



The Bell

September 2008

FIRST
Presbyterian
CHURCH

The Bell
A monthly newsletter

TRANSFORMATION REVITALIZED...

Something new is happening in church leadership. Details are being addressed and the picture will develop clarity in a few, short weeks. Briefly, the session (church board) met with church member Gary Shorrel and learned of a way to take hold of our transformation process and get results.

Gary led several project developments during his career with Cray Research. He presented us with a project model and it was adopted by the session as the method by which we will proceed this fall. Moving forward with several transformation goals will become the top priority for the session and each session member. A project leader and several task team leaders will develop a timeline. The congregation will be informed of the tasks and progress all along the way. The tasks derive primarily from the recommendations in our consultant's report. They include such things as creating a second service, staff development, establishing our core identity (values, beliefs, mission, vision) and claiming a signature mission.

Here is one of the places you, the reader, come in. Every time we talk about church transformation, we expose the basis of any constructive change in the church – personal transformation. Churches are not transformed unless it member's are engaged in seeking after God in Christ.

We talk about spiritual growth, discovery, change, development, and formation. One way of conceiving of personal transformation is this: "It is possible if we are willing to rearrange our lives around those activities Jesus engaged in to remain in fellowship with God."

Here are some of those activities:

- Reading the Bible: memorizing, meditating on scripture
- Prayer: alone and with others, reading written prayers and hymns
- Journaling: writing to God, expressing thoughts and feelings, tracking growth
- Stewardship: managing your resources as if they are all gifts from God
- Silence and solitude: taking time to be alone before God
- Service: finding opportunities to do acts of service for the benefit of others
- Confession: confessing sin individually and together
- Simplicity: limiting your lifestyles in order to free yourself for God and others
- Worship: participating in corporate and individual worship
- Learning: reading, taking courses, participating in discussion groups
- Meditation: seeking to better understand the character of God and your relationship with God
- Fellowship: developing a partnership with other believers as an encouragement to your pursuit of Christlikeness and witness for Christ.

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Points of Interest

Wed. Nite meals are back! Come join us on Sept. 10-5:30 pm

PW begins planning annual bazaar

Faith Quest begins on Sept. 7

First choir practice on Sept. 17

Fall Bazaar...

The Presbyterian Women have begun planning for the annual Fall Bazaar which will be held on Wednesday, November 12th. From 11 am to 7 pm. Kathi Mandelert is the 2008 Chairperson assisted by Sue Maitland and Barbara Meredith.

The theme for this year is "Go Green". There will be several items designed for saving the planet, such as cloth grocery tote bags—just say no to plastic!

The Bazaar will include the following venues. The coordinator for each venue is also listed.

Bakery – Marlys Daniels
Boutique – Marcie Myrman
Candy Shop – Jeannette Miller
Crafts – Ann Gordon
Kitchen Shop—Susan Boyer
Raffle – Kathi Mandelert
Silent Auction – Sue Maitland

There will also be gently used books for sale. A good opportunity to clean out your bookshelves and recycle.

A barbecue lunch will be served beginning at 11:30 am; dinner will be served beginning at 4:30 pm. Bonnie Gullickson and Anne Welke are serving as coordinators and will prepare their popular ham loaf and scalloped potato meal.

Raffle items this year are a beautiful handmade quilt which was made by one of our members and the American Girl doll Ruthie. Ruthie is Kit's best friend and is dressed in an outfit inspired by the 1930's. She is accompanied by a purse and her "Really Truly Ruthie" book.

Church members are encouraged to donate handmade items for the Bazaar including the Silent Auction. Remember the Go Green theme. Contact Kathi Mandelert, Sue Maitland or Barbara Meredith for more information. Jinx Smith is the volunteer coordinator and will be calling for workers.

For your shopping convenience, there will be a central checkout where you can pay for all your purchases at once. Exceptions are meal and raffle tickets. Baskets will be given out at the door along with a sales slip that will be filled out as you shop.

A Planning Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 10th at 6:30 pm in the Church Library. Anyone wanting to help with the Bazaar is invited to attend. New ideas are always welcome!

