

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

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FEBRUARY 2010

ASH WEDNESDAY SUPPER SERVICE

Wednesday, February 17 @ 6:00 PM

The Worship Committee is planning a very special Supper Service on February 17, Ash Wednesday, and would like to invite all members and friends to participate. A simple supper of soup and bread will be served in the church dining room, and a brief worship experience will be included. No child care will be provided, as we are planning this as a family event. The Committee is providing the meal, so you don't need to bring anything except an empty stomach and an open heart. The Ash Wednesday Supper Service has become a great way to begin Lent ... join us! You'll be glad you did!

FELLOWSHIP AUCTION—

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20th

11:30 Registration begins, silent auction opens & lunch items for sale

1:00 Live auction begins!

The Fellowship Committee has asked you to think outside the box for our upcoming auction, and you have answered the call! The fellowship auction is just around the corner and you won't want to miss it. Many fun and fabulous "items" were donated last year, including boat rides, family picnics, weekend condo stays, bonfires, and pizza nights. Many people shared their hobbies so that others could partake in activities such as quilting, leaf casting, jam-making, and more. Others donated their services to provide babysitting, bike tune-ups, and computer tutorials. The ideas last year were outstanding and this year promises to be even better now that we know what we're doing!

INSTALLATION SUNDAY

Sunday, January 17, was a day of celebration as three people were ordained and six others were installed as church officers. Jessica Barmack, Melissa Evers and Nancy Freeman Wallace were ordained as elders on the Session. Dorothy Davidson and Bob Johnston were installed as elders on the Session, and Char Hanson, Kelly Holthaus, Lori Johnson and Connie Mitchell were installed to active service on the Board of Deacons. We give thanks for the special ministries that these individuals will provide!

2010 SESSION COMMITTEES

Each January, as new elders are welcomed onto the Session, the committees of the church make some changes in personnel. The following people will be chairing Session committees during the coming year. Please feel free to contact them with any questions, ideas, or concerns that you might have.

Building Committee	Steve Jenson
Christian Education	Wendy Goist Jones
Fellowship	Melissa Evers
Mission	Jessica Barmack and Tom Niebauer
Personnel	Bob Johnston and Tom Niebauer
Property	Ted Belanus
Stewardship	Dave Hanson
Worship	Nancy Freeman Wallace
Clerk of Session	Dorothy Davidson

THANK YOU CHURCH OFFICERS

While we welcome new church officers in January, we also always say *THANK YOU* to those who have completed their terms on the Board of Deacons or the Session. Nadine Krenz, Katie McGuigan, Bev Meyer, and Sue Mielke have each completed terms on the Board of Deacons. All of them have served our congregation's families faithfully and well, with cards, phone calls, prayers, hugs, and offers of support and care whether it comes through a visit or a meal shared. The ministry of deacons is truly one of the things that makes our church unique, and we are sincerely grateful for all of the imagination, love, time and energy that the deacons give. To each of you we say, thank you!

Jo Gregory, Eva Meyer, and Deb Ray have completed their terms on the Session.

Jo was chair of the Worship Committee for the last three years and before that she was chair of the Facilities Design Committee. Jo had the challenging task of having to obtain guest pastors for 17 worship services and liturgists for 28 worship services as well as participants for special services the past six months since Clara's retirement.

Eva served as Co-Chair of the Fellowship Committee and was the Youth member of Session for 2009. Eva coordinated many wonderful fellowship events. She also wrote the Annual Report.

Deb served as Clerk of Session, Personnel Committee Chair and Co-Chair of the Fellowship Committee. Most recently as Personnel Committee Chair, Deb oversaw the search and hiring of our new choir director and organist in 2009. She also put a lot of time and effort into the beginning of the process to search for and hire a new pastor.

Thank you Jo, Eva and Deb for your faithful service on the Session!

AUCTION DONATIONS BEING ACCEPTED UNTIL FEBRUARY 7th.

There is a collection box in the foyer. Remember that we are looking primarily for "items" that promote fellowship within our

congregation: events, services, hobbies or skills you are willing to share with others. We would also be happy to have some items that could be taken home the day of the auction, primarily hand-made or edible items.

Prior to the auction, there will be a list of items that will be included in the auction. The list will be updated each week. There will be some paper copies available at church, or the list could be e-mailed to you.

