



The

Pilot Light



January 2009

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

Annual Congregational Meeting



SUNDAY, JANUARY 25

THE VIEW OUTSIDE MY WINDOW

"A sailor who doesn't know his destination will never be able to tell a good wind from an ill wind." Seneca

I love this quote from Seneca – it's a good example of common grace. Common grace is when any person, even if not a believer in God, picks up on a truth that is, in fact, from God. All truth is God's truth – wherever it comes from. This truth from Seneca is profound. It means that, if we don't know where we're headed in life, we'll always have a tendency to stay put and never venture forth. The opposite is equally true: if we know where we're headed in life, then we'll know when to venture forth. In Seneca's terms, we'll know when the wind is right, or good.

What's true for individuals is just as true for churches. If a church doesn't have a sense of where it's headed, it'll eventually stagnate. But when a group of people in a church have a vision for the future, they will venture forth in the light that God has given them. They know when to move forward.

I'm happy to say that Columbia is at a point of having a clearer picture of what our future looks like. Over the last year, the Session of Elders has worked hard on articulating our purpose and mission – or why we exist, and how we pursue that purpose. I've written extensively about both of those over the last few months. Based on the purpose and mission values, the Session has recently been looking toward the future. What's on the horizon for us as we fulfill our purpose?

A vision of the future really is a *vision*. It's not merely a statement nor can it be written down as a document if it's a picture. Nonetheless a vision can be described. Here's my description of the future God is calling us to:

Deeper Discipleship – we see a renewed emphasis on deepening our spiritual growth into Christ-likeness through Bible Study, worship, service and fellowship.

Equipping culture – we see a future in which it's a natural part of our life together as a church that every believer has a clear understanding of why God has them in life and knows how to deploy their

lives
at
home



Fitz Neal,
Pastor



and in the world.

Orange – the color orange is made up of red and yellow combined. For church life, red represents the blood of family ties and the fire of the love we give and receive in close relationships. Yellow represents the light of God's righteousness and love in Jesus Christ as we experience it in the life of spiritual growth and worship in our common life as a group of disciples. When you combine the red of family life with the yellow of church life, you get orange. We see an orange future as we seek out ways to leverage the power of family and home

to raise our kids in the faith – all supported by the church.

Growth – we believe that, as we pursue discipleship, equipping, and do it in an 'orange' way, we will see a lot of people come to faith in Christ in the future. We see a fuller fellowship of those who are experiencing God in Christ for the first time – or for the first time in a long time.

This is a beginning sketch of a compelling future for CPC. God has a plan for us and much important, even crucial, work for us to do that will have an eternal impact for the Kingdom of God in Vancouver. I ask you to pray for us and look with us to that future God is calling us to. We know where we're headed; the wind is at our back. It's time to venture forth.

On another note, the Session has also approved the formation of a Search Team for the purpose of finding a person to fill the youth position. Suzie Herman has been in an interim position for the last 18 months, and has done a superb job for us in this transitional time of Youth Ministry. Now we are ready for the regular position to be filled. In order that we might be freed to find the right person for the job, the Session has decided that the Search Team be empowered to call either a Director to a non-ordained position OR a pastor to a called position. We would like to be freed to find the right person for the job. To that end, the church Nominating Committee will be presenting a slate of names to be elected by the congregation either at a special called congregational meeting in the near future, or at the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 25th.

May God bless each of you and Columbia Presbyterian Church richly in the year ahead.

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

ADULT MINISTRIES

WHAT'S NEXT . . . CONTINUING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

SUNDAY MORNING – 9:30

(beginning January 4, 2009)

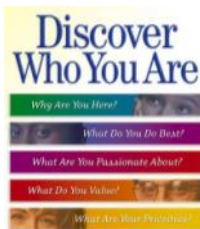


Simply Christian: Why Christianity Makes Sense

Meeting place:
Cascade Fellowship Hall

Cost for materials: \$20

LifeKeys: Discover Who You Are



Meeting place: Chapel.

