

MID-SUMMER 2009

SESSION UPDATE

At the Session meeting on Thursday, July 16, Daniel Yeazel was approved as the Bridging Pastor for First Presbyterian Church. If Dan's name sounds familiar, it is because he has served as guest minister at FPC on occasion. Dan received his Master of Divinity degree from San Francisco Theological Seminary. He was Pastor at Community Presbyterian Church in Grand Rapids, MN, as well as at Dale Heights Presbyterian Church in Madison. Dan will serve as our Bridging Pastor from August 17 through October 18. In the event the search for our Interim Pastor takes longer than anticipated, Dan is willing to extend his contract with us. We welcome him to the ministry and family of First Presbyterian Church.

FROM THE BRIDGE

Dear Members and Friends of First Presbyterian Church,

It is a pleasure to be invited by Session to serve you as Bridging Pastor over the coming few months. Clara is a good friend and colleague of mine in the Presbytery and it will be a special privilege to walk with First Presbyterian Church while the search for an interim pastor takes place. The last thirty years have been an extraordinary chapter in the life of the congregation. During this bridging time we will begin the process of living into "what comes next". As you may know, my role in this short-term ministry is meant to provide week to week continuity while the groundwork is done for identifying an interim pastor. In this half time position, I will be leading worship each week, serving on the worship committee, providing for pastoral care and counseling. I do not have office hours set at this point, please feel to call me at home at 824-9411. I look forward to meeting each of you. Over the years, I have had a few occasions to preach at First Presbyterian Church. Hopefully, I'll look familiar - just a little older.

In my ministry I have served two churches and one healthcare system. I was born and raised in Madison, my wife Monica and I have two children Sarah (14) and Adam (12). Other than Madison, we've lived in San Francisco and Northern MN. (We keep finding our way back here!)

I start the week of August 17th. See you then.

Grace and Peace,

Dan Yeazel
Bridging Pastor FPC

SUMMER CHOIR... will be singing on August 30. If you would like to participate, arrive at church at 8:45 AM for rehearsal. All are welcome to sing.

MONTREAT BOUND!

Lindsay Arndt, Ryan Arndt, Luke Belanus, Neil Belanus, Heather Edgren, Melissa Eyers, Haley Hyames, Mariah Isola, David Johnson, Brandon Jones, Rebekah Krenz, Grace Ledin, Katie McGuigan, Eva Meyer, Patrick Mielke, Sam Pavel, and Amanda Quam will be heading to the Presbyterian Youth Conference at Montreat, North Carolina along with chaperones Ted Belanus, Tom Mielke, and Jen Williams, from August 1 – August 8.

In addition to the \$425.00 that each of the individuals going contributes, the youth have also been busy with a lot of fund raising. The group wishes to express their sincere appreciation to the church family for all of the support given as the group has been busy raising money to help defray expenses. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you one and all!

MONTREAT SUNDAY – August 16!

Come share the excitement! Share the faith! Share the enthusiasm! The youth and adults who participate in the Presbyterian Youth Conference at Montreat, North Carolina in August will lead in worship on Sunday, August 16 at 9:30 AM. This is always a wonderful service as the youth share the Montreat experience with the congregation. It's definitely a Sunday you won't want to miss!

SUNDAY MORNING FELLOWSHIP

Come to church early, or stay after worship, for a cup of coffee/juice and a treat! This time of church family fellowship has quickly become quite popular with our church family and it's great to see so many people visiting both before and after worship ... if you haven't participated, give it a try!

CAN YOU HELP WITH SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE BAR?

The Sunday Morning Coffee Bar has become very popular with our church family, but we need more people to help with it. It's not a difficult task ... just order a couple of pots of coffee from Kwik Trip and bring a treat or two. More specific "helpful hints" will be sent to you. PLEASE SIGN-UP to help with this enjoyable fellowship offering. The sign-up sheet is on the Coffee Bar table.

PICTURES, PICTURES, PICTURES!

Photos from the picnic/party/pig roast for Clara are available online, at: <http://georgej.zenfolio.com/clara>. Feel free to download whichever photos you like - they are posted in a size appropriate for making good quality 4x6 prints. To download a photo, hover your mouse over its top left corner, and from the menu select "Download Original". If you'd like to, you may also select "Send Link" and e-mail the album or individual photo web address to friends who may be interested. The album will remain online until the end of August.

DVD KEEPSAKE

Did you miss Clara's last sermon? Did you miss the Pig Roast Celebration of her retirement?

We would like to make that last day available to the congregation. It is a fabulous 2 DVD set made possible by Ralph Stromquist and his fabulous camera and computer skills. Hear her last sermon and enjoy the Pig Roast and "Roasting of the Pastor" at Goodland Park.

Please sign up for your copy or copies at the Coffee Bar table in the back of the sanctuary or let Char Hanson know by phone 835-5934 or e-mail @ hanson52@charter.net. A free will offering will be received for the 2 DVD set.

WEDDING BELLS

Congratulations and all best wishes to the following couples who were married recently.