If you are unable to attend the auction but would like to bid on an item, you may enter a proxy bid prior to the auction. If you are interested in this option, please fill out a proxy bid form and return it in the collection box in the foyer. You would indicate the highest price you would be willing to pay for an item and a proxy bidder would bid for you at the auction. A great way to get involved in some of the events even if you can't make it to the auction in person.

The live auction will begin at 1:00, but many things will start happening at 11:30. At 11:30, registration and the silent auction will begin. Lunch items will also be available for sale starting at 11:30. The proceeds from the lunch concessions will benefit the Triennium Youth, while the proceeds from the entire auction will benefit the Senior Recognition Luncheon and other church functions.

If you have any questions, donations or proxy bids that haven't made it to the collection box, or if you would like to receive the auction catalog via e-mail, please contact Renee Martell at mikeandree@charter.net or 835-8557. Thank you all for your willingness to embrace this event. Hope to see lots of you Feb. 20th! **Bring a friend, neighbor or family member!**

AUCTION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are in need of several individuals to assist with some of the auction duties on the day of the auction. (Don't worry! We won't ask you to be the auctioneer!) If you are willing to help with a shift, there is a sign-up sheet in the lobby, or contact Bev or David Mares at 835-5188.

INTERIM PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Dear Congregation:

The Interim Pastor Nominating Committee continues to make progress towards the hiring of an interim minister. We will be interviewing at least 5 candidates in January and February and possibly several more. Apparently, the winter months are a time for reflection and movement for ministers looking for new assignments. Depending upon when a new minister is available to start, we could have someone on board by early March.

Deb Ray has retired from Session (including chair of the Interim Pastor Nominating Committee). Session asked Bob Johnston and Tom Niebauer to continue the work begun by Deb (yes, it took two men to replace her!!) along with Kristen Nelson, Char Hanson, and Lisa Eyers from the Personnel Committee and Session representatives Ted Belanus and Dorothy Davidson (Bob and Tom are also on Session). Few of us were aware of the significant amount of behind-the-scenes work that Deb did in guiding the hiring of a Bridge Pastor and the initial steps towards hiring an Interim Pastor. The foundation she laid will help as we continue our journey to a new Pastor. Thanks Deb for taking on this difficult assignment and getting us over some very rough bumps in the road.

Once we get an interim minister on board, we will begin the lengthy process of searching for a Called Pastor. The entire congregation will become involved as we reflect on our church mission and what we want to accomplish in the future. We can do this if we continue to work together, pray together and dream together.

Sincerely,

Bob Johnston, Tom Niebauer – co-chairs
Interim Pastor Nominating Committee

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 September-December we have received \$301.21 just for shopping at Bill's. What a great deal.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

All adults are encouraged to check out the following "course offerings" for upcoming weeks, and then participate in as many of them as are of interest. The class meets in the lounge, adjacent to the sanctuary, from 9:15 – 10:00 AM each Sunday morning:

February 7 Family Life in Kashmir led by Jessica Barmack

February 14 Romance in the Bible?

February 21 Discovering and developing your spiritual gifts.

February 28 Discovering and developing your spiritual gifts.

Members are encouraged to read "Three Cups of Tea" by Greg Mortenson as we will discuss this book in the near future.

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE - A TIME OF SHARING AND MUTUAL SUPPORT

On December 20, church family members gathered to honor some of the sorrows that we experience during the holiday season. Losses of loved ones, employment, church leaders, etc. were recognized, honored and supported during a thoughtful service planned by long-time church member and lay leader, Preston Baker and his wife, Karen. Karen, our former Music Director, played lovely music and led us in a few quiet hymns. Memory candles were lit in a brief ceremony. Worship Committee members provided light refreshments for a time of fellowship following the service. We are grateful to Preston and Karen for their willingness to provide leadership and serve the church family in this way.

JOY OFFERING RECEIVED

Thank you to all of you who made generous donations to the Christmas Joy Offering during the Christmas season. The total offering received was \$611.00. Our offering will join with that of Presbyterian churches across the country to help provide

supplemental income for retired church workers and their surviving spouses, and will also support Presbyterian ethnic schools. Thank you for your generous gifts!

SAVE THE DATE

The Senior Recognition Luncheon will be held on Friday, March 26th from 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM. If you consider yourself a "senior", plan to spend an afternoon mingling with old friends, making new friends, and enjoying a good meal. More information next month!!!

