



The Bell

August 2009

FIRST
Presbyterian
CHURCH

The Bell
A monthly newsletter

Worship in August

Sunday August 2 9:30 AM

Worship Leader ~ Barry Boyer
Faith Sharing ~ Stephanie Smith on Africa
Text ~ Psalm 24
Communion ~ Barb Sandford, Musician

Sunday August 9 9:30 AM

Worship Leader ~ Holly Gintz
Faith Sharing ~ "Bread of Life"
Text ~ John 6:24-35, Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15
Gary Polden, musician

Sunday August 16 9:30 AM

Worship Leader ~ Jeannette Miller
Faith Sharing ~ "Complaining About the Food"
Text ~ John 6:35, 41-51; Deut. 8:1-10
Barb Sandford, Musician

Sunday August 23 9:30 AM

Worship in The Park

Worship Leader ~ Erik Anderson
Faith Sharing ~ "Abiding in Jesus"
Text ~ John 6:51-58
Gary Polden, musician

Sunday August 30 9:30 AM

Worship Leader ~ Holly Gintz
Faith Sharing ~ "To Whom Shall We Go?"
Text ~ John 6:56-69
Gary Polden, musician

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Points of Interest

Worship and picnic in the Park August. 23.

Librarian volunteer position open—Margi is retiring!

Nursery coordinator also needed—Sara would like to retire too!

Memorials and Gifts

(Through July 19)

Food Pantry

Gail Willi
Karla Stein
Steve Playter & Jinx Smith

Flowers

Dick & June Kemp
Steve & Laurie Lindsay
Vance & Margi Kohl
Gary & Barb Shorrel

Designated Gifts

Chuck & Chris Norseng

Mortgage Retirement Fund

Dick & June Kemp

Deacons Fund

Mark & Marci Myrman
Jim & Kathi Mandelert
Dick & June Kemp
Larry & Linda Annett
Art Schunk & Joyce Pugh
Evelyn Jenson
Hess Morrison
Marlys Daniels
Doug & Bonnie Gullickson
Pat Hedrington
Bob & Lea Dirks
Chuck & Chris Norseng
Erna Rath
George & Sara Abendroth
Holly Gintz
Rick & Jan Koepke
Dick & Julie Stafford
Roger & Patty Stiles

Per Capita

Jaime Ostrom

Address Changes

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FROM THE FINANCE TEAM...

CENTRAL STREET BILL COMING IN JANUARY! DONATIONS JOYOUSLY ACCEPTED.

The city has completed the Central Street improvements. The city's assessment for this will come in January of 2010 and will be about \$9200. The Finance Team has decided to take the option to spread the cost over the next 10 years. We will begin including this in the 2010 budget expenses. If you would like to make a special gift to help decrease this amount, please indicate in the memo section of your check, *Central Street Improvement*. If you plan to give a special gift for the assessment, please do so by January 24, 2010. All gifts will be added to the annual payment amount due in February.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIVING

Many of you may have noticed the deteriorating condition of our outside doors. The Property Team included money in the budget for this year to replace those doors. As it turns out, the budgeted amount will only allow us to replace one door—the one into the Narthex (by Gordy's parking lot). So, if you would like to make a special gift to replace our outside doors, please indicate in the memo section of your check, *Door Replacement*.

Thanks to everyone for keeping current on your giving. It sure makes our job on the Finance Team a lot easier.

Pastor's Perspective

As fall approaches, the idea of a stewardship campaign begins to make its way through the finance team, the session and our stewardship team, ably led by Barb Shorrel. Ron Schmidt and Chuck Norseng are team members. I attend the meetings and have great respect for their work and prayers. God will grant us the means to grow spiritually through giving joyfully.

I came across this fictional conversation between a young married woman and her grandmother as they discussed Giving and the Spiritual Life. It is from a resource published by the Christian Community in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Much wisdom. Given for pondering and prayer.

"I'm very pleased with the materials for the stewardship campaign this year," Sara said., "but one thing concerns me. Why do we call it stewardship? I'm not used to thinking of myself as a steward. I know the church used to have a board of stewards or something like that, but I never understood what they did."

"The word doesn't communicate very well in our time," her grandmother agreed. "The concept is still valid though. It's a question of how we view what we earn and what we have. Do we see it belonging to us or belonging to God?"

Sara said, "I suppose there's a sense in which everything belongs to God, when you consider the nature of creation. On a daily basis, however, I think about the money in our checking account being our money and the house in which we live being our house – or perhaps I should say our house and the bank's since we have a thirty-year mortgage."

"The concept of stewardship, I think," said her grandmother, "is simply that we recognize that what we have ultimately belongs to God and that we're the stewards or trustees or managers of it. It doesn't mean that we shouldn't be careful in handling money and property. In fact, it means that we should be extremely careful, because what we have comes to us not only from our hard work but also from God's generosity. We need to use our assets responsibly, not only the ten

percent or so that we give to the church but also the other ninety percent."

"And when we give money to the church, what we're really doing is returning to God a portion of what we've already received," said Sara.

"That's right. The concept of a tithe as a standard of giving comes from the Old Testament concept of setting aside ten percent of what a person has for God before doing anything else."

"Ten percent sounds like a lot to me," Sara admitted. "We probably give three or four percent of our income to the church, but it would feel like a big bite to give ten percent."

"John and I never thought about ten percent in a legalistic kind of way. We saw it as a guideline or a helpful standard. What's important, I believe, is that a person give proportionately to what a person has received. When you do that I'm convinced that it helps you grow closer to God. It also makes you more careful about how you use all of your assets."

"The giving materials this year suggest that we move our giving up by one, two or three percent of our income. We could probably handle an increase in that range."

