



Inspire

Issue 303

First Presbyterian Church, Pueblo, Colorado

February 2010

A note from Brad about Lenten Spirituality...

This month begins, with Ash Wednesday, the celebration of Lent. Actually, “celebration” is a strong word because Lent is a season of somber preparation that opens one’s heart to the reality of Jesus’ sacrifice for our sins. In-depth contemplation of death, even Jesus’ death, is hardly what I would call a reason to party! And yet, there is a quality of joy to discovering that in death, God brings life; in suffering, God brings perseverance; in struggle, God brings hope.

For many centuries the commemoration of Lent was designed to remember Jesus’ sacrifice by experiencing a sense of deprivation in one’s own life. This led some otherwise serious Christians to take the relatively silly step of “giving up sweets” for Lent; I know of one engaged couple who gave up “relations” for Lent... wow, I think they were missing the point somehow! While experiencing deprivation may have some merit to the soul, I think the practice of “giving something up for Lent” is seriously overrated. Rather than give something up, I think serious followers of Jesus should use this time to dedicate themselves to contemplation and reflection on the serious issues confronting our families, our community, our nation and our world. How does Jesus’ life, teachings, death and resurrection impact our lives?

In our lives, it is easy to rely on personal gifts and civic habits and business customs to get by and make do. But what kind of witness to Jesus’ new and abundant life is “getting by” and “making do”? Instead of such self-reliance, Lent invites us to imagine what God can do through us if we learn to allow our self-sustaining, self-promoting, self-protecting, self-satisfying gifts and habits and customs to die with Christ in order to allow God’s Spirit to sustain us, promoting our well-being, protecting the good and right and just, satisfying our desires for those things that bring meaning and purpose to life. Rather than “give something up” why not jump into justice? Why not pray for peace? Why not renew your marriage vows? Why not write your children a letter telling them how much you appreciate them? Why not set aside a few moments each and every day to be thankful? Why not practice listening to that still, small voice of Holy Spirit that prompts us all the time to do things... and then do them!

Grace and peace,
Brad

P.S. We have three special offerings this Lent; look for these in the bulletin and next month’s INSPIRE:

- **Younger Couple’s Lenten Study** – *The Love Dare*, based on the movie *Fireproof*, this six week discussion group will meet on Sunday mornings at 10:30. This class is for younger couples, defined as those whose kids are still in the home or who are without kids.
- **The Jesus’ Experience: An Open House** – On Good Friday (April 2), the church will host a come-and-go open house from 5:30 – 8:00 in which there will be music, art, prayer and experiential immersion activities to help us deepen our sense of Jesus’ passion. Prepare to bring a friend!
- **Painting the Labyrinth** – We will paint a labyrinth on a 30’ x 30’ canvas on Saturday, February 27 beginning at 10:00; come and join in on the fun (and work).

Music Notes ***from*** ***Liz Shoemaker***

Chancel Choir – It's hard to believe, but it's time to begin working on music for Lent and Holy Week. We welcome new singers at this time and at all times! Rehearsals are Wednesdays from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm.

Chancel Ringers – We are scheduled to ring on Sunday, **February 21** at the 10:30 am service. We are pleased to have two new ringers join us in January, Jeff and Becky Cornelius. In the fall Brandy Morgan joined us, so with the addition of these three ringers we are again able to use all 5 octaves of bells.

Children/youth choir –K-2 grade choir

This choir is a training choir. We work on pitch matching, putting rhythm in our bodies with instruments and passing and bouncing a ball on the beat. We also use the Orff xylophones, metallophones and glockenspiels. We hope to sing in early April. Our meeting time is **5:45-6:15 pm** in the Biddall Chapel. The director for this choir is Liz Shoemaker.

Youth Band – Wednesdays 5:50-7:00 pm in the sanctuary - Leslee DuPertuis and Duane Otter, directors. They provided music leadership on January 24, Youth Sunday.

Worship and Music Experiences coming soon

Ash Wednesday, February 17, begins the season of Lent. The service will be at noon with a simple lunch of soup and bread to follow.

During the month of March the Chancel Choir's music will be enhanced by a variety of musical instruments.

Palm Sunday is March 28th and **Easter Sunday is April 4th**.

