

# FIRST PRESS NEWSLETTER

November 2007 — Volume 55 — Number 10



FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
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SPOKANE

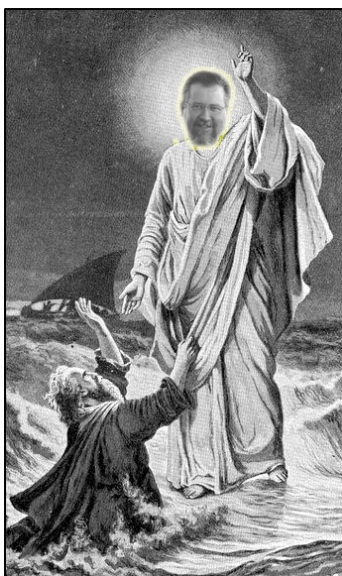
## Expectations or Expectancy?

Several weeks ago in our sermon series on the 'fundamental dynamics of following Christ' we looked at our expectations. I focused on the high expectations I believe we all have of what following Jesus means, and what this will look like for us: wholeness, happiness, healing, blessing. You name it; we expect it. Or at least I do.

Many of the seasons of struggle in my own life can be traced back to unmet expectations. I expected to meet my wife during college, and my senior year at Seattle Pacific I panicked. Talk about 'sleepless in Seattle,' not only had I not met my soul mate, I hadn't even managed a kiss in the line of duty. Then later after I had met Karen, I expected God to tell me unequivocally that she was 'the one.' When this expectation was not met I slid into a clinic depression that lasted through our first year of marriage (and in turn deeply shook Karen's own expectations for a joyful groom and a new husband who didn't get anxious every night when the sun went down).

I realize now that I've hung on to similar expectations for what it meant to be a pastor, a father, a friend; and in each case my expectations going in have not been met. At many points reality has exceeded my expectations or how life has unfolded has been so UNEXPECTED that I never could have imagined what God clearly intended all along.

In each case what I had in mind revolved around me and my wants, my hopes, my supposed needs. Yet what God has done in spite of me is bigger and broader and not centered on me.<sup>1</sup>



And this makes me think about this point in our life as a church: this month will mark the arrival of John Sowers, our new senior pastor. If you have any doubt that we have high expectations for John, let me remind you of the standing ovation we gave John at the beginning of the service on September 9. We stood and clapped and cheered BEFORE he'd said a thing.

As I shared in the sermon on our expectations, I fear we really do expect John to walk on water. Of course we don't expect him to be perfect at everything, but we do want him to be near perfect in the few things most important to us. The water we expect him to walk on is our water in our particular puddle.

Could I challenge us to prayerfully name and begin to let go of them? Could we even before John arrives replace our specific expectations with a bigger, broader expectancy that what God will do in and through John and in and through us that is center in the promise in Ephesians that God will do *'far more than all we can ask or imagine.'*

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<sup>1</sup> I'd love for you to look back at key moments in your life, and let me know if you've had a similar experience.

# Mission Impact in Ethiopia

## An Update of Anuak Meer Ministry

Thank you to all who gave on September 30 during our special offering to provide emergency aid to those in Gambella displaced by massive floods. You gave over \$2,400 which will be combined with additional funds from our Anuak Meer (Love) Ministry (AMM) here at First Presbyterian and forwarded to Gambella.

Over the past year our Anuak Meer Ministry steering committee has had the privilege of helping to find sponsors for 30 Community-Based Orphans in Gambella, Ethiopia, children who have lost one or both parents to the 2003 massacre and or to AIDS. We are working with "Partners in Africa" and the East Gambella Bethel Synod (EGBS) of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY) to sponsor these children who live with a surviving parent, or with other relatives. Each sponsor's \$30 a month helps provide an orphan with food, clothing, shelter and educational support, Bible classes, counseling and basic medical care. We are praising God that our VBS program this summer also chose to sponsor a child.

If you haven't already, please see the mission bulletin board in the hallway with pictures of these beautiful children who are being sponsored by our church family. We are awaiting pictures and information about other orphans who still are in need of sponsors.

In addition to supporting 30 orphans, AMM has been working with the church in Gambella to establish a project that would allow a number of the widows to have honest work by which they might contribute to the care of themselves and their families. As the women were about to begin a project to provide meals on the church compound in Gambella Town, the severe flooding of the Gilo and Baro Rivers destroyed the maize fields of the region. The funding originally set aside to launch this meals project is the money that will be sent along with your gifts from September 30 to provide disaster relief to those who have been most seriously affected by the flood conditions and aftermath of homelessness, hunger, and disease.

On another related matter, recently, the AMM steering committee was copied on a termination letter sent to Anuak Baare Hope Ministries (ABHM) from the East Gambella Bethel Synod leaders. This letter states that EGBS "*In order to avoid potential conflicts that ABHM might create among the Anywa (Anuak) communities in Gambella and to purely care for the children we (i.e. EGBS) have terminated our partnership (with) ABHM.*" While terminating the relationship with ABHM, the letter extended an invitation to "*--those of you who would want to work directly with the Church (i.e. EGBS of EECMY) without involvement of ABHM we warmly welcome you*".

