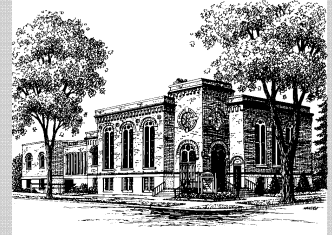


# THE CORNER CONNECTION



Christ Jesus is the  
Chief Cornerstone  
Ephesians 2:19-20

May  
2007

## First Presbyterian Church

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Whitefish, MT 59937  
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Pastor:  
Dan Davis

Youth and Family:  
Michelle Kuntz

Secretary:  
Jacqy Little

Treasurer:  
Deloris House

Organist:  
Kathy Murphy

Pianist:  
Karla Kirkemo



## Cater-Corner

There are a couple of things that have been on my mind lately that I want to share with you this month. Though they may seem quite unrelated I hope in conclusion to use them as examples to better understand an important tenant of our Reformed faith.

During the visit by the Rev. Donald Griggs I purchased the book documenting the life and work of Archbishop Elias Chacour. He was born in 1939 in Palestine in the small Christian (Melkite Greek Catholic) town of Biram in the region of Galilee. In *Blood Brothers* Chacour tells that in 1947 his town was taken over by the Jewish Zionist army and then destroyed on December 25, 1948. Until the takeover of their small town the people lived quiet and peaceful lives with their Muslim and Jewish neighbors in nearby towns. Chacour remembers his father, an owner of a fig orchard, freely trading goods with Jews and Muslims alike. All three faiths coexisted peacefully. One gets a very different picture of Palestinians and this area of the Middle East in reading this story. Most of us equate Palestinians with Arabs and/or Muslims living in Israel with close ties to terrorists and whose national leader of greatest renown came from a terrorist background. We see the nation of Israel and the small Palestinian settlements of Gaza and the West Bank as territory that has long been caught up in struggles, fighting, wars, and unrest. In *Blood Brothers* I have once again been reminded that Palestinians are not only Muslims but are some of the earliest Christians. That living in a land that is holy ground for three of the world's greatest religions (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam) with modern descendants still living there has not been easy. But it was never as impossible as it now seems, has only been so fraught with wars and terrorists since after World War II, and that this has intensified since the establishment of Israel. Chacour tells of a time when there was relative peace, understanding, and cooperation between all peoples living in that region of Galilee. Chacour is a man of faith, a man of peace, a respecter of all peoples and their right to worship and live in peace. He is a promoter and worker for peace in a very troubled land. He is a man of God whose books are words that have been inspired by his call to serve God, to serve the Melkite Church, to serve the people of all faiths in his home of Galilee. In short Chacour's words are inspired by God.

Christians know about God's words. We trust and rely on them in our daily lives and weekly worship. We understand God's Word in two ways. First is the Bible. I was given the Statement of Faith of the Whitefish Ministerial Association that is to be read, agreed upon and signed if I want to belong to the WMA. This is the first of seven statements. "**We believe the Bible** to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative, inerrant Word of God (*II Timothy 3.15-16; II Peter 1.21*)" The bold emphasis is not mine. For me the Bible is indeed "the inspired" and "authoritative" Word of God. But it is also a book written by humans, not just any humans, of course, but those who have come to believe in and worship God in two distinct ways, Jews and Christians. I cannot call the Bible "the only infallible" and "inerrant" Word of God. But remember we understand the Word of God in two ways.

The second is this, "And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth." (John 1.14) Now this is the Word of God that I can and do declare as the infallible and inerrant Word of God!

The words of Archbishop Chacour truly inspired by God; the Bible truly God's inspired and authoritative Word for our lives; Jesus Christ, God's only infallible and inerrant Word that was made flesh so that God's love might be made known to all humankind. And may it ever be. Amen.

Pastor Dan

# **Change in Newsletter Mailing List!!!**

**We are eliminating the present newsletter *snail mail list*. It has been realized that we are living in the electronic age and have our newsletter available on-line. The on-line version is read using Adobe Acrobat Reader which has magnification ability. So to save money, time, and effort, the primary focus of the newsletter availability will be the on-line version. The office will still print about 50 copies each month and place them in the Fellowship Hall.**

**It is realized that not everyone has Internet access and some will still prefer to receive a paper mailed newsletter. A form is provided with this month's issue to fulfill that need. If you would still prefer to have the newsletter mailed to you, please fill out the enclosed form and either mail or drop it off at the church office and we will create a new mailing list.**

**The church Web site address is: [www.fpcwhitefish.org](http://www.fpcwhitefish.org)**

# Newsletter Mailing List

Drop off at FPC office or mail to:  
First Presbyterian Church  
301 Central Ave.  
Whitefish, MT 59937

