

# FIRST PRESS

a newsletter of First Presbyterian Church in Anchorage, Alaska



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## ANNUAL MEETING

### OFFICIAL NOTICE

## ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 2010

Immediately Following  
the 5:30 p.m. Potluck Dinner in  
Fellowship Hall

For the Purpose of:  
Reviewing the 2010 Budget  
Election of Officers  
Any Other Business as Deemed Necessary

- Bring a main dish and salad or dessert to share.
- Beverages and table service will be furnished.
- Everyone is invited.

#### SUNDAY SCRIPTURES

- Sunday, January 3  
**Acts 16:16-24**
- Sunday, January 10  
**Acts 16:25-40**
- Sunday, January 17  
**Acts 17:1-15**
- Sunday, January 24  
**Acts 17:16-34**
- Sunday, January 31  
**Acts 18:1-17**

Rev. Peter Loughman, Moderator

Charlotte Gill, Clerk of Session

**Communion is on  
Sunday, January 10.**



## Bible In One Year

I hope by now that you have picked up your copy of *The One Year Bible*.

We have copies of *The One Year Bible* out in the Narthex for you to pick up.

I became a Christian at age ten and by the time I was twelve years old I had read the Bible through several times. I learned a great deal from just reading through the Bible. Even at such a young age I learned about how to pray, I learned about faith, I learned about witnessing, and I learned how to act in personal relationships. As I grew older and studied theology, I realized that one reason I understood the theology I was reading, was because I had already learned about it from simply reading my bible.

Reading the Bible is not the same as reading any other book. On the surface, it may look the same as any other book, but in practice the Bible is not like any other book. When you and I read the Bible, we should approach our time of reading a bit differently than any other book, and here's why: The Bible is the revealed word of God and was written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit - that same Holy Spirit who inspired the Word of God will teach you as you read the Bible.

So, here is what you do: Each day that you pick up your bible to read, stop and say a short prayer asking that the Holy Spirit reveal to you what He wants you to learn from the Scripture that day. At first, you may not see much difference, but over time, you will see a great difference in your understanding of what you read in the Bible. Reading your bible everyday is a very powerful thing.

*The One Year Bible* that we are making available is the New Living Translation. You may have a different translation that you like better, and that is wonderful. There are a number of very good translations available today. My bet is that your favorite translation is a better translation for bible study than the New Living Translation. But, we picked the New Living Translation not for bible study; we picked the New Living Translation for bible reading. The New Living Translation is a very easy translation to read, and that is why we picked it.

The fact of the matter is this, many people do not read their bible everyday and by not reading their bible they are missing out on so much that the Holy Spirit has to offer them. If those same people pick up the habit of reading the Bible everyday for a year, and then continue on reading the Bible everyday, how much will their life change? The change will be great.

Here's one habit that is a good habit. If you read your bible everyday, will you encourage others to do the same? If you are not in the habit of reading your bible everyday - why not take this opportunity? Take *The One Year Bible* home and get started today.

Happy New Year! May the Lord Jesus bless you with a leap in your Christian maturity through your bible reading.

In Christ,

Rev. Peter Loughman

**(Abridged version of Emily Huck-Bilcher's presentation during the PW Christmas lunch)**

Tammy Lindemuth asked me to speak about myself and Christmas. I thought that was a strange request... what do the two things have to do with each other? How do I introduce myself while also talking about Christmas? Does my story have anything to do with the Christmas story? Then it hit me, none of us would be here if it were not for the Christmas story! If it were not for the work of God through Jesus Christ none of us would be the people we are today. Rather than give you a list of where I have been and what I have done, I will share with you a few stories of others who have "come to me." All of us in this room are who we are today because of those who have come to us, people God sent into our lives. It is our heroes, our mentors, those who have walked alongside of us that make us who we are. By sharing their story, you will get a window into my story. I want to tell you about Nan and Paul Bertelson, Karlin Bilcher, and Tim Franklin.

