

# FIRST PRESS

NEWSLETTER



FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
SPOKANE

February 2008 — Volume 56 — Number 2

## Ramblings from the Reverend — Stewardship Campaign results

In a situation of crisis I turn to the Lord in fervent prayer. But too often when the Lord answers my prayer I lose fervency in the degree to which I pray my thanks to God. I doubt I'm the only one that struggles with that...

There is some correlation with what can happen in Stewardship Season. The leadership of the church comes to the members with our fervent request that you give to the church, and that you prayerfully consider increasing your gift. And you do. And then we are not as fervent in saying "thank you."

So, without any further ado, let me say a very fervent "thank you." Your response to our stewardship challenge in the Glad and Generous Hearts Campaign was remarkable. As you can see

in the graphs on pages 2 and 3, significant gains were made in this last year. The challenge was to increase the number of you who gave but did not pledge to have you make a pledge, 90 of you responded by pledging – Thank you! The

challenge was for those who pledge to increase their pledge by 10 percent — 16 percent of you increased your pledge by at least that amount, with 40 percent of you giving more than a ten percent increase this year.

The bottom line is that we have more than \$150,000 more in our budget for 2008 than we had in the budget for 2007. Well, that's not the real bottom line, the real

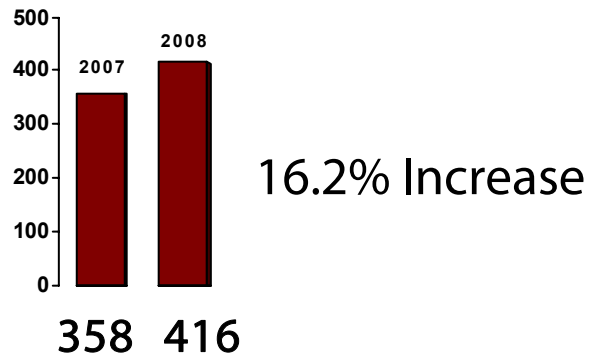
bottom line is that your faithfulness is a response to God's faithfulness, your joyful giving is a response to God's joyful giving, and our church's capacity to reach out with the Gospel for the



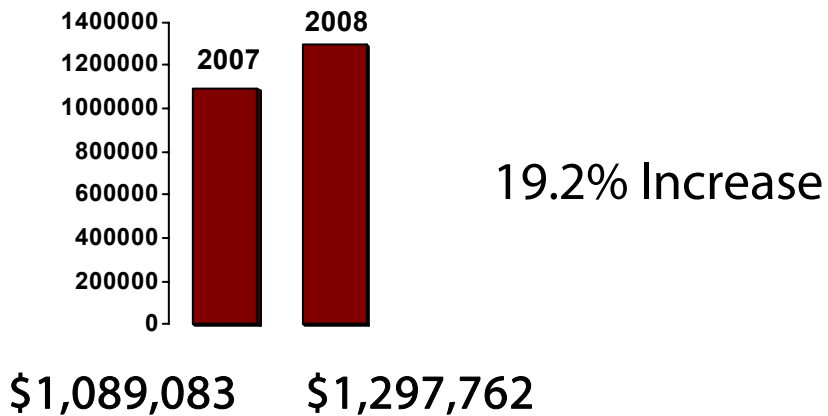
# 2008 Stewardship Results... continued from cover



## Number of Pledges Increased



## Amount of Pledges Increased



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# 2008 Stewardship Results . . . continued from cover

Kingdom of Christ is now greater because you answered the call.

I am so grateful to the Session and the Finance Committee, and to the Ministry Teams and the Staff, for their wise and visionary approach to how we use these dollars. You were discerning in your gifts for the stewardship campaign, and they have been discerning in their division of those gifts.

I am confident that this will be a year of great spiritual and missional growth for First Presbyterian Church. The Holy Spirit is at work here, and we are eager to join the Spirit in that work. I love being your pastor and I thank God for the privilege of ministering alongside you!