Please add the name and addresses listed below to the newsletter mailing list.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

# New Books in the Church Library



MAY FEATURED BOOK  
THE RAPTURE EXPOSED  
By Barbara Rossing

## From Publishers Weekly

Ordained minister Rossing is ready to do battle with evangelicals both within and outside of her Lutheran Church camp. Rossing, who teaches New Testament at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago, begins her sparring by taking on the widely popular Left Behind series and all it presumes to communicate about the future of the world. Claiming that the Left Behind authors' interpretation of prophetic biblical verses is "fiction," Rossing firmly asserts that the Book of Revelation has a completely different purpose than to predict upcoming world uprisings and the eventual end of the earth. Instead, Rossing believes that this biblical vision is meant to inspire humanity to seek out "repentance and justice." Rossing also maintains, somewhat unfairly, that rapture enthusiasts extol a careless, abusive attitude toward God's created world, since rapture theology declares that the followers of Christ are soon to be removed from it. More significant is Rossing's belief that Revelation does not offer a prophetic look at Jerusalem as the inevitable battleground between good and evil, but rather extends the promise of a New Jerusalem that will open its arms to all nations in peace. While Rossing's scholarly work is well organized and obviously carefully thought out, evangelicals may take issue with the blanket statement that "most Christian churches and biblical scholars condemn Rapture theology as a distortion of Christian faith with little biblical basis." This book will likely upset Christian conservatives while appealing to many in mainline denominations.

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## From [Booklist](#)

Arguing against the dispensational theology of Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins' Left Behind novels, Rossing advances an alternative view of the Revelation of St. John, a text that has fascinated biblical scholars and lay readers--beginning, no doubt, with those to whom it was first addressed--for almost 2,000 years. Although a professional New Testament scholar, Rossing writes for a popular readership, including Left Behind fans. She places the Revelation in a tradition of apocalypse and prophecy that has less to do with violence or prediction than with vision. In so doing she argues powerfully against the fascination with violence characteristic of much dispensational thinking. For Rossing, the Revelation is "a rapture in reverse"--God raptured, so to speak, into the world as Immanuel, God-with-us. That, she says, is a vision of a new Jerusalem, a beloved community--a vision of peace and justice that has inspired a host of good stories and still inspires persistent hope in the face of oppression and violence. *Steven Schroeder*

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## **APRIL 11, 2007 SESSION HAPPENINGS**

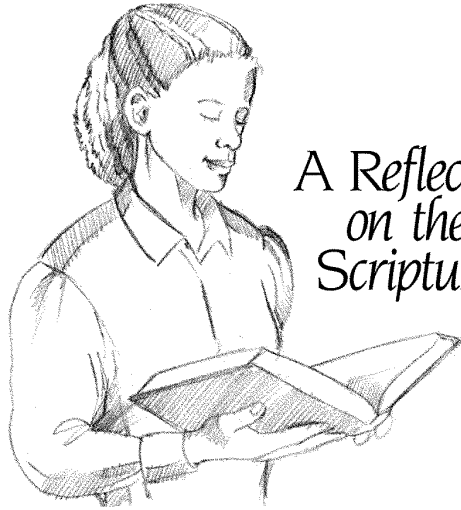
- ✚ Rev. Davis will discuss the Whitefish Ministerial Association Statement of Faith with members of the WMA to determine what the intent is in having this as a membership requirement.
- ✚ April 21, "Clean the Fish", will be a time to clean and spruce up the church building and grounds.
- ✚ The June 30, 2007 wedding of Jennifer Prendergast and Doug Betters was approved.
- ✚ A motion passed to approve changes to the current newsletter mailing system. The May newsletter will be the last mailed out to the current mailing list. A form will be provided in the May newsletter to be filled out by those still wishing to receive a mailed copy of the newsletter. The newsletter is available online for those with computer access and 50 copies will be printed and available in Fellowship Hall. This new system will decrease printing and postage costs as well as workload in printing and assembling the newsletter.
- ✚ Vacation Bible School will be held July 9-13 at the Methodist Church.
- ✚ On August 18 our church will participate in Habitat for Humanity by painting the inside of one of the houses in Columbia Falls.
- ✚ A "Festival of the Christian Home" was approved for Mother's Day, May 13. Kent Morrison from Cross Currents will give the sermon and Moment for Ministry.
- ✚ A banner, made as a memorial to Thelma Smith, will be dedicated June 3.
- ✚ A motion passed that, with family approval, memorials to Shirley Netteberg be put into the Youth Ministry Fund.
- ✚ The Deacons have approved giving \$2,000 to Habitat for Humanity and will check about providing meals to workers this summer.
- ✚ Deloris House was elected Commissioner to Presbytery at Glacier Camp June 1 and 2.