(Nan & Paul) When I was in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, we moved to a suburb outside of Minneapolis. Up the street lived Nan and Paul. Nan and Paul struck me as being "different." They were full of energy and life. They had a different disposition than most of the adults that I knew. As I grew, I entered their family. I went with them to church on Wednesday evenings and ate dinner with them and helped with their son Brett, who had Down's syndrome. I also found myself wandering up to their house to sit and talk with Nan. When I was 12 years old I surrendered my life to Christ at summer camp. I felt like Nan and Paul understood what this meant. They are evangelical Christians who have a heart for young people. They are active in Young Life Leadership and in their local church. When I was in college, Nan and Paul left their comfortable home on a suburban cul-de-sac to move to South Minneapolis, where they are investing in their neighborhood, living intentionally among the poor, and working hard to be good neighbors. Jesus had transformed Nan and Paul's life and this was obvious to me. Their life is a witness of the hope we find in Christ and the action that that hope calls us to.

(Karlin Bilcher) I started seminary in the summer of 2004. I was determined not to date anyone and solely devote myself to my studies! Ha! I met Karlin on my first day of class and my world was turned upside down. You hear all kinds of stories and opinions on "love at first sight"... I can't say I believe in that. But I can tell you, I knew early on that Karlin was the real deal. I saw something in him I had never seen before. By December of 2004 we were engaged and we got married the following May! Karlin and I met, dated, were engaged & married in 11 months! We still joke about June 1<sup>st</sup>, I woke up on our honeymoon and I said, "I've never known you in June." And Karlin said, "You better watch out, I grow horns in June." I want to tell you how God placing Karlin in my life has changed me. I never had any illusions that Karlin was perfect, and I never pretended that I was either. It was clear from the beginning that we were broken sinners, saved only by the grace of God. Through our relationship I've learned that I cannot look to Karlin to make me whole. We are both broken people. You may be familiar with the movie Jerry McGuire. I like "chick flicks", I admit I get butterflies in my stomach when I watch them. Remember the whole "You Complete Me" scene? I was never quite captured by that line. God puts people in our lives, and Karlin and I were put in each others lives, to point the other to God - not to each other. Only Emmanuel "completes us". We are just two sinful people who were brought together by God. It might sound completely unromantic, but I think it is the most romantic thing in the world: coming to terms with my brokenness, and knowing that Karlin loves me despite my sin is just a small glimpse of how Christ loves me.

(Tim Franklin) During our time in Pittsburgh, I worked as the Volunteer Coordinator for a hunger & housing organization. "Bridge" was a one year transitional housing program, for recovering addicts. The Bridge Guys spent many hours volunteering in the soup kitchen, food pantry and with meals on wheels. I got to know many of them. I will never forget the day I was working in the soup line next to Tim Franklin. Tim wore a tiny tank top with his muscles popping out, baggy jeans, a backwards hat and he had some gold teeth. He was tough. When you think thug, imagine Tim Franklin. Tim and I were chatting throughout the hour as we served up lunches for the soup kitchen patrons. We started to clean up and Tim paused and said, "Hey Emily, come here." I walked over close to him and said, "Yeah Tim, what is it?" Just then, his eyes got real big and he shook his head. He looked at me and said, "There's something bigger than us here. Just that you would come stand next to me and look into my eyes. Ya know what I'm saying? You're not afraid or backing up." At that point we both were experiencing something transformative. I'm a young white girl that went to a private Christian college. Tim is a recovering addict from the streets. What was it that brought us together? It was Emmanuel, God with us.

continued on page 4...



### Acts 4:29

*"Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable Your servants to speak Your word with great boldness."* Acts 17:25

## FROM THE **YOUTH DIRECTOR**

How bold are you? I would have to admit that I'm not that bold. I'm one of those non-confrontational people. I am the type of person who would rather not say anything to a person who made a mistake, than to get up in their face and do something about it. I just don't see the need to do it. If it's a few pennies, or putting nasty mushrooms on my food, or just getting me something similar but not exactly what I ordered (i.e. a regular coke instead of diet coke), I would just take it than to cause trouble. For me, there are times to be bold, and that's just not something I'm interested in fighting.

But when it comes to God, I am bolder. When someone insults my Lord, I don't have any tolerance for that. This is the God of the universe, the one who has given us everything, the one who has given us life and breath, and keeps us living, and people just spit in his face or question His existence. That's just not right, and something needs to be said.

