



The Bell

February 2008

FIRST
Presbyterian
CHURCH

The Bell
A monthly newsletter

A Pastoral Letter

I am one of the leaders in our congregation. Many people think that, as pastor, I am, or should be, the leader. It is true that in the past a pastor may have had to do most of the leading. But it has become obvious that no longer works or is possible. Our session (the church board) carries most of the responsibility for our congregation's well-being and its mission. As pastor, I work with the session and am responsible for the day-to-day operation of our church. The staff, our committees, all church members and trust in God are needed to help successfully run our church.

One thing a leader is called to do is to look ahead. Depending upon what is seen, the leader either helps stay the course or, points to and encourages implementation of some changes, or points out that transformation (major or systemic change) is needed. To lead in transformation means that the leader has to make many changes, too.

Our uncomfortable present and uncertain future are very different from our comfortable past. In today's culture, there are very few churches anywhere that can sustain themselves, much less grow, by staying the same. Fewer and fewer people are going to church just because it is a warm and friendly congregation. Churches like ours have bobbed along in the warm waters of a like-minded culture for decades. That culture isn't there anymore. The culture isn't a Christian culture anymore. If we want to be a church and, more importantly, if we hear God calling us to be a church in today's world: we are going to have to be different. And we all share the anxiety of changing times.

Transformation begins with each of us. As church members, we have all said, "Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior." But today's challenge appears to ask "how serious are we about Jesus and his call to discipleship and mission?" Do we feel that love of Jesus in us? Is Jesus' love hiding within, and needs to be brought to the surface? We need to remember that Jesus loves us. We have to see that there is a difference between being just church people and being Christ's people. Christ's people have a joyous and hopeful story to tell and are enthusiastic about telling it. Jesus is welcome relief to a lot of what ails folks and others should have a chance to know about that. We need to tell about Jesus.

(Cont. on page 3)

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Points of Interest

Deacons Pot Luck and
Congregational
Meeting Feb. 10

Per capita is \$25 for
2008

Annual Ski Trip set
for Feb. 15

Tom Bandy here at
end of month

Memorials and Gifts

(Through Jan. 18)

Deacons Fund

Barb Wilcox
Nancy Wilcox-Horner
Dave & Ann Gordon
Linda Schreiber
Bridgette Stafford

Food Pantry

Roger & Jane Whiting
Tom & Jo Knoble

Undesignated Gift

Roger & Jane Whiting

Endowment Fund

Dave & Ann Gordon

Designated Gift

Chuck & Chris Norseng

Christmas Joy Offering

Bob & Lea Dirks
Amy Horak
Joe Mandelert
Ron & Alice Schmidt
Gary & Barb Shorrel
Tim & Sonia Anderson
Mark & Kathy Borofka
Bob & Verene Crane
Dick & Esther Frazier
Doug & Bonnie Gullickson
Eric & Julie Haglund
Pat Hedrington
Evelyn Jensen
Bob & Virginia Koepsel
Susan Maitland

Bob & Barb Meredith
Hess Morrison
Al & Margi Namejuna
Chuck & Marge Nichols
Chuck & Chris Norseng
Pat & Trisha Pease
Barb Sutherland
Mike & Barb Tzanakis
Marcia Wirt & Donaby Henton

Flowers

Bob & Virginia Koepsel
George & Peggy Fleming
Peter Boyer
Barry & Susan Boyer
Gail Willi
Anne Welke
Bill & Deborah McDougall
Steve Playter & Jinx Smith
Dave & Patricia Gutknecht

Per Capita

Patricia Popple
Bob & Lea Dirks
Dave & Ann Gordon
Tom & Jo Knoble
Bruce & Jeannette Miller
Mark & Marci Myrman
Elaine Thompson
Gary & Barb Shorrel
Bill & Deborah McDougall
Evelyn Jensen
Bob & Joanne Hoover
Erik & Traci Anderson
Ruth Jeanne Crane
Kathy & Randy Facklam

