

# Nampa First United Methodist Church

Know Christ ♦ Love God ♦ Serve Others

## What's Happening

### Sunny Ridge Luncheon

Tuesday, February 3

### Fit Club Live STARTS!

Tuesday, February 3

### Leadership Team Mtg.

Monday, February 9

### UM Men's Breakfast

Tuesday, February 10

### Women's Book Group

Saturday, February 14

### Classics Luncheon

Thursday, February 19

### Lenten Soup Supper & Worship

Thursday, February 26

### All-Church Family Fun Event

Saturday, February 28

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**February 2015**  
**Volume 13, Issue 2**

## Pastor's Pen

## "Time to Grow"

Lent comes early this year. I know, we just had Christmas, but Lent is going to begin, ready or not, on February 18 (Ash Wednesday). Just as Advent is a season of preparation for the celebration of Christmas, so Lent is a season of preparation for the celebration of Easter. Casual Christians can get by with just Christmas and Easter. Serious Christians need Advent and Lent. Especially Lent. Lent is a season of spiritual growth and renewal.

As we see the world coming back to life all around us with green and new growth everywhere we look (yes, it's really going to happen!), it seems a fitting time to focus on the new life God intends for each of us spiritually. There is one significant difference though between what God does in nature and what God does in us. Spring just happens. We can't make it come. We can't keep it from coming. When it's time, it's going to happen. But when it's time for our spirits to be renewed, it's not going to just happen. God wants it to happen but God gave us something nature doesn't have. Free will. That means we are perfectly free to reject the spiritual renewal God wants us to experience. And, human nature being what it is, we all have a powerful tendency to reject and resist the hard work required for any positive change.

In an earlier church I sang in the choir. Part of that commitment was attending choir practice. Week after week, year after year, I would practice my singing. After several years of this, it dawned on me. My singing was not improving. Even with all this practice, I was still the same below average vocalist I had always been.

I will gladly concede that a big part this was that singing is just not one of my gifts. I will never be a good singer, no matter how hard I try. But part of this too was that I really wasn't trying that hard. I was going through the motions. I was doing what the choir director demanded of us which, frankly, wasn't much. If I wanted to get better, I could have gotten better. I happen to be married to a trained vocalist who would have been happy to give me vocal lessons that would have truly pushed me and stretched me. But that would have taken more effort than I was willing to invest. So I kept going to choir practice on Wednesday and I kept singing with the choir on Sunday. And I never did improve as a singer.

It seems a shame to put so much time into something when you really aren't getting the results. But that's what happens in our spiritual lives all the time. We go through the motions. We put in our time. We may never miss a Sunday. But that's about it. And we wonder why we aren't growing as Christians.

Lent is the time to grow. My challenge to you is the same challenge I am giving to myself: Let's invest the disciplined effort that will result in some real spiritual growth this Lent. You and I don't have to be on the same plateau in our walk with Christ on Easter Sunday as we were on Ash Wednesday. God is ready to do in us the same miracle of renewal that God is ready to do in nature. Are we ready? Are we willing to do our part?

We are working on a couple of tools to help that will be available for you as Lent begins. One is a brochure called "Growing in Faith". It is filled with practical things we can all do to grow. It takes into account that we are all at different places in our walk with Christ. God wants us to begin wherever we are and advance from there. What matters is not where we are right now but the direction in which we are moving. The second tool is called "The Journey of Love". It will guide us each week with a specific challenge that will help us grow in Christ's love.

I am excited that spring is coming. It's been a long winter. And I am even more excited about the growth and renewal God is going to be bringing to us.