The Anuak Meer Ministry steering committee will continue to work with and through the EGBS leaders of EECMY to provide help and relief for the suffering widows and children in Gambella.

For clarification, ABHM was founded by Agwa Taka and is affiliated with Immanuel Urban Ministries. It is not associated with nor supported by the leadership of Spokane First Presbyterian Church. Over the past several years ABHM has raised money to drill wells for Anuak refugees in Sudan and to build an orphanage in Gambella Town. The orphanage was completed in December 2006 and was jointly managed by ABHM and the East Gambella Bethel Synod until termination of the partnership by EGBS in September of 2007. The EECMY church in Gambella Town is now solely responsible for management of the orphanage and the 20 children who live there. The status of the well project is unknown.

If you have contributed to ABHM for either the orphanage or wells projects, please be aware that ABHM contributions are not recorded on your FPC giving statements. If you would like more information regarding ABHM contributions, you may contact ABHM directly at (509) 717-2818.

Questions regarding the letter from EGBS to ABHM, or the ministry of FPC to the widows and orphans in Gambella may be directed to anyone on the AMM steering committee: Mary Beth Baker, Ariet Oman, Carolyn Holmes, Alock Nyigow, Mary Frankhauser and Sue Mushlitz. AMM is blessed by a support team of nearly 40 other members of our church, "owara and "nyiwara," words in the Anuak language that mean sons and daughters of the same Father.

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## Sunday Mornings in November



*When two blind followers of Jesus asked for mercy and the ability to see, he asked them if they believed he could provide for their needs. They assured him they did and as he touched their eyes and their hearts he told them to “become what they believed”. Believing that Jesus is my savior who gives mercy and a new vision for living is one thing. Living those beliefs is quite another. This year our Adult Ministry Team will be encouraging those who follow Jesus to stay close, pay attention to who Jesus is and what he says - and then to ‘become what you believe.’ To that end our classes this fall will be exploring both who Jesus is, what Jesus says and how our lives are impacted by our belief in Jesus.*

### THE EMPTY NEST MARRIAGE: STAYING STRONG THROUGH THE JOYS & STRESSES

November 4

Dr. Dave & Marty Erb, Room 210

What happens to the marriage relationship after the children leave home? What are the joys and advantages of this phase of life? What are the stresses? How do we cope with change? And how does our faith help us understand and deal with the stresses and possibilities? Join Dave Erb, newly retired psychologist, and Marty, former English professor at Whitworth University, for the final class in this series and learn with others **how to become what you believe** about Christian marriage during this changing season of life.

### CS LEWIS: THE MAN AND THE MESSAGE

November 4 – December 14

Dr. Joan Quall Becker, Fireside Room

Wouldn't you call yourself 'Jack' if your real name were Clive Staple Lewis? What else might you do? Might you write *The Chronicles of Narnia*, drawing readers into an imaginative world of the heart and mind where you move past “watchful dragons” and discover a place you've never been but somehow know and long to return to with child-like abandon? For six weeks, Dr. Joan Quall Becker, invites you to explore the power and promise of Aslan, and discover how a beast of the jungle can become the King of our Hearts while we rediscover the power of language to lead us into the incarnational life we're invited to share with God. If you haven't recently read or re-read *The Chronicles*, now would be an ideal time to do so! Bring your Bible and a notebook as well as a copy of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, if you have one. We will make all seven chronicles available for purchase if you are *chronicle deprived* or are thinking about Christmas giving. Joan Becker started her journey with Lewis in graduate school where she ended up writing her dissertation on Lewis' fiction. She says the process saved her from apostasy for sure – and other *drag-only* matters!

### ♥ CHRISTIAN CARE-GIVING: A WAY OF LIFE

November 11, 19

Cynthia Johnson, Stephen Minister

Raeann Decker, Parish Nurse, Room 210

This two-week class is the first in a series of classes to be offered throughout the year for **Deacons, Stephen Ministers** and for **anyone** who is currently a **care-giver** or who **might want to become a care-giver**. Today's world is in desperate need of Christians who care – we all know this. But care-giving isn't easy and it doesn't come naturally to many of us. What makes care-giving distinctive and life-changing - and how can that distinctive care-giving become a way of life? Join us for the first two classes in the series which will offer practical 'how-to' help for real-life living and care-giving – and in the process, learn new ways to **become what you believe**.

**November 11:** Care-giving: The What, The Why & The How; Care-giving vs. Cure-giving.

**November 18:** Help! Understanding Feelings & Learning to Listen – over and over!

### HEBREWS: A LETTER TO BELEAGUERED CHRISTIANS

Bruce Gore, Sanctuary Class

This letter to persecuted, worn-out Jewish-Christian believers was written to encourage them to “hold on” and “persevere” despite great hardship lest they compromise their faith and lose the enormous blessings of the New Covenant. Learning to focus on Jesus brought encouragement and purpose to the early church facing hard times and it offers the same for Christians today. Join Bruce as he continues to unpack this powerful letter and helps focus our attention once again on God's action in Jesus which is an excellent way to **become what you believe**.