So my question is, are you bold for God? When someone swears or uses God's name in vain, calls Him powerless, insults Him - what is your response? Do you speak up or keep quiet? The reason I ask is important...because if you do not say something, speak up, and defend your God, are you really any better than the people insulting Him in the first place? Are you any better staying quiet and making them think you believe, rather being bold in your faith?

Tim Baker,  
Director of Youth Ministries

### SENIOR HIGH BIBLE STUDIES —

The Girls' Bible Study, led by Rebecca O'Hara and Lisa

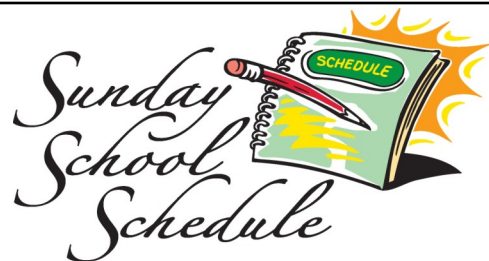
Coleman, restarts Wednesday, January 6 at Barnes & Noble. The Guys' Bible Study restarts this Tuesday, January 5 from 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m. at Tim's new place (2703B West 31st Avenue). These are great opportunities to grow deeper in your faith, so I hope you can take advantage of it.



## YOUTH BIBLE STUDY

### YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL —

Sunday school meets every Sunday at 11:00 a.m. The Junior High class meets in Room 15, and will be focusing on the book of Genesis over the next few weeks. The Senior High class meets in the Youth Room, and will be starting our quest through the One Year Bibles.



...continued from page 3

On Christmas morning, God entered into our world, our human situation, and our lives. Few of us have heard the audible voice of God or have had a vision like the prophets did. So how do we experience Emmanuel? The gospel, the Spirit of God, comes to us through human agents. That's the story of Christmas. God came to us as a human being. And God still comes to us *through* human beings – like Nan & Paul, like Karlin Bilcher, like Tim Franklin. I have probed my story and I see evidence of Christmas morning all over it and honestly I'm nothing special. I don't possess any unique raw material that you don't. I challenge you to sift through your story, and give thanks for how God has come to you.

# JINGLE BELL TAMBOURINE

To ring in 2010, make a joyful noise with this musical instrument.

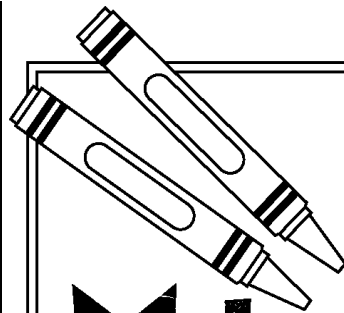
### What you need:

- 2 plastic plates
- Hole punch
- Pen
- Beads or beans (or other small items that will make noise when shaken)
- Tacky craft glue
- 6 pieces of ribbon (each about 5" long and 1/4" wide)
- 6 jingle bells
- Stickers
- Markers



### What you do:

1. On the bottom of each plate, write, "Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth" (Psalm 100:1, NIV).
2. Punch six evenly spaced holes around the rim of one plate. Mark the holes with a pen and then punch six matching holes in the second plate.
3. Pour the beads or beans into one plate and then squeeze glue around the rim of that plate.
4. Place the other plate on top, aligning the holes. (Make sure the Bible verses are on the outside.) Let it dry.
5. Thread one ribbon through one hole and through one bell, and then tie the ribbon. Repeat five more times, once for each hole.
6. Decorate the instrument with stickers or markers.
7. Play your tambourine when you sing your favorite songs.



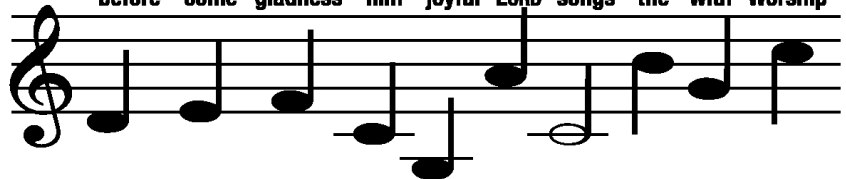
# Just for KIDS

## Make a joyful noise

People often gather with noisemakers to celebrate the promise of a new year. Be thankful and joyful for the many blessings in your life.