Blessings in Christ,



## 2008 Budget Summary

	2007 Actual	2008 Budget	Increase (Decrease)
Pledged Contributions	1,086,046	1,295,654	209,608
Non Pledged Contributions	281,132	228,000	(53,132)
Other Income	<u>230,157</u>	<u>226,300</u>	<u>(3,857)</u>
Total Revenue	1,597,335	1,749,954	152,618
Total Expenses	1,585,369	1,749,954	164,586
Net Revenue	11,966	- 0 -	(11,966)

# Sunday Mornings in February - 9:45am



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

## A VOCABULARY OF FAITH: SMALL WORDS WITH GREAT SIGNIFICANCE

Dr. Jim Edwards, teaching, Gym  
February 10 – March 16



Join Jim Edwards as he focuses our attention on the small words of the Bible, which, by themselves mean very little. But like lots of things in the Bible, God uses the small and overlooked things of this world to do mighty things (1 Cor 1:26f). Even the report of the women on Easter seemed to the important disciples

as "silly" and "foolish" -- until the disciples themselves went to investigate the empty tomb. Each of these small words found in scripture can reveal an empty tomb to us as well – if we look. Each is like an atom: when split it has explosive revelatory power. You will be amazed at what you learn from six small words with great significance.

Dr. Jim Edwards is a New Testament scholar and chairs the Religion Department at Whitworth University. He publishes articles in scholarly and popular journals and has authored several books including commentaries on Mark and Romans. He is a frequent speaker at churches, conferences and lectureships around the world. Jim is passionate about his faith, a serious scholar and an outstanding teacher of scripture.

## MEET THE PASTOR

February 3, Room 210

If you haven't yet had a chance to welcome and converse with John Sowers please plan to join him at 9:45 in Room 210. John will briefly tell a bit of his own story and share his heart for Christ and his hopes for FPC. You are encouraged to come and ask questions if you have them, and respond to his thoughts and ideas.

## JOY'N THE CONVERSATION

Small Group Leadership Class

Brenda Norton, leading, Room 213

Brenda Norton continues to facilitate this new Sunday morning offering for those who are leading small groups based on the weekly sermon.

## THE LETTER TO JEWISH CHRISTIANS

Bruce Gore, Sanctuary Class

Join Bruce as he continues to bring real life to the powerful book of Hebrews. Says one class member, "I'm learning so much from Bruce that I never knew – I hate to miss it!" Hebrews, at its core, is basic Christ-centered scripture which is both instructive and encouraging to Christians in all stages of faith development. The author reminds us that our main and central task is to live in responsive obedience to God's action revealed in Jesus – in difficult seasons of life as well as in times of great joy. "Take a good hard look at Jesus. He's the centerpiece of everything we believe, faithful in everything God gave him to do." **Don't Forget:** If you are interested in going deeper with this study and connecting with others who are also taking Hebrews seriously, consider joining one of the weekly small group study meetings. **Currently groups are meeting Monday & Thursday eve & Friday morning.** For more information about Hebrews small groups call Dave Storey, 456-7340 or Jeanne Walsh, 747-1058 x110.

## FIRST COVENANT CLASS FOR YOUNG ADULTS

I BELIEVE: QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT JESUS

Grant Erickson, John Gregg, Paige Numata

West Balcony Room

What do we learn about Jesus when we focus on his message, his miracles and his companionship with and compassion for 'unsavory' characters? And what does all this have to do with my family, my work, my friendships and my plan for my life? When we really stop and look at the life of Christ, we meet a disturbing and exhilarating Jesus who wants to radically transform our lives and stretch our faith. Jesus asks this question to all of his disciples: *Who do you say that I am?* Your answer to this question can set you on a course to **become what you believe**. Join us upstairs for coffee, good conversation and a new look at the Jesus you thought you knew.

# Thursday Night Live

## Dinner – 6-6:30pm; Classes & Activities – 6:45pm

The beginning of a new year is a good time to try something new – why not give Thursday Night Live a try. It's a place committed to discovering new life in Jesus Christ through a shared meal, learning, encouragement, laughter, serving and love. **Dinners will resume on January 3.** This fabulous meal is served at 6pm. Cost is \$5 for adults (kids eat free). After the meal connect with one of the group options listed below.