Cost for materials: \$18.00 (\$12.00 for *LifeKeys* book, and \$6.00 for the workbook.)

SUNDAY MORNING – 11:00

(beginning January 4, 2009)



From Jerusalem to Rome: A Bible Study of the New Testament Book of Acts

Meeting Place:
Cascade Fellowship Hall

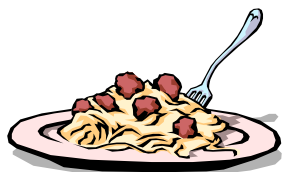


CPC Mission Focus

Meeting place: Chapel
(see page 8 for more details)

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

(beginning January 14, 2009)



5:30 - 6:30 Catered Dinner

Meeting place:
Cascade Fellowship Hall

Cost: Adults \$6, Children (up to age 11) \$3, with a maximum of \$18 per family. This dinner is open to all, especially those who are involved in the Wednesday night ministries here at Columbia.



Bethel Bible Series

Meeting place: St. Helens Room
Meeting time: 7:00



ALPHA

Meeting place: Chapel
Meeting time: 7:00

**Bruce Armstrong,
Associate Pastor**





News for YOU-th



BLESSED LEADERSHIP!

What a wonderful way to start 2009..with a dynamic, talented, totally bodacious, spiritually mature, available, talented (yep, worth mentioning again!), generous, engaging, (ok, so the list could go on...) team of regular leaders in our Youth Ministry's Sunday School and Youth Groups. **Guy/Cheri/Patrick Allen, Maddie Anderson, Kailyn Babbit, Janine Barnett, Andrew Barton, Bethany Brewster, Steve Flabetich, Marc/Wendy/ Amy/Alan Hartquist, Chris Keinath, Bo Liebe, Natalie Lund, Tori McDougall, Jennifer McKinney, Ken Neal, Sara Richards, William and Anne Stewart, Jackson Wiley** and, of course, **Jon Quesenberry and Eli Nichols**...Your leadership is a great blessing! Thank you for all do!!!

Youth Wish List...

- Legos (yep, never too old to play with them)
- Snacks (for our students who come to the youth center after school)
- Basketball hoop for outside the youth center (one that has a stand)

Thanks—Russ & Elaine for the shelves! Guy and Cheri for the slip covers! Tuesday Morning Men's Group for the time and labor you continue to pour into the youth center!! The Widdoes family for the Christmas tree!

BRRRRRR...RETREATS!

Hooray, it's time to plan for a couple awesome retreats. Oh, and don't forget to invite a friend to come along with you. The more the merrier!!

MS TOOBIN' Retreat @ Mt. Hood Ski Bowl, January 23-25...\$45. We will be staying at the youth center for the nights!

HS SKI (TOOBIN/SNOW BOARDING/ RELAXING) RETREAT February 13-16...\$\$ sliding scale.

*scholarship is always available



YOUTH GROUP

A safe place to grow in relationship with... God, friends, leaders! A fun place to play games! A great place to talk, relax, wrestle with God's Truth, be challenged, serve, sing and do stunts (ewww!!!) It's never too late to be a part of the group...

MS YOUTH GROUP—Wednesdays @ 6-8pm

HS youth group—Sundays @ 5:58 - 8:02 pm

Don't forget to encourage our college students in 2009!! Send a card, an email, a text...let them know we are praying for them and caring for them while they are away studying!!



Suzie Herman,
Interim Youth Director



Children's Ministries



Advent Celebration Highlights

Our families had a great time enjoying the Jingle for Jesus Advent Celebration. Check out some of these faces:



SHARON FRANKLIN,
CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES
DIRECTOR



Preschool Christmas Eve Service

If you are a family with preschoolers, don't miss our wonderful 5:00 Christmas Eve service. Designed for the preschool age level, it is short (approx. 40 minutes); very interactive and includes the Holy family and other characters in the Nativity story. This is also a great way for adults to celebrate through the eyes of children!



DID YOU KNOW...