A Hymn for Meditation this Lenten Season

Samuel Crossman (1623-1683), a British minister, wrote the hymn ***My Song Is Love Unknown*** which has lasted the test of time. It can be found in our Presbyterian Hymnal (#76). The meaning of the text can be understood more easily when printed without the music. I hope you will find his hymn meaningful to your Lenten experience.

*My song is love unknown, my Savior's love to me,
Love to the loveless shown that they might lovely be.
O who am I that for my sake my Lord should
take frail flesh, and die?*

*Christ came from heaven's throne salvation to bestow,
but people scorned and none the longed-for Christ would know.
But O my Friend, my Friend indeed, Who at my need His life did spend!*

*Sometimes they strew His way, and His sweet praises sing,
resounding all the way Hosannas to their King.
Then "Crucify!" is all their breath, and for His death they thirst and cry.*

*They rise, and needs will have my dear Lord made away;
A murderer they save, the Prince of life they slay.
Yet steadfast He to suffering goes, that He His foes from thence might free.*

*Here might I stay and sing, no story so divine:
Never was love, dear King, never was grief like Thine.
This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise I all my days could gladly spend.*

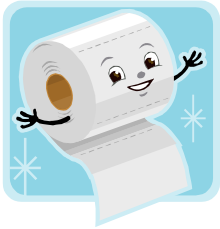
SOLI DEO GLORIA!





Bible Study
Thursday, February 18th,
9:30 am - Lesson #6

Note Change of location: We will meet at the church in the Catacombs. For more information call Cay Herrington



Cooperative Care Center
February is Toilet Paper Challenge. Please place your donations in the boxes in the fellowship hall.

The Reverse Offering led by the Deacons will take place on **February 7th, 14th and 21st.** More information on which agencies we have chosen will be announced in the Sunday bulletin.



We extend sympathy to:

Doris Garcia and family on the death of her Husband, Bob.

To Beth Huff and family on the death of her Mom.

To the family and friends of Dorothy Landry.

Joyce Draper would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards and phone calls during her stay in hospital.



Dinners for 6+ - Groups forming now. Have fun! Great way to meet people! If on the list, please respond if you are willing to continue. Contact Jeff or Vanessa at

email vanessa.tranel@colostate.edu or phone 253-0939.



When you see people who are sad, lonely, or grief-stricken, don't just tell them you care – *show* them you care. Ask how they are, listen to what they have to say and share the love of Jesus. And if their need is great, encourage them to consider Stephen Ministry as a way to

receive the transforming love and care of Jesus. Contact our pastors on how to connect someone with a caregiver.

We have just started the training class for new caregivers. Please pray for the 5 folks who feel called to being a Stephen Minister and are participating in 4 months of intensive training. *"Encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing"* 1 Thess. 5:11



February is a month when we talk about love. Our children will be learning that God loves everyone so much that he sent his only son, Jesus, into our world. We will be learning about the miracles of Jesus, and that he gave up his own life for us. But Jesus didn't stay dead! He lives for us, and now we can live for him. Knowing Jesus' love, we can learn to love others!

On **Valentine's Day, Sunday, February 14,** our children in Sunday school will receive a special gift as a reminder of God's Amazing Love! Please plan to join us!

Blessings! Gayle Ganger

Ash Wednesday

**Wednesday, February 17th
Service at 12 noon**

**Followed by Soup and Bread to
be served in the
Fellowship Hall.**

Fall Worship Schedule

Contemporary Service9:00 am
Traditional Service10:30 am
Sunday School.....10:30 am
Hispanic NCD12 noon
The Path.....6:00 pm

THE INSPIRE, a monthly publication of
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THE INSPIRE is published monthly to keep members and friends informed of programs of the church and to report news about First Presbyterian's members and friends. Send address changes to:

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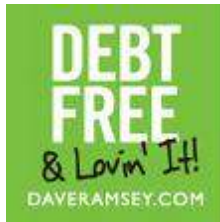


Youth Ministry

MYLife is our middle school youth group for students 6th through 8th grades.
LUVLife is our high school youth group for students in the 9th through 12th grades.

Parents: 2 big things coming up:

1) Make sure your high school students know that starting this month we will be doing Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University for teens during high school Sunday School 10:30 am - 11:30 am. We were given a generous donation of the FPU / Teen Course and material from the Hill family. This will be an interesting and eye opening course that will help them learn how to become financially independent and keep them from living in your basement until they're 35!