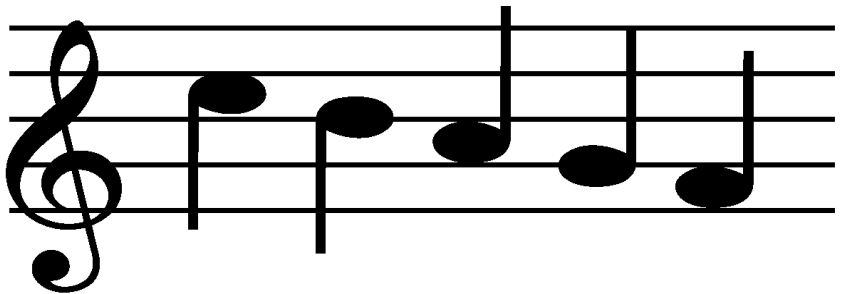
Using the musical note code, write the words of Psalm 100:2 (NIV) in the correct order below.

CODE: before come gladness him joyful LORD songs the with Worship

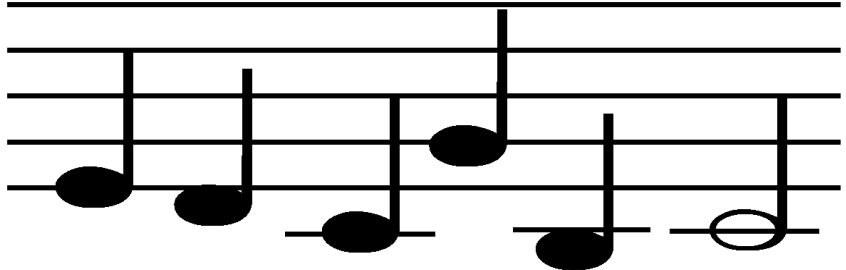


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Answer: Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

**ATTENTION: FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER ARTICLES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS ARE DUE FRIDAY, JANUARY 15 AT 4:00 P.M.**

## Saturday / Sunday

## Monday


## Tuesday

<p><b>2</b></p> <p><b>3</b>                  8:15 a.m. Traditional Worship                  8:30 a.m. Praise Band Practice, FH                  9:40 a.m. Contemporary Worship                  11 a.m. Traditional Worship                  4:30 p.m. Cord (Junior High), Youth Room                  7 p.m. Quest (Senior High), Youth Room</p>	<p><b>4</b>                  9:30 a.m. AMS Planning Meeting, Library                  1 p.m. Archives, Choir Room                  6:30 pm English Second Language, Rm 12</p>	<p><b>5</b>                  1 p.m. English Second Language, R12                  1 p.m. Librarian Available                  7 p.m. <i>Guy's Bible Study, Baker Home</i></p>
<p><b>9</b> 10 a.m. Removing of the Greens</p> <p><b>10</b> † Communion Sunday †                  8:15 a.m. Traditional Worship                  8:30 a.m. Praise Band Practice, FH                  9:40 a.m. Contemporary Worship                  11 a.m. Traditional Worship                  4:30 p.m. Cord (Junior High), Youth Room                  7 p.m. Quest (Senior High), Youth Room</p>	<p><b>11</b>                  6:30 pm English Second Language, Rm 12</p>	<p><b>12</b>                  1 p.m. English Second Language, R12                  1 p.m. Librarian Available                  5 p.m. Mission Committee, Library                  7 p.m. Tuesday Night Bible Study, FH                  7 p.m. <i>Guy's Bible Study, Baker Home</i></p>
<p><b>16</b> 9 a.m. Men's Breakfast, Room 8, K</p> <p><b>17</b> 8:15 a.m. Traditional Worship                  8:30 a.m. Praise Band Practice, FH                  9:40 a.m. Contemporary Worship                  11 a.m. Traditional Worship                  4:30 p.m. Cord (Junior High), Youth Room                  5:30 P.M. ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING, FELLOWSHIP HALL                  7 p.m. Quest (Senior High), Youth Room</p>	<p><b>18</b>  <i>MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HOLIDAY</i>  <i>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED...</i></p> <p>6 p.m. <i>Ladies' Night Out, Pizza Plaza</i>                  6:30 pm English Second Language, Rm 12</p>	<p><b>19</b>                  1 p.m. English Second Language, R12                  1 p.m. Librarian Available                  7 p.m. Tuesday Night Bible Study, FH                  7 p.m. <i>Guy's Bible Study, Baker Home</i></p>
<p><b>23</b></p> <p><b>24</b>                  8:15 a.m. Traditional Worship                  8:30 a.m. Praise Band Practice, FH                  9:40 a.m. Contemporary Worship                  11 a.m. Traditional Worship                  4:30 p.m. Cord (Junior High), Youth Room                  7 p.m. Quest (Senior High), Youth Room</p>	<p><b>25</b>                  1 p.m. Lillie Berry Circle, Library                  6:30 pm English Second Language, Rm 12</p>	<p><b>26</b>                  10:30 a.m. Margaret Walkup Circle, L                  1 p.m. English Second Language, R12                  1 p.m. Librarian Available                  7 p.m. Tuesday Night Bible Study, FH                  7 p.m. <i>Guy's Bible Study, Baker Home</i></p>
<p><b>30</b></p> <p><b>31</b>                  8:15 a.m. Traditional Worship                  8:30 a.m. Praise Band Practice, FH                  9:40 a.m. Contemporary Worship                  11 a.m. Traditional Worship                  4:30 p.m. Cord (Junior High), Youth Room                  7 p.m. Quest (Senior High), Youth Room</p>		

