

THE CHURCH'S LIFE
News of the First Presbyterian Church
Oregon, Wisconsin

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PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Members and Friends of FPC,

As I write this, my family and I are just now finishing a week in Scotland and England. It has been a wonderful trip; so much can happen in a short time. On our travels I've taken notice of a number of intriguing bridges. We've seen an old arch bridge in Scotland made famous by the Harry Potter films (when the train heads to Hogwarts), we've seen the Millennium bridge in London, London Bridge, and we've seen a number of wee little bridges that can handle only one car at a time! Bridges serve an important purpose on a journey making connections between distinct points.

FPC is now between two distinct points having said farewell to Clara after her many years here and preparing to welcome new pastoral leadership for the congregation. As we begin a time of bridging, I look forward to our short journey together. It will be brief, but I hope, helpful as FPC moves forward in faith.

Fall approaches and we return to our routines, yet things may not feel "the same" here at FPC. Many thanks go to everyone who is taking on extra responsibility to serve the ministry as an interim pastor is sought. There are significant issues that will need attention as we return from our summer activities; the building project and fall stewardship to name just a few. Please keep the church leaders in your prayers and thank them as you see them!

See you Sunday,

Grace and Peace,

Dan Yeazel

Sunday, September 13

9:00 AM **Opening Fellowship/Sunday Coffee Bar**
9:15 – 10:15 AM **Sunday School Classes** resume for children
3 years old (and toilet trained) by September 1st, through adults
10:30 AM **Worship for the entire church family**
First Graders Welcomed
Dedication of Teaching Staff
(Childcare is available for children in kindergarten and younger,
for those families who would prefer to use it.)
11:30 AM **Coffee Fellowship**

**CHOIR REHEARSAL RESUMES
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9th**

at 7:00 PM. ALL ARE WELCOME to join. Make this the year you worship God in Song.

MISSION SUNDAY

September 27 is Mission Sunday. We will have three guest speakers presenting a photo summary of their recent Mission Trips. Dolly and Grace Ledin will talk to us about their 9 months in Costa Rica and Phillip Hanson will give us a tour of Guatemala. Also, the contributions to the Coffee Bar, both before and after the 10:30 service will be devoted to these missionaries.

Come join us for an enlightening church service.

**WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY IS
OCTOBER 4.**

Plan now to be a part of this world wide gathering of Christians around the Table of our Lord.

BREAKFAST BUNCH

Eat breakfast? Don't eat alone! The Breakfast Bunch is a gathering of Presbyterians who meet on the first Wednesday morning of the month at the Oregon Family Restaurant (back room). The coffee is poured at 8:00 and then you can order anything you want for breakfast. Order what you want; pay for what you order. We usually finish up around 9:00. Come and join friends from church for breakfast, fellowship, and conversation. And, with everything else at church, feel free to bring a friend!

**FINANCIAL UPDATE –
July 31, 2009**

Amount pledged year to date: \$78,377.25
Pledges received year to date: \$75,525.00
Per Capita bill: \$6,215.75
Received to date: \$2,559.50

BUILDING APPEAL

Amount committed: \$809,252.00
Pledges received to date: \$631,925.79

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE!

As summer comes to an end and we all settle back into a routine, please take time to consider your pledge for 2009 and bring it up to date. The church's budget is tight and we count heavily on the offerings to pay the monthly obligations.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

The Adult Class will once again be offering a terrific line-up of classes this fall. The class meets in the lounge, adjacent to the sanctuary, from 9:15 – 10:00 AM, with a wide variety of topics. All adults are welcome to participate!

GOT A NEWSLETTER ARTICLE?

All newsletter articles are due by the 15th of every month. You may email your articles Karenfpc@verizon.net, or put them in Karen Detra's mailbox. Late newsletter articles will be included in the next month's newsletter if appropriate. Thank you for your helpful consideration!

CONSECRATION SUNDAY IS COMING...OCTOBER 18th!