### 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.

### BRUCE GORE SMALL GROUP

Attend Bruce's class on Sundays, "The Letter to Jewish Christians", then join this group for deeper discussion on how the words in Hebrews impact our lives. See p4.

### CHOIR

Call the church to find out more - 747-1058

### JOY'N THE CONVERSATION

#### Small Group based on the Philippians Sermon Series: An Exploration of Christian Joy

Want to be part of our congregation wide exploration of the book of Philippians? This group digs deeper into the sermon scripture passage from the previous Sunday. It is exciting to see how God gathers us together to teach us individually and collectively. What joy is emerging! Come to room 212.

### MEN'S BASKETBALL

Join the pick-up game in the gym. Contact: Travis Trent 489-1121

## Other Opportunities

### LENTEN SEASON

#### Ash Wednesday — Service of Contemplation

February 6, 7–8pm

Childcare provided — birth - K

#### Palm Sunday, March 16

Normal service times & Sunday School hour

#### Maundy Thursday Service, March 20

6:30–7:30pm

Childcare provided — birth - K

#### Good Friday Service, March 21

7–7:30pm

Open for Reflection 4-7pm

Childcare provided for Service only — birth - K

#### Easter Sunday, March 23

8am, 9:30am, 11am

Childcare provided — birth - K

### LENTEN DEVOTIONALS

Daily devotionals for individuals who would like to make space in their lives to consider the mystery and meaning of the Easter season will be available for purchase on **Sunday February 3** at the Ministry Fair and also at the **Ash Wednesday Service on February 6** at 7pm.

## Other Opportunities

### "A TIME TO MOURN... A TIME TO HEAL" Bereavement Support Group, facilitated by Gloria Nielsen

Resumes Monday Eve February 4, 6:30-8pm

Anyone who is grieving the death of a loved one is encouraged to come. This is a place for men and women to express feelings, to give and receive love, support and understanding in a safe Christian environment – and to begin to move toward a new way of life, in partnership with Christ, meeting the challenges of transition after loss. A \$30 fee covers the cost of textbooks. For more information and to register call Gloria Nielsen, 838-3283 or Jeanne Walsh, 747-1058 x110. **Note:** You do not need to be connected to FPC to attend.



**FEBRUARY 5**  
9:30–11:30am at FPC  
**MEN'S PANEL**

Each month FPC hosts 80 -90 young moms while they connect and converse with other young moms, eat a delicious brunch, listen to a special speaker and receive free child care. FPC hosts this monthly event to help encourage, equip and develop every mother of a preschooler to realize her potential as a woman, mother and leader in the name of Jesus Christ. If you or someone you know would like to **attend MOPS**, please contact Rachel Pitts 893-3672 or Kim Heinrich 465-8023. If you would like to help make MOPS happen by being a **MOPPET worker**, please call Liz Little 455-8123 or Angie Reynolds 443-6864.

### **MEN'S BREAKFAST**

**Tuesday, February 5, 6:30-8am**

Speaker: **Randy Brothers** - "The Never Changing Gospel in an Ever Changing World"

The men's breakfast will continue its line of outstanding speakers with our own youth director, Randy Brothers. Randy has built one of the cities most successful youth programs at our downtown church. Men will not want to miss the opportunity to hear Randy's perspective on how to communicate Jesus Christ in the twenty-first century. Cost for the breakfast is \$4.00. Sign up between services in the fellowship hall or call 747-1058.

### **KEENAGERS**

**Thursday, February 21**

10:30am - social hour; 11am - program - "**SCAMS**" - Ed Nagel from the Washington State AG's office; lunch at noon. Cost: \$6. **Reservations are a must by Monday prior to the meeting** — please sign up in the fellowship hall or call 747-1058.