Memorials and Gifts

(Through August 18)

Food Pantry

Shaun & Angela Christensen
Tom & Jo Knoble

Deacons Fund

Art Schunk & Joyce Pugh

Flowers

Tom & Jo Knoble

Address Changes....

Gary & Barb Shorrel
Phone 404-7404

Barb Shorrel
E-mail: bshorrel@charter.net

Jeff Teubert (church e-mail)
Fpc1custodian@sbcglobal.net

TRANSFORMATION (cont. from page 1)

For spiritual disciplines to help us grow, the Holy Spirit's work must accompany them. However, the Spirit can't force us to grow. We must be active in our dependent faith. Richard Foster notes, "God has given us the disciplines of spiritual life as a means of receiving His grace. The disciplines allow us to place ourselves before God so that He can transform us."

Practicing the disciplines is like placing yourself in a channel for grace, with results similar to placing yourself in a channel for water. If you place yourself in a channel for water, you have a greater likelihood for getting wet. It's not a guarantee; sometimes the channel is dry and you have to wait for the water. Likewise, sometimes the rains come and soak those who are not in the channel as much as those in it. But on the whole, those who are in the channel will regularly receive water.

As we practice the disciplines, we place ourselves in channels where God can pour out His grace into our lives. On the whole, those who make a commitment to pursue holiness through these channels of grace will find refreshment that only the Spirit can bring.

Staff and elders (see below) are committing themselves to grow in discipleship, in discipline, in trust. They are placing themselves in channels for grace. They invite all church members to do so, too. Pick a discipline from above and practice it this week. Ask for help if you are unsure. We are a community, building together an effective mission. We need all the members to build little channels for grace. Together we will become bearers of God's grace and good news for others.

Staff members are Paul Kosower, Ali Knoll, Karolynne Duffenbach, Becky Hager, Cherie Andringa, Holly Gintz, Jeff Teubert and me.

Your session members are Reid Kennedy, Sonia Anderson, Ruth Rosenow, Joe Mandelert, Dave Gordon, Barb Shorrel, Jan Hilton-Koepke, Sue Maitland, Barb Smith, Erik Anderson and Bob Denman.

Pray that these leaders will be strong of faith, courageous, wise and passionate about our transformation.

~Barry Boyer, pastor

GENESIS SUNDAY September 7

Ministries and groups within the church will be at display tables throughout the narthex and fellowship hall on Sunday the 7th. We begin a new season of fellowship and ministry with fall and schools' beginning. Come and see - come and enjoy - come and participate in our annual beginning afresh.

*As Custodians Of God's
Earth, Let's Clean
Up Our Act*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Labor Day Office Closed	2 9:00 am-Counting Team 4:00 pm-The Open Door Clinic	3 6:30 am-Optimist Brkfst 6:30 pm-Communication Team 7:00 pm-Worship & Music Team	4 12:00-Men's Luncheon	5 9:00 am-Staff Mtg 6:00 pm-Youth "Back to School Bash"	6
7 Genesis Sunday 9:30 am-Worship 10:00 am-Faith Quest 10:30 am-Fellowship	8 9:00 am-Counting Team 6:15 pm-Praise Team 6:30-Clinic Board Mtg	9 9:00 am-Support Staff 11:00 am-Finance Team 4:00 pm-The Open Door Clinic	10 Church Night 6:30 am-Optimist Brkfst 9:00 am-Art Group 4:00 pm-Confirmation & Combined Youth Group 5:30 pm-Family Meal	11	12	13 9:30 am-Deacons
14 9:30 am-Worship 10:00 am-Faith Quest 10:30 am-Fellowship	15 9:00 am-Counting Team 6:15 pm-Praise Team	16 4:00 pm-The Open Door Clinic 7:00 pm-Session	17 Church Night 6:30 am-Optimist Brkfst 9:00 am-Art Group 4:00 pm-Confirmation & Combined Youth Group 5:30 pm-Family Meal 6:30 pm-Choir 6:30 pm-Communication team	18 9:30 am-PW/Bible study 7:00 pm-Presbyterian Men	19	20 11:00 am-Youth Group Highway Cleanup
21 Harvest Food Drive 9:30 am-Worship 10:00 am-Faith Quest 10:30 am-Fellowship 10:30 am-Shepherds 1:00 pm-Men's Golf Outing	22 9:00 am-Staff Mtg 10:00 am-Counting Tm 6:15 pm-Praise Team	23 9:00 am-Support Staff 4:00 pm-The Open Door Clinic	24 Church Night 6:30 am-Optimist Brkfst 9:00 am-Art Group 4:00 pm-Confirmation & Combined Youth Group 5:30 pm-Family Meal 6:30 pm-Choir	25	26 Wedding rehearsal	27 3:00 pm-Wedding Phillippon and Tyrell
28 9:30 am-Worship 10:00 am-Faith Quest 10:30 am-Fellowship 12:30 pm-Crop Walk	29 9:00 am-Staff Mtg 10:00 am-Counting Tm 6:15 pm-Praise Team	30 9:00 am-Support Staff 4:00 pm-The Open Door Clinic				September 2008 (Page 4)