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The main purpose of the First Presbyterian Church is to glorify God and enjoy God forever.

To fulfill this purpose, we affirm three God-given responsibilities:

- ⇒ To know, love and worship God through Jesus Christ
- ⇒ To serve and build up one another in love as members of the body of Christ
- ⇒ To go into our community, our country and the world, empowered by God's Holy Spirit to make disciples, teaching them all that Christ commands



*A Reflection  
on the  
Scriptures*

**MAY  
SCRIPTURE  
READINGS**

*“I will pour out my Spirit upon all  
flesh, and your sons and your  
daughters shall prophesy.”*

*(Acts 2:17)*

**5th Sunday of Easter— May 6**

Acts 11:1-18; Ps. 148; Rev. 21:1-6  
John 13:31-35

**6th Sunday of Easter — May 13**

Acts 16:9-15; Ps. 67; Rev. 21:10, 22—22:5  
John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9

**7th Sunday of Easter— May 20**

Acts 16:16-34; Ps. 97  
Rev. 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21  
John 17:20-26

**Day of Pentecost— May 27**

Acts 2:1-21 or Gen. 11:1-9  
Ps. 104:24-34, 35b; Rom. 8:14-17 or  
Acts 2:1-21; John 14:8-17 (25-27)

*PW April Meeting*

“Think spring,” was the theme of the April PW meeting hosted by Deloris House and Sandra Hartman. Spring hats, decorative towels, and pussy willow and tulip bouquets on the tables carried out the theme. “What’s in the box? A recipe for serving God” was Marlene Barnes’ talk. After setting a box on the table, she asked the ladies for their own ideas on what it took to serve God. A willing, grateful heart, reading the bible, obedience, and prayer were just a few of the answers. Then out of her box she proceeded to pull, one by one, seven items— talking about each one and how it represented what she needed to help her serve God. These items were devotionals, a bible, miniature doll bed, light bulb, old-fashioned alarm clock, bicycle pedal, and a small toy horse. If you are curious about them, ask Marlene. In addition, she added— needing an understanding husband and a faithful friend.

Arline Hankins  
PW Moderator

# Bits And Pieces

## *Presbyterian Women Rummage Sale*

PW Rummage Sale on Friday, May 4th and Saturday, May 5th. Collect your items for sale (no clothing please) and bring them in. A classroom will be available to receive the merchandise before the sale. Any questions talk to Arline Hankins.

Hours for Sale: Friday—8:30 to 4:00— Saturday— 8:30 to 12:00

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## *Youth Group Mission Flower Sale: — May 4, 5, & 6.*

Payment due at pick-up at church for flowers that were pre-ordered. Extra flowers, including hanging baskets, perennials & ornamental grasses, will be available for purchase on the above dates.

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## *New Tuesday evening class to begin May 8, 2007*

What class is it?

The Thoughtful Christian Bible Class will begin the second Tuesday in May at 7:00 P.M.

What is The Thoughtful Christian Bible Class?

It will be facilitated by Dan Davis and will primarily be for adults. This means anyone from High School ages up should find this to be a challenging, stimulating, and thought provoking class. Those with younger children who would like to join us are encouraged to do so and if you'd like childcare provided at the church please call the office at least a week ahead of time

Who is a thoughtful Christian?

Hopefully you are! By coming to this class you will be showing that you want to wrestle with the questions that inform the way we live out our faith in everyday life. Jesus called us to love God with our minds, as well as our hearts and souls. This, he said, is the greatest commandment. "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind" (Matt. 22:37 NRSV).

What curriculum will we use?

The Presbyterian Publishing House has a new curriculum. The Thoughtful Christian is a web-based resource center located at *TheThoughtfulChristian.com*. It is filled with studies ranging from one to four sessions each for adult groups and individuals. Each session is designed for forty-five minutes to one hour and comes with a three- to four-page Participant Handout and a two- to five-page Leader's Guide with lesson plans and resources. The studies can be downloaded as Acrobat PDF files, printed out, and photocopied for use in classes or for personal study and devotion. In addition, leaders can e-mail the Participant Handout to students in advance of the next meeting. New studies, including rapid responses to current events, will be added to the site on a regular, ongoing basis.

What should I bring?

Bring your favorite version of the Bible, of course, but most important bring your brain and have it ready to think. For as William Sloane Coffin said in *A Passion for the Possible: A Message to U.S. Churches*, "Christians should never think they honor the greater truth they find in Christianity, by ignoring truths found elsewhere," and, "Too many Christians use the Bible as a drunk does a lamppost — for support rather than for illumination."