



The Pilot Light



"Columbia Presbyterian Church: encouraging you to enter into a life-changing relationship with Jesus, and helping you find your place in God's work."

December 2009

"HE WILL BE GREAT,
AND WILL BE
CALLED THE SON OF
THE HIGHEST."

(LUKE 1:32)

Holiday Events

Thanksgiving Eve Service

November 25 @ 7 PM

Advent Wreath Making Celebration

Sunday, November 29
4-6 PM

Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 13
4 & 7 PM

*Children, Adult & Bell Choirs;
Singing of Christmas Carols*

Service of Remembrance

Sunday, December 20
3 PM

Christmas Eve Services

5 PM

*(Designed for families of
Preschoolers)*

7, 9 & 11 PM

Traditional Candlelight

THE VIEW OUTSIDE MY WINDOW

The Songs of Christmas

If you were to ask pretty much anybody what their favorite part of the Christmas Season is, they'd probably say, "The Songs...the music." I would certainly agree with that. Every year, I eagerly await the day after Thanksgiving, when I load up our CD player with our collection of Christmas Music. Then we listen every day to the most beautiful music ever written: The Messiah, Christmas Hymns by the score, Medieval madrigals, 18th Century Carols, contemporary Advent and Christmas sacred music – (my favorites of these are by John Rutter,) and various renderings of all these works by contemporary artists.

The reason I like the music of Christmas so much is because it helps me worship. It brings me to a place where I enter into the mystery of the incarnation – God came once to be with us in our sin in order to take us into his life. What an amazing truth and glorious message; and a mystery. I know it's true, but I can't explain it completely. But I can enter into that mystery through the act of worship. Both privately and once a week when we gather to worship together, it is the music of Christmas that enables us to enter this mystery more fully than anything else we know.

As Martin Luther once famously said, "He who sings once prays twice." Meaning, that music takes us into a form of prayer that goes deeper than words alone will ever do.



In light of this power of music, I find it interesting that in the Gospel of Luke, in the birth narratives, there is all this *singing* going on. Mary hears

Fitz Neal,
Pastor



the annunciation by the angel Gabriel and then breaks into song. Elizabeth greets Mary with singing. As soon as Zechariah is able to speak again, his first words are in the form of singing. Then there are the angels singing to the shepherds. What that must have been like! Can you hear it? Well, actually, no. But when you sing the songs of Christmas, or hear them sung by our marvelous choir, you can certainly imagine what it might have been like.

This Advent and Christmas, we will be spending time on these songs in Luke. The "*Songs of Christmas*." As we seek to hear what God is saying to us through them, we will also be singing all the great Advent and Christmas hymns as a way of letting ourselves enter into the mystery of the incarnation once again. Advent begins on November 29th. See you then. And may God put a song in your heart.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fitz'.

ADULT SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Wednesday Night Live

Our Wednesday night dinners begin again on January 4. Dinner is served from 5:30 to 6:30, followed by K2 (3rd - 5th grade), Middle School Youth Group, Bethel Bible Series, Men's Fraternity, and a new adult offering, Freed-Up Financial Living. This is a repeat of a class offered at CPC last Summer. This class provides a biblically grounded understanding of money and budgeting, using a hands-on workbook. There is a cost of \$10.00 for materials.

Make Wednesday night a Family Night @ CPC!



PRAYER DAY
"Preparing for the King"
Saturday, December 5
9:00 to Noon
CPC Chapel

Plan to begin the holiday season with a quiet morning of meditation and prayer. Pastor Armstrong will be leading this time, which will involve scripture reading, and time for individual prayer. During what is often the most hectic time of the year, a personal day of prayer provides a wonderful opportunity to bring focus and clarity to our lives. Come join this special experience. Childcare will be provided by reservation.

January Adult Education Classes

As you make plans for 2010, include a Sunday morning adult education class! There will be four classes offered, beginning Sunday, January 3.

9:30 AM

The Church History in Plain Language class will continue in the Chapel. New "students" are welcome to join this class, which is exploring the major events in the history of the church from the time of Jesus until today.

Life Keys, a guide to help uncover an individual's unique God-given talents, spiritual gifts and values, is one of the primary ways we are helping to fulfill Columbia's mission statement, "...helping you find your place in God's work." This class will meet in the Cascade Fellowship Hall.