September Schedules

September 7– Sunday

Ushers—Roger & Mardi Lebeis, Gail Buchanan, Kathy Facklam

Communion Servers—

Jan Hilton-Koepke, Sue Maitland, Joe Mandelert, Ruth Rosenow, Barb Shorrel, Barb Smith

Fellowship Hosts—

Chris & Chuck Norseng

Nursery—

Kathy & Jenna Facklam

Flower Providers—

Anne Welke in appreciation of grandchildren Nate, Andrew, Annie, Wilder, Audrey and Frances.

September 10-Wednesday

Snacks at 4:00-Cooley Family

5:30 Family Meal will be prepared by the Youth Group—All are welcome!

September 14-Sunday

Ushers—

Dave & Ann Gordon

Fellowship Hosts—

TBD

Nursery—

Sara Abendroth, Lisa Tzanakis

Flower Providers—

Amy Horak in loving memory of Fred.

September 17-Wednesday

Snacks at 4:00-McDougall Family

5:30 Family Meal will be prepared by the team of Karen Beighley & Susan Boyer.

Menu is hot dogs & fixings.

September 21-Sunday

Ushers—

Mark & Marci Myrman

Fellowship Hosts—

TBD

Nursery—

Sara Abendroth, Katie Page

Flower Providers—

Peggy & George Fleming in celebration of Rachel's birthday and the 3rd anniversary of Rachel & John Imsandi.

September 24-Wednesday

Snacks at 4:00-Haglund Family

5:30 Family Meal will be provided by the team of Erik Anderson, Jan Hilton-Koepke and Kathi Mandelert. Menu will be burgers on the grill.

September 28-Sunday

Ushers—

Vance & Margi Kohl

Fellowship Hosts—

TBD

Nursery—

Gary Reich & Jamie Ostrom

Flower Providers—

Donor opportunity.

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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The Bell

Our church newsletter



Non-profit organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 241
Chippewa Falls, Wis.

CROP WALK 2009

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28
REGISTRATION 12:30, WALK BEGINS
AT 1:00**

THE WALK STARTS AT TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

We walk because they walk! Millions of people in the world go to bed hungry every night. Some of them live right here in Chippewa Falls. September 28th is your opportunity to do something about it!

First Presbyterian is joining churches in the Chippewa Valley to raise money for world hunger. Twenty five percent of the funds raised will stay right here in Chippewa Falls and be used by the Chippewa Area Food Pantry. The rest of the funds will go to Church World Service for their international work to fight hunger.

There are lots of ways you can participate.

1. You can collect pledges or donations. You don't have to work to help collect donations!
2. You can join us for the Walk Send-off Celebration at 1:00.
3. You can help recruit people to walk and collect pledges.
4. You can make a donation.
5. You can pray for God's guidance and for our hearts to hear the call of the Holy Spirit to do God's work!