## *February Sermons*

February 1

"You Ought to Be in Pictures"

Isaiah 29:13-24

February 8

"Telling Our Stories"

Genesis 28:10-16

February 15

"When God's Voice is Unclear"

Luke 4:1-13

February 22

"The Night Shift Workers"

Luke 1:46-48; 2:8-12

## *Kids Stuff Preschool and Daycare*

January always seems like a really long drawn-out month. We seem to find ourselves continuing to look out on the playground to see if we're ever going to make it outside again. I have found my entertainment this month in our sanctuary. Rev. Watts continues to find new songs and stories to share with the children every Wednesday and Thursday. January 7th was our first day back with all the kids after Christmas break. John was doing a great job with the kids when out of the blue one of Ms. Lynn's students blurted out that we should really take down our Christmas tree because Christmas was over—didn't we know that? I could not help but burst out laughing. It was obvious that this child's home was firm believers that as soon as it's over, it all comes down. What I find funny is that these same children that point out we need to take down our trees, are the same children that are already figuring out and talking about what they're going to be for Halloween. Go figure! The next week John had everyone's attention as he talked to them about the planets. Once again I could not help myself from laughing when John asked them, "who would like to go to the moon some day?" Of course the hands instantly went up and everyone started to reply—MEEEEEE! All but the one little girl who responded by saying, "I would rather go to the beach." Out of the mouth of babes, sometimes they really do make great sense.

Ms. Lynn also had me rolling in laughter with the story of her class and "DANGER JUICE." For snack one day a little girl brought her snack along with juice for her classmates. As Ms. Lynn began to pass out the RED juice, another little boy started repeating "DANGER JUICE, DANGER JUICE." Lynn responded of course by telling her class there was nothing wrong with the juice. It was once again something that this child's family had definitely made an impression about. Two days later when they returned to class everyone was still talking about the

"DANGER JUICE" and Lynn was having to explain it to the other parents. This too, went on into chapel as the kids told John they had "DANGER JUICE" in class. Not exactly what we want our daycare children to pass along to someone that doesn't understand what they're talking about.

I just want to remind everyone that we won't believe everything that comes out of the children's mouths about you, as long as you don't believe everything that they tell you about us and school. As always—it's never a dull moment at Kids Stuff.

We hope everyone has marked their calendars for February 28th. A family fun day topped with an ice cream social and entertainment for the children. Our staff continues to prepare fun activities for the kids. It's a great way to fill a day of fun while getting to know some of the other families. We hope to see everyone there!

*God Bless, Ms. Carolyn*



As a convenience for our church family, this option is available for your monthly pledges through Idaho Independent Bank, our current financial institution.

Debits would occur on either the 5th or 20th of each month, your choice. You could choose the 5th and the 20th. In the event you would find it necessary to alter your donation, be it up or down, or need to skip a month, simply notify the church office. Also, you can sign up to opt out at anytime.

Any questions about the program can be answered by calling our church office (467-1151) and talking to our treasurer. To enroll, stop by the church office and pick up an application.

# ALL-CHURCH FAMILY FUN! EVENT

(\*to raise funds to repair the women's restroom)

Saturday, February 28 • 2:00-5:00 p.m.

\$2/per person or \$5/family



- For ALL AGES! (multigenerational) & your friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc.
  - Ice Cream Social with all the fixins . . . num, num!
    - Auctions (Silent & Live)
    - Children's Book Walk
      - Face Painting
      - And More!

\*The women's restroom is used heavily on a daily basis by Nampa First AND Kids Stuff. What began as a church project has now become a joint effort between the Nampa First and Kids Stuff.

But our goal is BIGGER than raising funds for this project . . . We want to bring EVERYONE together for FUN and the opportunity to GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER by bringing the Nampa First families and the Kids Stuff families together for an event FULL of FUN, FOOD, and FELLOWSHIP!

There are ways you can help in the meantime:

- Donations of items for the silent and live auctions (with an estimated value, if possible)
  - Donations of new or used children's books for the children's book walk.

All donations can be dropped off at the church office anytime before Wednesday, February 25.

We will also have the van available for those who can't drive. There is a sign-up sheet in the church office. And there will be nursery available.

If you have any questions, or would like to make a donation, contact Marie Hamann or Carolyn Curtis.



Meal from 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.  
Programs from 6:45 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

# BE THE CHURCH



**MARCH 12-13**

**February 4 Program:**

Speaker: Lorraine Fortunati, Author of When Your Honey-Do Done Gone ... Endings and Beginnings  
Topic: "Re-Creating One's Life After Loss"

**February 11 Program:**

Speaker: David Peterson, Superintendent of Nampa School District  
Topic: "Has God Been Thrown Out of our Public Schools?"

