



The Bell

January 2009

FIRST
Presbyterian
CHURCH

The Bell
A monthly newsletter

Worship in January

Sunday January 4 9:30 AM

Epiphany of the Lord

Worship Leader ~ Barry Boyer

Faith Sharing ~ "The Light of the Epiphany"

Text ~ Isaiah 60:1-6, 9, Matthew 2:1-12, Eph. 3:1-12

Communion

Gary Polden, Musician

Sunday January 11 9:30 AM

Baptism of the Lord

Worship Leader ~ Jeannette Miller

Faith Sharing ~ "I May Need to Call Someone Up"

Text ~ Matthew 5:21-26

Sunday January 18 9:30 AM

Prayer for Christian Unity

Worship Leader ~ Holly Gintz

Faith Sharing ~ "He Brings Light to the Planets"

Text ~ 1 Peter 2:2-10, John 1:43-52

Communion

Barb Sandford, Musician

Sunday January 25 9:30 AM

Worship Leader ~ Erik Anderson

Faith Sharing ~ Rich Estrem-Fuller, preaching

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Points of Interest

Adult Bible Study
begins Jan. 22

Per Capita for 2009
Is \$25.00

New Orleans Mission
Trip volunteers leave
Jan. 10, return Jan. 17

Memorials and Gifts

(Through Dec. 14)

Food Pantry

Linda Schreiber
Shaun & Angela Christensen
Roger & Jane Whiting

Deacons Fund

Roger & Jane Whiting
Jim & Kathi Mandelert
Cheryl Hubmann
Art Schunk & Joyce Pugh

Flowers

Jon Behling & Sandi Frohling
Gary & Jackie Reich
Roger & Patty Stiles
Dave & Ann Gordon
George & Sara Abendroth
Doug & Bonnie Gullickson
Bob & Barb Meredith
Ellen Devine
Dick & Julie Stafford
Barbara Taylor
David & Patricia Gutknecht
Steve Playter & Jinx Smith
Dick & Esther Frazier
Hess Morrison
Ron & Alice Schmidt
Barb Wilcox
Mark & Marci Myrman
Jim & Kathi Mandelert

Celebration Music Series

Tim & Sonia Anderson
Presbyterian Women
Barry & Susan Boyer
Joe Mandelert

Christmas Joy Offering

Chuck & Chris Norseng
Dave & Ann Gordon
Hess Morrison
Sue Maitland
Richard & Ruth Rosenow
Dick & Julie Stafford
Steve Playter & Jinx Smith
Tom & Jo Knoble
Dick & June Kemp
Anne Welke
Barb Wilcox
Ella Behling
Roger & Patty Stiles

2008 Crop Walk a Success...

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the 2008 CROP Walk. We had many who made financial contributions and several who came and participated in the walk on September 28th.

There were eight churches that participated this year. Together the congregations raised \$6,041. First Presbyterian raised \$1,248 (second highest after Our Savior's Lutheran Church!).

Of these funds, three quarters (\$4,500) will be sent to Church World Service in their battle to fight global hunger and related health issues. \$1,500 will be kept here in the Chippewa Area and be donated to the Chippewa and Cadott Food Pantries in proportion to the funds contributed by each of the community's churches.

Watch for announcements for next year's CROP Walk.

~ Jackie Reich and Ruth Rosenow, CROP Walk Coordinators

Address Changes...

New Phone Numbers:

Reid Kennedy—715-579-2439

Lisa Kennedy—715-563-4806

Barb Shorrel e-mail:

bshorrel@charter.net

Share in The Glory

Pastor's Perspective

Meeting Jesus...

Our vision is to meet Jesus and help others do the same. Knowing Jesus and becoming more like him is the desire of our hearts and minds. There are millions of people, young and old, who yearn for healthy relationships and a reason to hope. Being generous with our time, talent and tithes, and telling others of our experience with Jesus, is our way of helping.

