

# The Lamb's Kin

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

February 2009

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## Scripture for February

But may all those who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who love your salvation say continually, "Great is the Lord!"

*Psalm 40:16*



## The Mission of First Presbyterian Church

The mission of First Presbyterian Church is to proclaim the Word of God the Father Almighty, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit as commanded in the Scriptures. Spiritual growth is encouraged through study, prayer, praise, music, and worship; Christians and nonbelievers are nurtured with love and compassion; and stewardship of time, talents, and financial resources is kindled in response to God's call.



This month I have several of items to highlight. The first is my gratitude to you, the members of this church, for your generous response to the recent stewardship campaign. As the news about the economy continues to sound grimmer with each passing day, your faithfulness in seeking to support the work of Jesus Christ is a blessing. Thank you for your faithfulness even at a time of great economic uncertainty and change.

Second, one of the happy challenges we currently face are the numbers of young people participating in our youth ministry programs. Because the number of young people is so large we are no longer able to transport all of the participants in our old, over one hundred thousand miles, church van. Buses have to be hired for the annual ski trip for the senior high and the Great Escape for the middle school youth. Although fuel costs have gone down dramatically in the past six months, the expense to rent a bus is beyond the capacity of the normal youth budget.

Therefore, the youth have been charged with the task of raising up to \$5,000 to help with the cost of transportation. Their first money-maker will take place on Sunday, February 15. On that Sunday there will be a combined worship hour, followed by an Italian-themed luncheon in the Wood Fellowship Hall. Much as we do at Thanksgiving, you will be invited to stay for lunch following worship. Your contribution towards lunch will be used to help offset the cost of transportation for our youth in 2009. I hope you will plan to attend!

Third, the first meeting of the newly-formed "Long Range Planning Committee" took place on Sunday evening, January 25<sup>th</sup>. Each chairperson of a Session committee, along with Ann Hindman, the chair of the Associate Pastor Search Committee, sits on the Long Range Planning Committee. The purpose of this new committee is to provide an additional opportunity for each committee chair to be in conversation together as we look forward to where we want to be as a congregation in the next 5-10 years. The first topic this committee addressed was related to the various structural problems that have recently come to light at the Youth Center. Any action items for Session will still come from each committee, but a primary goal of this new committee is to provide a forum where each committee can be informed of pending actions that may well have an effect on more than one ministry area of the church.

Fourth, with the start of a New Year a number of committees will be welcoming new members, and saying good bye to a number of people who have served faithfully for six years or more. Many thanks go to Dennis Grafa, Carrie Henderson, Bill Morehead, and Susan Woods for their service on the Personnel Committee. Thanks also go to Stephen Brown for his six years of service on the Stewardship Committee. A final word of thanks and appreciation goes to the Deacons who concluded their three years of service, and six additional months as "volunteer" Deacons, in December - Liz Bates, Tom Early, Glen Henderson, Bill Jones, Buck Kilman and Steve Palmer.

As always, I look forward to seeing you in worship!