**NEW TO BRUCE'S CLASS:** Would you like help **becoming what you believe?** Consider joining a **mid-week small group discussion** where you'll connect with others in the class and further digest and discuss each

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# Sunday Mornings in November

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week's lesson. **Currently groups are meeting Tuesday & Thursday eves @ 7pm & early Friday morning.** For more information about Hebrews small groups call **Dave Storey 455-6931** or **Jeanne Walsh 747-1058 x110.**

## FIRST COVENANT CLASS FOR YOUNG ADULTS I BELIEVE: QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

**Grant Erickson, Paige Numata, John Gregg; West Balcony Room**

In scriptural sketches of Jesus we recognize that no one who ever meets him stays the same. And further, this same revolutionary Jesus is inviting us to be similarly transformed. So the question becomes: how has **my belief** in Jesus changed the way I live **my** life, raise **my** children, do **my** job, and give from **my** resources to help others? Join this group of young adults (approx. twenties - forties) as they seek to answer again Jesus' question to all of his disciples: *Who do you say that I am?* Our answer to this question can set us on a course to **become what we believe.** Join us upstairs for coffee & treats, camaraderie, conversation and a good hard look at Jesus – then and now!

## Other Opportunities

### THURSDAY WOMEN'S STUDIES

**Thursday mornings, 9:30-11:30am, Fireside Room**

Join us to study **Max Lucado's "Book of Revelation"**.

This study began on September 13 but it is not too late to join. Come and continue with us each week through December 6. \$20 registration fee (scholarships available). If you need childcare please contact Carole Spotts 747-1058 x114 to see if there is space available. Contacts: Robin Gray 536-4392 or Brenda Norton 747-1058 x220.

### HORIZONS BIBLE STUDY

**Third Tuesday of every month, 10am, Fireside Room**  
**"Above and Beyond: Hearing God's Call in Jonah and Ruth" by Carol Bechtel**

Join us each month through May to explore what it means for each of us to hear and heed God's call. Cost: \$6. Bring a sack lunch. Contact: Nancy Cabe 238-6448.

### FIRESIDE QUILTERS

**2nd Tuesday of each month, 7 pm, Fireside Room**

Contact Lexi Burg 448-0919 for more information.



**April 18-19, 2008 - Spokane**  
***Infinite Grace***

The Women's Ministries Team invites you to join them in attending this wonderful conference as our Women's Spring Retreat for 2008. We have reserved 100 premium seating tickets for the conference and space in a hotel downtown. We're also planning a celebration dinner following the conference on Saturday evening. So, set aside the weekend to be immersed in *Infinite Grace* through worship, word and wonderful women. For questions, suggestions or to join in planning, call Holly Love at 448-6164, Mallory Anderson at 448-8013, or Kristina Love at 838-2370.

### UNWRAP THE GIFT – December 5 or 6, 2007

Women, in the midst of great expectations around the holiday season, join us for an evening of *expecting Jesus*. Come be renewed in your anticipation about what it means to look forward to the new birth of Jesus in your life. You can expect the beautiful atmosphere, fabulous dessert, inspirational speaker and worshipful music you've experienced in past years. And, we expect you to invite your friends, family, coworkers and neighbors to come look forward to Jesus too. Invitations and reservation forms are available in the Fellowship

### MEN'S MINISTRY BREAKFAST

**Tuesday, November 6, 6:30-8am**

Our November breakfast should be a landmark event as our featured speaker is our new head pastor, **John Sowers**. This is an event not to miss. Cost: \$4. Reservations must be made by the Sunday prior to the breakfast. Sign up in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings or call 747-1058.

### KEENAGER THANKSGIVING DINNER

**Thursday, November 15**

10:30am - coffee; 11am - program - Our new Senior Pastor, **John Sowers**, will speak; Lunch at noon. Cost: \$6. **Reservations are a must by the Monday prior to the meeting** — please sign up in the fellowship hall or call 747-1058.

### MOPS

**MOTHERS OF PRESCHOOLERS NEEDS YOUR HELP!**

We are turning away moms due to our great need for childcare! If you could help out with childcare for infants, toddlers, or preschoolers, please call Angie at 443-6864 to volunteer.