Beginning this month, you are invited to gather round as we become more intentional about naming our longing and propelling our journey. We are never too old to change course; never too young to join in; never too smart to learn anew; never too shy to sometime say yes! to his invitation. Jesus is calling us all the time to come closer, to enjoy his fellowship, to look ahead, to love more, to touch others, to be agents of reconciliation, to be his hands and feet, to suffer with him, to bring healing and hope. Let's become *companions in Christ*.

Starting Thursday, January 22nd, we will begin a course called The Bible from Scratch. It is wonderfully designed to bond together students who have little to no biblical knowledge. And it is a great review for those who "used to know." It will build your comfort and confidence for any future study, for worship enjoyment and for personal devotions and quiet time. We will meet at 7:00 p.m. in the church library. Working around the table will be important.

And ...Bill and Deb McDougall are inviting us to their home to discuss the very popular book, The Shack, by William Young. It is a fictional account of the tragic death of a little girl; the family's subsequent anguish; and the father's encounter with God. Many have already read it. The story takes you places, I daresay, you have never been. And they are very good places! There is plenty of time for you to read it if you would like to join in. The book is readily available at Borders or at Amazon.com. We will meet for two or three Friday evenings beginning January 30.

And...how about The Heart of Christianity by Marcus Borg. There is a good number of church members who have read it and several have mentioned wanting to discuss it. We are going to find a way to get together starting in February. We will meet at our home (the Boyer's) to kick it off. Through his writings, Borg is helping a lot of marginal, half-hearted Christians find a new passion for living a life of faith. If you are weary of the culture wars and the "only way", check out Borg. He is an exciting thinker and will be my close companion into the future.

And... I am excited for a small group to gather around a resource called Exploring the Way. It is an introduction to the spiritual journey, to basic spiritual practice. It takes six weeks and makes for a pretty accessible experience of a church small group. It is for the Christian novice and the spiritual veteran, exploring the basic concepts of the Christian spiritual life, along with the biblical texts that undergird them. This group could begin anytime, but it might be good to aim for March.

See you in worship on Sundays and in one of the groups above.

~ 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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An Introduction to Community Organizing

Our Saviour's is hosting an ecumenical event in honor of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. You are invited to come to an Introduction to Community Organizing as it is practiced by JONAH, the congregation-based organizing project in the Chippewa Valley.

The workshop will cover both the philosophy and the practice of community organizing. Organizing is about intentionally forming community, and it is about joining the voices of diverse people of faith to bring about real change. The workshop will include information about JONAH and its state umbrella organization, WISDOM. It will also include many opportunities for participants to interact and to share your hopes and visions with each other.

"An Introduction to Community Organizing" will be held on Thursday, January 22, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church (1300 Mansfield St., Chippewa Falls). The session will be led by David Liners, state director of WISDOM.

JONAH (Joining Our Neighbors Advancing Hope) is a congregation-based organization that works for social justice. Its goals are embedded in its name – Joining our Neighbors (building community that crosses economic, religious, social, and geographic boundaries), Advancing Hope (developing new leaders and addressing issues that can make tangible difference in our community – especially for the most needy and marginalized).

Church Staff

Barry Boyer, pastor
Tim Anderson, clerk of session
Cherie Andringa, office manager/financial secretary
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, Ginny Koepsel, Margi Kohl, Hess Morrison, Steve Playter, Jackie Reich, Jinx Smith, Barbara Taylor, 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	

January Schedules

IMPORTANT NOTE—

**THERE WILL BE NO
CONFIRMATION CLASSES IN
JANUARY; THEREFORE
WEDNESDAY NITE MEALS ARE
ALSO CANCELLED. SEE YOU IN
FEBRUARY!**