Watch for the CROP Walk Table on Genesis Sunday, September 7th.

Church Staff

Barry Boyer, pastor

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

Jeff Teubert, 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

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

Tim Anderson

Erik Anderson

Sonia Anderson

Gail Buchanan

Bob Denman

Dave Gordon

Jan Hilton-Koepke

Reid Kenned

Susan Maitland

Joe Mandelert

Ruth Rosenow

Barb Shorrel

Barb Smith

Barry Boyer

Board of Deacons

Verene Crane

Dick Kemp

Hannah Koepke

Margi Kohl

Barb Meredith

Patti Robarge

Patty Stiles

Brief Notes

INTRO TO PRAYER CHAIN

This is an introduction to your Prayer Chain program and callers. We are here to pray for you or with you. Most of our requests are for health issues but we will certainly consider other prayer concerns as well. Lorraine Gilbertson is our leader. If you have a prayer request, please call her at 723-5030. Other callers are Bob and Lea Dirks, Bonnie Gullickson, Pat Hedrington, Amy Horak, Verene Crane and Sue Tyler as well as Joane Knoble, Bob and Ginny Koepsel, Jinx Smith, Barry and Susan Boyer and Margi Kohl. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to help us, please call one of us. The more callers we have, the quicker we can get the word out.

Thanks. Margi Kohl, 720-8926

FIRST PRESBY GOLF OUTING Sunday September 21

A 1st Presby Golf Outing will be held Sunday, September 21 - 1:00 P.M. at Lake Wissota Golf. Nine hole scramble, all levels and ages can compete with this format!

Cook out at the Abendroth Cottage (4:30 P.M. - ?) on the river follows - ALL are welcome whether you golf or not. Please call George Abendroth (after August 21) at 382-4322 to be included. You may also email George anytime at sfabendroth@yahoo.com

THANK YOU . . .

so much for the expressions of concern shown our family during Herman's illness and of sympathy since his passing. It was so nice to be remembered by our church family of 16 years. It was such a comfort for Pastor Barry to do Herman's service and for Susan and Chuck to attend his funeral. Our family shared many wonderful memories of our years at First Presbyterian in Chippewa Falls. Sincerely, Janice Smith and Family

CELEBRATION SINGERS TO BEGIN SOON!

The Celebration Singers will begin rehearsing on Wednesday September 17th at 6:30 p.m. in the church sanctuary. We are looking for additional members to join us in the singing of praises to God. We meet each Wednesday evening at 6:30 in the church sanctuary singing each Sunday for the 9:30 service. I ask each one of you to consider joining us in song. Music is a blessing. Please come and be a part of it. We welcome your participation! Hope to see everyone on September 17th at 6:30 p.m.

Paul Kosower

Minister of Music

FAITH QUEST NEWS!!

Faith Quest will begin again on Sept. 7!! We will start with singing and then go to our classrooms for lessons. Faith Quest will have two classrooms again this year. The Preschool/Kindergarten children will be in one classroom and the 1st- 5th graders will be in the other classroom. There will be lots of fun and exciting projects to do again this year! There will be arts and crafts, movies, storytelling, games, science experiments, cooking, and computers! We can't wait to see you. Any questions please call Becky Hager at 723-6464.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

The Food Pantry is in need of food and paper supplies. We anticipate a greater than ever demand for items. A basket will be placed in the Sanctuary every Sunday for items. Let's all get in the habit of the needs of others and each Sunday bring something to add to our Pantry.

Notes from around the church.....

Library News...

Dear Readers - Hasn't this been a nice summer, weather-wise? I'm not big on really hot temperatures so have found it very enjoyable, at least so far. I hope you've found it possible to do all the things you like to do.

