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MAY 2010

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

There is this lovely stack of crayon pictures on my new desk. They say things like, “Hi! My name is Paul. I am 6. I like to play.” and “Hi! My name is Sydney. I am 5. I like to play with my sister outside.” And there is a really lovely drawing along with that one of two sisters running around with, I think, a dog. I now know these children’s names and their favorite activities, but I don’t know much about them personally.

That’s kind of how we are right now. I can look through the church directory and I have met a few of you, but I still do not know many of you personally. You have seen my name, you may have even met me this past Sunday—but you don’t know a whole lot about me, either.

Hi! My name is Jess. I am, um, beyond the age where I have enough fingers to excitedly and easily tell you my age. I too like to play outside, namely skiing and sledding in the winter and sailing and biking in the summer. Like Ryan, 2 ½, I like to play games—euchre, pictionary, taboo, monopoly (though my husband, Tom, thinks I should come with a disclaimer: “Warning: rabid and ruthless monopoly player.”) Like Jack, 4 ½, I also like to play puzzles, but unlike Joshua, age 5, I do not have a science kit I like to do.

While it’s kind of fun to give you a 3 sentence overview, I look forward to getting to know one another far beyond paper facts. I look forward to growing spiritually with you through worship and Bible study. I look forward to small group meetings and sharing our stories. I look forward to laughter and sometimes tears. I look forward to being your interim pastor.

Last week, we had a Session meeting and I got to hear some favorite memories—they centered quite a bit on church-wide activities—painting the sanctuary, camping trips, special moments in worship such as baptisms and confirmations. I am looking forward to being part of those as well as we get to know one another.

There are a few other more logistical ways we can get to know each other. I have a church email address: jessfpc@verizon.net I am still navigating office hours, but I am fairly regularly available by appointment—feel free to call the church office and if I am not there, I will call you back to schedule a time to meet. In the next few weeks, I will hopefully post a more definite schedule as I settle in to a routine.

Looking forward to moving beyond, “Hi! My name is...” and into service together!

Grace and peace,

Jess

MAY IS VOLUNTEER MONTH

Everyone is encouraged to bring their calendars to church with them during the month of May. Posted on the bulletin board outside the secretary's office are schedules for Ushers, Coffee Fellowship Hosts/Hostesses, Childcare Providers, Communion Stewards, and Summer Liturgists.

Impressed with the youth who serve as Liturgists during the school year? During May and June YOU (children through adults!) can have the opportunity to help lead in worship. Friendly and helpful training will be provided!

This is YOUR chance to sign up for the jobs YOU would like to do most, on the dates that are most convenient for you. Brief job descriptions are given by the calendars. We are especially encouraging children to sign up to be Ushers ... what a wonderful way to help in worship! You are encouraged to sign-up as an individual or as a family...just sign-up! *Thank you!*

SUMMER WORSHIP HOURS

Beginning on Sunday, May 16 worship will be at 9:30 AM. We will gather for worship each Sunday morning at 9:30 until early September. Please be sure to mark your calendars!

SPRING CLEAN UP DAY – May 22!

The Property Committee is preparing for the annual church Spring Clean Up Day. We could use your help! Mark your calendars for May 22nd from 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon, to participate in one of the many projects to keep our church beautiful. No work experience or sign-up is needed - we will find a project you are willing to volunteer for when you arrive at church.

Thanks for helping to keep our church beautiful.

OUTDOOR WORSHIP – May 23rd

Mark your calendar for Sunday, May 23rd! The Worship Committee is planning for an outdoor service at our new property ... 5271 W. Netherwood Road. Worship will begin at 9:30, and then we'll move right on into our All Church Picnic. This will be a very fun day for our church family, so come and celebrate what God is doing in our midst!

ALL CHURCH PICNIC – May 23rd

Mark your calendar now for the All-Church Picnic. The All Church Picnic will be held out *on our new property* (5271 W. Netherwood Road) on Sunday, May 23rd, immediately following 9:30 AM worship. Brats and hotdogs, beverages, and tableware will be provided. Please bring a side dish to accompany the meal. Feel free to bring lawn games to share. *Everyone* is invited!

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

The Adult Class has just a couple of more weeks before we go on summer vacation. On May 2 Bob Ray will finish his discussion of the book "Guns, Germs, and Steel." Then on May 9, the topic is Pentecost. What is it? What really happened? Come and take part in a discussion on the meaning of Pentecost. All adults are welcome! We meet in the lounge, adjacent to the sanctuary, from 9:15 – 10:00 AM.

SUMMER COFFEE BAR FELLOWSHIP

The Sunday Morning Coffee Bar will continue throughout the summer. Come early on Sunday mornings for a time of fellowship and coffee and/or juice, or stay after worship for awhile to catch up with each other's lives. This has become a wonderful opportunity for fellowship for our church family, and many thanks for those who have volunteered to provide the coffee and treats!

SENIOR LUNCHEON

The 2010 Spring Senior Luncheon is in the books. Our theme was "Thanksgiving in March" and Norm cooked up a Thanksgiving feast. We had a good crowd and were entertained by local folk musicians Casey and Greg. If you are interested in hearing Casey and Greg again, they have a regular gig at Quivey's Grove and <http://dayxday.org/music/> is their website.

