

Pastor: Clara D. Thompson

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## ***APRIL 2009***

### **PASTOR'S MESSAGE**

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As many of you are now aware, I have decided that, having served as your Pastor for 30 years, it is time for me to retire. Paul and I have known for a long time that 2009 would be a year of transition for us, with our youngest son John graduating from high school in June and then going off to college. We have also known that this would be the year of our retirement, and we look forward to retiring together. Though I am excited about retirement, I know also how much each of you has meant to me, and I shall miss the pastoral relationships that I have enjoyed with you.

The Session, at my request, has called a Special Congregational Meeting for Sunday, March 29, immediately following worship. The purpose of the meeting is to act on my request to dissolve the pastoral relationship, effective July 7, 2009 and to request that the John Knox Presbytery grant me the status of Honorably Retired effective that same date. Sunday, June 28 will be my last Sunday leading in worship, my final day in the office will be June 30, and I will take my remaining week of vacation from July 1-7.

Over the next several months the John Knox Presbytery, through its Committee on Ministry, will help to provide for a smooth transition. They will also help First Presbyterian Church obtain both temporary and permanent pastoral services. I will continue to serve as your Pastor through the end of June, with as much "energy, intelligence, imagination, and love\*" as I have done for the past 30 years.

When I was first called to serve as your Pastor in 1979, none of us ever dreamed that we would enjoy 30 years of serving Christ together. I consider it a rare and wonderful privilege to have served alongside of you for so long! My prayer is that God will continue to lead and guide you as individuals and as members of the First Presbyterian Church of Oregon, Wisconsin. A glorious future is ahead of you indeed! I cannot thank God, and you, enough for the privilege of having served as your Pastor.

Faithfully,

Clara D. Thompson  
Pastor

\* From the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s Book of Order, one of the questions for ordination in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.): "Will you seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?"

## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

- April 5 Palm Sunday/ Passion Sunday  
9:00 AM Opening Fellowship  
9:15 AM Sunday School  
10:30 AM Worship  
11:30 AM Coffee Fellowship
- April 9 Maundy Thursday  
7:00 PM Worship at People's United Methodist Church. Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated
- April 10 Good Friday  
7:00 PM Worship at First Presbyterian Church. The Methodists will be our guests.
- April 12 Easter Sunday  
8:00 AM Family-oriented Worship  
9:00 AM Easter Breakfast  
10:30 AM Worship

## ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING *with a twist!*

Sixty years ago, in response to the devastation of World War II, a Saturday evening nationwide broadcast asked Americans to give generously the next morning in their churches. A remarkable variety of national leaders and celebrities gave their efforts to the broadcast; more than 75,000 churches responded; and One Great Hour of Sharing was born!

In 2009, amidst a global economic crisis, we are invited again to be a part of this long effort to help provide for the needs of the world. This year our Session has decided to split our traditional Lenten Offering in the following way:

- 50%** will go to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. These monies will help support the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and the Self Development of People program of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
- 25%** will help purchase science and environmental education supplies for a school in Costa Rica (Dolly and Grace Ledin are our "on the scene" local contacts)

**25%** will help purchase books for a local library in Guatemala (Phil Hanson is our "on the scene" local contact)

Please give generously to these worthwhile causes as we participate in the ecumenical One Great Hour of Sharing and also support two special international projects under the leadership of our own church members! The "**One Great Hour of Sharing with a twist**" offering will be received on April 5<sup>th</sup>, Palm Sunday.

## ATTENTION!! ATTENTION!!

### FAMILY GAME NIGHT SATURDAY, APRIL 18<sup>TH</sup> 6:30 – 8:00 PM

at First Presbyterian Church  
Fun for the young and the young at heart! Bring your favorite games ... board games, card games, any kind of games ... and have fun playing them with your church family. Please also bring a "snack" to share. Fellowship Committee will provide appropriate beverages for all ages. This is a great evening to bring a friend!!

### PLAN NOW FOR A NIGHT OF FUN AND FELLOWSHIP!

## SPECIAL COFFEE HOUSE on April 26

That quaint coffee house experience right here at First Presbyterian Church! The Montreat bound youth will be brewing some specialty coffee and performing some "easy listening" music on Sunday, April 26 right after 10:30 AM worship service. Join us in the back of the sanctuary for exquisite coffee, yummy muffins and bread, a selection of delectable desserts, fresh fruit and casual conversation of course! Not to mention, there will be cool melodies filling the air. Donations will be accepted and will help subsidize the cost of the Montreat Youth Conference. We will have age appropriate specialty beverages for all so PLEASE COME.

### **OLDER ADULT SUNDAY – May 3**

A special service of worship is being planned for Sunday, May 3, to both honor and recognize our older adults. The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated as part of this special service. All ages are welcome!