**Wednesday**

**Thursday**

**Friday**

<p><b>6</b>                  12 NOON BULLETIN INFORMATION DEADLINE                  1 p.m. Staff Meeting                  5:30 p.m. Worship Committee, Library                  6:30pm English Second Language, R12                  7 pm Chancel Choir Practice, Choir Rm                  7 pm Primary Choir Practice, Sanctuary                  7 p.m. Girl's Bible Study, Room 8</p>	<p><b>7</b>                  10 a.m. Anchorage Pioneers' Home Service                  5:30 p.m. Trustee Meeting, Library                  7 p.m. Praise Band Practice, Sanctuary</p>	<p><b>1</b>                  NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY                  CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED...    <b>8</b></p>
<p><b>13</b>                  9:30 a.m. Book Club, Library                  12 NOON BULLETIN INFORMATION DEADLINE                  1 p.m. Staff Meeting                  6:30 p.m. Stephen Ministry, Room 14                  6:30pm English Second Language, R12                  7 pm Chancel Choir Practice, Choir Rm                  7 pm Primary Choir Practice, Sanctuary                  7 p.m. Girl's Bible Study, Room 8</p>	<p><b>14</b>                  9:30 a.m. PW Board Meeting, Library                  12 noon A-Men, Denny's                  5:30 p.m. Session Meeting, Chapel                  7 p.m. Praise Band Practice, Sanctuary</p>	<p><b>15</b>                  4 P.M. NEWSLETTER INFORMATION DEADLINE</p>
<p><b>20</b>                  12 NOON BULLETIN INFORMATION DEADLINE                  1 p.m. Staff Meeting                  6:30pm English Second Language, R12                  7 pm Chancel Choir Practice, Choir Rm                  7 pm Primary Choir Practice, Sanctuary                  7 p.m. Girl's Bible Study, Room 8</p>	<p><b>21</b>                  5:45 p.m. Mem &amp; Outreach Committee, L                  7 p.m. Praise Band Practice, Sanctuary</p>	<p><b>22</b></p>
<p><b>27</b>                  9:30 a.m. Book Club, Library                  12 NOON BULLETIN INFORMATION DEADLINE                  1 p.m. Staff Meeting                  6:30 p.m. Stephen Ministry, Room 14                  6:30pm English Second Language, R12                  7 pm Chancel Choir Practice, Choir Rm                  7 pm Primary Choir Practice, Sanctuary                  7 p.m. Girl's Bible Study, Room 8</p>	<p><b>28</b>                  12 noon A-Men, Denny's                  5:30 p.m. Deacon Meeting, Library                  5:30 p.m. Youth Sub-Committee, Room 8                  7 p.m. Praise Band Practice, Sanctuary</p>	<p><b>29</b></p>
		<p><b>Room Abbreviation Key:</b>                  CA — Castle Room, CH — Chapel, CR — Choir Room, FH — Fellowship Hall, K — Kitchen, L — Library, N — Narthex, P — Parlor, S — Sanctuary</p>