January 4– Sunday

Ushers—

Richard & Julie Stafford, Bill Stafford

Communion Servers—

Sonia Anderson, Tim Anderson, Jon
Behling, Bob Denman, Dave Gordon

Fellowship Hosts—

Mark & Marci Myrman

Nursery—

Barb Sutherland, John Heintz

Flower Providers—

Donor Opportunity

January 11-Sunday

Ushers—

Vance & Margi Kohl

Fellowship Hosts—

Bonnie & Doug Gullickson

Nursery—

Kathy & Jenna Facklam

Flower Providers—

Donor Opportunity

January 18-Sunday

Ushers—

George & Peggy Fleming

Communion Servers—

Eric Haglund, Jan Hilton-Koepke,
Reid Kennedy, Sue Maitland,
Bruce Miller, Ruth Rosenow

Fellowship Hosts—

Anne Welke and Julie Stafford

Nursery—

Rich & Hannah or Lauren Koepke

Flower Providers—

Doug & Bonnie Gullickson in honor of
Elaine Thompson's 95th birthday—Thank
you God for mothers.

January 25-Sunday

Ushers—

Bob & Barb Meredith

Fellowship Hosts—

Susan Boyer

Nursery—

Ruth Rosenow, Katie Page

Flower Providers—

Donor Opportunity

Brief Notes

FAITH QUEST (SUNDAY SCHOOL) NEWS

During Advent and Christmas, Faith Quest children are donating their offerings to **Heifer International**. It is a wonderful program that helps people become more self-sufficient by giving animals to a family. If you would like to contribute to Faith Quest's donation, let us know and we can add your donation to the children's.

Also, Faith Quest recently gathered items for the **Spirit of Christmas** with our **Crib For Kids**. Your **gifts** have already been distributed to families in the community that are unable to provide gifts for their littlest ones. Thank you for your donations.

If you have questions, please contact Becky Hager or Karolynne Duffenbach.

LOCK DOORS, TURN OUT THE LIGHTS: JUST LIKE AT HOME

We need everyone's help in saving some money and keeping the building secure. If you are the last one to leave the building on a Sunday morning or an evening meeting, please turn off the lights; lock the doors. Even if you are not sure if you are the last one, do so anyway. A good, strong, "*Anyone Here?*" can clear the way.

On Sunday mornings, it is usually the ramp doors that are left open. The others have been locked by staff. When the building is very quiet that is a good sign that lights can be turned off and the doors need to be locked. Please err on the side of "turn it off."

If you don't know how, please call Jeff, 864-422 or Barry, 456-4197, for directions

PER CAPITA IN 2009 - \$25

All members in every Presbyterian Church are asked to pay a per capita assessment at the beginning of each calendar year. This year it is \$25. The amount covers administrative costs for our presbytery, synod and general assembly. This is assessed to every congregation. Please make your check a total for each member in your household. Write the check to "First Presbyterian Church" with "per capita" in the memo space. Envelopes for per capita are provided in your offering envelope box. Gift envelopes in the pew pockets can also be used. We pay over \$6,000, so we are helped a great deal when everyone takes their share.

THE SYMPATHY OF THE CONGREGATION

Is extended to Gary and Barb Shorrel and family on the death of Gary's father in early December.

GUITARIST EXTRAORDINARE HERE FEBRUARY 8

Greg Gilbertson, master of the finger-pickin' style of guitar playing, will perform in a concert of the Celebration Music Series on Sunday, February 8 at 4:00 p.m.

Greg has lived in Chippewa Falls all his life. He is known to many in our congregation. Several years ago, as a teen, Greg played guitar in our church's production of "Godspell." Since then he played in local bands and was eventually drawn to a particular style of play, called "finger-pickin'" Rather than forming chords with the left hand, it, like the right hand, is used to pick notes as well. It is mind-boggling to watch and amazing to hear. He just recently won third place in an international competition held in Kansas. And he is self-taught! He has toured a couple of times on the West Coast, playing several times in churches. And, Greg will tell about his work and his faith journey, too - all on the 8th of February.

Notes from around the church.....

Library News...