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a Biblical perspective do not regard money that Christians give to their church as merely a way to pay bills. Instead, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation's Session has selected the *New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

New Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. *New Consecration Sunday* encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?" During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our friends and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Every friend and member who completes an *Estimate of Giving Card* does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. Even if you feel strongly opposed to completing a card, we urge you to attend. The service will be conducted in a way that will not cause personal embarrassment to anyone who chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest leader will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members and

friends making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday Stewardship team and Session members. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and invite everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events!

Sincerely,

Dave Hanson, Chair Consecration Sunday Stewardship Team

Consecration Sunday Stewardship Team – Mike Archer, Karen Detra, Nancy Freeman Wallace, Kelly Holthaus, Wendy McNall, Kristen Nelson, and Rev. Dan Yeazel.

YOUTH GROUP GATHERINGS

Hello once again from the youth group informational writing committee. It seems that Montreat 2009 was a hit with both the youth group attendees, and with the chaperones. And from the reaction of the crowd at church, more than just the kids think that Montreat is a great idea. For the upcoming fall season, we will again be heading off for the "Fall Cleanup." Those people wishing help with raking leaves should contact Jen to schedule a time.

Look for the new signup sheet for the upcoming youth group event. The sheet will be posted on the door in the office.

Cheers, Jen and Scot

WHERE ARE OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS?

If your family has a student in college, or a young adult who is not currently on our mailing list, please let the church office know their current address. We'd like to keep in touch with our students by sending them the church newsletter, and possibly corresponding with them by e-mail as well. PARENTS: Please call the church office (835-3082) with your student's address (including e-mail, if they have it), or email Karen Detra at karenfpc@verizon.net. Thank you!

HOSPITALIZED

Sue Moreland 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 extended to the following families who have lost loved ones in recent weeks:

Bob and Deb Ray, on the death of Bob's mother

MONTREAT REPORT

We'd like to start out by thanking the congregation for all their support, without which our Montreat experience would not have been possible. The theme for this year was *World on Fire* which included information that was eye-opening for many of us. We spent the week attending key-note, small group sessions, and evening worship. To break up the day, there were recreational events offered both in the afternoon and at night. When there weren't any scheduled activities, many of us spent time at the South Carolina Home which is the house we rented for the week. Montreat is a life changing experience and we left inspired to strengthen our faith and help to fight the fires of our every day lives.

HELP WANTED POSITIONS

1. LIGHTS! CAMERA!

ACTION! A volunteer to coordinate videotaping church services for WOW-TV (local cable channel). Services are taped every six weeks for broadcast. The volunteer would be responsible for making sure the equipment is available on the scheduled Sundays, arrange for a camera operator, and deliver the recording to the WOW office prior to the broadcast date.

2. CAN YOU PICTURE THIS?

A volunteer to identify FPC members in local newspapers and post photos on the church bulletin board.

The positions can be shared by several volunteers. Positions will continue until a permanent pastor is installed. Interested? Please contact Deb Ray @ browneyedgirl424@sbcglobal.net or 273-8544.

BILL'S FOOD CENTER "SUPPORTS OREGON" PROGRAM

The Session of First Presbyterian Church recently approved our church's participation in the program sponsored by Bill's Food Center in Oregon, which supports non-profit groups within the community. Many of you are probably already familiar with this program. It's easy for you to participate. All you need to do is request an orange "Supports Oregon" sticker on your receipt when you shop at Bill's. Then save your receipt and deposit it in the container at church. The container will be clearly marked for collection of the receipts. Periodically we will total the value of the collected receipts and turn them into Bill's for a 1% reimbursement to the church. The Session will determine how these funds can best be utilized.

So, start saving your Bill's receipts and donate them to church! It's as easy as that!

FOOD PANTRY

We reached a new record at the July Food Pantry: 130 families representing 410 family members! That is why the contributions made by each church and its congregation are so important.

We are also happy to receive your excess garden produce, but only on the Wednesday directly before and on Food Pantry Thursday up to 2:00 PM. If you have some to donate either call your church Food Pantry representative or call Connie (291-0061) or Joyce (222-3399) to make arrangements for a drop-off. Thanks so much for your help.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES RESUME SEPTEMBER 13 @ 9:15 AM!

DOING OUR PART TO “GO GREEN”!

Just imagine how much the church could save on printing and postage?!??!

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 karenpfc@verizon.net and let her know.