### **THURSDAY WOMEN'S STUDIES**

Winter Session continues through March 27

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

Join us to study "*Philippians*" - our sermon-based Small Group series

To **register**, pick up a brochure in the kiosk. \$25 registration fee. Scholarships available. Childcare provided with pre-registration (contact Carole Spotts x114). Contacts: Robin Gray 536-4392 or Brenda Norton 747-1058 x220.



**APRIL 18 AND 19**

We are still registering for the **Women of Faith Conference**. With their theme of Infinite Grace, this vibrant team of speakers, musicians and special guests Nicole C. Mullen, Natalie Grant and Ayiesha will definitely bring laughter, joy and grace to you. Brochures with detailed information are available in the Kiosk. There are only 100 "**premium seating**" tickets available so register early! Registration questions may be directed to Linda Yates at 536-6082 or Kristina Love at 838-2370. Great Valentine's Gift Idea! To purchase a gift certificate contact Mallory Anderson at 448-8013.



### **CREATION CARE GROUP – GLOBAL CONCERNS**

**Monday February 4, 6:30pm, FPC**

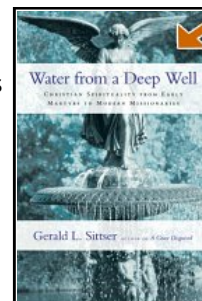
There are small steps each of us can take to collectively make a large difference in the stewardship of God's resources, allowing the miracle of God's bounty to continue. We welcome your presence at the monthly committee gathering. We are exploring recycling options here at First Presbyterian – come and share your ideas. Contact Doris Lee, 928-7238, [genlee2@comcast.net](mailto:genlee2@comcast.net).

### **WATER FROM A DEEP WELL**

**Book-readings by Dr. Jerry Sittser**

Dr. Jerry Sittser will be reading from his latest book, *Water From A Deep Well*, at three different locations:

- **Aunties Bookstore Café**  
Friday February 8, 7:30pm
- **The Book Parlor**  
1414 W. Broadway Ave  
Wednesday February 27, 7pm
- **First Presbyterian Church**  
Sunday March 30, 9:45am



You may purchase his book and have him autograph it at any of these three book reading events.

# Opportunities to Serve

## START THE NEW YEAR OFF RIGHT!

Are you committed to finding a place to serve this year? Looking for a ministry you can call home? Then come and visit the **Barton School**, FPC's own adult ESL and literacy program. We currently have over 20 students from 7 different countries on our waiting list and we need your help! We need volunteer English tutors Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9:30–11:30. This is an inspiring, rewarding opportunity – no experience required. Call Kirsten Harrington at 838-1061 for more information or to arrange a tour of the school.

## WORSHIP AND WORK DAY

**February 16** 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. This time we will be repainting the main kitchen and other adjacent areas. 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. Thanks to all... Stephen Winterer.

## HYMNSING

**Sunday, February 17, 3-4:30pm, FPC**

Please consider joining us for a community wide Hymnsing, an opportunity to come together to sing the old hymns and songs that are not often heard in this era, and to praise and worship our God through music. Sponsored by Senior Adult Ministries.

## REBUILDING TOGETHER - SPOKANE

**Saturday, April 26**

We will meet at the church at 7:30am and go to our designated site. This is a wonderful one-day mission opportunity that not only helps a needy member of our community to revitalize their home, but puts you in touch with good friends and fellow First Pres people for a day of work and fun. No special skills are needed, except a willing heart and joyful spirit. The project usually includes landscaping, painting, and some modest reconstruction work.

There will be sign-ups in future weeks. If you wish to participate, please sign up at the church or call Curt Shoemaker at 448-6063. Please set the date aside! As Kevin stated - this is our opportunity to serve the "outsiders".

## FEBRUARY FOOD MISSION

### Salvation Army Family Services

We can do it Joyfully!!!! One can per family means a lot to people in need.