Richard & Jan Koepke
Sue Maitland
Anne Welke
Ron & Alice Schmidt
Gail Willi
David & Patricia Gutknecht
Fred & Barb Cook
Dick & Esther Frazier
Doug & Bonnie Gullickson
Dick & June Kemp
Reid & Lisa Kennedy
Bob & Virginia Koepsel
Vance & Margi Kohl
Roger & Mardi Lebeis
Chuck & Chris Norseng
Richard & Ruth Rosenow

Memorials

Dale & Mavis Babbitt
George & Sara Abendroth
Jim & Deb Biegging
Paul & Wynne Cook
Bob & Verene Crane
Ellen Devine
Bob & Lea Dirks
Pat Hedrington
Amy Horak
Dick & June Kemp
Tom & Jo Knoble
Hess Morrison
Mark & Marci Myrman
Steve Playter & Jinx Smith
Dick & Julie Stafford
Barb Wilcox
Paul & Beverly Ippel

Congregational Meeting and Potluck, Sunday, Feb 10, 10:20 a.m.

Announcing a new kind of congregational meeting this year. We will hear about the exciting developments in mission with a special feature on the Open Door Clinic. Deb Biegging and Bob Denman will tell the clinic story. Ruth Rosenow will give us some insight into other missions we support. And, there is breaking news to share about New Orleans. Annnnnddd – there is some new technology to introduce. Then we will take care of a little business and go into Fellowship Hall for our pot-luck meal – always a taste delight.

Our traditional annual report will be mailed to you before the meeting. Read through it – see if you have any comments or questions. You can take them to any of the various authors or, if you feel they are important to the whole congregation, bring them to the meeting. Our constitution says we have to approve the pastor's salary for the coming year, too. That information will be on the "Agenda" page in the report. Other financials are in the back.

As we have done in recent years, the congregational meeting will begin as we bring our 9:30 worship service to a close. It will be a great morning, especially if you are there.

(Pastoral Letter, cont. from page 1)

And, we need to look carefully at our church. In today's environment, congregations need help for what is called systemic change, if they are going to assure that "all will know Jesus." Today's radically different culture is not moved by simply renewing, revitalizing, or redoing. To transform means to change the personality or character of, to change in external form and/or inner nature. We need to expand our comfort zone. Christ calls his disciples, then and now, to mission.

We are a declining church. Worship attendance has dropped 25% since 2003. Our Sunday school has dwindled to a handful of faithful students and teachers. We think that better communication will help (in itself, it does not). We would counter-argue that we have done some neat mission work with a free clinic, mission trips, participation in a Habitat for Humanity. But financial support for the everyday operations of the church is falling significantly. We need help to understand who we are right now, and then how to move from here to become a more healthy and thriving congregation.

So we have entered into a contract with EasumBandy Associates to help us with systemic change. We have just completed a Congregational Mission Assessment. It has required a great deal of work from many in the congregation. Tom Bandy will spend three days with us (Feb 29 – Mar 2) to help us understand who we are and offer encouragement and direction to move from a declining to a thriving system or way of doing things. And he will work with us for several months after he leaves.

The reason we want to be a thriving church is because we want to make the very best use of the resources God has given us. We have a great building and we have great people who want to be used for God's purposes. We want to be used as peacemakers and reconcilers; compassionate listeners and bearers of the good news – news that has changed our lives for the better. We believe that the gospel can change other peoples' lives for the better. Many people in Chippewa County have either not heard this good news or have rejected it in the past. Many are spiritually yearning and institutionally alienated. They need to know that we believe the gospel and that Jesus has made a difference in our lives. Every congregation needs to do this in its own way. There is no prescribed formula for beliefs and practices. It just needs to be from the heart.

Here is what we all need to do in the next 5 weeks:

- Pray for me, other leaders and for members who are upset and dealing with uncertainty;
- Pray that we can be where God wants us to be, rather than that God will come and be where we are;
- Pray that money will be where it needs to be for God's purposes;
- Participate, participate, participate;
- Bring your questions, doubts and worries to me and to session members.