**BAY ST LOUIS MISSISSIPPI  
MISSION TRIP PLANNED — JANUARY 19-26**



Is there still a need to help victims of Hurricane Katrina rebuild? The answer is a resounding YES!! It will take many years and the efforts of thousands of communities across this country before this region is restored – if ever, to pre-Katrina condition. Many from FPC have already spent time working in this area and have been deeply touched by the people and the work they participated in. You too are invited to be a part of this significant ongoing ministry. FPC has reserved twenty spaces for workers from January 19-26. If you would like to be a part of this group or if you'd like more information about BSL and Hurricane Relief, please contact Carolyn Holmes (448-8589) [windmillfarm@inland-imaging.com](mailto:windmillfarm@inland-imaging.com) or Jeanne Walsh (747-1058 x110) [jean-new@spokanefpc.org](mailto:jean-new@spokanefpc.org).

**INVITING ALL FIVE O – SEVEN OS**

**What:** Rotating Dinners for Eight — Potluck Style

**Why:** To get to know others at FPC better so we can encourage and uplift one another in Christ's name.

**When:** Evenings in November and December – sign up for your choice.

Signup at the 50-70 table in the Fellowship Room. There will be lists with dates and names of hosts. Don't know the hosts? What a lovely way to get to know and be known by someone new. Or, sign up by emailing Margo Clark at [spokaneclarkes@msn.com](mailto:spokaneclarkes@msn.com) or Susan Kirkwood at [jands40@msn.com](mailto:jands40@msn.com).

## Thursday Night Live

### Dinner – 6-6:30pm

Did you know that you don't have to be in a Thursday Night Live class or group to join in the meal? We want to encourage everyone to come be a part of this wonderful time of community. The food is great! And, the friends are plenty! Adults - \$5 for the meal; we feed children for free. You can make a reservation by calling 747-1058. Pay at the door.

### Classes & Activities – 6:45pm

Below are classes and activities that are always open to new participants. Discipleship classes and the Women's Study Group continue to meet but aren't able to add new people midstream. If you are interested in starting a group or teaching a class, contact Brenda Norton 747-1058 x220.

#### Bruce Gore Small Group

Attend Bruce's class on Sundays, "HEBREWS: A Letter to Beleaguered Christians", then join this group for a deeper discussion on how the words in Hebrews impact our lives. More info on page 4.

#### Beta Bible Study

This is a mixed group (men, women, couples and singles) that originally formed from a group of ALPHA participants. It is open to anyone. They are currently studying *Psalms: Prayers of the Heart* by Eugene Peterson. Contact: Glen & Shirley Erickson 954-3857

#### Divorce Recovery

The Christian perspective and encouraging materials are available in a setting with others who have been or are in a stressful separation or divorce. Cost for the 8 month series is \$45. You can join at any time. Facilitator: Hazel Newkirk 235-5895

#### Men's Basketball

Contact: Travis Trent 489-1121

#### Choir

Call the church to find out more - 747-1058

**CREATION CARE GROUP – GLOBAL CONCERNS**  
**Monday November 5, 6:30pm, FPC**

*"Happy is he whose hope is in the Lord his God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keep faith for ever; who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry." Ps. 146*



First Presbyterian Church provides hope to many people in need, promotes justice here and abroad, and has several food ministries. Another way to care for God's creation is to preserve resources. Our church has identified aging light fixtures that over-consume and has begun replacing light bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs). This has saved approximately \$30 over the life of *each bulb*.

We welcome your presence at the monthly committee gathering. Call Doris Lee at 928-7238 or write to her at [genlee2@comcast.net](mailto:genlee2@comcast.net).

**Operation Christmas Child**



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas... Although it is early Fall, it's time to think about the annual Samaritan's Purse **Operation Christmas Child**. Often we are asked "Why do we do this so early? We're as bad about rushing the Christmas season as the retail stores." The reason is that the shoeboxes we fill must then be collected at a central location - our very own First Presbyterian church. From there, they go to a large mailing center where they are completed, boxed in containers, and shipped out. They are then divided up and sent to various locations around the world. That process takes a great deal of time and volunteer hours so we begin the process around Halloween. National Collection Week is November 12 and 19 and we are need of many hands to help collect and pack boxes at church. Want to join the fun?! Sign up sheets are available on the information table in the fellowship hall. Contact Lisa Steger at 290-6889 regarding this awesome mission project!

**JUBILEE INTERNATIONAL**  
**MARKETPLACE**



**IT'S HERE – COME SHOP!**

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9 — 10AM TO 8PM**  
**& SATURDAY NOVEMBER 10 — 9AM TO 4PM**  
DINNER TICKETS ARE STILL AVAILABLE FOR FRIDAY NIGHT — CHRIST KITCHEN IS COOKING  
\$10 ADULTS, \$5 AGES 5-11

Last year we sent over \$50,000 to God's children around the globe. Your purchases will build homes, send children to school, and provide good nutrition and fair wages for families in many countries. Further, you are supporting sustainable activities that are also eco-friendly.

Contact Sue Muhlitz at 448-5130 to volunteer. Contact Mary Frankhauser at 448-0805 for further info.

Fair Trade allows us to use our economic power to demonstrate Christ's love to our neighbors in need. What better gifts can you give this holiday season? Proudly share this good work with your family, friends and neighbors.