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

**PROGRAM CHAIR CORNER**

*“... having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers.”* 1 Thessalonians 1:6-7

At our Christmas luncheon we were blessed with the voices of the Primary Choir singing a handful of Christmas songs, we were delighted to learn more about Emily Huck-Bilcher who reminded us of the wonderful way the relationships that God places in our lives continuously molds us into who we are, we shared a delightful lunch of ham, rolls, a variety of side dishes and salads, and of course desserts galore, and the fellowship we shared was priceless. Mission boxes were filled and sent out to the bush pastors and those who had participated in the year long Secret Sisters program found out who their “sister” was.

We are launching a new campaign of Secret Sisters with a shorter time commitment, see below for details.

**Schedule of Events for 2009-2010 (All Events in Fellowship Hall):**  
**February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010 – Valentine’s Luncheon; 12 noon – 2 p.m.**  
**April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010 – Spring Tea (theme TBA); 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.**  
**April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010 – Spring Bake Sale; after each service**

**IMPORTANT:** We have changed the time that the PW board meets. We will now be meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month in the library at 9:30 a.m. Thus, the next PW board meeting will be Thursday, January 14th, at 9:30 a.m. Please feel free to join us if you would like to be more involved.

**Ladies Night Out** this month will be on Monday, January 18th, at Pizza Plaza at 6:00 p.m. Be sure to sign up for this event. Any questions, call Jean Adzima @ 338-1189.

**Presbyterian Women’s Secret Sisters**

We are now starting a new time period of Secret Sisters which will be from February 1<sup>st</sup> until mid May when we do a our PW Secret Sister reveal at the May PW BBQ. There are forms in the Narthex at the Secret Sisters information table, or you can contact me for a form and I will either mail or e-mail one to you. Please get your information sheet filled out by the 15<sup>th</sup> of January and then by the last week of January you will receive in the mail your “secret sister’s” information. If you have any ideas or comments to share with me, please let me know. Feel free to contact me at 277-3074.



*Your sister in Christ,  
Tammy Lindemuth*

**Remember to pick up your copy of *The One Year Bible* in the Narthex.**

**PW EVENTS**

**Church Archives — Meets 1st Monday, January 4 @ 1 p.m. in Choir Room**

Help needed with filing. Learn church history. Leader: Rachel Michaelsen 272-7440.

**PW Board Meeting — Meets 2nd Thursday, January 14 @ 9:30 a.m. in Library**

All women invited. Childcare available by request only.

**Book Club — Meets 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, January 13, 27 @ 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. in Library**

Study: *Faith Like Potatoes* by Angus Buchan. Childcare provided. Chair: Barbara Ratliff 333-0468.

**Ladies' Night Out — Meets 3rd Monday, January 18 @ 6 p.m. at Pizza Plaza**

Sign up on the PW bulletin board or call Jean Adzima 338-1189 for reservations or a ride. All ladies and their guests are invited.

**Lillie Berry Circle — Meets 4th Monday, January 25 @ 1 p.m.-3 p.m. in Library**

Study: *Proverbs—Learning to Live Wisely* by William Mouser. Tea and dessert, followed by devotions and study. All women welcome. No childcare. Chair: Lois Beyer 344-1858.

**Margaret Walkup Circle — Meets 4th Tuesday, January 26 @ 10:30 a.m. in Library**

Study followed by a sandwich luncheon at noon. Open to all women. No childcare. Chairs: Joan Morgan 337-5706 & Leah Hoffman 277-5272.

**REMOVING OF THE GREENS —**

Please join us on Saturday, January 9 at 10:00 a.m. to put the décor back into storage.