**February 18** (following a brief Ash Wednesday Service)

Speaker: Kenton Lee, Inventor of "The Shoe that Grows"  
Topic: "Five Sizes, Five Years, Healthy Kids"

**February 25—April 1**

Lenten Study: "Final Words from the Cross" by Adam Hamilton.

With Keynote Speakers including TONY CAMPOLO, Speaker, Author, Sociologist, Pastor, Social Activist, and Passionate Follower of Jesus!

At Cathedral of the Rockies  
[cathedraloftherockies.org/nli](http://cathedraloftherockies.org/nli) for more information

Informational postcards are available on the table in the church narthex. If you are interested in attending, contact John.



EVERY TUESDAY @ 7:00 P.M.  
IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

STARTING FEBRUARY 3, Nampa First will host a FREE Fit Club by 208 Fit Club Live on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Come and get your body moving to a great group workout! Fit Club Live is for ALL fitness levels. Participants will workout to fitness programs such as P90X3, Insanity, PiYo, 21 Day Fix, and P90. Post workout will feature discussions on getting healthy and sampling healthy recipes!

Child care is available in the Nursery. Cost is \$2.00 per

child. Space for children must be reserved, please call Melinda at 468-4134 to reserve a space for your child(ren) no later than 6:00 p.m. each Tuesday of Fit Club.

## *Men's Ministry*

Eleven men met for fellowship, breakfast and study from the book *Power Surge*. The author's intention is to help a church move from a "membership model" to a "discipleship model". By the authors definition:

- Membership model is about getting;
- Discipleship is about giving;
- Membership is about dues;
- Discipleship is about stewardship;
- Membership is about belonging to a select group with its privileges and prerogatives.
- Discipleship is about changing and shaping lives by the grace of God.

There was a lively discussion on the subject with comments on the benefits for both models. Change is difficult and led us into a discussion on moving from "committees" to "leadership". The bottom line rest with COMMUNICATION. Communication means that as members of the church we need to "read" the bulletins, the newsletter, and the bulletin board. It also means that the Leadership Team needs to let the congregation know what they are doing, why, when, where, and what the objective is and does it align with the "Mission and Vision" of the church.

My experiences tell me that the information in the *Power Surge* book would benefit everyone . . . in their personal life, and business life, and spiritual life.

We have 2-3 more meetings discussing the contents of the *Power Surge* book and we invite YOU to meet with us on the second Tuesday of each month at 8:00 a.m. at Canyon Creek Restaurant.

We are looking for a man to head up a group of men that would meet on Saturdays evenings. Call Dwayne @ 467-3054 if you are interested.

I want to share a story with you that relates to a membership and discipleship church. It occurred in a rural North Dakota church during a blizzard, a white out—picture the blowing snow. The new

pastor went in early Sunday morning with a member to get the church warmed up and found the front door swinging back and forth in the wind. The church had been broken in to. All of the burnt wooden matches around the furnace indicated that those who broke in failed to get the stove going. There was a very foul smell coming from the kitchen in the basement due to a pile of diapers in the trash barrel. The small congregation elected to meet after church at a members home to discuss what should be done about the situation. The pastor arrived last and was asked to open the meeting with prayer and to give his opinion. He replied "we need to call the sheriff and report the break in, get a better lock and" . . . when a member spoke up and said "we have had some time to discuss the situation and feel you have missed the point. That family must have been desperate and they sought shelter. We feel there should be no lock on the door, instructions with an ample amount of matches should be by the furnace, diapers made available, and ample food in the kitchen."

That my friends is a move to a disciple model church.

*-Dwayne Evanson, United Methodist Men*

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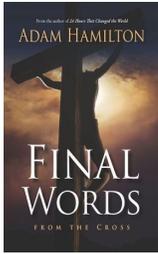
## *Classics Luncheon*

For our church family and their friends that are 65+. The 3rd Thursday of every month starting with lunch and followed by a different program every month—some of which are informational, some entertaining, all are a time of fun, food, and fellowship.

Join us on Thursday, February 19 @ 12:00 noon for a delicious lunch followed by a program from guest speaker, Claire Connley, Acting Director of the Nampa Public Library.

The church van will be running for those who would like to be picked up. To request a ride, please contact the church office at 467-1151.