For more information go to [www.spokanefpc.org](http://www.spokanefpc.org) and select *City Connections*.

**NOVEMBER/DECEMBER FOOD MISSION**  
**Union Gospel Mission**

- Canned pumpkin
- Evaporated Milk
- Boxes of dried mashed potatoes
- Other Thanksgiving dinner trimmings
- Pastas

**ALERT – CITY GATE NEEDS**

The following items are needed for those visiting City Gate (low income and homeless) as soon as possible:

- Men's clothing (especially men's jeans)
- Coffee
- Men's socks and underwear
- Warm winter coats

If you have any of these items, please contact Curt Shoemaker at 448-6063 to arrange for pick up and delivery to City Gate.

**Serving Thanksgiving Meal:**

Those interested can also serve a meal on Wednesday evening before Thanksgiving (4-9pm). Various shifts are available for service in this capacity – 400 meals are served during this important time. Contact City Gate if you can serve – 455-9670.



**"THE FARM GIRL IN ALL OF US"**  
**"Living Green"**  
**with Author/Entrepreneur MaryJane Butters**  
**Wednesday, November 14, 11:45am –1pm**  
**First Presbyterian Church**



With global warming and environmental issues in the news, individuals are looking for ways to be more eco-friendly. Author and entrepreneur MaryJane Butters will share her infectious enthusiasm for the down-to-earth "farm girl" way of life at November's Spokane City Forum. Butters will give her thoughts on sustainable living as well as provide some quick and easy steps towards "living green" in our area.

Since buying her five-acre farm near Moscow, Idaho in 1986, Butters has been an entrepreneur by necessity, finding resourceful ways to promote her ideal of sustainable living while keeping her farm afloat. When she is not milking cows and feeding chickens on her five-acre farm near Moscow, Idaho, Butters publishes MaryJane's Farm magazine and hosts the internationally populated MaryJane's Farm website. In addition, she lends her name to lines of organic foods and earth-friendly linens and gives classes around the country on everything from sewing and crafting to greener living on a budget. She runs a bed and breakfast and offers farm apprenticeships through her Pay Dirt Farm School. Butters is also the author of MaryJane's Ideabook, Cookbook, Lifebook – For the Farmgirl in All Of Us, MaryJane's Stitching Room as well as the upcoming MaryJane's Outpost on outdoor living.

The cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students (includes lunch) and is payable at registration or at the door. Childcare is available by reservation at \$4 per child. Reservations are required – contact Trudy Burda at (509) 777-1555 or by e-mail at [SpokaneCityForum@yahoo.com](mailto:SpokaneCityForum@yahoo.com). You may also visit our web site at [www.spokanecityforum.org](http://www.spokanecityforum.org).

## **NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR DEACONS AND ELDERS**

The **Congregational Nominating Committee (CNC)** is charged with nominating church officers, elders and deacons to be voted on at our Annual Congregational Meeting in June. The CNC has just begun this process and requests the wisdom and prayers of the congregation. The goal of the CNC is to nominate for leadership, members of FPC who love this church and who are deeply committed to Jesus Christ and to the spiritual practices of prayerful discernment and biblical leadership.

A brief Ministry Description for Elders & Deacons is listed below. If, after reading these descriptions, the Lord brings to mind an individual whom you would like to recommend for either office, or if you would like to be considered for one of these offices, please stop at the CNC table after church on Sunday and pick up a form. **The completed form needs to be returned to the Nominating Committee box in the church office, the CNC table, or placed in the church offering plate by Nov 11.**

**Elders** are persons of faith whose primary loyalty is to Jesus Christ alone. Corporately they are the governing body of the church, chosen by the people, whom together with the pastors exercise leadership, government and discipline. As spiritual leaders they seek to grow in their faith and to lead by spiritual discernment. They have responsibilities to nurture the faith and strengthen the life of this congregation and to support the church at large.

**Deacons** are persons of high spiritual character, honest repute, compassion and sound judgement. It is the duty of deacons, first of all, to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless and to any who may be in distress both within and beyond the community of faith. As spiritual leaders they seek to grow in their faith and serve Christ and the FPC family faithfully.

Questions or comments may be directed to any of the following members: Debbie Amend, Jack Arkills, Raeann Decker, Sharon Falk, Kandy Gore, Christie Jones, Reed Mahan, Kari Neff, Carolyn Ringo or Linda Yates.

## Children's Ministries

### YES, WE'RE ALL TEACHERS OF KINDERGARTEN SUNDAY SCHOOL!

We have so many Kindergarten students this year that we've had to make two classes!



Teagan, Graham and Maria

**Maria Stamp** is new to the teaching scene but feels that her three children, Alex-6, Ruthie-5, and Lara-1, have given her plenty of experience to be able to relate to a class full of kindergarten students. **Graham Smith** has been a Sunday School substitute for several years and has decided to go full-time this year in his son Noah's class. When asked what it's like to be with a class full of 5-year-olds, he responds, "busy." Graham's daughter Tabitha is in the 2-year-old class. **Teagan Norton**, a high school junior, is a veteran in the pre-school classroom, having taught 4-year-old Sunday school and VBS for the last two years.