### **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

This summer's Vacation Church School is going to be so exciting!!! The date is **Wednesday, June 24**. The time is 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM. The place is: **Our new property!!** All children who are 3 years old and out of diapers by June 1<sup>st</sup>, through this year's 5<sup>th</sup> graders, are welcome to be a part of the excitement as we discover "God's Backyard and Bugs" together. The cost is just \$8.00 per child, with a maximum of \$20.00 per family. REGISTER by April 19 in order to guarantee a spot for your child(ren), either using the Registration Form attached or by phoning the church office at 835-3082. Mark your calendars and *invite your grandchildren, neighbors and friends!*

### **WHO ARE OUR GRADUATES?**

Do you have someone graduating from high school, college or with an advanced degree in your family? We would like to recognize all of our graduates in the May Newsletter. Please submit an article about your graduate to the church office by April 15. You are encouraged to include such things as school activities and involvements, future plans, etc.

**Plan ahead ...**

### **ALL CHURCH WORSHIP SERVICE AND PICNIC**

**Sunday, May 31**

**at our new property!**

5271 W. Netherwood Road

Watch the May Newsletter for more details, and don't miss out on the fun!

### **HOSPITALIZED**

Chuck Teeter has been in the hospital recently. The church family is asked to keep him in its prayers.

### **ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS**

The Adult Sunday School Class continues to provide stimulating conversation and good fellowship on Sunday mornings from 9:15 – 10:00 AM. We meet in the lounge, adjacent to the sanctuary. All adults are welcome!

April 5 "Q-urious?" led by Joy Bernholdt

April 12 Easter Sunday – no classes

April 19 "What Do Engineers Dream About?" led by Paul Thompson

April 26 & May 3

"Why go to church?" led by Clara Thompson

May 10 "Travels of Paul," led by Steve Johnson

### **THANK YOU FROM CONFIRMATION CLASS!**

The 13 members of this year's Confirmation Class would like to thank the congregation for its generous support of their class's Stewardship Project. On Sunday, February 22, delicious homemade cherry pies were sold to the congregation. Profits from the sale totaled \$382! \$229.20 was donated to the Montreat Fund to help send our Senior High youth to the Presbyterian Youth Conference at Montreat, NC in August, and \$152.80 was added to the church's Building Fund for the new church. WOW!

### **IT'S A GIRL!**

Congratulations and all best wishes to Chris and Amie Mitchell, on the birth of their daughter, Celia Grace Mitchell. Celia was born on February 26, 2009, weighing 8 lbs and 3 oz and stretching 21 ½ inches long. She is joined at home by two big brothers. Proud grandparents are Jack and Connie Mitchell.

### **AND ANOTHER GIRL!**

Congratulations and all best wishes are also extended to Chris and Marit Klapoetke on the birth of their daughter Bethany Marina Klapoetke on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Bethany was 7 lbs and 10 oz at birth, and 19 ½ inches long. Congratulations also to grandparents Mark and Marcia McDermid!

## **FELLOWSHIP AUCTION FOLLOW-UP**

Thank you to everyone who came together to make this first-time event succeed beyond our wildest dreams. Because of your generosity, we were able to raise about \$4,900! Special thanks to Paul Thompson who was our hilarious MC for the afternoon, as well as Lyle Wanless of Town and Country Auction Services who donated his time and services to help make our event successful. The two of them made a great team!

Other special thanks to: the Montreat Youth and their parents for helping with the lunch, our volunteers, our bidders, and all our donors, especially Mike and Christy Archer and Scot Williams who donated extra items after the auction was done in order to accommodate the demand for them!

All donors and buyers should have received an auction summary sheet either by e-mail or regular mail. If you have not received yours, please contact Renee Martell at 835-8557. You can also contact Renee if you have any questions about your auction items.

Thank you for your support!  
The Fellowship Committee

## **MEMBER UPDATE**

Many of you know Emily Turrell, granddaughter of Ralph and Martha Stromquist, who is serving on the U.S. Navy aircraft carrier Dwight D. Eisenhower. She is on a six-month cruise, currently headed for Iraq to deliver military equipment and supplies. She can be reached by e-mail, and we are sure she would be delighted to hear from you. Her e-mail address is:  
Turrelej@cvn69.navy.mil

## **NEW MISSION COMMITTEE PROJECT**

Do you ever purchase gasoline, food, clothes? If you do, you will soon have the opportunity to participate in a new church project.