...there is a bin in the hallway leading to the Chapel for used print cartridges, cell phones, etc? This benefits the children's and youth programs of Columbia. Cell phones are especially valuable. Please remember us when you are replacing these items!

Circle of Friends Preschool



It is better to give than receive.



Ella places items in the box that she brought from home to share with those in need.

Each November the preschool sponsors a needy family drive.

This year the families went above and beyond with their giving. When all of the gifts were gathered from each classroom and placed in the hall for disbursement, we were left with just a path to walk through.

It's all about the bears.

Children learned all about the life of bears in the science program in December. Spencer and Everett are cuddling underneath a warm blanket as they mimic hibernation.



Preschool Registration

Where does the time go? We are still in that contemplative state of reflecting the key moments that took place during 2008. It is baffling to jump right into the New Year and start planning for fall of 2009. Preschool registration for our fall start up begins the second week of January. This is the same throughout the county. Registration packets are ready and can be downloaded from our website; cof-preschool.org. **Tuesday, February 10 at 7 pm**, we will have our information meeting for new families for future enrollment. **Saturday, February 21 at 9 am**, registration packets will be accepted and fall placement for new families will begin. Packets are numbered according to the order they are received. Registration packets will not be accepted before this date. Our hope is that this format will provide an equal opportunity for placement to all families registering for the first time. Due to the state of our economy, the preschool board voted not to increase tuition for the '09-'10 school year. This will be our fourth year without an increase. The decision is truly a reflection of the philosophy and heart of the program. We are an outreach ministry of the church, here to offer support and encouragement to little children and their families.



Sharon Wallenborn,
director
Circle of Friends Preschool

For the word of the Lord is right and true: he is faithful in all he does. The Lord loves righteousness and justice: the earth is full of his unfailing love.

~Psalm 33: 4-5

How are we doing?



Typically November is one of the largest months for giving, and this year was no exception. Giving in November exceeded expenses by \$19,000, although for the year to date expenses were still greater than pledges and offerings by \$43,000. Many people finish their pledges in December with a flourish, and it is still possible to reduce the deficit for the year. The details through November are in the table below:

	Actual	YTD Budget
Pledges & Offerings	\$ 978,000	\$ 1,016,000
Expenses:		
Children & Youth	\$ 35,000	\$ 54,000
Adult Ministries	\$ 22,000	\$ 26,000
Mission Ministries	\$ 129,000	\$ 139,000
Personnel	\$ 611,000	\$ 641,000
Operations	\$ 189,000	\$ 184,000
Capital Projects	<u>\$ 25,000</u>	<u>\$ 23,000</u>
Total expenses	\$ 1,021,000	\$ 1,067,000
Net Surplus(deficit)	(\$ 43,000)	(\$ 51,000)

Let me also give a quick update on pledges for 2009. Last year at this time, about 325 pledge cards had been returned, which is almost 50 more than this year so far. Total pledges so far are about \$100,000 below last year. With the uncertain economic news, some of you may be challenged to commit to a specific pledge. We welcome a willingness to contribute as you are able. If you need a pledge card, contact the church office or you can find one in the back of the pews.

Thank you for your prayers and generous giving to Columbia Presbyterian Church.

Bruce W Farnsworth, Treasurer

MISSIONS

Mission Communication Forums What in the World is Columbia Doing in the World?



Missions reflect our Church's heart for our community... for the world ...and real needs of this congregation as a living, giving, true body of Christ.

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

To help you find your place in God's work, the Mission's Committee will host Mission Communication Forums that cover both local and world missions supported by Columbia and/or members of the congregation. Each week a different mission will present what they do, how you can become involved, and answer questions.

Time: 11 am Sunday mornings during the months of January, February and March.

Place: the Chapel

Upcoming Schedule:

January 4, 2009: Northwest Harvest South Food Bank. Northwest Harvest South is an ecumenical organization dedicated to obtaining food for the food banks in Clark County. All food is distributed on a free, no questions asked, nondiscriminatory basis.

January 11, 2009: Presbyterian Women Come learn about Presbyterian Women's scholarship program and the missions they support through their twice a year rummage sale.