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make the meal run smoothly, from helping with invitations, to cooking and serving food, to decorating, and washing dishes. A special thanks to Norm Walmer for cooking this big meal! Thanks, Norm! Hope everyone enjoyed themselves.

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 and let her know.

WEDDING BELLS

Eric Tissot and Rebecca Sichel were married in our church on April 3, with the Rev. Woody Cary performing the ceremony. Eric is now working for Anodyne Coffee Roasters in Milwaukee, and Becca is a doctoral student in Materials Science Engineering. They make their home in Madison.

IT'S A GIRL

Bob and Deb Edgren became grandparents on April 1, 2010. Kaylynn Grace was born at 12:21 AM weighing 7 lbs 3 oz and 20 3/4 inches long. Proud parents are David and Andrea Merchant residing in Kansas City, MO

SYMPATHY

The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are offered to those who have suffered loss in recent weeks:

John and Irene Warner on the death of their sister-in-law.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Thank you to all who contributed to the \$471.00 for this year's One Great Hour of Sharing Offering during Lent. Thank you for your generosity!

SUMMER NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

Would you like to spend an hour or two playing with our youngsters this summer? We're looking for volunteers to help fill the nursery schedule for the summer. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Renee Martell at mikeandrenee@charter.net or at 835-8557. Thank you!

FINANCIAL UPDATE – March 31, 2010

GENERAL FUND

Amount pledged year to date:	\$33,048.48
Pledges received year to date:	\$29,570.00
Per Capita bill:	\$6,171.55
Received to date:	\$2,511.75

BUILDING APPEAL

Amount committed:	\$809,252.00
Pledges received to date:	\$711,557.14

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

BILL'S RECEIPTS

You all are doing a fantastic job turning in your Bill's Receipts with stickers and it is paying off. Thus far since last September, we have received \$614.88 just for shopping at Bill's. What a great deal!

SHOE BOXES NEEDED

Vacation Bible School needs adult size shoe boxes with hinged/attached lids. If you have some at home, and are able to donate them, please leave them on the counter in the upstairs Sunday School room #2. That room is at the end of the hall and faces the parking lot. Wendy Goist Jones, Judy Belanus, Lori Johnson or Char Hanson would be glad to help you find the room. We have special plan for these boxes and we think the kids will be excited with the end product. Stay tuned for more details about Vacation Bible School.

EASTER BREAKFAST A "HOPPING" SUCCESS

The scrumptious breakfast prepared by the men of the church, enthusiastically served by young people going to the Triennium Youth Conference at Purdue University this summer and graciously consumed by many members and friends, raised approximately \$300 for this year's youth trip. THANKS to all who contributed and joined us on Easter morning.

The "Men's Easter Breakfast" began over 60 years ago when John Black organized the party as a way to promote fellowship between what was a Sunrise Service and the regular 10:30 a.m. Service. The last 10 years or so any profit has gone to various youth group activities.

MAY 16 IS THE DEADLINE FOR THE SUMMER 2010 NEWSLETTER

THANK YOU

A big THANK YOU for your generous donations of \$149.40 to the March Coffee Bar! The beneficiary will be the Central Asia Institute, which builds and maintains balanced, non-extremist schools in isolated, rugged areas of Pakistan and Afghanistan. Clean water projects and adult vocational training are additional programs funded by this organization. This non-profit agency is directed by Greg Mortenson, the author of Three Cups of Tea, which was discussed for three adult Sunday School sessions last month. Keeping in mind that our money goes much further in this developing area, our donation of nearly \$150 could be used for:

- school supplies for 7 1/2 students for one year OR
- 3 treadle sewing machines and supplies OR
- maternal health care supplies for 1 1/2 years OR
- 1 teacher's salary for 3 months

The Youth Sunday School classes launched their own Pennies for Peace campaign April 11th, which will run through the end of the program year and will be added to our church donation.

ESPKN

(Extra Special Preschool/Kindergarten News)

Everything is changing!! The colors at church changed to white on Easter to celebrate Jesus being alive again! The grass is changing to green, the flowers around church are blooming, the birds are singing, we're playing soccer instead of hockey, and the best part – well, we have changed to light jackets and some of us even got to wear sandals! We all just love playing outside on the warm days and we hope there is no more snow.

We have been learning a fun new song from the Singing Lady. We get to sit down and turn around really fast! Projects are our favorite thing to do at Sunday School and we are very creative. If it takes markers (we really like the smelly kind) and glue we are happy. Until next time....

FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry is available to anyone in the Oregon-Brooklyn School District. You don't have to prove to anyone that you are having financial difficulties. Just come, and bring a utility bill to prove that you live in this school district. Don't feel guilty; many of your friends and neighbors have needed help at times. We're here for you, the last Thursday afternoon of the month. If you need us, come.

DOES YOUR WILL INCLUDE THE CHURCH?

Each of us is privileged to be able to give to the church on a weekly, monthly, or annual basis. We do so because of our understanding that all that we have is a gift from God. Our tithes and offerings are one way in which we give thanks to God for the abundant blessings we have received.