Mission Committee will be coordinating the sale of gift cards to hundreds of retailers in the Oregon/Madison

area. Our church will receive between 2 percent and 16 percent of the retail value of the gift card. Ninety percent of the proceeds from the sale of these gift cards will go to furnishing the new church kitchen and ten percent of the proceeds will go to other Mission work. We are currently looking for an energetic person willing to spend 2-3 hours per week overseeing this project. If you are interested or have questions...contact Tom Niebauer (835-3724). Learn more about this project at [www.glscrip.com](http://www.glscrip.com) (Great Lakes Scrip).

## **EXTRA SPECIAL PRESCHOOL/KINDERGARTEN NEWS**

We have been very busy!! Our church family really enjoys our singing so we have shared our songs in worship several times lately and we always see lots of smiles. We had fun digging in the dirt on March 1 with Mr. Mitchell. We planted seeds and the next Sunday there were little plants – God is amazing! Now we are learning about Noah's Ark and the special rainbow God put high in the sky.

We are excited to have a new friend in our class and she likes chocolate chip cookies the best. One of our friends had a very bad blizzard (sometimes they are called blisters), but it healed nicely. We also have several wiggly teeth, some new teeth coming in, and some teeth we just know are going to be wiggly soon. And in case you are wondering, if you eat cotton candy from the movie store you will get car sick. Now you know. Until next time.....

## **FINANCIAL UPDATE – February 29, 2009**

### **GENERAL FUND**

Amount pledged year to date:	\$22,393.50
Pledges received year to date:	\$15,122.00
Per Capita bill:	\$6,215.75
Received to date:	\$2,213.05

### **BUILDING APPEAL**

Amount committed:	\$809,252.00
Pledges received to date:	\$590,109.15

*Thank you for your financial gifts to the First Presbyterian Church!*

## **CORNERSTONE**

The following "Update from the Building Committee" was given in worship on Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, regarding our church's desire to build a new facility on our West Netherwood Road property:

You may remember that on January 19th the Oregon Village Council gave us permission to submit a request to have our Netherwood Road property annexed into the village. Since that time Ted Belanus & I have met with our building and architectural team and the village staff to lay out a time line and a procedure outline that will control our activities for the next nine months.

You may take some comfort in the fact that this process seems to be very "Presbyterian" in its nature. There are many committees and many meetings.

One of the meetings this month is unique in that it will be a combined meeting with both the Village of Oregon staff & the Capitol Area Regional Planning Committee. This will be Dane County's first look at our project and their reaction will go a long way in determining the accuracy of our time line.

I look forward to updating you next month.

Steve Jenson (on behalf of the FPC Building Committee)

## **DID YOU KNOW THAT OUR CHURCH OWNS A 2 OCTAVE SET OF MALLMARK HANDBELLS?**

They were donated in honor of Clara's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of serving First Presbyterian Church here in Oregon.

They are beginning to gather some dust and should be played so all can enjoy their beautiful sound. This is where I need involvement from all of you musicians out there.

What do I mean by musicians? Someone who loves music, listening or playing. Someone who knows your left from your right, ☺ Someone who knows the basics of reading and counting music. Someone who enjoys and is not afraid of learning something new. Someone high school age and older. Someone who can commit to a group that will meet for an hour, once a week, for at least six weeks.

I would love to get a new group up and "ringing" again this Spring. Time to get those bells out of the closet and into the hands of some talented Presbyterians. Rehearsal time is negotiable but Wednesday evenings from 5:45 - 7:00 PM has worked well in the past. The group can determine what works best for them.

I need 8 committed people to make it work. If you are younger than high school and would like to learn to "ring" let me know and maybe a younger group could be formed as well.

Call or e-mail me if you are interested. Char Hanson @ 835-5937 or [hanson52@charter.net](mailto:hanson52@charter.net)

## **THE FOOD PANTRY IS OPEN!**

*Thursday, April 30 3:00 – 6:00 PM*

*Thursday, May 28 3:00 – 6:00 PM*

*Thursday, June 25 3:00 – 6:00 PM*

"The Oregon/Brooklyn Food Pantry's primary mission, with the generous support of the community, is to serve Oregon School District residents who believe they need assistance in supplementing their supply of nutritious food and basic necessities. Our goal is to be a consistent, dependable resource for our clients, cooperating when possible with other community agencies. The Pantry Coordinators and other volunteers will act as stewards of God's bounty in a respectful and non-judgmental manner." (Mission Statement)

The Food Pantry is located at the back of the Hefty Warehouse at 1092 Union Road (corner of Union & Lincoln).

***If you or someone you know would benefit from the services of the Brooklyn/Oregon Food Pantry, please make use of it!***

## **WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR NEWSLETTER ON E-MAIL?**

If you would prefer to receive your Church Newsletter via e-mail, the church office would be glad to provide you with that service! E-mail Karen Detra (Office Manager) at [karenfpc@verizon.net](mailto:karenfpc@verizon.net) and let her know.