11:00 AM

The Life and Teaching of Jesus will continue in the Chapel. This class provides an overview of the important events and teachings of Jesus.

The Will of God as a Way of Life will use Whitworth University professor Jerry Sittser's book by the same title as a resource in discovering that God's will is a lifelong journey. This class will meet in the Cascade Fellowship Hall.



Bruce Armstrong,
Associate Pastor

*Make spiritual growth your New Year's Resolution,
by attending a Sunday morning class!*



NEWS FOR YOU-TH



The Middle School Back-to-School retreat was a blast!! All stayed safe and so respectful of one another!!!! We talked about trust, experienced trust, played hard, ate well, defied the rain in our stylish ponchos and we are back from Camp Tadmor with wonderful memories!! Thank you to our leaders who helped make the weekend extraordinary: Ken Neal, Anne Stewart, Debbie Wu, Tory McDougall, Alan Hartquist, Bethany Brewster, Maddie Anderson, Alasdair Stuart, Megan Husko, Katie Mack and Jackson Wiley. Way to shine for Jesus!



Annual-Awesome-Christmas-White-Elephant Parties...

White elephant= creative, not necessarily useful, unique, fun and perhaps it is one of a kind!!!

Middle School Party:

spending no more than \$3, December 16.

High School Party:

spending no more than \$5, December 20

This month youth Group will Jingle for Jesus as we celebrate the true meaning of Christmas—the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ!!! So get ready to come a caroling on anything but silent nights. Hark, you should even bring a friend so go tell it on the mountain and in your schools that they should come to youth group this month!!!

MS Youth Group: Wednesday nights: 6-8

HS Youth Group:
Sunday nights:
6-8'ish



Suzie Gilmore,
Interim Youth Director

Children's Ministries



During our recent Jonah study, our 4th and 5th graders experienced the story of Jonah in a dramatic fashion. Here's a bit of the "action"



Jonah has run away from God and is hiding on a boat.



Jonah prays that God will calm the storm.



The sailors throw him out of the boat.



After being swallowed by a "big fish", Jonah is spit out onto the land.



Jonah is mad at God for not punishing Ninevah.

Our Stepping Stones enjoy praising God through singing:



SHARON FRANKLIN,
CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES
DIRECTOR



Circle of Friends Preschool



The life of a pilgrim

Little Miss Harris is busy preparing a meal over the open fire. Her friend Brooks was so tired from doing all of his pilgrim chores that he did not have enough strength to unzip the teepee before laying down to rest.



Hat Day

Our fun monthly event in November is hat day. Parker was thrilled to wear her princess hat. She loved the chiffon that flowed from the point of her hat.

Families in need



Each year we are amazed by the wonderful generosity of our families. Morgan, an older three year old, is sharing with her class some of the items she brought from home. Upon pulling one can out of her bag, she told her friends that she had snuck that into the sack. The next item she removed was not something she remembered placing into the bag, and stated, "My mom must have snuck that one in." All of the items gathered were shared with four different charities. A big "Thank You" to all of our families!

Factoid:

Can hand sanitizers be poisonous?
"That dab your child puts on her hand evaporates on contact," says Erica L. Liebelt, M.D., spokeswoman for the American Association of Poison Control Centers in Alexandria, VA. But the ethanol content can be dangerous if enough sanitizer is ingested, and we haven't seen child-proof caps, so keep bottles out of your child's reach. If she puts hand sanitizer into her mouth, call the Poison Control Help Hotline at 800.222.1222. "Consumer Reports ShopSmart November 09"