2) **The Path Retreat.** We have expanded it so that not only Seniors in high school can participate - but Juniors as well. This retreat is a deep, thought provoking time of introspection and contemplative time with God. It will be led by Laura Munroe, and she will take us through some empowering exercises that will help us think about what our Path in life is. This is a great prep course for combating stress in making decisions and listening to God's call on our lives.



February 3 MYLife 5:45-7:15 pm

February 7
NO LUVLife due to Super Bowl



February 10 MYLife 5:45-7:15 pm

February 14 LUVLife 5-7 pm

February 17 MYLife 5:45-7:15 pm

February 21 LUVLife 5-7 pm

February 24 MYLife 5:45-7:15 pm

February 26-27

Path Retreat for high school Seniors and Juniors @ the Hill's home near Beulah. We will meet there at 6pm and it ends the 27th @ 8pm. This retreat is only \$15; you get 2 dinners and breakfast and lunch! On top of that you will have the opportunity to delve into what your path in life is, where God is calling you to go, and ways to deal with stress and confusion of decision making. **Registration for Path Retreat is due February 21st.**

Lunches:

- 1st Wednesday - Centennial
- 2nd Wednesday - East
- 3rd Wednesday - Central

Looking Ahead: Habitat for Humanity Youth Mission Trip to Utah. Mark your calendars for March 21st thru 28th week of Spring Break.




The Pueblo Presbytery Summer Camp at Horn Creek Ranch in Westcliffe, Colorado, will be held June 14-19, 2010. The camp is open to students who have completed 3rd-8th grade.

The cost for camp is \$300 per camper. A \$150 deposit is due with the initial registration, and \$150 is due on the first day of camp.

Camp registration will open March 1, 2010. Camp packets will be mailed to churches 2 weeks prior to this date. All forms will also be posted on the Presbytery's website at www.pueblpresbytery.org.

The deadline for Cabin Leader and High School Intern staff applications is April 1. The deadline for camper registration is June 1; however the camp will very likely be full long before that date so it is on a first come first serve basis.



Calling all people who are electronically and gizmo challenged: the high school kids would love to help! If you have a new phone and need help finding what it can actually do - come on down to the Catacombs on Sundays from 10-10:30 am; they will teach you. Clueless as to how to text but want to keep in contact with your kids and grandkids? Come on down! New lap top? DVD player? We can help you program, use and enjoy your new electronic gadget - which will keep your frustration level very low and also keep you from smashing the thing to smithereens!!! And barring a youth group trip when we are gone, we will be there every Sunday for more tutorials - as needed. This is our way of saying "Thank You" to all of you for your support.



JOB SEEKERS NETWORK

The Parachute Team is launching "Southern Colorado Job Seekers" network. There was a good article in the Saturday, January 23, Pueblo Chieftain on page 4B. The first meeting will be on **Tuesday, February 16, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm** in the fellowship hall of our church building. Members of the Parachute Team include Mark Angel, Janelle Kidd, Bill Smith, Roger Ganger, Patrick Hurley, Jody Voss and Avis Walker.

RECIDIVISM REDUCTION

A big word and a large undertaking to reduce the number of people returning to incarceration at the local jail. Currently the rate is about 80%. The staff at the jail have no funding for helping people once they are discharged. We likely will begin our efforts with phone calls to remind people of their court dates. Learn more or offer to help by visiting with Gail Tameler, Tom Howard, Bill Heath, Jacqui Sumption, Ed Devine, Penny Platt, Bobbi Reynolds or Patrick Hurley.