**PRESBYTERY OF YUKON MEETING —**



Mark your calendar for February 26-27, 2010! About 70 pastors and elders from all 23 churches of the presbytery will be gathering here for the Presbytery of Yukon Meeting. As the host church we are responsible to provide housing, transportation, meals, snacks, and welcome to these guests. This is too big for one person or even a small handful. There are opportunities for everyone to help. Please contact the First Presbyterian Church office at 272-6411 or Kathy Brown at 345-1387 to tell them how you can help. Thank you!



**WYCLIFFE BIBLE TRANSLATORS —**

*"This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations..."*  
Matthew 24:14

For many years, our church has been sponsoring Wes and LeeAnn Reed (Wycliffe Bible Translators) and their work with the Yopno People of Papua New Guinea. The Mission Committee thought you would enjoy hearing how "The Good News" is spreading. After 25 years of translating God's word for the Yopno people of Papua New Guinea, the New Testaments/Psalms are now being printed. A dedication and time of celebrating will take place on August 7, 2010. Currently they are working on the audio recording of the Yopno scriptures. It will be put on a tool called the MegaVoice and will be distributed at the time of the dedication. Many Yopno people are excited and looking forward to receiving God's word in their own language. The work the Reed's perform is dangerous due to the lack of stability in the local area. Please pray for their protection.

*In Faith, Dave Keddington*

**RUNNING THE RACE****MEN'S MINISTRIES**

From the time he was a young boy, he was taught to be great. He was told that he was great, and as he accomplished more and more of his goals, he became convinced he was great. I'm sure that more than once I even said he was great. He had it all. He was living his dream, making more money than anyone could ever hope for. He was well known and loved by millions of people. He had a wonderful family, with two beautiful children. I can't believe you did this to yourself Tiger Woods. It saddens me to see what you have become, but I am thankful that you have reminded me of my sinful nature. Thank you Tiger for showing me how a man can destroy his life by succumbing to temptation.

So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking... Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more... (However) You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on your new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. (Ephesians 4:17, 19, 22-24)

When Tiger was forced to face his sin, he and others blamed his choices on a "sexual addiction." But isn't addiction just a word that people use when they want to justify their sin. In the past, I used the word addiction to justify my own poor choices. In reality, isn't sexual addiction, just repeated sexual sin?

Brothers, here is the bad news. We have the Holy Spirit and should know how to act. We are expected to set aside the desires of our old selves and live lives of righteousness and holiness. We are expected to rid our lives of evil, hate, impatience, profanity, and lust. We know that our sins helped pound the nails into the hands and feet of Jesus and we do not have any excuses. Our sins are not addictions.

Ah, but the good news. Jesus loves us so much that he died for us anyway. God knows that we cannot be righteous and holy, so our lives can't be about perfection, they must be about gratitude. How thankful am I? Do I fully understand what Jesus did for me? If I truly understood the gift of salvation that he has given to me by his painful death on the cross, would I continue to engage in the same sin time and time again? As we run the race in this New Year, I pray that the Holy Spirit will help us to understand the grace and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ so that we can be truly thankful and experience the spiritual growth that God desires for us.

Your brother in Christ,  
Todd Smoldon

**MEN'S BREAKFAST**

The men's breakfast this month will be on Saturday, January 16 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 8. Please join us in the New Year as we continue to share good company and great food while discussing spiritual issues from a man's perspective.

### QUESTIONS & ANSWERS by Librarian Dorothea Lovejoy

#### Question:

Does God still consider the Jewish people as His “Chosen People”, and Israel as “The Holy Land”?

#### Answer:

The nation Israel was chosen for a four-fold mission:

**To witness to the unity of God in the midst of universal idolatry.** Moses delivered a compelling message in Deuteronomy 6:4-7, “Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is One!” Isaiah 43:10, “You are My witnesses, declares the Lord, and My servant whom I have chosen!”

**To illustrate to the nations the blessedness of serving the true God.** Deuteronomy 33:26-29, I Chronicles 17:20-21 and Psalm 144:15.

**To receive, preserve and transmit the Scriptures.** The Apostle Paul, speaking in Romans 3:1-2, describes the advantage of the Jew, having been entrusted with the Oracles of God. Moses also refers to this commission in Deuteronomy 4:5-8.