Dear Readers - Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of you. From what I've heard about the upcoming Christmas events at church, they should be wonderful. We always travel at Christmas so miss all the services. We will spend Christmas Eve and Christmas Day in Rogers, MN. From there we're headed to New Berlin and Ohio, all by car, so we're hoping for good weather, will be back in early January. I've talked to several of you who are traveling further than we and we wish everyone safe trips and wonderful reunions with family. The older I get, the more precious the time spent with family is.

Evelyn Jenson's donation of two copies of *The Shack* has been very popular. I'm enjoying the different reactions from people who have read it. No wonder it's the subject of so many book clubs and church groups.

Eight books that I haven't mentioned from Shorrel's large donation are now on the shelves. They are *Eros Redeemed*, *Breaking the Stranglehold of Sexual Sin* written by John White (18), *Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire* by Jim Cymbala, what happens when God's spirit invades the hearts of his people. (18) *More Than a Carpenter* is by Josh McDowell. (6)

A copy of the New Testament, NIV (1), *Good News About Injustice*, a witness of courage in a hurting world by Gary A Haugen (18) and *Why the Nations Rage, Killing in the Name of God* by Christopher Catherwood (15) are now shelved.

Look for *Daring to Draw Near*, people in prayer written by John White (12) and *Speaking of Jesus*, how to tell your friends the best news they will ever hear by J. Mack Stiles. (18) Thanks again to the Shorrels for their generous donation.

Have wonderful holidays. Celebrate safely.

Happy Reading - your librarian - Margi Kohl

Open Door Clinic...

Christmas is the time we celebrate the birth of Christ. But Christmas is also a time we say thank you to those we may not thank often enough during the year. On behalf of the Open Door Clinic, I would like to thank the members of First Presbyterian for supporting us in so many ways. One of the Board members (who is not a member of this congregation) expressed the sentiment that having the Open Door Clinic located in a church feels right. It is a safe place for people to come who may be suffering in many different ways. Thank you for your willingness to share this wonderful space. May your Christmas be filled with Love, Joy and Peace.

~ Deb Biegling

From the Stewardship Team...

The wise men searched to find the baby Jesus so that they could honor Him with their gifts. Like them, we honor Him with our giving and find joy in doing so. Thank you for your gifts. May you have a blessed New Year.

~ Barb Shorrel, Chair

Note from the Finance Team

The finance team is working on the 2009 budget. We will be reporting more in the February Bell. Keep us in your prayers.

~ Barb Shorrel, Chair

Thrift Sale set for Early March

Presbyterian Women will again chair the annual thrift sale, which is a mission for the community, as we set very low prices on all items. All profit from the sale will be spent on local missions. You may bring your sale items to the PW room at any time—place them in the designated area. All items should be neatly boxed or bagged, excepting furniture, clean and in good working condition.

Eight-Nine New Year's Reminders for Wise Men and Women

1. We strongly affirm that there is a God.
2. We believe that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.
3. We have learned to make the most of every day.
4. We become increasingly aware of life's many seasons.
5. We come to grips with what is most important in life.
6. We have learned to make a regular spiritual inventory of our lives.
7. We are willing to forgive as well as be forgiven.
8. We come to the Lord with the gift of our whole selves.
9. We choose to be happy people.

~ Revised by Cherie Andringa December 18, 2008

January Birthdays and Anniversaries

	19	Lea & Bob Dirks
3		Kathy Furtado
	20	Elaine Thompson
6		Leslie Samse
	21	Dave Gordon Lindsey Wundrow Trei Hoepner
8		Peggy Fleming
	23	Bill French Katelyn Page
10		Gwen Bauman Erika Cooley
	25	Pat Linden Barry Boyer Jonathan Beighley
12		Mitchell Haglund Sara Abendroth
13		Jodi Meyer
	28	Susan Boyer Adam Duffenbach Deborah McDougall
15		Richard Rosenow Jinx & Steve Playter Norman Keller
17	30	Ethan Kauffman
18		Ruth Jeanne Crane