FPC AND CABLE WOW NEEDS YOU

First Presbyterian Church has the opportunity to reach out into the community and share our faith by taping occasional (fewer than one per month) worship services for broadcast on Oregon Cable Channel WOW. In order to provide this ministry to the community, we need someone to coordinate the tapings etc. Basically, the FPC coordinator would help determine which services to tape, coordinate delivery and pick up of WOW equipment, and recruit someone to tape the actual service on Sunday. Are you interested? Please contact Nancy Freeman Wallace at 835-8288 or freemanwallace@juno.com for more information.

WOMEN'S EVENING CIRCLE NEWS

After many years of dedicated and loving service, Nancy Freeman Wallace has handed over the reins of Women's Evening Circle Coordinator to Laura Cameron. We thank Nancy for all of her efforts and great ideas. We also welcome Laura and look forward to many wonderful events in 2010.

THANK YOU!

First Presbyterian will be sending 14 youth and 2 adult chaperones to the Presbyterian Youth Triennium at Purdue University, July 20 through July 24. We will be part of the John Knox Presbytery delegation and will be traveling with other youth from the Presbytery. It will be a lot like Montreat, only bigger!!!!

Thanks to our church family for supporting our brunch fundraiser following the Children's Program on December 13th.

The dining room was filled and your generous donations of over \$650 will be used to cover expenses for our Triennium trip.

MEMORIALS RECEIVED

Memorials have been received in memory of Jack Davis. How very thoughtful to remember the church as part of remembering our loved ones. Thank you to all for their memorial gifts!

THOUGHTFUL DONATION

Thank you to the members of the Monday and Friday night Alcoholics Anonymous and the Monday night Al-Anon groups for their continued financial donations to the church ...how very thoughtful!

THANK YOU!

The Youth Triennium breakfast on December 13th was a big success! Your generous donations totaled \$595.00 and will be used to help with expenses for the trip to Triennium this summer.

EXTRA SPECIAL PRESCHOOL/KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Well, we hope you were able to come to the program on December 13th. If you did, you saw us carrying animals (they weren't real), one of us as an angel (and she is), and two of us as soldiers (our swords were pretend, so we hope you weren't scared). The singing lady taught us fun songs for the program that were stuck in our head for weeks!!! It was a lot of fun telling the story of Jesus' birth in the program.

Then we had two weeks off from Sunday School so we had A LOT to catch up on. There were so many loose, missing and new teeth that our teacher lost count. And guess what – one of our friends really got to sing, "All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth"!! How cool is that! We all got lots of cool stuff for Christmas and we had fun with friends and family over the holiday.

Just in case you are wondering – our feet really aren't as big as our boots. Boots MUST be that big to keep our feet warm.

Also, after much discussion we know how happy chickens sound, just ask us! Until next time...

PER CAPITA APPORTIONMENT

Every January our church joins with Presbyterian Churches across the country in paying our Per Capita Apportionment ... the per member assessment which helps to cover the necessary administrative costs of running our Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly. This year the per capita is \$26.95. Please bear in mind that this is *per confirmed member*, not per household! Our church's total per capita bill is based on the number of confirmed members times \$26.95. This year that bill is \$6,171.55. That's a lot of money. It's not a large sum for each individual to pay, but it's a big total for the church to pay. That is why traditionally the members of this church have paid their own per capita.

A per capita envelope was included in your December/January Newsletter. Many of you have returned the envelope with your per capita payment and we sincerely thank you! If you have not yet paid your per capita, please do so as soon as you can. You may make your check out to First Presbyterian Church and mail it to 172 N. Main St., Oregon, WI 53575.

If your regular pledge to the church is intended to include your per capita, or if you can not or do not wish to pay your own per capita, that is all right. The church will pay it for you. We are happy to have you as a member. We have on our rolls students and others who can not afford to pay their own per capita and we have members in nursing homes who may not be able to pay, or may not be able to remember to pay their per capita, and this church gladly pays the per capita for them. If you would like to contribute to per capita for others, you may make an additional payment.

However you consider it, per capita is a cost of being on the membership roll of this church and your per capita of \$26.95 will be paid either by you or by the church. We hope you will decide to pay your own per capita, helping the church budget tremendously! Thank you!

Per Capita bill: \$6,171.55
Received to date: \$1,405.60

MEMBERSHIP and WORSHIP Trends

Dorothy Davidson, our Clerk of Session for 2009, reports that our church's membership increased in 2009. Our membership on December 31, 2009 was 238 confirmed members. As a congregation we added 9 people through Letters of Transfer, 2 by Reaffirmation of Faith, and 1 by Profession of Faith. We lost 1 member through Death and 2 by Transfer to Inactive..