They're back! **The Tom and Tim Terrific Teaching Team** is back for another season with a new crop of 5-year-olds! For those of you who don't know, this is the fifth year for this dynamic duo to don Moses and Pharaoh costumes or to transmogrify into a Roman soldier or prison guard, whatever it takes to transport kids back in time to experience the Bible stories firsthand. Although their own children, Hollie and Kaylen Blue, and Avery and Peyton Smetana, have grown into preteens and jr. highers, these two are having too much fun with kindergartners to quit now. They are joined this year by **Jonikka Erickson**, who now has dual responsibilities on Sunday mornings, the other one being worship leader and pianist at the 8:30 service. Jonikka's daughter Megan is in her class and she also has Emily-7 and Mark-2.



Tom, Jonikka and Tim

#### CHILDREN'S MINISTRY LOOKING FOR RIGHT PERSON(S)

Children's Ministry has two part-time (14 hrs/week) staff positions available.

One is a **Child Care Position** for mornings Mon.-Fri. and an occasional evening. This person should be a dedicated Christian who loves small children and has:

- \* early childhood experience in a group setting; knowledge of the development of children birth to K;
- \* sensitivity to children and families of other cultures;
- \* sense of humor and ability to plan age-appropriate activities;
- \* ability to work as a team player with other staff

For more information or an application contact Carole Spotts, x114.

The other position is for a **Primary Coordinator**, whose primary responsibilities would be to oversee 1st – 3rd grade King's Kids Children's Worship, 1st – 3rd grade Small Group Leaders, and Arts in the Afternoon on Wednesdays from 4-5:30pm. Must have organizational skills, love children and love our Lord. For more information and a complete job description, call Tani Starbuck-Carlson at x111.

**It would be possible for the right person to fill both positions** and work 28 hours per week. Let us know if you are interested in this possibility.

## Children's Ministries

### CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

Christmas is a time of traditions and our Children's Ministry department has a couple of good ones!

**Tradition #1** FPC kids from age 2 – 6th grade have begun to collect items to make care-kits for Liberty Park Child Development Center families for Christmas! Shampoo, soap, band-aids, toothbrushes and paste, wet wipes and more will fill bins which take away a little of the holiday financial pressure from families whose budgets are already stretched to the limit. Now we need your help to wrap and deliver the goods. Our Wrapping Party is on December 9 during the 9:45 hour. Won't you join us? Would you be able to deliver the finished kits to Liberty Park the following week? Would you be able to donate some of the items to help more families? Thank you!

**Tradition #2** FPC will also be hosting LPCDC's Christmas Program here at church on December 12. Members of our congregation serve dinner to LP families and staff and make holiday crafts with the children. Last year, nearly 300 people ate dinner and about 75 children completed Christmas crafts, decorated cookies, and spoke with Santa.

These activities are excellent ways to focus our Christmas to think of others before ourselves. Would you be willing to join us in caring for others? Specific areas of need are:

- Helping FPC kids with the Wrapping Party. (There are also tasks you may do at home beforehand, and we would appreciate donations of wrapping paper.)
- Delivering Family-care-kits to Liberty Park the week of December 10.
- Decorating tables for the dinner.
- Helping cook dinner.
- Greeting guests at the door.
- Serving dinner – this can be done by individuals, small groups, whole families or by children 5th grade and older.
- Musicians to play during dinner – young musicians are very welcome!
- Planning and making crafts with kids.
- Decorating cookies with kids.
- And, as always, clean-up.

Contact Lesa Painter x113 or [lesap@spokanefpc.org](mailto:lesap@spokanefpc.org) to join in!

### HEY KLUB 456... Are you BRAVE ENOUGH to SALT the earth!

Join us **Friday, November 2, 6:30-9:00pm**  
to explore which it is you live by, FAITH OR FEAR?  
COST: \$5.00 — Sign up by Nov. 1

**Bring a friend and enjoy a night of worship, fellowship, prizes and fear factor games! Wear clothes you can get messy! Call Meg at 747-1058 x151. PARENTS! We need YOU!**

**Be there if you dare!**

FAITH

FACTOR

### ATTENTION: ARTISTS

First Presbyterian Church offers a wonderful "Arts in the Afternoon" program for kids. We are looking for artists, crafters, and other creative types who could come and share their skill, craft, art, or music with the children on Wednesday at 4pm. You would not have to design or instruct the kids in an art project to go with your skill — we can do that for you. We would simply love to provide the opportunity for the kids to meet you and see some of your work. Could you spare a late Wednesday afternoon? Please contact Ruth Michaelis 747-1058 x301 or 535-7218.