January 18, 2009: Medical Teams International. The mission of Medical Teams International is to demonstrate the love of Christ to people affected by disaster, conflict and poverty around the world. Come hear how the Lord might use your interests and skills through this organization.

January 25, 2009: Children and Youth Ministries. Come hear about all the wonderful things going on with our children and youth and find opportunities for you to help kinds grow in a lifelong faith in Jesus Christ.

February 1, 2009: Seafarers. Seafarers Center provides a mission outreach of physical, emotional, and spiritual support to some of the 5,000 merchant crews that dock at the Port of Vancouver each year. In a home-away -from -home environment, they can relax, call home, and shop at the small Exchange. A chaplain is on staff and Bibles in a variety of languages are available. God may be calling you to reach out to crew members.

February 8, 2009: Open House Ministries: The purpose of Open House Ministries is to enable homeless families to regain their independence. They admit only those families that agree to participate in a program designed to assist them resolve their homeless situation. They allow them to remain only as long as they continue to make steady progress toward that goal. Perhaps the Lord is touching your heart to work with a homeless family.

Still to come: Clean Water for Haiti, Presbyterians for Renewal, Christian Mission Charitable Trusts, Frontier Fellowship, Jose Oliveira/Partners International, Kairos Prison Ministry, and Unreached People Groups. We will also have visits from two of our missionary families, the Nagelkirks and the Van Zwols. More about them later.

If you have questions about these sessions, feel free to ask any of the members of the Missions Ministry Team: Geo Plumberg, Jerry Allin, Dave and Joan Cram, Jerry Kavanagh, Lynne Libby, Florence Monfore, Susan Randolph, Carol VanZytveld, Glenn Livingston, Donnetta Spink, and Rich Vohs. Please join us in seeing what God is doing locally and around the world, and find out how you can become involved!

MISSIONS- SENEGAL

Senegal Go-Team prepares for trip



It is that time of year again when our Senegal Go-Team goes into its intense preparation mode for the upcoming trip to Senegal. The team this year is composed of Bob Swenson who is the team leader, Nancy Johns, Aaron and Andrea Villanueva, Alan Garcia, Maddie Anderson, Kim Randolph, Connie Warner and Pastor Fitz Neal. They have been in training since September including learning some Wolof during December and January. They are also signing up prayer partners and raising money for their trip. Please stop by the Senegal table in the Gathering Area where you can contribute to the trip and sign up to be a prayer partner. Each team member contributes one third of the cost of the trip.



Prayer Partner
Dinner

Senegal Prayer Partner Dinner: Please mark your calendars for the Senegal Prayer Partners dinner which will take place in the church fellowship hall on January 23, 2009 at 6:00 pm. The program will include information about the trip, a time for worship and prayer specifically for the team. If you have signed up to be a prayer partner or you are supporting the team financially or both, please come. Families are welcome. This is a potluck and the Senegal Strategy Team will provide the main course. ***If your last names begin with the letters A-L please bring a dessert If you last name begins with the letters M-Z please bring a salad.***

MISSIONS

Winter Homeless Overflow (WHO) 2009

Once again Columbia Presbyterian has decided to do community service in the form of staffing the WHO shelter at St. Andrews Lutheran Church in Orchards. This is the shelter that serves homeless couples, women and families. It's another way in which we can show God's love and caring. While we are there we can offer these people a person to talk with and also show them they are important. Last year we served families with children from one month of age to families with teenagers. Now is the time to start thinking and planning to sign up for the first week that Columbia Presbyterian is responsible for, which is 6:00 pm Sunday, January 18 through 8:30 am Sunday, January 25, 2009. Sign-ups will be done during December and January. Later we will do sign-ups for the week of March 1-8.