Sharon Wallenborn, Director
Circle of Friends Preschool

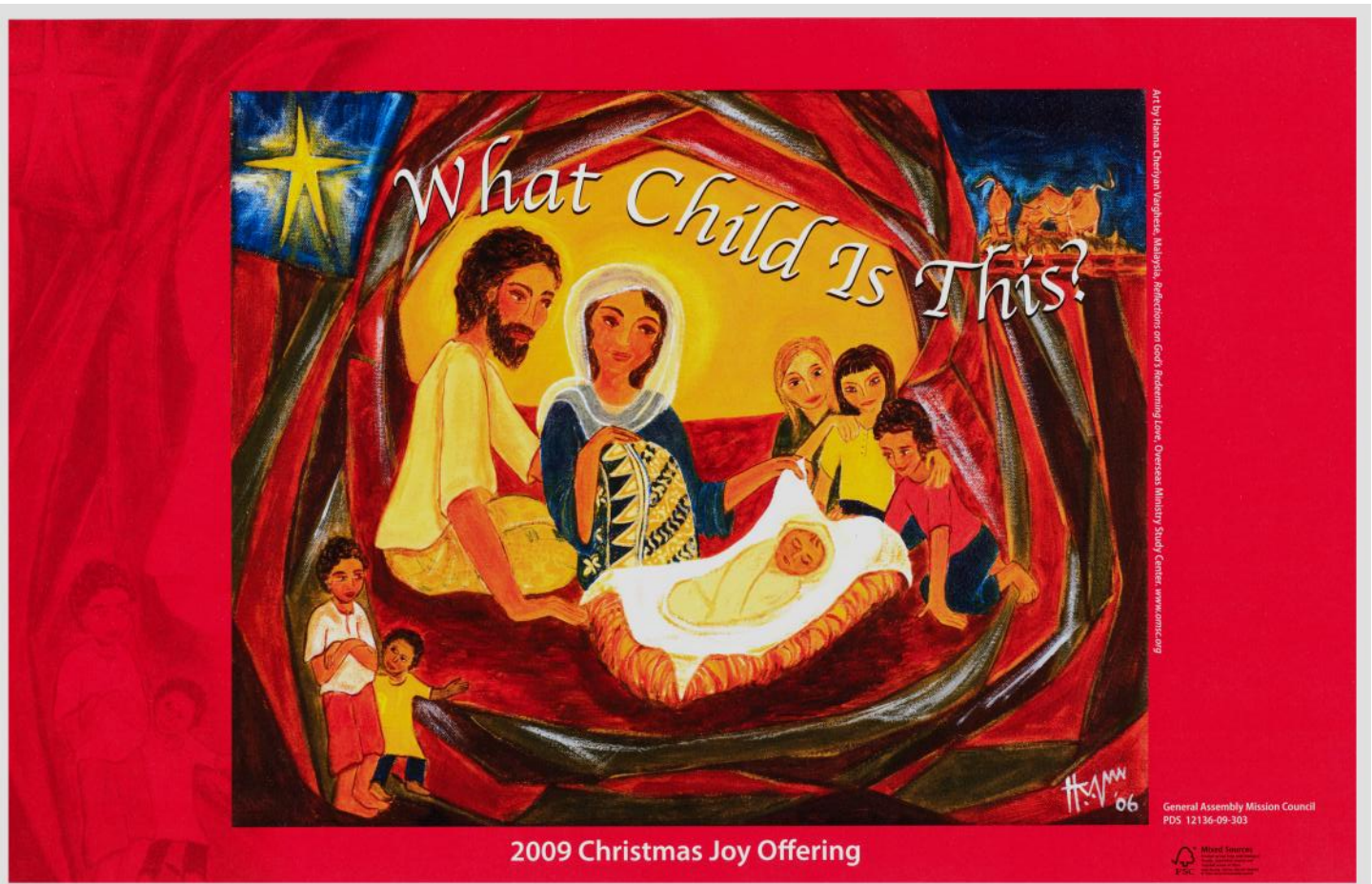


Christmas Celebration

Please come and enjoy our special Christmas program. This year we are trying something new. The preschool children will be performing in the afternoon rather than in the evening. Please mark your calendars for **December 15 or 16** and plan to attend either or both **1:30 PM** programs. Children dressed in their Christmas attire, singing those holidays songs with those precious little voices always brings out that holiday spirit.

We would also like to extend a thank you to **Dr. Greg Williams** for donating toothbrushes for our harvest party. The tooth fairy loves to talk about sugar bugs and give each child a new toothbrush.

2009 Christmas Joy Offering



What is the Christmas Joy Offering?

A Presbyterian tradition for almost seventy years, the Christmas Joy Offering is one of the four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) to provide congregations direct ways of supporting specific causes that help those in need.