We have three more fiction books that were donated by Mark Diers at Borders. I haven't had time to read any of them but they all sound good to me. Of course, fiction books are my favorites. Lauraine Snelling wrote *A Promise for Ellie*. Ellie couldn't wait to graduate. She and Andrew planned since forever to be married right away. Then Andrew's father insists they postpone the wedding. As their plans unravel, it looks as if their love may not survive. Is this the end of their dream? (FIC)

Michael Landon, Jr. and Tracie Peterson wrote *One More Sunrise*. Joe's life is spiraling out of control in more ways than one. After his dreams of glory flying in WWII failed, he is now flying a crop duster and his marriage is on the rocks. (FIC)

Tracie Peterson wrote *Where the Heart Belongs*. Amy left her home twelve years ago, eager to leave the small town behind. Her sister remains. When Amy suddenly reappears, emotions flare. (FIC)

Six other books were anonymously donated and we thank these generous givers. *Count Your Way Through China* is a book for older children highlighting ten of China's finest points, including some Chinese language. (26) *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein is the story of an apple tree that loves a boy. (26) *What Are YOU So Grumpy About?* by Tom Lichtenheld offers many answers to that often asked question. (26) *Designed by God So I Must Be Special To God* by Character Builders for Kids is a really upbeat book for youngsters. (26)

The Purpose Driven Life, What On Earth Am I Here For? is written by Rick Warren and is shelved at (18). *A New Earth, Awakening to Your Life's Purpose* is written by Eckhart Tolle and was an Oprah's Book Club book recently. Look for it at (18).

I hope you'll find something of interest to you here.

Happy Reading - Your Librarian - Margi Kohl

News from the Memorial Committee...

In keeping with the Bandy recommendations, our session established a memorial committee which met and made recommendations as to where our designated memorial funds should go. Back in April of this year, a donation of \$485.50 was given to the newly established Veterans Assistance Program located on the grounds of the Northern Center. After visiting the center we felt that this would be a good place to donate funds and one of the needs expressed by Chuck Perry, Case Manager, was the purchase of materials from the Hazelden Program located in MN. Hazelden is a well known and respected institution for the treatment of individuals needing drug and alcohol treatment.

The Chippewa Falls program began in December of 2007. At the present time there are 21 Veterans housed there receiving services paid by the Federal Government. It is a transitional housing program and not a shelter. The men can stay for up to 2 years and in some cases may apply for an extension. At the present time 3 of them are attending school and 2 are gainfully employed. Some of the men are assisted in applying for a VA pension and some are applying for SSI. The program goals are for the men to remain at the facility until they are capable of successfully living on their own, have an income and savings enough to sustain them indefinitely.

The facility is well maintained and residents and businesses of Chippewa Falls and elsewhere have generously donated books, clothing, exercise equipment, bicycles, televisions, etc. etc. For many, however, the days are long and some of the men are willing and able to do odd jobs such as lawn mowing, carpentry, painting etc. Several of them recently helped tear down a building for an individual. This type of work is appreciated by the veterans who are physically able. For some, the payment received is their only source of income.

When a resident becomes gainfully employed, he may remain at the facility, is given a private room and will then pay \$300.00 monthly for room and board.

Chuck Perry, the Case Manager is a native of Chippewa Falls. He recently retired as a Lt. Col. of the USAF. He served 31 years in the AF and for the last 20 years as a Chaplain. He was deployed to Iraq two separate times prior to his retirement. He's a devout Christian and hopefully will speak to our congregation in the near future.

At present, our Memorial Committee is made up of four individuals; Jan Koepke, Marcia Wirt, Dan Duffenbach and Susan Maitland, Chairman. We would like to extend an invitation to anyone interested in joining us as there is much to be done. In the next few additions of the Bell we will provide information on other programs that received funding from our church congregation. We will welcome feedback and suggestions from any and all readers.

Notes from Youth Group...

Wednesday Meals are BACK!

After a year off, shared meals on Wednesdays will be returning on September 10th at 5:30pm. The staff and volunteers have lobbied for the return of these family meals to help keep us all connected and build relationships within the congregation. We really want to encourage everyone to join us for food, fun and fellowship! Set aside each Wednesday evening for a meal with friends and family and join us at 5:30pm on September 10th. As an added bonus, the meal on the 10th will be prepared and served by the youth!