May God grant each of us patience, wisdom, energy and compassion,

- *Barry*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February 2008					1	2
3 9:30 am-Worship 10:00 am-Faith Quest 10:30 am-Fellowship	4 3:00 pm-Drawing Grp 5:30 pm-yG Parents 6:15 pm-Praise Team 6:00 pm-yG Band	5 10:00 am-Support Staff 4:00 pm-The Open Door Clinic (Sanctuary open for prayer) 7:00 pm-Worship Leaders	6 6:30 am-Optimist Brkfst 4:00 pm-Combined yG and Confirmation 6:00 pm-Fish Fry 6:35 pm-Ash Wednesday Service	7 12:00 pm-Men's Lunch	8 9:00 am-ALL Staff Mtg 5:00 pm-yG Service project	9 9:30 am-Deacons
10 Evangelism Sunday 9:30 am-Worship 10:00 am-Faith Quest 10:30 am-Congregation Meeting 10:45 am-Deacon's Potluck	11 3:00 pm-Drawing Group 6:15 pm-Praise Team 6:00 pm-yG Band	12 10:00 am-Support Staff 4:00 pm-The Open Door Clinic 7:00 pm-Care, Share, Prayer	13 6:30 am-Optimist Brkfst 9:00 am-Painting Grp 4:00 pm-Combined yG and Confirmation 6:30 pm-Celebration Singers	14	15 9:00 am-ALL Staff Mtg	16 Presbytery Meeting in Duluth
17 9:30 am-Worship 10:00 am-Faith Quest 10:30 am-Fellowship	18 3:00 pm-Drawing Grp 6:15 pm-Praise Team 6:00 pm-yG Band	19 10:00 am-Support Staff 4:00 pm-The Open Door Clinic (Sanctuary open for prayer) 7:00 pm-Session	20 6:30 am-Optimist Brkfst 9:00 am-Painting Grp 4:00 pm-Combined yG and Confirmation 6:30 pm-Celebration Singers	21 9:15 am-PW/Bible Study 2:00 pm-Mae Rowan Service 7:00 pm-Presby Men 7:00 pm-Worship Leaders	22 9:00 am-ALL Staff Mtg 7:00 pm-yG lock-in	23 8:00am-yG lock-in ends
24 9:30 am-Worship 10:00 am-Faith Quest 10:30 am-Fellowship	25 11:00 am-Finance Team 3:00 pm-Drawing Group 6:15 pm-Praise Team 6:00 pm-yG Band 7:30 pm-Chip Valley Community Chorus	26 10:00 am-Support Staff 4:00 pm-The Open Door Clinic 7:00 pm-Care, Share, Prayer	27 6:30 am-Optimist Brkfst 9:00 am-Painting Grp 4:00 pm-Combined yG Worship Prep 4:30 pm-Confirmation 5:30-yG Spaghetti Meal 6:00 pm-412 Worship 6:30 pm-Celebration Singers	28	29 Tom Bandy Here 6:00 pm-Fish Fry	(Page 4)

February Schedules

February 3

Ushers—

Roger & Patty Stiles

Communion Servers—

Barb Shorrel, Barb Smith, Erik Anderson,
Tim Anderson, Larry Annett, Gail Buchanan

Fellowship Hosts—

Julie Stafford

Nursery—

Gary & Laura Reich

Flower Providers—

Anne Welke in appreciation for my church family and the loving support you gave my family.

February 6

Snacks @ 4:00—Lynch Family

Ushers—

Roger Lebeis, Dick Kemp

February 10

Ushers—

Karen Elstran, Joanne Guthrie,
Rick & Jan Silloway

Communion Servers—

Dave Gordon, Jan Hilton-Koepke, Sue Maitland, Joe Mandelert, Bob Denman

Fellowship Hosts—

Deacons Potluck Meal

Nursery—

Jannine Kauffman, Chris Tzanakis

Flower Providers—

Bob & Barb Meredith for the birthdays of Brooke Meredith and Meredith Oakes on January 28.