- Canned fruits and vegetables
- Canned meats
- Macaroni and cheese / Pasta
- Cereal
- Toiletries

## ANUAK MEER MINISTRY

From February 20 to March 5, a delegation of women representing Anuak Meer Ministry of First Presbyterian Church will go to Gambella, Ethiopia, to continue and to expand the work already undertaken there in supporting community based orphans; and to continue to seek means to help empower the many widows in the region. This will be a follow-up delegation to the one sent a year ago from Anuak Meer Ministry. A particular emphasis of this year's delegation will be to provide medical screening and basic care for the orphans and widows, and to do a further assessment of health care needs in Gambella Town and province, in the hope that we may play a role in bringing about more safe and reliable health care and health education for the most needy members of the population there. The delegation will also be connecting with those working in Ethiopia in the area of HIV/AIDS.

**Please pray for those who will be serving on the delegation** — for health, safety, the meeting of objectives, and that God will be glorified in all relationships and undertakings:

Karlene Arguinchona, M.D.

Mary Beth Baker, Virologist and Chairperson of Anuak Meer Ministry

Joann Dibble, NICU Nurse

Alock Nyigow, Translator and Liaison to Anuak community

Sue Mushlitz, Treasurer and Director of Orphan Sponsorship

## Children's Ministry



Reed, Patti and John

Our teachers for the **3-year-old Sunday school** class are perhaps an unlikely trio. **Patti Petersen's** only child Andrew is now 14 so it has been a few years since Patti was involved in the Sunday school teaching scene. **Reed Mahan** has taught off and on for the past several years. None of his three children, Elizabeth (9), Sarah (7) and Sam (4), are in his class, but when he learned that we needed a teacher for 3's, he said, "Sign me up!" **John Sklut** is likely to be named Rookie of the Year for his role in this class. His son Jack is pretty happy to have Dad as his teacher and Declan (6) looks as if he is hoping for the same honor next year!

**John Paridon** and **Rosemary Otto** are veteran Sunday school teachers who have put in their time but just keep on going. They both demonstrate their heart for kids every Sunday by giving the children in their **4-year-old class** (including John's granddaughter Annie) what they need most—to feel loved and to know about God's great love for them. **Kim Chupurdia** is another candidate for Rookie of the Year. She is learning from the pros and adding her own flare and creativity to her teaching. Kim's daughter Lily, who is in the 4's class, shares her mom with little brother Gordon.



John, Rosemary and Kim

### Family/Youth Library

**In Between, Jenny B. Jones**

Read how God has other plans for Katie Parker who knows life is not fair; sent to live with a foster family, things go from bad to stinking.

**The Trouble With Max, Patricia H. Rushford**

Good friends are hard to find when you're in 6th grade and you're bald. Jessie Miller knows all about it since she started chemotherapy and lost her hair. But when mischievous Max Hunter joins her class, the two girls become fast friends. Then Jessie realizes Max is keeping a dangerous secret.

**My First Message, Eugene Peterson**

This one-of-a-kind Bible transforms family devotions into an interactive experience. The beloved Message style offers a translation that's easy to understand. Featuring 50 of the Bible's most cherished stories, with vibrant illustrations that bring to life these timeless lessons, this unique format will encourage the child to Read – Think – Pray – Live.

## Parent Workshop THE SECRET OF PARENTING

**Dr Anthony F. Wolf: Family Therapist, Author & Speaker**

**February 23, 8:30am-3pm**

Parents: Please plan to attend this Saturday workshop at FPC which is designed to help reduce the fussing and fighting that can take so much of the joy out of parenting. Dr. Wolf is a practicing clinical psychologist and the author of several books including, "Why Did You Have to Get a Divorce and When Can I Get a Hamster?", "Get Out of My Life but First Could You Drive Me and Cheryl to the Mall?", "It's Not Fair, Jeremy Spencer's Parents Let Him Stay Up All Night!" and "The Secret of Parenting". He has worked with children and adolescents for thirty years and lectures frequently on parenting topics. He will offer support for many of the most difficult day-to-day problem areas of parenting: tantrums, getting kids to bed at night and off to school in the morning, sibling rivalry and more.