Something a little different in the meal schedule this fall is a monthly “Family Meal” for the families of youth group kids. On those weeks (Sept. 10 & Oct. 8), the congregation is invited for the regular meal at 5:30 pm but there is a special activity after the meal for the youth and their parents that will go until 6:30pm. Everyone is welcome, as always, we’re just adding something new to keep kids and parents connected with a special activity. When you see “Family Meal – 5:30-6:30 pm” on the youth page in the Bell, that’s what it’s all about!

FPC on the World Wide Web

Most of you already know that the church now has a fantastic website, but did you also know that we’re on Facebook as well? Facebook, a site dedicated to connecting people for friendship and networking, is the #1 accessed website in the world and we are now plugged into it! Our group on Facebook includes photos, videos, events, a discussion board and much more to help keep us all connected to church happenings and other members of the congregation. How can you access this site? Well, signing up is simple! Just go to www.facebook.com and set up your own personal page. Then, search for “First Presbyterian Church Chippewa Falls” and you’ll find our group page. If you would like to get set up but don’t know how, just call Ali Knoll at 864-9802 and she’d be happy to help. For those of you already on Facebook, be sure to join the FPC group today!

Special “THANK YOU”

The youth who attended the Atlanta mission trip want to offer a special “thank you” to all of you who support them both financially and prayerfully. They were able to dig in deep in the Georgia clay (literally!) and serve the Lord because of the love you poured out on them. Your generosity enabled the nine youth and two adults to pour that same love out on the people of Atlanta and the youth are deeply grateful. Photos from the mission trip are online on Ali’s Facebook page and can be emailed to you if you’d like to see how your support impacted the Atlanta community. Email Ali at ali@faithinthestorm.com for the photo links (if you don’t have a Facebook account).

YOUTH BACK TO SCHOOL BASH – SEPTEMBER 5th

All youth and their friends are invited to the first annual “Back to School Bash” at the church on Friday, September 5th from 6pm-midnight. There will be tons of fun games, tasty treats and maybe even a very special surprise for those who attend! Be there or be square ☺

Staff Notes...

In an effort to increase communication between staff and the congregation, a member of the staff will offer an update of what we've been working on each month. This summer, staff meetings have focused on personal spiritual development, as well as church transformation. Staff realizes how important it is that we grow daily in our faith in order to continue to lead and minister to others in the congregation. Barry has been a tremendous guiding force for the staff in deepening our personal relationships with Jesus.

Apart from personal growth, we have been discussing the Bandy report, our ideas for transformation and implementation of Bandy's suggestions into the church. One area we have focused on has been increasing communication with the congregation in all aspects of ministry. The Communications Team is currently working on the design of a multi-sided bulletin display for the narthex. The display will be open for posting events, open small groups and other ministry opportunities. The idea of a computer to access the church website and other local ministries (maybe even a pastor's blog) in the narthex has also been discussed.

Relationships are vital to the growth of the church as well as personal growth, which is why we're looking at purchasing a digital camera to take pictures of our members in action and posting them on a bulletin board in the fellowship hall for all to enjoy. We believe that the photos can be a way to connect with other groups and individuals, as well as to increase awareness of our small groups and ministries to our guests.

Staff has been actively putting the fall calendar together. Plans for Faith Quest, Youth Group, Confirmation and Choir have been planned. Cherie has been working on updating the Fall Directory, which will be available Genesis Sunday. Staff has also been planning Genesis Sunday activities.

The staff will continue to meet weekly and we want to encourage your feedback. Our meetings will be shifting from Friday mornings to Monday mornings starting September 22nd @ 9:00 am. (The Counting Team will start one hour later 10:00 am, Mondays). If you have a concern, an idea or a topic of discussion for the staff, please feel free to contact any member of the staff to bring it forward at the upcoming week's meeting. If your concern is youth related, please contact Ali or if it's about music, please contact Paul and so on. Let us know how we can better serve you and encourage you in your walk with Christ.

*God's blessings,
Ali Knoll, on behalf of the First Presbyterian staff*