Kristyn Jordan and Ryan Hodal were married at First Presbyterian Church on June 6, 2009

Laura Brethauer and Alex Lewein were married at Folklore Village on June 20, 2009

Jackie Slightam and Corey Amlong were married at Lake Windsor Country Club on June 27, 2009

Kim Hyames and Dan Foor were married at First Presbyterian Church on July 11, 2009

BAPTISMS

Jayda Charliilshay Lynn Frazier, daughter of Ariel Lashay Bonita Frazier and Nicholas Patrick Cochran, and Avery Lynn Johnson, daughter of Nicholas Alan Johnson and Jennifer Lynn (Baylor) Johnson, were baptized during morning worship on Sunday, June 14. What a joy to welcome these children of God!

HOSPITAL

Edith Wilimovsky has been in the hospital recently. The church family is asked to keep her in its prayers.

SYMPATHY

The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are offered to the following people who have lost loved ones in recent weeks:

Evie Overton and family on the death of her husband Jim

Mike and Christy Archer on the death of Christy's uncle

MEMORIALS RECEIVED

Generous gifts to the church's Memorial Fund and Choir Fund have been received in loving memory of Jim Overton. Memorial gifts are a wonderful and lasting way to remember a loved one. Thank you so much!

STROMQUISTS TO CELEBRATE 50th

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Ralph and Martha Stromquist will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Sunday, August 9, 2009. They are having an open house in the afternoon, beginning at 1:00 PM, at their home at 2132 Sand Hill Road, Oregon. All of their Oregon and First Presbyterian Church friends are invited to come and join in the celebration. No gifts, please, other than your presence.

FOOD PANTRY

We're going into a summer where the number of people in need of food in our area is between 350 and 400, more than any previous summer, so we are looking forward to your help with the summer food drive. Thank you so much for your generosity.

In an effort to keep the Oregon/Brooklyn Food Pantry stocked for the summer, each month, each church will be asked to donate specific items. During the month of August the Presbyterian Church is asked to donate peanut butter and canned or boxed meals. You may place your donations in the wooden box in the narthex.

Some people have asked about donating garden produce. Yes, certainly, but we could only accept it the morning of open Food Pantry (last Thursday of the month), or the afternoon/evening before. Please contact your church food pantry representative if you have something to donate.

FINANCIAL UPDATE –

June 30, 2009

GENERAL FUND

Amount pledged year to date: \$67,180.50

Pledges received year to date: \$66,740.00

Per Capita bill:

\$6,215.75

Received to date:

\$2,559.50 **BUILDING APPEAL**

Amount committed:

\$809,252.00

Pledges received to date:

\$626,717.79

**AUGUST 15 IS THE DEADLINE FOR
THE SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER**

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

On June 24th, eighteen kids and twelve adults spent the day at the Netherwood property for Vacation Bible School. Our theme this year was "God's Backyard and Bugs" and our scripture was the Creation Story. We started our day with breakfast by cracking our own eggs and then eating under a big shady tree. We needed that good breakfast because we had a jam packed day.

We learned about each of the seven days of creation and made a book to take home. There were lots of crafts to make like bug jars, backpacks, rock painting, and binoculars. In the afternoon we learned about bugs from Mrs. Niebauer and then we each got our very own bug net and went out catching bugs for our bug jars. It was very hot but don't worry, we had our backpacks with a water bottle!

There was also an artist in residence there all day. She painted a really cool picnic table and we all got to put our hand prints on the seats. There are also a couple of foot prints so look closely when you see the table!!

In case you are wondering, we did have plenty to eat. Besides our good breakfast we had Bible School gorp (it's a secret recipe), popsicles, our bag lunches, dirt dessert with worms, and we made bugs from peanut butter play dough that we ate!!!

There was also time to play in the sprinkler, sing songs, read books and just have fun. It was an awesome day and everyone (including the adults) went home tired, dirty and happy!! A big THANK YOU to everyone who donated food and supplies. Another big THANK YOU to our friend, Norm, who opened his backyard and home to us for a great day!!

**AUGUST 15 IS THE DEADLINE FOR
THE SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER**

THANK YOU FROM CLARA

Dear members and friends of FPC-Oregon,

I can't thank you enough for the beautiful "send off" you gave me and my family on June 28. It was probably the most amazing service of worship I've ever been privileged to lead or participate in, from the first note of the Prelude to the last note of the Postlude. Thank you for your presence as we worshiped God together, filling the sanctuary with the most glorious sounds as we sang and prayed and worshiped together. Thank you for the absolutely beautiful quilt that is filled with so much love that my heart will be warm forever. Thank you for the very fun Pig Roast/Pastor Roast at Goodland Park ... the meal was delicious, the fellowship wonderful, and the "roast" great fun! Dear friends, I can't imagine a better way to celebrate our ministry together and my retirement. I am humbled by your many expressions of love.

God's continuing blessings on you and yours,
your friend, Clara

JULIA LANDMARK FOSTER

Sympathies are extended to the family of Julia Landmark Foster, former organist of our church from about 1975-1985. She passed away July 4. She was a founding member of the Philharmonic Chorus of Madison and served as accompanist for 56 years. Her obituary assures that "there will be music..." at the memorial service which will be held Wednesday, August 5, at 2:00 at HospiceCare in Fitchburg.

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 August 30th through September 6th (Labor Day weekend). We will be in charge of dinner, activities and the overnight on **TUESDAY, September 1st** (the first day of school in the Oregon School District) and breakfast on Wednesday morning, September 2nd. We will also need to find volunteers to move luggage onto the U-Haul on **Sunday, September 6th**.

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