The receipts from the Offering are distributed equally to the Board of Pensions for assistance programs and to Racial Ethnic and Women's Ministries/Presbyterian Women of the General Assembly Mission Council to support Presbyterian racial ethnic education.

Enclosed with this edition of the Pilot Light you will find a Joy Offering envelope. You will also find offering envelopes in the pews beginning in December.



Angel Tree

Christmas is coming, and we are preparing our hearts to share with others. The Deacons have a giving tree this year, with the opportunity for the church to give to families in need. You can choose your level of contribution—from donating one gift for a family member to taking a whole family, or something in between. The giving tree this year will be available on Nov. 29 and Dec. 6, with sign-ups in the Gathering Area after each service. We will need to have the gifts returned by 1:00 pm on Dec. 13.



Are you interested in small groups at Columbia?
Email your name and phone to
smallgroups@columbiapresbyterian.org.

A Nudge from God?

God is always at work in our hearts and He may be urging you to consider using your abilities and time as an officer of CPC as a **deacon** or as an **elder**. Please don't be shy: Connect with a Nominating Committee member that you know, or Jan Kennedy, chair.

jank@murdock-trust.org or 335-1193.



MANY THANKS VOLUNTEERS FOR A SUCCESSFUL FALL SALE !!



The year 2009 has become another banner year for the semi-annual church sale with the just completed fall sale netting the largest amount for a fall sale. (The Spring sale was our largest sale.) We will net just between \$12,000 and \$13000. This will enable us to provide our pledged amount to the missions we support, provide camper ships and mission trips for the youth and continue the Ellen Torongo Scholarship program where both single women and the children of single parents are helped with scholarships for higher education.

We have been especially encouraged by the support and assistance of the staff. Pastors Fitz and Pastor Bruce have been very supportive with encouraging words both to us and to the staff who also helped in many ways. Sharon Wallenborn, Preschool Director, worked in the Boutique. Viva Dennis has been most helpful by preparing and printing the material needed for publicity and managing the sale. We extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to each of you.

For those who had to make other arrangements for their meetings or programs we especially thank you. You indirectly have contributed to the mission programs the sale helps fund. We were able to help out a number of hard working men and women from the Friends of the Carpenter by hiring them to help set up and take down the equipment needed to put on the sale. This they did with our special men who brought equipment to and from the warehouse.

Many of our usual shoppers were there to greet us and to thank us for the best sale in Vancouver. There were also more new shoppers than usual who we believe found the sale helpful in meeting their needs, especially with the economy in shortfall.

Members of the congregation who came to work and contribute items for the sale were a real blessing. You had smiles for each other and the customers. And we had some new workers who pitched in and were a great help with their ideas. We can, however always use more help. People commented on how friendly everyone was. We don't have space to individually thank each volunteer but know that you were very much appreciated. We will be looking for several volunteers at the spring sale who can help in specific areas of the sale in sorting and pricing.

Once again, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

Donnetta Spink, Eileen O'Neil and Linda Mohn Sale Coordinators

Nor'Wester's December Potluck

The Nor'Wester's annual Christmas potluck will be Friday, December 11 at 6 PM in the Cascade Fellowship Hall. Each person who would like to participate is asked to bring a wrapped white elephant gift for a gift exchange. In the past we have had many laughs over this gift exchange. Please RSVP by December 7th to: Pat & Jim Jacobson, jjake@comcast.net, 326-4410; or Shirley & Ken Lansidel, smlansidel@comcast.net, 576-1464; or Linda & Maynard Mohn, lmg81544@comcast.net, 896-8618. Newcomers are encouraged to join in on the fun and laughter at this annual Christmas potluck.



MISSIONS

Columbia Supporting Literacy Project for Young Adults in Senegal, CPC's first ministry action in our new partnership with the Serer people group in Senegal, will take the form of a literacy program for young adults in the Diakhao region southeast of Dakar, Senegal's capital. World Vision has been active in Diakhao since 2000 working on education, health, economic development, and safe water projects. Their work has helped forge a strong relationship with the local Church in this predominantly Muslim area (only 2% are Christians). The literacy project offered through the local Presbyterian Church will target primarily—but not exclusively—Muslim adults, and reflect the love of Christ to people of Islam. The hope is that God will use literacy to lead adults to read the Bible.