There will once again be four shifts available to serve. The first shift runs from 6:00 to 9:30 pm. This is the shift when we greet the shelter guests and serve them snacks, they can take a shower and they get their beds set up. This shift needs at least four volunteers although six is better. The second shift goes from 9:00 pm to 1:00 am. This is the shift when the lights are turned out in the gym, and the crew washes and starts to dry the towels used for showers. The

second shift needs two volunteers. The third shift is from 1:00 to 6:00 am. This crew makes the lunches, finishes the laundry, does safety and fire-watch checks and wakes up the early risers. This shift needs two volunteers. The last shift is from 6:00 to 9:00 am (This group usually finishes early as the guests need to leave by 8:00 am). This group wakes the guests up, feeds them breakfast and hands out lunches. This shift needs to consist of three or four people. The first and last shift have experienced crew leaders and there is always a book available with detailed job lists.

This is a super activity for small groups to do together. Children can come to the shelter but it works better if they are older. If families with younger children want to volunteer with their children it can be worked out. They must be supervised by their parents.

We also have opportunities for someone who has a van with foldable or removable seats, a truck with a covered bed or a large SUV to pick up clean laundry from Valley Homestead and deliver it to St. Andrews on Sunday the January 18. There are also two times when we take the dirty linens from St. Andrews to Valley Homestead.

~submitted by Shirley Waltz



CPC NEWS



The office will be closed on the following days:

Thursday, December 25 & Friday, December 26
Thursday, January 1 & January 2

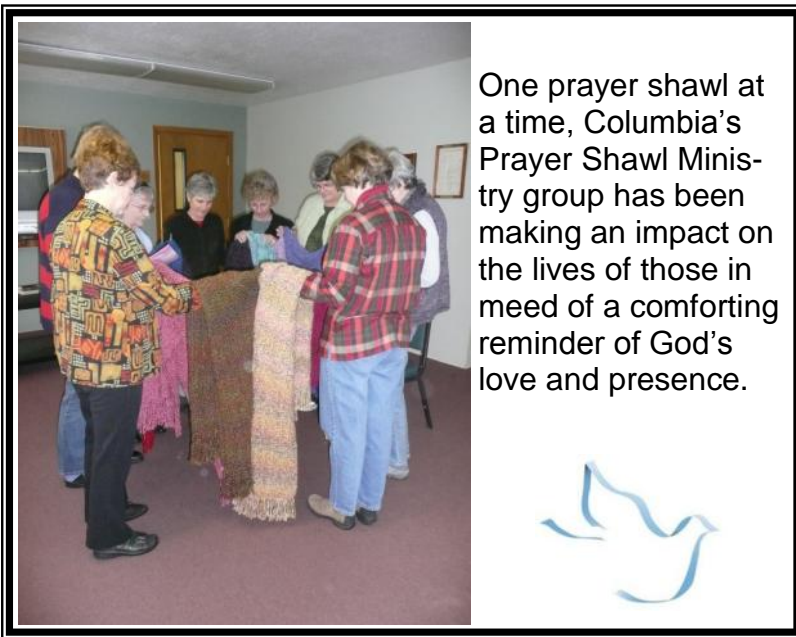
The office will be closing at noon on the following days:

Wednesday, December 24
Wednesday, December 31

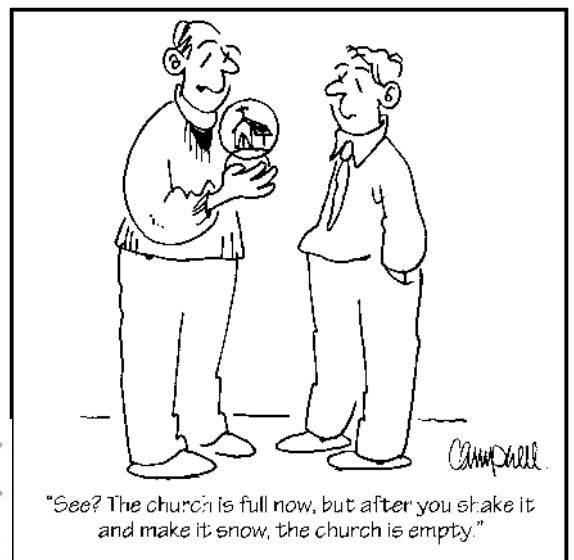


Year-end Contributions:

All contributions for 2008 must be received by noon on December 31 at the church office **OR** postmarked by December 31. Contributions received or postmarked after that date will be recorded as 2009 contributions. Donors will receive a record of their 2008 contributions by January 31.