### KIDS! CHECK IT OUT!

**m&m's** (music and movement) and **Arts in the Afternoon** program for kids in 1st – 8th Grade is in full swing, but kids can join at anytime during the year. Contact Ruth Michaelis 747-1058 x301, or simply drop by on a Wednesday afternoon at 4:00 and check out what is happening!

### MINI M&M'S FOR PRESCHOOLERS

There are still openings available in the Monday 12:30 music and movement class for 4 and 5 year olds. Contact Ruth Michaelis.

### FPC PRESCHOOL

FPC Preschool and Kindergarten opened its doors in September to 118 bubbling and excited children. Much of September was spent making new friends, adjusting to the new school year and opening our hearts and minds to "Wonder & Discover". At our first ever Grandparents Celebration, grandparents were given the opportunity to visit and learn more about what a typical school day is like for their grandchildren. It also gave us the opportunity to honor our grandparents and acknowledge the special role they play in our lives. Other autumn activities include our annual Harvest Celebration, field trips to Hidden Acres Ranch, and the Thanksgiving Feast! Our much anticipated **Parents Night Out is November 30**. Parents are welcomed to drop their children off for an evening of fun while they enjoy an evening of shopping or just some free time together.

## Student Ministries

### Senior High

#### Wednesdays in November

- 7 PRAXIS 7-9pm
- 14 PRAXIS 7-9pm
- 21 NO PRAXIS - Happy Thanksgiving!
- 28 PRAXIS 7-9pm

PRAXIS is what we call our senior high Wednesday night thing! It's all about your faith in practice. We'll include family groups, so you get to know a few folks a bit better and worship and always, *always*, a ton of fun! Bring your friends and acquaintances!

**The Shop: NEW!** Beginning **Sunday Nov 4**, Sr Highs will host "The Shop". This event will give you a chance to dig deeper into issues that you care about. We'll meet once a month at **3pm**. See you Nov 4!

**Sr High Fall Retreat**, better known as *Free Falling*, will be the **third weekend of November**. Friday the 16th we'll load up a bus and head to Riverview Conference Center on Priest River, where we will spend the weekend in lots of play, fellowship, games, and worship. It's gonna be the best darn weekend of your entire season! By the time you receive this, the flyer will be out, so if you need one, call Judy, 747-1058 x133 OR, check the FPC website.

**EASTER PROJECT 2008** contracts are coming!

### Junior High

#### Tuesdays in November

- 6 **SHIFT\_jrhi night** with tribes and stunts and a ton of fun. 7-9pm
- 13 **Q & A Night** — ask Daryl anything and he's Mr. Answer Man! 7-9pm
- 20 This week, **tribes meet** and friends can still join! 7-9pm
- 27 **Spaghetti Night!** 7-9pm

**Jr High Winter Camp** will be **Friday, November 9 thru Sunday the 11th**. And you don't have school on Monday the 12th! This is an all-presbytery event and will be held at Riverview Conference Center on Priest River. The theme is "**Your Born Identity**". By the time you read this, the flyer will be available. If you need one, check the FPC website.

## Congregational Information

### CHURCH LIBRARY

Your church libraries are sending 6 pickup loads of used textbooks and color crayons to India with Joan Hust in January. Your libraries take donations for the Colossal Book sale all year and these are just some of the donations that she can use in the schools. Please help us all year long by donating books and crayons for the 9 foreign missions and our **Colossal Sale... April 27 in 2008**. If you have questions call Jan 482-8389.

### FALL CHURCH GROUNDS CLEAN UP

**Saturday mornings, Oct. 27 & Nov. 17; 9am-noon**

Let's spruce up the FPC grounds before the holidays. Bring gloves, brooms, pruning shears, rakes and energy for a morning of work and fellowship to beautify our church grounds. Rain dates are Monday, October 29 & Monday, November 19. For any questions, call Frank Browne at 448-2513.

### WORSHIP AND WORK DAY

**November 17** has been set aside for another worship and work day at the church facility. Your participation is encouraged. This has been a rich time on previous occasions both for edification and fellowship. It is also an opportunity for those who use the churches' facility to personally invest in the ongoing needs of the building. A sign up sheet will be on one of the family ministries tables in the fellowship hall. "*Behold how pleasant and good it is when brethren dwell together in unity!*" Psalm 133:1

### ARE YOU USING THE FPC KITCHEN?

If so, have we got a deal for you! Our new Building Use Policy includes standards for use of the kitchen. At least one person in any group using the kitchen will need a Food Worker Permit which is available through the County Health Department by taking a test and paying a \$10 fee. Go to <http://www.srhd.org/safety/food/foodpermits.asp> or call the Health District at 324-1563 for more information. Our other requirement is that one or two people in the group be trained in the FPC kitchen on food service guidelines, general kitchen usage, and dishwashing. We're planning on doing that in conjunction with our Thursday Night Live program; watch for further details. Any kitchen usage, including bringing food from home and serving it here, or using the ovens, or setting up drinks for a meeting, will require this training. Let's keep ourselves and those we serve healthy! Start now by getting your Food Worker Permit!