**Schedule:** Dr. Wolf's morning session (9am-12noon) will focus on general parenting issues while the afternoon session (1:30-3pm) will focus primarily on parenting adolescents.

The workshop, which is sponsored by the Denton Foundation and Dick Silk, is open to the public. Doors are open for registration at 8:30am.

**Cost** of the morning session: \$10. Cost for the afternoon session: \$5.

**Questions?** Call Dick Silk, 484-1227.

## Student Ministries

### Senior High

#### Wednesdays in February

- 6 PRAXIS 7-9pm
- 13 PRAXIS 7-9pm
- 20 PRAXIS 7-9pm
- 27 NO PRAXIS! Come to THE SHOP on Sunday!

**The Shop: Sunday February 24** - Sr Highs "The Shop" is open for senior high students! This event will again give you a chance to dig deeper into issues that you care about. This once a month event begins at 3pm and we're done by 6pm. See you February 24!

**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!

**EASTER PROJECT NEWS: Sunday, February 10** is your **2nd Prep Meeting**. This is the one where you have a lot of prep work due. When you arrive Sunday about 6:15ish, you need to turn in your final \$150 payment, your Silent Auction slips that describe the donations you've procured, and your 5 or more support letters! Come prepared with your Bible, pen and notebook as well!

### Junior High

#### Tuesdays in February — 7-9pm

- 5 "Why do I do what I do?"
- 12 All About Sex
- 19 How to live a life of love
- 26 How far is too far?

**30 HOUR FAMINE: February 23-23.** After lunch at school on Friday the 22nd, you get to begin your 30 Hour Famine. Daryl et al, will greet you warmly at 6pm that Friday. You'll then begin your journey here and around Spokane and be done by 6pm on Saturday. Be sure to bring your sleeping stuff, toiletries, good walking shoes, and the donations you've collected!



## "Business Ethics in Spokane – The Good City" with Robert J. Spitzer, S.J., Ph.D. President, Gonzaga University

Wednesday, February 20, 11:45am–1 pm  
Spokane First Presbyterian Church



Jesuit priest, University President, author, speaker, teacher, and a participant in many local community activities and boards - a man of many hats with an abundant understanding of Spokane's wants and needs, Robert J. Spitzer, S.J., Ph.D., will challenge us to consider the role that ethics play in business. His fresh and innovative approach stems from his diverse areas of interest and experience: leadership, higher education, theology, physics, metaphysics, and the ontology of ethics.

Born in Honolulu, Hawaii, Father Spitzer received his B.B.A. from Gonzaga University in 1974, his M.A. in philosophy from St. Louis University in 1978, his Masters of Divinity in Theology from the Gregorian University in Rome in 1983, his Masters of Theology in scripture from the Weston School (Cambridge) in 1984, and his Ph.D. in philosophy from the Catholic University of America in 1988.

Fr. Spitzer's teaching career began at St. Louis University as a teaching assistant in 1978. He taught at Seattle University for two years and at Georgetown University for six. While at Georgetown, he received the Bunn Medal for most outstanding professor. He then proceeded to Seattle University for eight years where he was tenured as an associate professor of philosophy. While there, he held the Frank Shrontz endowed chair of professional ethics and won the award for outstanding faculty member in the College of Arts and Sciences in 1996. In 1998, Spitzer became President of Gonzaga University. During his tenure at Gonzaga, Fr. Spitzer has founded or co-founded a number of institutes of higher education and higher learning such as the *Colleagues in Jesuit Business Education*, *The Gonzaga Institute of Ethics*, *Magis (Center for Executive Leadership and Spiritual Life)* and *The Spitzer Center for Executive Leadership*.

Fr. Spitzer has published several books and numerous articles. His books include: *Five Pillars of the Spiritual Life: A Practical Guide to Prayer for Active People*, *The Spirit of Leadership: Optimizing Creativity and Change in Organizations*, and *Healing the Culture: A Commonsense Philosophy of Happiness, Freedom, and The Life Issues*. His articles, published in a variety of journals and collections, cover the areas of leadership, metaphysics, ethics, ontology of physics, and higher education. In furtherance of his publication activity, Fr. Spitzer is preparing manuscripts in the areas of quantum cosmology, spiritual Christology, and Catholic higher education. He is also revising and abridging his books on *The Spirit of Leadership* and *Healing the Culture*.