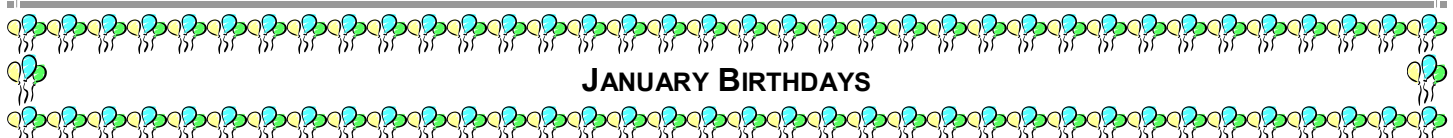
**To be the human channel for the Messiah.** God speaks to Abraham, “And in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice”.

Israel, re-gathered from all nations, restored to her own land and converted, is yet to have her greatest **earthly** exaltation and glory.

Jesus speaks concerning Israel’s blessing in Matthew 23:39:

Israel must say, “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! (Note Romans 10:3-4) Gentile world power must run its course.

The elect number of Gentiles and Jews must be brought into the Church. (Acts 15:13-18) Then shall come out of Zion the Deliverer. (Romans 11:25-27).



#### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1/1 Angelika Harder	1/7 John Angst	Hope Jay	Alex Harder
Jean Jackson	Christine Morbach	Scott Powell	Emily Holler
Michael Molland	1/10 Corrie Campbell	1/18 Javan Beitinger	Samantha Holler
1/2 Rick Mystrom	1/11 Mary Cunningham	Tracy Childers	1/23 Jack Anderson
1/3 Brian Balega	1/12 Kevin Griswold	Donald Dye	Paul Lindemuth
1/4 Erich Foster	Heather Kaniut	Nancy Parry	Garth Nelson
Luke Graham	Kim Rathjen	1/19 Nadia Vochoska	1/24 Jennifer Privoznik
Michelle Holler	Carol Strickland	1/20 Tracy DeVoll	Sara Rufner
Yvonne LaChar	1/14 ReGina DeVoll	Spencer Loughman	1/25 Mark Soquet
1/5 Susan Oakley	1/15 Deng Bithow	James MacKenzie	1/27 Mavis Hancock
Susan Soby	Roman Hamm	Susan Smith	1/28 Annie Baker
Brittini Wright	Dima Hamm	1/21 Regan Mies	1/29 Shina Leaf
1/6 Timothy Gruhn	1/17 Rachel Allen	1/22 Scott Crowther	1/30 Katelynn Toth
Matt Marinos	Daniel Griswold	Scott Francis	1/31 Johanna Hill

**First Presbyterian Church**

**January 2010 Newsletter**

**616 West Tenth Avenue  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501**

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**WORSHIP SERVICES**

8:15 a.m. Traditional Worship  
9:40 a.m. Contemporary Worship  
11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship  
11:00 a.m. Children's Church

**Celebrating**   
*An Anniversary This Month*

- 01/01 Alan & Linda Julliard  
Harold & LaDonna Lee
- 01/04 Ronald & Jacquelyn Ohlson
- 01/05 Patrick & Laurie Lamp
- 01/06 Edward & Linda Shelton
- 01/10 Robert & Ruth Graham
- 01/17 Tomor & Shyla Dema
- 01/18 Scott & Elizabeth Francis
- 01/28 Geoffrey & Nicole Brown
- 01/29 Craig & Cassandra Bennett  
Gary & Hilda Haas
- 01/31 Richard & Harriet Ragle

**CHURCH STAFF**

Senior Pastor	Rev. Peter Loughman
Associate Pastor	Rev. Karlin Bilcher
Director of Youth Ministries	Tim Baker
Director of Christian Education	Katie Loughman
Office Manager	Gary Jackson
Finance Secretary	Nicole Brown
Chancel Choir Director	Janet Stiles
Primary Choir Director	Joan Lindemuth
Youth Chime Choir Director	Carrie Smoldon
Handbell Choir Director	John Zimmerman
Organists	Jan Gruhn & Marie Matetich
Pianist	Larissa Melnik
Contemporary Worship Leader	Anthony Lyndaker
Librarian	Dorothea Lovejoy