## UPDATE ON MISSION PROJECT IN GUATEMALA

The following is an excerpt of an email from Phil Hanson regarding his year of service in Guatemala and our church's financial support as he seeks to purchase books for the orphanage's library:

"The book shopping went GREAT. We spent \$1100 (anticipating some money from Theo's church) and were able to purchase all of the academic books necessary for elementary school in several subjects (math, science, language, social studies) and also several books for the teacher (pedagogy). In addition, we bought a variety of non academic books, some educational and others for leisure. We tried to get a variety of topics as well as reading levels. Also, we spent some money to buy a few simple games (parchisi, checkers, etc).

Some highlights of our purchases include: 3 Where's Waldo books, the first Harry Potter, Eragon, and the tessellation-like puzzles where you are given a shape and you have to arrange various smaller shapes to create the larger figure (we had them when we were kids).

Lastly, we are going to be doing more exciting work at the City of Joy (a mixed gender orphanage on the outskirts of Esquipulas, Guatemala). We are going to design and construct a playground! We've thought a lot about it and are really excited. We are going to try and incorporate recycling into the design and use lots of tires."

- Phil Hanson

## SCHOOLS OF HOPE TUTORING AT OREGON MIDDLE SCHOOL

*Do you want to make a difference?*

*Do you have the desire to give back to your community?*

*Do you have 45 minutes to an hour a week available?*

How about volunteering as a **Schools of Hope (SOH) Tutor** at **Oregon Middle School**?

Here at Oregon Middle School, we believe that all our students have the potential to be successful in all that they do. Please help them recognize this potential by

becoming a tutor. Not only will you be helping them academically, but you will also be creating a lasting bond.

Take advantage of this opportunity and give back to your community. Make a commitment to a youth today and give them the chance to succeed. Volunteer today at Oregon Middle School as a Schools of Hope Tutor and make a difference in the life of a youth.

What does it take to be a tutor?

- Desire to help our students
- Willingness to dedicate 45 minutes to 1 hour a week to a student(s)

**\*\*No former experience or expertise is required!\*\***

For Further Information, Please Contact:

Pang Vang, Tutor Coordinator  
[phv@oregonsd.org](mailto:phv@oregonsd.org)  
835-4887

Remember: It only takes 1 to make a difference!

## DIRECTORY CHANGES

Please add the following to your 2009 First Presbyterian Church Directory:

OSMOND, Gary\* and Sue  
Margaret Sargent\*  
403 Bramble Lane  
Brooklyn, WI 53521  
455-1620  
email: [sue@garyosmond.com](mailto:sue@garyosmond.com)

## INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK (IHN)

- A non-profit organization serving homeless families with children since 1999
- Partners with 48 local congregations and over 1000 volunteers each year to provide shelter, meals and support for families

First Presbyterian Church is a "buddy" church along with Holy Mother Catholic Church, St. John's Lutheran Church, People's United Methodist Church, Community United Methodist in Brooklyn, and Memorial United Church of Christ.

This is a truly ecumenical mission in Oregon where we provide shelter, meals, activities, and support to the families in the program for one week, four times per year.

Currently, FPC is responsible for providing one night of meals and activities. We provide a turkey dinner with all the fixings, volunteers to supervise children's activities, two overnight hosts to spend the night, and breakfast the next morning. We are also responsible for loading up the U-Haul truck at the end of the week with all of the guests' belongings.

We have been involved with IHN for the past 3 years now and have had the opportunity of providing volunteers about four times each year. The next opportunity is during the week of May 3 through May 10<sup>th</sup> (Mother's Day). We will be in charge of dinner, activities and the overnight on TUESDAY, May 5<sup>th</sup> and breakfast on Wednesday morning, May 6<sup>th</sup>. We will also need to find volunteers to move luggage onto the U-Haul on Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>.

If you are interested in volunteering

or learning more about this wonderful mission, please contact Wendy McNall by phone at 835-8049 or email [wendy.mcnall@yahoo.com](mailto:wendy.mcnall@yahoo.com)

**APRIL 15 IS THE DEADLINE TO  
SUBMIT ARTICLES FOR THE MAY  
NEWSLETTER**

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(cut here)  
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**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION FORM:**

Yes! I'd like to sign up my child(ren) for this year's Vacation Bible School on Wednesday, June 24, from 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM. I understand that the cost is \$8.00 per child, with a maximum of \$20.00 per family. I also understand that I must sign up my child by April 19 if I want to guarantee my child(ren)'s participation:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of child and age

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of child and age

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of child and age

Please return your Registration Form to First Presbyterian Church by April 19, 2009...  
there is a box for your form on the table in the foyer.