Fr. Spitzer is also involved in a number of community activities and boards. He gives approximately 130 public speeches per year, and is involved in the following boards of trustees: Gonzaga University, Spokane Area Chamber of Commerce, the Spokane Higher Education Leadership Group, Washington Campus Compact, the Association of Washington Business, the Spokane Symphony, the Spokane Economic Development Council, and the Spokane Task Force on Race Relations. In addition, Fr. Spitzer has worked in an advisory role with over 300 companies such as Boeing, Toyota, Costco, and Caterpillar and averages over 100 major business and public presentations per year.

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 by Monday, February 18 – 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).

Come join us for a thought provoking presentation.

# Congregational Information

**THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!**

## **GIVING TREE TEAM**

There were a bunch of little elves responsible for providing great parties this year at the Alberta House and the St Claire Apts. Those include the wonderful cooks who provided the dishes that were served at the buffets and each of you who shopped with your hearts and wrapped up fine gifts that were much appreciated by the tenants of these two places. Central figures who brought all this together were **Ann Johnson** at the St. Claire and **Christie Jones** at the Alberta House... many hours given... !!

In addition, thanks to a generous anonymous gift, each tenant also received a blanket, towels, cleaners, laundry detergents, toilet paper and paper towels... all gratefully received!!

Most touching was the willingness of the tenants to share the blessings they expressed at the parties. Blessings included being reunited with children, moving on after losing a close brother to MRSA, and a number who were celebrating being "dry" for 3 months to 3 years (YEA!). One lady has moved far enough along in her recovery to start school in January at SFCC Culinary school. Many of these residents have been given the gift of the gospel by those who run these homes, namely **Don and Mary O'Conner at the St. Claire** and **Dennis O'Brien at the Alberta House...** many said their lives were turned around by these saints.

**Thank you all... you are a very giving church!!!**

## **USHER APPRECIATION**

**A special thanks** to all who served as ushers at the Christmas Eve services. Thank you for rearranging family activities to help others feel welcome in our church home. Blessings to all for a job well done!

**Office will be closed  
Monday, February 18  
in observance of  
Presidents' Day.**

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINES**

**March issue: Feb. 1**

**April issue: March 1**

## **Financial Update**

### **2007 Operating Budget**

	Income	Expense (-)	Income/(Loss)
Dec 07	\$189,712	\$143,408	\$46,304
1/2007 - 12/2007	\$1,597,335	\$1,585,369	\$11,966

As we reflect on this past year, we began with a lean budget and concern for reducing our surplus to a level below our comfort. Due to personnel changes and your faithfulness we ended the year on a positive note. As you see above we put back into surplus \$11,966. This sends a great signal of support to our new staff and the church as a whole that we are strong and ready to move forward. Thank you for your faithfulness in 2007.

Your Finance Committee

## PHILIPPIANS SERMON SERIES

### *AN EXPLORATION OF CHRISTIAN JOY*

- 2/3 Phil. 2:1-2  
The Joy of the United Body of Christ — John
- 2/10 Phil. 2:3-11  
Christ's Example of Humble Service — John
- 2/17 Phil. 2:12-30  
The Joy of Obedience — John
- 2/24 Phil. 3:1-10  
The Joy of Letting Go — Kevin
- 3/2 Phil. 3:12-4:1  
The Goal of Citizenship in Heaven — John
- 3/9 Phil. 4:2-23  
From Joy to Peace, Through Thankfulness, Strength,  
Goodness, and Grace — John
- 3/16 Palm Sunday — Kevin
- 3/23 Easter Sunday — John

For more information about ongoing programs, visit our website at [www.spokanefpc.org](http://www.spokanefpc.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