## Women's Bible Study



The next Women's Bible Study starts Tuesday, February 17 at 10:00 a.m. with Adam Hamilton's *Final Words from the Cross* is a reflective, 7-week devotional study where Adam Hamilton examines Christ's final words.

Each chapter begins with the biblical account followed by a first-person story as might have been told from the viewpoint of one of the characters at the cross! Then the chapter explores the meaning for our lives today. If you have any questions, contact Kathy Huff.

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## Women's Book Group

Women's Book Group is open to ALL the ladies of Nampa First. We meet the 2nd Saturday of each month at 9:30 a.m. in the GPS Building.

Our next meeting is Saturday, February 14. In January, we didn't pick a book to read for February, so bring whatever you are reading and we will put together a reading list for the next several months.

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## Single Women Magic

Be sure to join us for the next SWiM gathering to be held on Saturday, February 14 at 1:00 p.m. It will be hosted by Jean Holland and will have a Valentine's theme. Jean will be serving French Dip sandwiches and everyone is asked to bring a side dish or dessert with a Valentine twist. Think outside the box and be creative, there are so many fun ways to make food "heartfelt" and colorful. We'll also continue with our hilarious and competitive dominos game started at January's gathering. You know we don't play by the rules, it's all about the laughter!

Don't forget to bring your contributions to the "Play Time" basket that we'll be donating to the silent auction for the All-Church Family Fun Event in February! Anything for a family fun night is welcome. This could be small games, candy, popcorn, movies, puzzle books, etc. Anything fun!

Remember—SWiM is for all single women. If you know someone who enjoys good food, stimulating conversation, and buckets of laughter—ask them to come along. We'd love to have them! See you in February! Questions? Contact Doreen Webb.

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*Sarah Frasier*

## Servant of the Month

Our February Servant of the Month is Sarah Frasier. Every Sunday morning, long before the parking lot starts to fill, Sarah is in the kitchen starting the coffee and getting the cookies ready for us. And five hours later, after everyone has left, she is cleaning up, locking doors, and turning off the lights. We can always count on her. She is always cheerful and efficient. Our church decided some time ago that what we ask of Sarah is more than we should expect someone to do without pay. So Sarah has been receiving some modest remuneration for her efforts. Then, as our Leadership Team struggled with balancing our budget, the decision was made that funding for our "Fellowship Hour Coordinator" would have to be eliminated

effective January 1, 2015. When this news was shared with Sarah, she said she understood. She knew church finances were tight. And she announced that she would like to keep doing the job without pay if we would let her. Sarah, we are all deeply touched and moved by your servant's heart! Thank you. You make this a better church.

*Ongoing Outreach Opportunities*



**Sherman Elementary  
School Supply Drive**

Stop by the display in the narthex for a print out of suggested supplies to donate. For those who don't like to shop, donation envelopes are provided and we will do the shopping for you!



**Church Food Pantry**

The church has a small food pantry. This is available to anyone inside or outside the church walls. If you find yourself in need, please contact the church office. Or if you know of someone with a need, let them know we can assist with a small supply of non-perishable food. To donate to the pantry, see weekly bulletin for current "product shortage" list.



**Love in the Name of Christ**

You can support Love INC in a number of ways. Donated product is ALWAYS needed! To donate to their pantry or GAP/Client programs, see weekly bulletin for current "product shortage" list. If shopping isn't your thing, Love INC can utilize monetary donations for their pantry, gas vouchers, and school supplies.

**FELLOWSHIP COOKIE ROTATION**

If your last name begins with one of the following letters, please bring 3-4 dozen store bought or home-made cookies before or on your designated date.

- February 1 . . . I—M*
- February 8 . . . N—R*
- February 15 . . . S—Z*
- February 22 . . . A—B*



*Bazaar Workshops Starting Back Up!*

Bazaar workshops are starting back up on February 6, meeting the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Anyone who is interested in creating items for the annual Christmas Bazaar are welcomed!

If you have any questions, contact Melva Dinius at 466-3734.

*Looking for a Few Good Van Drivers!*

We are looking for men OR women who would be a part of the Van Driver Rotation for Sunday mornings. Right now we just pick up for the 9:00 a.m. service, with enough drivers, we could pick up for the 11:00 a.m. service as well.