February 13

Snacks @ 4:00—Stafford Family

February 17

Ushers—

Chuck & Chris Norseng

Communion Servers—

Ruth Rosenow, Barb Shorrel, Barb Smith,
Erik Anderson, Tim Anderson

Fellowship Hosts—

Anne Welke & Jodi Meyer

Nursery—

Patti & Hannah Robarge

Flower Providers—

Verene Crane thanking God for a great grandson's first birthday—Happy Birthday Oscar.

February 20

Snacks @ 4:00—Cooley Family

February 24

Ushers—

Al & Margi Namejunas

Communion Servers—

Larry Annett, Gail Buchanan, Bob Denman,
Dave Gordon, Jan Hilton-Koepke

Fellowship Hosts—

Kathy Facklam & Gail Buchanan

Nursery—

Ruth Rosenow, Olivia Linden

Flowers Providers—

Peggy Fleming in honor of the birthdays of George and Nathan Fleming.

February 27

Snacks @ 4:00—McDougall Family

Cooking Team—Spaghetti dinner-Fundraiser fro Youth mission trip.

FIRST Presbyterian CHURCH

130 West Central Street
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729-2345

*Worshiping in our beautiful new
building in the heart of the downtown.
We are in the city for good!*

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Our church newsletter



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Reminder:
Letters to the Editor are
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and concerns. Send an e-mail to
park140@charter.net or drop in
the Bell box in the workroom.

Church Staff

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Tim Anderson, clerk of session
Cherie Andringa, office manager/financial
secretary
Paul Kosower, minister of music
Ali Knoll, Youth director
Becky Hager, Karolynne Duffenbach,
children's ministry
Holly Gintz, treasurer
Joe Gunn, custodian
Jim Mandelert, technical elder
Sara Abendroth, Barbara Meredith,
Caregiver leaders
Jeannette Miller, worship team leader
Kathi Mandelert, Bell editor
Sara Abendroth, child care coordinator
Marlys Daniels, Presbyterian Women
Pat Linden, Presbyterian Men
Margi Kohl, church librarian
Barb Smith, music librarian
Susan Boyer, Esther Frazier, Lorraine Gilbertson, Tom & Jo
Knoble, Ginny Koepsel, Margi Kohl, Hess Morrison, Steve
Playter, Jackie Reich, Jinx Smith, Barbara Taylor, office
assistants*

Church Board

<i>Tim Anderson</i>	<i>Erik Anderson</i>
<i>Sonia Anderson</i>	<i>Gail Buchanan</i>
<i>Bob Denman</i>	<i>Dave Gordon</i>
<i>Jan Hilton-Koepke</i>	<i>Susan Maitland</i>
<i>Joe Mandelert</i>	<i>Ruth Rosenow</i>
<i>Barb Shorrel</i>	<i>Barb Smith</i>
<i>Barry Boyer</i>	

Board of Deacons

<i>Verene Crane</i>	<i>Dick Kemp</i>
<i>Hannah Koepke</i>	<i>Margi Kohl</i>
<i>Barb Meredith</i>	<i>Patti Robarge</i>
<i>Patty Stiles</i>	

SPECIAL EVENTS COMING UP

Meeting to Discuss Church Transformation – Thursday, Jan 31, 7:00

Meet in the multi-purpose room and learn more about the just completed Congregational Mission Assessment.

We will talk about transformation, change, Mr. Bandy's visit, and more.

Ash Wednesday – Feb. 6: Fish Fry, 6:00, worship, 6:35
Trinity Methodist will join us for the meal and the service.
Rev. Teri Koca, pastor at Trinity, will be our preacher.

Fish Fry, Feb 29, 6:00

Presbyterian Men are cooking again.