2009 FINANCIAL REPORT & 2010 BUDGET

12/31/2009

INCOME	2009 Budget	2009 Actual	2009 Difference	2010 Budget
2008 Pledges	\$ -	\$ 140.00	\$ 140.00	\$ -
2008 December Pledges	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
2009 Pledges	\$ 424,529.00	\$ 407,293.00	\$ (17,236.00)	\$ -
Uncollectable Pledges @ 4.5%	\$ (19,104.00)		\$ 19,104.00	4.5% \$ (21,628.00)
2009 December Pledges	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 22,576.62	\$ 10,576.62	\$ -
2010 Pledges	\$ -		\$ -	\$ 480,614.00
2010 December Pledges	\$ -		\$ -	\$ 12,000.00
Loose Offering/Non-Member	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 20,144.40	\$ (9,855.60)	\$ 25,868.00
Non Pledged Giving	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 67,294.71	\$ 22,294.71	\$ 45,000.00
Per Capita Giving	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,297.09	\$ 297.09	\$ 6,000.00
Other Income	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 12,274.42	\$ 9,274.42	\$ 3,000.00
TOTAL - INCOME	\$ 501,425.00	\$ 536,020.24	\$ 34,595.24	\$ 550,854.00
Prior Years Carry-over				
Needed to Balance Budget*	\$ 42,115.00			\$ -
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 543,540.00			\$ 550,854.00

EXPENSES	2009 Budget	2009 Actual	2009 Difference	2010 Budget
Per Capita	\$ 22,072.00	\$ 22,072.08	\$ 0.08	\$ 22,493.00
Personnel	\$ 335,973.00	\$ 330,693.28	\$ (5,279.72)	\$ 339,091.00
Administration	\$ 20,800.00	\$ 26,313.86	\$ 5,513.86	\$ 24,000.00
Property	\$ 83,400.00	\$ 82,724.38	\$ (675.62)	\$ 86,000.00
Worship/Music	\$ 9,675.00	\$ 10,003.39	\$ 328.39	\$ 8,795.00
Christian Education	\$ 7,050.00	\$ 4,346.91	\$ (2,703.09)	\$ 6,325.00
Youth	\$ 4,610.00	\$ 3,213.33	\$ (1,396.67)	\$ 4,110.00
Fellowship	\$ 5,950.00	\$ 7,702.04	\$ 1,752.04	\$ 6,000.00
Misc. Session	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 694.84	\$ (905.16)	\$ 1,262.00
Deacons	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,599.36	\$ (1,400.64)	\$ 2,700.00
Mission	\$ 49,410.00	\$ 49,046.44	\$ (363.56)	\$ 50,078.00
TOTAL - EXPENSES	\$ 543,540.00	\$ 538,409.91	\$ (5,130.09)	\$ 550,854.00

	SUMMARY ACTUAL 2009		SUMMARY 2010 BUDGET	
	Income	\$ 536,020.24	Income	\$ 550,854.00
	Expenses	\$ 538,409.91	Expenses	\$ 550,854.00
	Ending *	\$ (2,389.67)	Needed to Balance	\$ -

OVER AND ABOVE SPECIAL GIVING IN 2009			
Youth Mission - MYLife	\$ 379.38	Youth Mission - LUVLife	\$ 4,141.63
Youth Scholarship Gift	\$ 110.00	Christmas Joy	\$ 1,113.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 1,840.00	IHN - Internally	\$ 200.00
Hispanic Ministry Donations	\$ 600.00	Cookbook	\$ 110.00
Organ Maintenance Donations	\$ 350.00	Heifer International Project	\$ 50.00
Youth Computer Lab	\$ 100.00	Stephen Ministry Training Gift	\$ 1,500.00
Sunday School Gifts	\$ 468.81	Gift to Older Adult Ministry	\$ 85.35
Sarah's Circle Specified Gift	\$ 584.00	Julia Hernandez Scholarship	\$ 25.00
Special Gifts to Church	\$ 1,010.00	Extra Giving - Los Pobres	\$ 200.00
10 Homemade Lap Robes		Extra Giving - Guardian Angels	\$ 5,245.25
(estimated at \$20 each)	\$ 200.00	Extra Giving - Cooperative Care Ctr	\$ 240.00
30 Homemade Prayer Shawls		Capital Memorial Gifts	\$ 22,025.00
(estimated at \$25 each)	\$ 750.00	Capital Fund Donations	\$ 12,594.66
TOTAL - Special Giving		\$ 53,922.08	

- * Please remember to put your envelope number on your check or pew envelope.
- * Your envelope number can be found on your contribution statement or by calling Karen at the Church.
- * Contribution statements went out 1-19-2010, if you did not get yours, please let us know.
- * Checks are now being input in the computer with the check number for easier identification by you.

PER CAPITA FOR 2010- \$30.03