We also need those willing to drive for events such as Classics, Wednesday Night Live, and special events.

If you have questions or need more details, please contact Dwayne Evanson at 467-3054.

*February Scripture Readers Schedule:*

	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>
1st	Adam Rux	Deborah Jackson
8th	Rochelle Killett	Kenny Beeson
15th	Katie Parry	Marsha Pratte
22nd	Danny Jacobsen	Jim Waters

*Newsletter Submission Deadline*

Articles and calendar dates for the March issue are due by Wednesday, February 18.

# Celebrate

## February Birthdays

Feb 2	Haven Harley
Feb 3	Denzel Moss
Feb 4	Joanne Blanton
Feb 4	Wanda Smith
Feb 4	Rene Johnson
Feb 6	Cherri Healea
Feb 8	Al Cryder
Feb 8	Betty Ziegler
Feb 8	Laurie DeLay
Feb 11	Jim Baker
Feb 11	Sander Hoefling
Feb 12	Matt Carter
Feb 14	Lorraine Fields
Feb 16	G.W. Lane
Feb 16	Janis Bruneel
Feb 16	Dale Winch
Feb 18	Bob Welker
Feb 20	Dennis Parry
Feb 25	Nancy Jacobsen
Feb 25	Mike Krall
Feb 26	Carolyn Curtis
Feb 28	Phyllis Montgomery
Feb 28	Hannah Kepner

## February Anniversaries

Feb 12	Josh & Nichole Petrie
Feb 15	Jim & Melissa Sullivan

*Please contact the church office if we have missed your special day or listed it incorrectly. Thank You!*

## NUMBERS THAT MATTER

### January Worship Attendance:

	4	11	18	25
9 a.m.	105	92	88	92
11 a.m.	86	71	87	80
5:30 p.m.	20	25	21	25
Total	211	188	196	197

2015 Average: 198

### Giving:

January Revenue:	\$20,571.
January Expenses:	\$17,042.
2015 Revenue:	\$20,571.
2015 Expenses:	\$17,042.
Percentage of Apportionments Paid:	3%
Percentage of Year Gone:	8%

Dear Church Family—

*The family and friends of Bob Kausen wish to thank you for all the cards, calls, and visits you have made in this difficult time. All of you exemplify the definition of church family. Your caring, hugs, and support have been my strength. Special thanks to the choir who sang so beautifully during Bob's service. To Jim and Jeanne Kusterer who continue to give their support. To Kathy Huff, Patsy Waters, and all the others in the church that continue to help me through this difficult time. You shall always be in my heart.*

—Vicky Kausen and Family



Nampa First United Methodist Church  
 2717 12th Avenue Road ♦ Nampa, ID 83686  
 208-467-1151  
 Email: nampaumc@gmail.com  
 Website: www.nampaumc.org

KIDS STUFF EARLY LEARNING PRESCHOOL  
 AND CHILD CARE CENTER  
 208-467-2178

## Address Service Requested

*February 2015!*



Our building is accessible to all!

### SUNDAY WORSHIP HOURS

Childcare in the nursery is provided during morning services.

9:00 a.m. – Wesley Service: Traditional worship  
 10:00 a.m. – Sunday School & Shared Fellowship Time  
 11:00 a.m. – Celebration Service: Contemporary worship  
 5:30 p.m. – Simply Worship: For the disabled and their friends

### NFUMC STAFF

<b>Pastor:</b>	<i>John Watts</i>
<b>Office Manager:</b>	<i>Carol Ogren</i>
<b>Church Life:</b>	<i>Kathy Huff</i>
<b>Kids Stuff Director:</b>	<i>Carolyn Curtis</i>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<i>Marie Hamann</i>
<b>Organist:</b>	<i>Nancy Parks</i>
<b>Choir Director:</b>	<i>Jeanne Kusterer</i>
<b>Lead Musician:</b>	<i>Tim Swanson</i>
<b>Custodian:</b>	<i>Carolyn Curtis</i>
<b>Bishop:</b>	<i>Grant Hagiya</i>
<b>District Superintendent:</b>	<i>Kim Fields</i>

## Office Hours



Monday through Friday  
 9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.