Come for a meal and meet Tom Bandy.

He will be working with us all day Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Feb 29, Mar 1 and 2.

Annual Ski Trip

February 15 to Christie Mountain Ski Hill.

Leave from the church at 5:00 pm.

Lift and ski rental-\$17.00—lift and board rental-\$27.00 Lift ticket only-\$12.00

Sign up sheet is on church bulletin board.

Questions? Call Pat Linden 577-0016

Welcome New Members...

Angela Christensen is a transplant from the Appalachian Mt. Area. Her hobbies include fishing, camping, canoeing, playing board games and reading. She works as a client associate at Mark Orgel Investment Group. Her love for God and yearning for fellowship brought her to First Presbyterian Church. She is married to Shaun Christensen

We also extend a warm welcome to Sara and Matt Boughton and baby Gracie. Sara grew up in Chippewa Falls and Matt in Austin, MN. They have recently moved here from Madison. Matt is the director of the EC-YMCA Tennis Center. Sara is a social worker at Luther Hospital. Their daughter Gracie was born last September 22 and was baptized here on Dec. 30.

Notes from around the church.....

Library News...

Dear Readers - And this is what Wisconsin winter feels like. Brrrrr! Cozy for reading near the fireplace, though. We're getting ready to spend a week in Rogers with grandkids and dogs while the parents go on a business (sure) trip to Puerto Rico. Four kids, four dogs and Vance and me. Is that a fair ratio?

The only new book I have to tell you about this month is *The Year of Living Biblically* which Barry donated. It is written by A.J. Jacobs, author of *The Know-It-All* and is *One Man's Humble Quest to Follow the Bible as Literally as Possible*. He vows to follow the Ten Commandments, to obey the hundreds of less publicized rules: to avoid wearing clothes made of mixed fibers, to play a ten-string harp and to stone adulterers. He is funny and profound, reverent and irreverent, personal and universal and will make you see history's most influential book with new eyes.

The print is small but the reading is fast. Thanks for the book, Barry. I've shelved it as NON-FIC.

Enjoy the winter - it won't last forever, though it may seem like it. As I've said before, I love winter so - let it snow!!

Your librarian - Margi Kohl

Shepherd Program...

It has been a year since the Shepherd program began in our church. It may be time for a refresher message as to who the Shepherds are and what we do.

Our congregation has been divided into geographic "neighborhoods." Each Shepherd has a neighborhood with less than ten families in it. It is our plan to call to remind our "sheep" of events at church or other things they should know. For

instance, many in our congregation are unaware that transportation can be provided to church events or medical facilities. Your Shepherd will identify herself and if you find yourself in need of these or other services, please call her and she will get the message to the right person. We are also in the process of implementing a calling list in case of church cancellation because of weather or other reasons beyond our control.

We will never ask for money and we will never ask you to do anything for us. We want to know what we or your church can do for you. If you have questions or just want to know who your Shepherd is, call Patty Stiles at 382-4392.

Thanks. Margi Kohl, Shepherd

Thank you....

The family of Art Bernhardt would like to thank the congregation for their prayers, calls, cards and support during Art's illness. It was comforting to know that we were in the thoughts and prayers of others.

A very special thank you to all who helped make Art's memorial service such a special time for family and friends. We are grateful to the Presbyterian Women for the wonderful meal, and to Wynne Cook and Deb Bieging for planning and coordinating it. Thank you to everyone who provided food and to those who served what must have seemed like an endless line of people: Wynne and Paul Cook, Deb & Jim Bieging, Tim and Sonia Anderson, Julie and Louie Rogers, Susan Boyer and Barb Cook. Thank you for giving so much of your time and letting people take the time they needed.

Thank you to Jim Mandelert for the technical help, Paul Kosower for the beautiful organ music, and Barry for the moving service, as well as the many hospital and home visits. We are truly blessed to be a part of such a caring church family. Thank you all!

~Barb, Whitney, Arthur and our extended families