The local Presbyterian Church is led by Serer Christians; the literacy program will help to deepen their witness to the Serer of Diakhao. CPC's support will provide these materials and tools:

- Construct a 16.5-by-16.5-foot classroom

- Provide classroom furniture and equipment
- Provide books and literacy "starter packs" for the classroom
- Pay the salary of one teacher and one supervisor for the nine-month school year

Literacy materials to be used are designed by the Presbyterian Church, and meet standards set by the government of Senegal's national literacy program. The course will be taught in the local language of Serer. Local partners and small fees paid by the students will help keep the program alive in years to come.

A team of people from CPC will travel to Senegal early next year to meet the pastors and people of the Diakhao area. Please pray that God will use this new ministry among the Serer to build His kingdom!



Alternative Christmas Market

Christmas is just around the corner, and that means it's time for Columbia's Alternative Christmas Market. After each of the services on December 6 & 13, you will find the market in the Multnomah Room. Members of the Missions Ministry Team will be there to help you learn more about some of the outreach programs supported by our church. You will be able to honor loved ones, families, and friends by buying supplies needed by local and global missions.

This year's featured missions include (locally) New Hope Farms, Open House Ministries, Options 360 and (globally) our missionary families, as well as our work in Zambia and Senegal. Items will range in price from \$5 to \$25. You will receive a card to give to the recipient telling them what you have purchased in their name, so you yourself will not have anything in your hands; but some kind of supplies will go out to the agency you have chosen. Just think of all the shopping you can do when you do not have to carry packages. What an opportunity for families to choose a gift for someone that will benefit someone else across town or across the world. You might buy a goat for a needy family or computer supplies, or a Bible...the possibilities are endless. So come and see us in December and we will help you find that perfect gift; a gift that will truly keep on giving.



"Churches in Partnership" Update...

What a joy it is to know that Kelly, Brody & Dakota Coleman will soon be moving into their new home! We thank everyone who prayed, hammered, painted, and/or financially made this happen. At the October Churches in Partnership meeting the question was asked: "What next?" We know we can't build a Habitat for Humanity home every year, but our mission of **working together, praising God, helping our neighbor** was something we want to continue. At this meeting we discussed a number of work possibilities. The one we're leaning towards is a community garden. If you have community garden experience or if you would like to be involved with one, please contact Lynne Helmke at 883-5661. Our next meeting is December 7th at 7 PM and will be held at St. Johns in Camas. We hope you can join us.

Coleman home dedication...

2 PM, December 13th. All invited!

Address: 7003 NE 98th Avenue, Vancouver



Poinsettia Orders

Orders for poinsettias will be taken November 29, December 6 & 13. The cost is \$7 each. What a wonderful way to memorialize or honor someone special. Look for the table in the Gathering Area to place your order.



Christmas Ships for Friends of the Carpenter

Come and see the Christmas ships and enjoy a delicious dessert at 7 PM on Tuesday, December 15. Contribution to Friends of the Carpenter is \$25 per person. Please contact Floyd and Betty Ruth Frakes for reservations, 256-6359.



CPC NEWS

How are we doing



Through October Pledges and Offerings totaled \$875,270 or 80% of what we had anticipated would be given for the year. Since we had planned to use \$67,191 from reserves this year what we have given is really 75.6% of our total requirement of \$1,157,191. Historically giving at Columbia has increased in November and December. If this historical pattern continues we will not need to use all of the reserves we had planned to use and will finish the year in better shape financially than we had thought. Thanks to all for your faithfulness in giving during this difficult year. Your giving has enabled the church to continue to be faithful to what we believe God is calling us to do.

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
Pledges and Offerings	875,270	865,024
Total Expenses	923,861	967,955
Net Surplus (Deficit)	(48,591)	(102,931)

The deficit is made up by use of reserves. You can see that we are using reserves but not as much as planned. We hope and pray that giving will continue to be robust so that we will have sufficient reserves to provide assistance with housing needs for a potential candidate for the youth ministry position.

