feb. 27

Kevin DeRuiter
Delaney Dopp
Althea McConnell

Feb. 28

Olivia DeRuiter
Don Dolan
George Jones
Megan Mathews
Emily Mitchell
Robert Slegers
Micah Willett

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

Help Build a New Habitat House

Once again PPC will be helping to build another Habitat for Humanity house.

The house is for the Cavazos family and is located in South Phoenix. Dora is disabled grandmother who does light work.

As usual, we are looking for workers to hammer, paint, sweep and everything in between. Contractor level skills are not required, but you must be at least 16 years old. Skilled leaders will guide us “laborers.”

The remaining Saturday dates this year are March 24 and April 28. The work day is from 7:30 a.m. until about 2:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Carl Richie at 480.551.6855 or pncrichie@aol.com or Doug Brown at 480.515.1361 or doug44@icc.com.

Amigos Host Wine Tasting, Pasta Dinner

Join the Amigos for the third annual Wine Tasting and Pasta Dinner at 6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 10, at the Legend Trail Community Center.

The mission of Amigos, a fellowship group aimed at our 50+ population, is to expand and enrich the friendships we have with the church, making us truly the family of God.

This is a fun event you won't want to miss. Wine tasting will begin at 6 p.m. followed by dinner at 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$25 per person and includes tasting a selection of South American wines offered by Total Wine & More, followed by a pasta dinner.

Also planned is a silent auction of wines being tasted.

You will have the opportunity to increase your knowledge of wines, as well as spend quality time with fellow Amigos.

Look for the sign-up table following worship on Sunday, Feb. 5, or contact Jonieta and Alan Stone at thestones3@cox.net or 480.563.3706, or Anita and Bruce Baudler at brucebaudler@gmail.com or 480.502.0518.

Rummage Sale Is Coming!

It is time to start setting aside items to donate to the Youth Rummage Sale.

We will begin collections on March 16 and continue through March 20. Due to a lack of storage space, we cannot accept donations prior to March 16.

Please consider signing up to help with the sale.

Contact Rev. Willett for more information.