

Interim Pastor: Jessica Scholten

Office: 835-3082
www.fpcoregon.org
email: karenfpc@merr.com

APRIL 2010

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! And a thank you as well. It was a blessing this past Sunday to worship with you and have the pleasure of meeting many of you. Thank you for your hospitality.

As many of you know, I will be serving as your interim minister. I will officially begin April 15, preaching on April 18. I am looking forward to serving with you in this interim period. This will be a bit of an adventure for both of us—it has been a good long while since you have needed an interim minister, and I have not previously served as an interim. I look forward to growing and learning with you as we move forward in ministry and service.

I also look forward to getting to know you in this interim time as well. To share some of my life with you, my husband Tom and I moved to Madison in 2008. We are both originally from Holland, Michigan. We were married while I was in seminary at Western Theological Seminary in 1999. I graduated in 2001 and served as a hospital chaplain in Kalamazoo, Michigan, for about a year and a half. After that, we moved to North Carolina, where I served as the associate minister at First Presbyterian in downtown High Point.

While we were in NC, Tom went back to school and earned a masters degree in geography. What do you do with a degree in geography? was the question at the time. Tom is now a crime analyst at the Madison Police Department—in short, he maps and analyzes crime data.

Two-career couples understand the give and play of navigating call and job searches. We moved to NC for God's call for me to First Pres in High Point—we moved to Madison for Tom's position at the PD. In the meantime, while I have been seeking a call, we have been worshipping at Westminster Presbyterian in Madison, and I have been serving part-time as a hospital chaplain at St. Mary's and as an administrative assistant at a local tax firm that prepares taxes for ministers and missionaries.

It will be good to be serving more officially in a church setting once again—I look forward to getting to know you and serving together!

Grace and peace,
Jess
Interim Pastor

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

April 1 Maundy Thursday
7:00 PM Worship at First Presbyterian Church. The Methodists will be our guests.
Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated

April 2 Good Friday
7:00 PM Worship at People's United Methodist Church.

April 4 Easter Sunday
8:00 AM Family-oriented Worship
9:00 AM Easter Breakfast
10:30 AM Worship
Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated

GAME NIGHT!

Game Night will be Saturday, April 10th from 6:30 to 8:00 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall at church. So grab the kids, grandparents, friend or even a neighbor and join us for some fun. Bring your favorite game to play or play someone else's favorite. Either way can be fun so come on out of hibernation and join the fun. Hope to see you there!!!

SPRING CLEAN UP DAY – May 22!

Stay tuned for details...

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

On Tuesday, June 22 we will be having our annual Vacation Church School at the church property on Netherwood Rd. from 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM. This year's theme is "Let's Go Fishing". We want to encourage children to be "caught" by Jesus and become "fishers" of men. Come join us for a fun and exciting time. All children who are 3 years old and out of diapers by June 1st, through this year's 5th graders are welcome to be a part of the excitement. The registration form is included in the newsletter and needs to be returned by April 18th. Please mark the date on your calendar and plan on having your child join us. Grandchildren, friends and neighbors are welcome to join us too!

POTLUCK TO WELCOME

REVEREND JESSICA SCHOLTEN AS OUR INTERIM MINISTER.

As described in the Pastor's Message in this Newsletter, Jess will conduct her first Service on April 18. We plan to have a potluck in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the service on the 18th as a way to provide a warm, friendly FPC welcome for her. Meat, coffee and milk will be provided and all who are able, are asked to bring a dish to pass. Even if you aren't able to attend the service, please join us for lunch.

Plan ahead ...

ALL CHURCH WORSHIP SERVICE AND PICNIC

Sunday, May 23

at our new property!

5271 W. Netherwood Road

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

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 4 Easter Sunday – no classes

April 11 Jessica Barmack will speak about her travels in Nepal.

April 18 Shawn Isola will speak about his recent experiences in Iraq as a soldier.

April 25 Steve Jensen and Ted Belanus provide update on the status of the new church.

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.

HELP THE CHURCH SAVE MONEY

Communicating with you is important, however, the costs associated with producing and sending a paper newsletter and other mailings are very significant, not only in terms of postage but also in terms of supplies and staff time. That's why our goal for 2010 is to use electronic communications as much as possible. Please send your email address to Karen in the church office @ karenfpc@verizon.net to sign up for receiving your newsletter and other mail electronically. Our promise is to never share your email address without permission.

FELLOWSHIP AUCTION FOLLOW-UP

Thank you to everyone who made the Fellowship Auction so successful this year. Thanks to the generosity of the donors and bidders, we were able to raise over \$5,700 this year. A special thanks to Lyle Wanless who volunteered his auctioneering services again this year and to Steve Jenson who was our MC for the afternoon. Thank you to the youth and their leaders for helping serve lunch and all the volunteers, especially Judy Belanus, Laura Cameron, Char Hanson, Connie Jenson, Bev Mares, David Mares, Sue McGuigan, and Sandy Miles. If you have any questions regarding any auction items, please contact Renee Martell. Thanks for your support of this event!