Session Member Contact Information

Glen Baunsgard	834-7991
Bob McFarlin	834-7169
Dave Nacke	254-8136
John Van Dinter	891-0804
Alan Garcia	369-6382
Nancy Bishoprick	695-8589
Jennifer Mears	737-7952
Susan Murphy	882-1370
Marc Hartquist	834-4098
Sheena Brooke	571-4170
Dennis Gish	891-7443
Geo Plumberg	260-8096
Jan Kennedy	335-1193
Jim Dillon	225-1162
Tom Hill	954-5621
Julie Mauer	687-9842

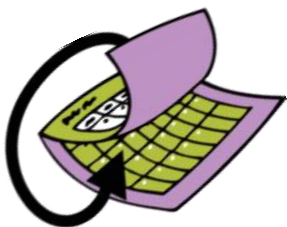
Clerk of Session:

Donnetta Spink 944-6716

Year-End Deadlines:

If you have **expenses** that need to be reimbursed, they need to be submitted to the appropriate program staff and submitted to the church office by Thursday, December 17. Expenses submitted after the deadline will be reimbursed in January.

The IRS deadline for **charitable contributions** for 2009 is Thursday, December 31. In order to receive credit for the 2009 tax year, your contribution must be postmarked by December 31 or delivered to the church office by noon of that day.



Save the Dates:

Men's Retreat
February 26-28, 2010

Women's Retreat
April 16-18, 2010

CONTACT INFORMATION

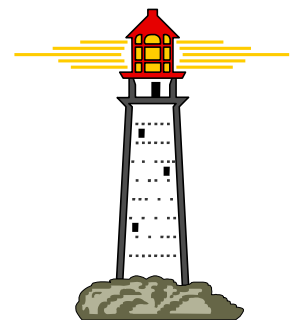
How to Reach Us:

Please call the church office at 694-7549 to reach any of the church staff. Staff can also be reached via e-mail by using the person's first name followed by @columbiapresbyterian.org. *Example: bruce@columbiapresbyterian.org.* The only exceptions to that rule are Sharon Franklin, Sharon Wallenborn and John Ignoffo. In those cases, use their first name with the first initial of their last name.

		Phone Extension
Fitz Neal	Pastor	x 206
Bruce Armstrong	Associate Pastor	x 209
Jeff Haagenson	Minister of Worship & Music	x 210
Sharon Franklin	Children's Ministries Director	x 211
Suzie Gilmore	Interim Youth Director	x 208
	<i>Direct Youth Line</i>	823-0220
Terry Robertson	Church Business Administrator	x 207
Jo Coila	Head of Staff Admin. Asst.	x 201
Jennifer Neal	Interim Children/Youth Admin. Asst.	x 204
Viva Dennis	Communications Specialist	x 213
Marilyn Roberts	Bookkeeper	x 222
John Ignoffo	Media Ministry Specialist	x 205
Rich Raitano	Facilities Manager	x 216
Diana Gage	Nursery - 833 -1017	
Anna Haagenson	Kingdom Kids - 891-1494	
Sharon Wallenborn	Director, Circle of Friends Preschool - 696-9926	x 212
	Deacon Line	x 250

The *Pilot Light* is a monthly publication of Columbia Presbyterian Church.

The next Pilot Light deadline is December 8, 2009. *Articles turned in after the deadline will not be published and all articles are subject to editing.* Whenever possible, announcements and articles for publication should be sent via email to: info@columbiapresbyterian.org.



Visit us online at
www.columbiapresbyterian.org



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Alpha Marriage Course Coming to CPC!

For over 7 years the Alpha course has been an integral part of the ministry of spiritual formation at Columbia Presbyterian Church. During this time approximately 300 members and friends of CPC have attended an Alpha course. Now, Alpha has developed the **Alpha Marriage Course** which will be offered at CPC beginning January 3 5:00 - 7:30 PM in the Cascade Fellowship Hall. This 7-week course involves listening to an engaging DVD presentation about the challenges facing couples today, practical suggestions for building a strong relationship and couple discussion time. Registration is limited. Childcare provided by reservation for children birth through preschool. To register contact Viva Dennis in the church office, 694-7549 ext. 213 or info@columbiapresbyterian.org