One prayer shawl at a time, Columbia's Prayer Shawl Ministry group has been making an impact on the lives of those in need of a comforting reminder of God's love and presence.



"See? The church is full now, but after you shake it and make it snow, the church is empty."



CPC NEWS



MEN'S RETREAT

SAVE THE DATE...

Men's Retreat

"Standing Firm"

February 28 - March 1
(change of date)

Menucha Conference Center



A Soul Spa Experience

Starring:

Laurel Neal

In

"Out of Eden"

Real Life, Real Faith,
Real Women

~~~~~

Showing

April 17 - 19, 2009

Menucha Retreat Center

**Women of all ages: Save the date!**



will be kicking off 2009 with a fellowship brunch Tuesday, January 13, 9:30 am in the Cascade Fellowship Hall. We will be using the *LifeKeys* material to discover, as believers, who we are, why we are here and what we do best. For more information contact, Julie Wilcox, 210-7073 or Rachel Grice, 206-719-1726.

Childcare is provided.



### Thought of the Month:

Commitment in the face of conflict produces character.

### Session Member Contact Information

#### Trustees:

|                |          |
|----------------|----------|
| Bob Gebhart    | 991-9362 |
| Glen Baunsgard | 834-7991 |
| Bob McFarlin   | 834-7169 |

#### Personnel Ministry Team:

|                 |          |
|-----------------|----------|
| Ian McFatrige   | 571-3225 |
| John Van Dinter | 891-0804 |

#### Spiritual Formation & Discipleship:

|                  |              |
|------------------|--------------|
| Shirley Moore    | 253-8474     |
| Alan Garcia      | 360-369-6382 |
| Nancy Bishoprick | 695-8589     |

#### Evangelism & Fellowship:

|                |          |
|----------------|----------|
| Dave Nacke     | 254-8136 |
| Jennifer Mears | 737-7952 |
| Susan Murphy   | 882-1370 |

#### Preschool, Children & Youth:

|                |          |
|----------------|----------|
| Dawn Taylor    | 835-1557 |
| Marc Hartquist | 834-4098 |

#### Worship & Music:

|               |          |
|---------------|----------|
| Sheena Brooke | 571-4170 |
| Dennis Gish   | 891-7443 |

#### Missions Ministry Team:

|              |          |
|--------------|----------|
| Geo Plumberg | 260-8096 |
|--------------|----------|

#### Clerk of Session:

|                |          |
|----------------|----------|
| Donnetta Spink | 944-6716 |
|----------------|----------|

#### Pastor:

|           |          |
|-----------|----------|
| Fitz Neal | 597-4298 |
|-----------|----------|

#### Associate Pastor:

|                 |          |
|-----------------|----------|
| Bruce Armstrong | 887-2573 |
|-----------------|----------|

# 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](mailto:bruce@columbiapresbyterian.org)*. The only exceptions to that rule are Sharon Franklin and Sharon Wallenborn. 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 Herman      | 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           |
| Dana Hanson       | Children/Youth Admin. Asst.                              | x 204           |
| Viva Dennis       | Communications Specialist                                | x 213           |
| Marilyn Roberts   | Bookkeeper                                               | x 222           |
| 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           |
|                   | <a href="http://cof-preschool.org">cof-preschool.org</a> |                 |

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

The next Pilot Light deadline is January 13, 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](mailto:info@columbiapresbyterian.org).



Visit us online at  
[www.columbiapresbyterian.org](http://www.columbiapresbyterian.org)



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## 2009 Pilot Light Article Deadlines

- January 13
- February 17
- March 17
- April 14
- May 12
- June 16
- July 14
- August 11
- September 15
- October 13
- November 10
- December 8