Sunday morning worship attendance averaged 90 in 2009, up from 88 in 2008.

While being a member of the church is important, being active in the worship life and service life of the church is of even greater importance. Worship is the central act of the people of God. All members and friends of the church are encouraged to be a part of the worshiping community ... ***every Sunday morning at 10:30 AM.*** You may be interested in which Sundays hold the records for "highs and lows" in 2009: From highest ...

193 on June 28 – Clara's last Sermon
173 on Mother's Day and

Confirmation Sunday

152 Graduation Day and 2 Baptisms
to lowest ...

42 on July 5

51 on January 4 – Ice Storm

Special thanks to Judy Belanus and Chris Weigt for being our "official counters" on Sunday mornings!

HELP FOR HAITI

Through the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program we have an opportunity to make and send hygiene kits to Haiti. The kits consist of: 1 hand towel (approx 16" x 28"), 1 wash cloth, 1 wide-tooth hair comb, 1 nail clipper, 1 bath size bar soap in its original wrapper, 1 toothbrush in its original packaging, small container of Band-aids, and a plastic one-gallon zippered bag. You may help by purchasing individual items, donating completed kits or contributing money and we will shop for

you! A box will be provided for items in the Narthax of the church. For further information or questions, please contact Nancy Nelson at 608-876-6928.

FROM OUR MAILBAG

To All of the First Presbyterian Church of Oregon,

Marc loved the Oregon church so much. It definitely felt like family when we lived there and continues to feel like family three years later. We thank you for all of the support. We have seen so many of you since Marc's passing. We thank you for sending a plant to the visitation. We hope to visit soon.

Love, Camée, Myla & Jace

SYMPATHY

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

Wendy Goist Jones, Jeff, Nathan, Brandon & Hannah Jones and the death of Jeff's dad;

The family and friends of Jack Davis

HOSPITALIZED

Marge Beers and Evie Overton have been in the hospital recently. The church family is asked to keep them in its prayers.

IT'S A BOY!

He's here! On December 9, 2009 during a record breaking 18" snowstorm, Nolan Thomas McDermid arrived. 8 lb. 12 oz., 21.5 inches long. Proud parents are Rebecca and Mike McDermid. Tom and Susan Niebauer are finally grandparents! Everyone is doing fine - (mom ended up with a C-section so recovery will be a little longer). He has brown hair and big blue eyes and we think he's beautiful.

THANK YOU SO MUCH!!!

Due to all the support of our Friends, Family and Church Family the Culver's Fundraiser on Monday, January 18th was a big success!!!!!! We made a grand total of \$320.00 and we're invited back to do it again next year. They love our Church Family too!! Anyway, thank you again!!

Warm Wishes,
THE TRIENNIUM YOUTH
GROUP

THESE DAYS Devotional Booklets

First Presbyterian Church is pleased to be able to provide our members and friends with the "These Days" Devotional Booklets. These quarterly booklets are available on the small table in the church's foyer. The cost for each booklet, each quarter, is \$4.50 a piece. If you are able to help defray the cost of the booklets you take, please do so by writing a check to First Presbyterian Church and writing "These Days" on the memo line. Thank you so much!

FOOD PANTRY

Oregon/Brooklyn Food Pantry 2009 Fact Sheet

Mission

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 act as stewards of God's bounty in a respectful and non-judgmental manner.

Location: Union and Lincoln Road; Ed Hefty Storage Building

Food distribution: Generally last Thursday of each month, 3:00 to 6:00 PM (dates adjusted for holidays; sign posted at Bill's Market)

Contacts:

Joyce Larson; Chairperson: 222-3399
Lisa Butters, Secretary for HMC Church: 835-5763

Churches participating: 6*

Average volunteers per month: 20

Approximate volunteer pool: 120

Average number of families served per month: 127

New individuals served in 2009: 435

**Oregon churches include St. John's Lutheran; First Presbyterian; People's*

*Methodist; Holy Mother of Consolation;
Hillcrest Bible Church; Community of
Life Lutheran.*