FINANCIAL UPDATE – February 28, 2010

GENERAL FUND

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Amount pledged year to date: | \$23,032.32 |
| Pledges received year to date: | \$20,005.00 |
| Per Capita bill: | \$6,171.55 |
| Received to date: | \$2403.95 |

BUILDING APPEAL

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| Amount committed: | \$809,252.00 |
| Pledges received to date: | \$699,896.79 |

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

IT'S A BOY!

Collin Daniel Wellcome, son of Sarah (Niebauer) and Dan Wellcome arrived early in the morning on March 12. He weighed 6 lbs. 7 ounces and was 20.5 inches long. Collin arrived a couple weeks earlier than anticipated, but it is evident he wanted to be around for the excitement of high school and college hockey and basketball tournaments. Proud Grandparents are Tom & Susan Niebauer.

HAPPY 90th JOHN!

Many of you remember John Black...well he will be turning 90 years young on April 12th. Please join in the fun by sending him a birthday card!

John Black
297 Alexian Way Apt 506
Signal Mountain, TN 37377

NURSERY NEWS

Thank you to everyone who has donated toys in the past to keep the children entertained in the nursery. We are currently well-stocked and don't have room to store any more donations! If our supply starts to dwindle, we will let you know.

SYMPATHY

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

Inez Toepfer and family on the death of her brother

WHERE'S THAT DISH??

There are several dishes, plates, etc. in the kitchen waiting to be claimed. Please take a moment to see if any of the items belong in your kitchen. Also, if you wish to make a donation to the kitchen, please leave it on the back counter clearly marked as a church donation. THANKS!

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

EXTRA SPECIAL PRESCHOOL/KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Have you noticed the tree in our room? We are learning about Lent and each week hang a symbol on the tree that helps us understand Lent. There is the color purple, the number 40, crowns of thorns and even pretzels! Yup, pretzels, do you know why – we do, just ask us!

The music lady is teaching us some new songs with lots of new actions and signs. We are pretty sure the grown ups have as much fun as we do. We will be singing in worship soon!

Just in case you are wondering – you know it is spring when there is lots of mud. And if the black flag is out at school you must play on the blacktop. Now you know!

Until next time...

OREGON/BROOKLYN FOOD PANTRY

The client numbers have settled down a little from the terrific numbers in November of almost 550. I hope this means the recession is easing in our area. We are still higher than last year. This makes planning and purchasing fresh food more difficult, as there may be a larger number in March, in preparation for Easter. Thank you for being willing to help keep us supplied.

The Annual Boy Scout Food Drive will be after Easter this year.

WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

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

Take advantage of this opportunity and give back to your community. Volunteer today at Oregon Middle School as a Schools of Hope Tutor and make a difference in the life of a youth. Our students need help that ranges from general homework completion, to organizational skills! Some may just need that extra one-on-one with a caring adult in their lives!

What does it take to be a tutor?

1. Desire to help our students
2. Willingness to dedicate 45 minutes to 1 hour a week to a s

tudent(s) for at least 1 semester
No former experience or expertise is required!

For Further Information, Please Contact: Pang Vang, Schools of Hope Tutor Coordinator phv@oregonsd.net or 835-4887 Remember: It only takes 1 to make a difference!

BUILDING UPDATE

We have secured a date in May to have our building project reviewed by CARPC to determine if they approve of it and the subsequent annexation of our Netherwood Road property by the Village of Oregon. We submitted a revised plan March 2nd and the CARPC staff will study it for two months and then make recommendations to the committee.

Our revised plan centers on a new retention pond design that will capture and contain the necessary amount of water from back-to-back 100 year rain events. This will be the new requirement by the Village of Oregon for future building projects. Prior to submitting this plan we needed to obtain permission from the adjacent land owner for our pond to encroach on his property.

Hopefully, our plan will be accepted and we continue to move forward towards breaking ground in October or November. At some point it may seem more appropriate to redesign our church to look like a pyramid to better match the length of time it is taking to build it, but I am still confident that we will all be proud of the end result.

Grateful for your continued patience,
Steve Jenson

DEAR FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MEMBERS AND FRIENDS,

It is hard to believe that it was almost three years ago that we started our Building to Reach Out campaign to help finance the first stage of our new building. With the end of our appeal timeline approaching, we wanted to give you some updates on our progress.

The Building Appeal pledges from May 2007 to date have been reviewed and in summary we have received \$699,896.79 of the \$809,252.00 pledged. There are

47 giving units that have completed their pledge and 43 giving units who have not completed their pledge. In addition, there are people who are still continuing to make weekly/monthly/lump sum payments on their pledges.

It is remarkable that such a high percentage of the pledges have been fulfilled, especially in these extremely difficult financial times. For those who have not been able to complete your pledge, we appreciate what you have been able to contribute and encourage those who are able to try to meet their pledge by May 2010.

We want to thank everyone for their faith and generous support of the First Presbyterian Church. We are truly blessed to have such a strong congregation.

Wendy McNall and Dick Barrows
Building To Reach Out, Chairs

(cut here)

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION FORM:

Yes! I'd like to sign up my child(ren) for this year's Vacation Bible School on Tuesday, June 22, 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 18 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 18, 2010.
There is a box for your form on the table in the foyer.