One of the ways we can continue to witness to our faith in Jesus Christ is to include the church in our Last Will and Testament. Ideally, our wills say what we believe ... about family, faith, and commitment. Your inclusion of the church in your will reminds your family of your priorities, and is an opportunity to

demonstrate those priorities by a very effective and powerful action.

Our church established an Endowment Fund in September of 2002. All gifts to the Endowment Fund, from estates or living donors, will be kept in perpetuity, enabling the Session to make disbursements from the income, but not the principle, as it deems appropriate in support of projects that reflect the mission of our church. In addition to this general Endowment Fund, our church also has the College Scholarship Endowment Fund which was established in 1993 to help our confirmed youth with their first year college expenses. Or, you may wish to consider a gift to the Church Building Fund in your estate planning.

If you have already included the church in your will, *thank you!* If you haven't, would you consider it?

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!

Lindsay Arndt will graduate from Oregon High School in June and will be continuing her education at MATC to study Early Childhood Education. During high school, Lindsay was part of KEYS (Keeping Everyone You know Safe), IMAGINE (stop sexual violence group), S.A.L.T. (Student Asset Leadership Team), Spanish Club, Football Manager, and a four year Softball player. Lindsay is also employed at LaPetite Academy in Oregon. Lindsay would like to thank her church family for all the support through her youth years. Lindsay says that going to Montreat was the best memory she has as a church youth.

Dana Jenson will graduate in May from the UW, Madison, with a BS in anthropology. In addition, she has completed coursework toward acceptance into a Doctor of Physical Therapy program, and plans to apply to PT school beginning in 2011.

While attending school, she has enjoyed being a member of the Hooper's sailing club and is currently the photographer for the organization. She has played intramural tennis, and is an avid Badger fan.

During her undergraduate years, she

worked as a volunteer for over 2 years at Meriter hospital in the PT department, and was recently hired there part-time in the neuro. dept. as a PT aide. In addition, she has worked at the Greenbush restaurant as wait staff and bartender for the past 3 years. She is hoping to work full-time with Meriter at their PT clinic before being accepted to PT school next year, or in 2012.

Dana is looking forward to spending 5 weeks after graduation traveling with a friend in Greece, Italy and France! She's also looking forward to summer, and many hours sailing on Lake Mendota with friends, moving to a new apartment on Jenifer St. in Madison, and enjoying life!

Grace Ledin is very excited to be almost done with high school. During high school she was in ECOS, Drama club, Thespians and Model UN. She was in three plays and two musicals. She also played soccer and was on the swim team. She spent her junior year in Monteverde, Costa Rica. This really helped her decide what she wanted to do in college. This fall, she is going to Carroll University to study International studies and political science. After college, she would like to join the peace corps and travel the world.

Though it seems only yesterday that Clara baptized her as a four-month old, *Kaitlyn McGuigan* will graduate from Oregon High School on June 13. Katie's main extra-curricular activity has been 4-H. She has been a member of Brooklyn Mighty Mites for twelve years, participating in many leadership and community service activities. Katie learned about a variety of projects, but Sheep, Rabbits, Poultry and Horse/Pony have been her favorite and most enduring. Though animals will always be a part of her life, Katie has decided to pursue a four-year bachelor of science in nursing at Carroll University in Waukesha. Katie has volunteered for two years at Three Gaits Therapeutic Riding Center combining her love of horses and helping people.

At OHS, she is a member of Link Crew and National Honor Society. Her parents, Brian and Sue, are extremely proud of the kind, caring and dedicated young woman she has become and appreciative of

the love and support our church family showers upon its youth. Katie's talents will take her far in life, but for the next few years, her Mom and Dad are glad those talents are only taking her eighty miles away!

Eva Meyer is the daughter of Matt and Bev Meyer and will be graduating from Oregon High School on June 13. All Eva's school years have been spent in Oregon and she first started coming to First Presbyterian Church in 5th grade.

Eva participated in Girl Scouts for 6 years and in 2006 she received the Community Patch Award; she played Youth basketball for 6 years; and track and volleyball in middle school. Starting in high school, Eva took up tennis and played all four years. In addition to sports, Eva was chosen to be a Link Leader her junior and senior years. A Link Leader is a role model to the freshman in helping them make the transition into high school.

Music has also kept Eva busy; she plays piano and violin, with violin being her instrument of choice beginning in 4th grade. She received the opportunity to play at State for 2 years and has also played for church, weddings and social gatherings.

At church, Eva has many fun memories of participating in the Youth Group and going on the Mission trip to Minnesota, the Montreat Youth Conference and this summer to the Triennium. In 2009, she was given the opportunity to be the second youth to become a Session member; this included serving as the Chair of the Fellowship and Nominating Committees.

With all of this involvement Eva has also been an Honor Student all four years of high school. The last two years she has also worked, currently at Star Cinema.

In the fall, Eva will be attending the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse with the intent of becoming a Physician's Assistant. She will also be playing her violin in the UW-La Crosse orchestra.

Matt, Bev and Eva would like to thank the church family for your presence and help in preparing her for this next chapter of life .