"There are two secrets to increasing giving to the church in my opinion," her grandmother offered. "First, you give from a thankful heart, in response to God's love and generosity. You don't give out of guilt or obligation. Then, practically speaking, you give to God first rather than out of leftovers. John and I started writing a check to the church every week before we paid any bills or made any new expenditures. It's amazing how easy it is when you simply do that first. When you delay and try to do your giving out of leftovers, after you've done everything else, there isn't much left - and the joy of giving is gone."

~ Barry Boyer

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



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Church Staff

Barry Boyer, pastor

Tim Anderson, clerk of session

Cherie Andringa, office manager/financial
secretary

children's ministry

Gary Polden, Barb Sandford, Barb Smith, music ministry

Holly Gintz, treasurer

Bob Lindsley, 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, Margi

Kohl, Hess Morrison, Steve Playter, Jackie Reich, Art Schunk,

Jinx Smith, office assistants

Church Board

Tim Anderson

Sonia Anderson

Jon Behling

Bob Denman

Dave Gordon

Eric Haglund

Jan Hilton-Koepke

Reid Kennedy

Susan Maitland

Bruce Miller

Ruth Rosenow

Ron Schmidt

Barb Shorrel

Barry Boyer

Board of Deacons

Corine Boos

Verene Crane

Dick Kemp

Margi Kohl

Barb Meredith

Patty Stiles

Anne Welke

Brief Notes

WORSHIP PLANS FOR AUGUST 2

Next Sunday, August 2, Stephanie Smith will tell of her experiences in west Africa, esp. Accra, Ghana and her work in an orphanage. Several weeks ago, our church sent her \$500 to help with supplies at the orphanage. Stephanie is the daughter of Barb and Jayson Smith.

WORSHIP AND PICNIC IN THE PARK ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 23

We will gather for worship at the Irvine Park band shell on Sunday, August 23, 9:30 a.m. A meal will follow. The deacons are providing. More detail to follow. You may want to bring a lawn chair, but they are not necessary. Please mark your calendars now.

DEACON'S FUND STILL HAS NEED

Many have given to support the deacon's fund. It is so appreciated! Over \$1400 dollars have been given out in the past five weeks. The rate of distribution of \$20 gift cards to Gordy's and \$10 gas vouchers to Holiday has tripled during this time. Many have been given to first time visitors. To stay afloat we have had to cut amounts and frequency of gifts.

Church leaders and social service people will meet at our church on August 12th to discuss new ways to meet these needs. A new, community-wide approach is likely to start soon.

In the meantime, we need to ask for your help in sustaining the Deacon's Fund. Gifts can be made with cash or check to the First Presbyterian Church with "Deacon's Fund" in the memo space at the lower left of your check. There are gift envelopes in the pew pockets in front of you. Thank you so much!

BIRTHDAY-ANNIVERSARY LISTS

Several people have asked why the birthday-anniversary lists are not in the Bell each month. The answer is that there is not always space for the list. To solve this issue, a booklet listing the 12 months of birthdays and anniversaries has been printed and is available in the church office and in the narthex. It will be updated on a yearly basis thereafter. Let the office know if there are any additions or corrections. Thanks.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

We maintain an active food pantry at First Church. During the course of a week 4-6 or even up to 8 packed paper-grocery bags may be given out to the hungry in the community. Donations of non-perishable food items or cash are appreciated. We have a Food Pantry 'basket' in the narthex that you may place your donated food items in. Boxed or packaged food items are a wonderful addition to canned foods: Mac & cheese, hamburger helper, pasta salads, pasta casseroles, bags of plain pasta and/or cereal. Many offer their thanks for your continued generosity! ~ Cherie Andringa, office manager

ATTENTION ALL CHURCH KEY HOLDERS

Please check the alphanumeric stamp (ex. P2, MM7,A3) on any church keys you may have and write this designator next to your name in the maroon registration pads found in the pews during worship, or call the church office.

Notes from around the church.....

Library News...

Dear Readers - This is my last month to be your librarian and I hope some of you are considering stepping up and volunteering to take it over for me. I'd be happy to "teach you all I know" which won't take long.

This month we have another huge anonymous donation of books for which we are grateful. I've held out a few to read myself and then will get them on the shelves. I plan to do a lot of sitting after I get my new knee so may actually get caught up. Some of the donated books are:

Missing Books of the Bible, Vol. I and II (5), Heart of a Woman by Maya Angelou (NON FIC), Women of Faith, New Testament (4), Prayer of Jabez for Teens (17), Hallelujah Diet, Biblically based (18), 365 Bible Promises for Busy People by Alice Chapin (12).

Also, Daily Guideposts 2003 through 2008 (12), Laughing Out Loud, A Collection of Heavenly Humor (FIC), Bad Girls of the Bible by Liz Curtis Higgs (5), The Maker's Diet (18), A Resilient

Life by Gordon MacDonald (18), Turning Hurts Into Halos by Robert H. Schuller (18), The Exodus (26), Christmas Story (26), We Hear the Christmas Angels, Guideposts (NON FIC), and the Christmas Letters (FIC).

That's about half the books so I will submit one last article to the Bell containing the other half next month.

Happy Reading - *your librarian - Margi Kohl*

LIBRARIAN NEEDED

After several years of serving as your librarian, I find it necessary to step down from that position. This is a volunteer position that needs to change leadership occasionally to keep fresh enthusiasm and ambition.

I worked at my own pace and mostly at home. I enjoyed doing it and read many good books that I found while checking them in.

Please think it over and see if this might be something you would enjoy. I would be happy to teach you what I know at your convenience. I've particularly enjoyed writing for the Bell and would like to continue to do that in some capacity. I'm thinking maybe a gossip column....

Your librarian - Margi Kohl