MISSION TRIP TO TEXAS

On December 26, 2009, nine members of our church joined 15 others from various Presbyterian churches in the John Knox Presbytery for a week in Texas helping rebuild the community after several hurricanes struck Port Neches TX in 2005 (hurricane Rita) and 2008 (hurricane Ike). Participants from FPC included: Katie McGuigan, Brian McGuigan, Mike Johnson, Patrick Johnson, Kaitlyn Hanson, Corynn Hanson, Char Hanson, Dave Hanson, and Tom Niebauer. After a 24-hour bus ride full of movies, laughter, reading, meditating, rest stops every 4 hours and getting to know each other we arrived in TX. Our home for the next week was to be a tent for eating (like those used at weddings) with kerosene heaters to keep us warm in the unusually cool weather (30's at night 50's during the day). We slept on cots in corrugated plastic "PODS" (cardboard boxes with kerosene heaters, 2 people in each). Most of the damage from the hurricanes had been cleaned up in the area, but we did see boarded up businesses and houses along with many cement slabs that at one time was the foundation for a house. Our camp was managed by PDA (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance) a program administered by the Presbyterian Church USA.

We spent our days working on several homes in the area (we divided into work groups of 12). Most of us worked on the home of an elderly lady (Miss Lois) whose smile alone made the trip worth it. Some of the work we did included: replacing wooden siding that had rotted over time, scrapping off old exterior paint for two days and then covering with 2 coats of new paint, replacing moldy dry wall in several rooms (including the ceiling!!), hauling JUNK to the curb, installing new windows and doors. When we arrived at Miss Lois's house on the first day, the gas burners on her kitchen stove were ON as a way to add heat to the house (there was no insulation and some holes in the siding the size of golf

balls). When we left her house on Thursday, Miss Lois gave us all a HUGE hug of thanks ("...in the name of Jesus, thank you...".) Our group also worked on the home of Miss Irish Lewis, a single woman who worked at an AIDS clinic as a social worker. We were replacing a ceiling in her bedroom (tore out the water-damaged ceiling, and replaced it with a new drywall), replacing the floor all the way to the joists in her dining room and kitchen, painting the outside of her home, and replacing her front door. Irish was so very grateful for the work done on her home, and treated us to Texas pecan pralines one day, and Cajun boudains (a type of sausage hors d'oeuvres) the next. Evenings were spent in the dining tent (the only source of heat until the heaters in the PODS were turned on about 8 p.m.). We played cards, watched football, watched more football, drank hot chocolate and coffee and visited with our new friends. In addition to the group from John Knox, there were 10 college students from GA (one was a classmate of Corynn's at Augusta College) and a family from TX staying at camp.

Camp was located in the back yard of a Presbyterian Church. The congregation (small in number and generally older) didn't have the ability to work on rebuilding but they could contribute by providing a place for shelter. We had a real boardwalk throughout camp as the soil was generally WET (water table within a foot of the surface). Everywhere we walked it felt spongy because of the high water table and rains (Tuesday and Wednesday). We were fortunate because those volunteering in the summer were met with 100 degree days, 100 percent humidity, mosquitoes, fire ants and snakes!!

John Knox Presbytery has already indicated they will sponsor another Mission Trip in 2010. Destination to be determined. Based on the productivity of the trip to TX, the movies, making new friends, sharing stories and touching other people's lives, those of us from FPC who went on the TX trip would HIGHLY RECOMMEND consideration for next year's trip.

NEW ADDRESS

Evie Overton
Skaalen Sunset Home
400 N Morris St , Unit 5 Rm 103

Stoughton, WI 53589

FELLOWSHIP AUCTION PROXY BID SHEET

Can't make it to the auction? Use this bid sheet to place a bid on items!

Someone else will bid for you at the auction. The proxy bidder will not exceed the amount you have indicated on your bid sheet for each item. However, you may get an item for less than your maximum bid. If an event has more than one guest allowed, make a bid **per guest**. (For example, I want two places reserved at game night. I'll bid \$10 per person for 2 places.)

A catalog of items is available at church or can be e-mailed to you. Please contact Renee at mikeandrenee@charter.net if you would like the e-mail version and include "auction" in the subject line.

Please return your proxy bid sheet to the collection box in the church foyer, or to Renee by e-mail. You will receive a confirmation if communicating via e-mail. If you have any questions, you can also contact Renee at 835-8557.

Don't miss out on the fun!

Name _____

Phone/cell phone _____

E-mail address _____

	Item Name	Maximum Bid (Per guest if applicable)	# of places (If applicable)
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			