# Congregational Information

## BLOOD DRIVE

The Inland Northwest Blood Center wishes to congratulate First Presbyterian Church on a very successful Blood Drive. Twenty eight donors applied and twenty one units were obtained. The event was sponsored by your Parish Nurses and will be an annual event. Thank you for giving the gift of life to your church family members.

## RUMMAGE SALE SUCCESS

WOW! Look at what great re-cyclers we are!!!

- Shoes and men’s clothing for the Mission Avenue Community Outreach Center
- Jeans, socks and sweatshirts for City Gate
- Four bags of yarn for the Women’s Drop in Center
- Cosmetics and toiletries for Women’s Hearth
- Old sneakers for Nike recycling
- Five boxes of women’s clothing for Windfall, St. John’s Thrift Shop
- Eight new boxes of Christmas lights for the FPC flower committee
- Lots of extension cords for the church audio-visual department
- The majority of the leftovers for Goodwill Industries

PLUS we had **\$5000.00 in rummage sales!** These proceeds will support Men’s and Women’s Ministries here at FPC, and at the Presbytery, Synod and National levels. THANKS to all of our supporters—the staff, the donors, the shoppers and especially to the volunteers who made it all happen so smoothly!

## SAVE THE DATES

### November

- 18 Advent Books & Devotionals for purchase at FPC
- 25 Advent Books & Devotionals for purchase at FPC

### December

- 5 & 6 7:00pm Unwrap the Gift
- 7 & 8 7:30pm Whitworth Concert
- 7 6:00pm Liberty Park Candlelight Dinner
- 13 7:00pm Preschool Christmas Program
- 16 6:00pm Messiah
- 23 9:30am Children’s Christmas Program

### 2007 ADVENT FUND

If you would like to contribute to the 2007 Advent Fund in honor or memory of a loved one, please pick up a form in the kiosk or send your contribution to the church, indicating whom you are honoring. Suggested contribution is \$12.00 payable to First Presbyterian Church. **Deadline to include names in the Christmas Eve bulletin is December 16, 2007.**

### NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

December issue: Nov. 9

January issue: Nov. 30

## Financial Update

### 2007 Operating Budget

	Income	Expense (-)	Income/(Loss)
Sep 07	\$152,996	\$124,483	\$28,513
1/2007 - 9/2007	\$1,080,530	\$1,163,550	\$(83,020)

Some of the Finance Committee’s basic responsibilities are to assess our financial status and begin planning for the 2008 operating year. The usual fall start of stewardship activity has been delayed somewhat awaiting the arrival of Pastor Sowers. He has requested that we have a Stewardship Committee that functions separately from the Finance Committee and that we ensure that the congregation is well informed on how we are doing in meeting our 2007 Budget.

**Persons are now being sought to serve on the Stewardship Committee.** If you are aware of someone whom you feel would be capable of serving in this capacity please let us know.

Your Finance Committee

## Fall Sermon Series

### The Church Comes Alive:

Oct. 21	John Sowers	Birth and Purpose
Oct. 28	John Sowers	The Urgency of the Proclamation of Jesus
Nov. 4	John Sowers	The Necessity for Repentance and Baptismal Beginning
Nov. 11	John Sowers	The Blueprint of the Church
Nov. 18	John Sowers	The Glad, Growing, and Generous Church

### MEET THE PASTOR

There will be many opportunities for the congregation to meet John and Jennifer in the weeks and months ahead. John will be sharing a little about his own story as well as some initial thoughts and observations about FPC. Mostly he will be answering questions from the group. Listed below are a few of the earliest opportunities. Don't worry if these dates don't work for you – more will be forthcoming after Jennifer arrives in January.

**Thursday evening November 1 — 6:45–7:30 in the Sanctuary**

If you plan to attend this meeting you are welcome to join the Thursday Night Live Dinner but please let us know by signing up in the Fellowship Room on Sunday or by calling the front desk at 747-1058 no later than Monday, October 29.

**Sunday morning December 2 and 9 — 9:45–10:45 in the Gym**

For more information about ongoing programs, visit our website at [www.spokane-fpc.org](http://www.spokane-fpc.org) or pick up a brochure in the Information Center or Kiosk.

## Contacts

(509) 747-1058  
Extensions Below

### Pastoral Team

John Sowers (222)  
Kevin Finch (225)

### Children

Tani Starbuck Carlson (111)

### Child Care

Carole Spotts (114)

### Preschool

Mary Davey (120)

### Junior High

Daryl Geffken (131)

### Senior High

Randy Brothers (130)

### Adult Discipleship

Jeanne Walsh (110)

### Community Life Coordinator

Brenda Norton (220)

### Barton School

Mildred Scheel (250)

Prayer Line/Deacons Line (150)

## Office Hours

Monday - Friday

9am - 5pm

First Presbyterian Church  
318 South Cedar Street  
Spokane, WA 99201-7030