



# Tower Bell

DECEMBER, 2008

## Thoughts from Dr. Bob Agnew...

Several years ago, the New York Daily News carried an article written by Karen Zautyk entitled, "It Is Love That Makes Us Rich". She tells about a place in Edinburgh, Scotland called "The Museum of Childhood" filled with childhood treasures—teddy bears, rocking horses, model trains, books, dollhouses and cases of dolls of privileged children.

However, off in a corner is another case. Behind its glass pane is a solitary old raggedy doll. But then, it began its life raggedy. The doll's body is made of tattered brown socks stuffed with rags. Its arms are two thin sticks of wood, covered with wool. Its hair is a sock. It wears a plain gingham dress and a rough linen apron. For all its simplicity, it was made with painstaking effort. The head is the heel of man's shoe—a worn down, battered heel with nail heads visible around the edges. For a face, the doll has small bits of paper pasted on—paper eyes, nose and a mouth that does not smile.

Some might call it ugly but they would be wrong. It was a gift created by a parent poor in possessions but rich in love. And there is no doubt that this doll was loved. The sign on the case reads, "Doll belonging to London slum child, circa 1905". Karen writes, "In all the Western World there were no slums bleaker. But somewhere in those slums, a sad and sorrowful doll was born—a doll that can bring tears to your eyes because it is so pitiful and because it is so very, very beautiful."

To appreciate that story is to catch the significance of the Advent/Christmas season. The doll loved into life is you and me. Why should God love us so when we are far from being perfect creatures? There is not always a lot to recommend us—NOTHING BUT LOVE, the height and depth of which is revealed in the incarnation of God in Jesus Christ.

Think about it. ONLY GOD CAN GIVE CHRISTMAS!  
No one can make it happen. Not all the greenery, tiny white lights, Christmas carols or presents can make it happen.  
CHRISTMAS IS GOD'S GIFT OF LOVE TO YOU AND ME!

Take time in this season to reflect on the best Christmases you've known. Surely they've had a gift quality. Share your memories with your family or others, and then give thanks to God for the greatest gift of all—**THE GIFT OF JESUS CHRIST!**

May  
the true  
spirit of the  
Christmas Season  
its joy, beauty and hope  
and above all its abiding faith  
live among you bringing you all the  
blessings  
of Christ  
our Lord  
the King of kings.



## CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

6:30 p.m.—Pre-Service Music

7:00 p.m.—Service

Christmas has not always been a high, holy day. Early Christians felt the observance of birthdays was pagan. Their emphasis was on Jesus' death and resurrection and spreading Christ's teachings. The date of December 25 was most likely established by Pope Julius I around 325 CE in Rome.

The word "Christmas" is a combination of two words "Christ" and "Mass." Mass comes from the root word "mission." God sent Jesus into the world so that the world might be saved through him. This was his mission. It was Christ's Mass and thus Christmas.

In the tradition of the 4<sup>th</sup> century, our Christmas Eve service will be a celebration of Jesus' birth. It will not include communion since we now celebrate this sacrament more regularly—the first Sunday of each month with January 4<sup>th</sup> as the next designated time. The **CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY CANDLELIGHT SERVICE** will focus on the Hope, Peace Joy and Love which came into the world through the birth of our Lord, *Emmanuel* (God with us).

Carols, scriptures and meditations will center on our Advent Wreath—the lighting candles for each Sunday in Advent and then on Christmas Eve the "Christ Candle." The service ends with the singing of carols as we light our candles and proclaim, "*Jesus is the Light of World. The Light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it.*" Glory to God in the highest for this time of anticipation, renewal and joyous celebration. In the words of the carol, "Angels, from the Realms of Glory,"

*"Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ the newborn King!"*

**FAMILY CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE SUNDAY,  
DECEMBER 14, 2008 – 10:45 A.M.**

Children and youth of the church will offer  
**"What Do You See In the Manger?"** .



## CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING

The Session at its November meeting approved a Christmas Offering to be received on Christmas Eve. This year all loose or undesignated offerings will be divided between the **Christmas Joy Gift and the Chibanzi Maize Mill**. You may also designate your gifts.

What is the **Christmas Joy Offering**? It is a Presbyterian tradition for almost 70 years, and one of four special offerings recommended by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The receipts of the Joy Gift are distributed equally between the Board of Pensions Financial Assistance Program and to "Presbyterian Racial Ethnic Schools and Colleges."

Through the Board of Pensions assistance program, retired church workers and surviving spouses living on a very limited incomes are given assistance through Shared Grants and Emergency Assistance Grants. Needs might include such things as unforeseen out of the pocket medical and dental expenses or unexpected financial burdens as a result of natural disaster.

Each grant is an expression of appreciation for their faithful service and the love of Christ.

The Presbyterian Church has also long promoted education through the establishment of racial ethnic school and colleges. Joy Gift offering funds provide scholarships to deserving students as well as help with basic needs.

**Our gifts on Christmas Eve will help play a vital role of assistance to people around the world in need.** In our celebration the Good News of Great Joy which came through the birth of Christ, let us also **give joyously and generously.**

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### Jubilee Christmas is Coming to 1st Pres

This year marks our 25<sup>th</sup> year participating in Jubilee Christmas with other area Presbyterian Churches.

Mark your calendar for **Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>**. Our church is hosting the event, so we will need lots of extra help. Look for the Giving Tree in the parlor. Children's gift requests will be written on ornament tags and church members may select one or several gifts to buy and return to church **unwrapped by December 7<sup>th</sup>**. Other needs are for good used clothing in children's sizes and financial donations to help purchase gift certificates for teens and grocery certificates for all the families. Of course, volunteers are always needed to act as hosts on

December 13<sup>th</sup> and for a variety of other jobs. Contact Bonnie Shaffer 269-445-8708 or [bgshaffer@aol.com](mailto:bgshaffer@aol.com) or sign up on the sheet located in the bulletins.



## Help Bring a Maize Mill to Chibanzi!



### Here's Why...

...it will employ people and improve the economic status of the individuals and that of the entire village

...it will tremendously help the women in the area reducing the distance, time, and energy it takes to acquire maize for their family

...it will help church members by saving money on the corn they grind for their own use, as well as raising funds for congregational-based projects as they mill maize for others.

### Here's How...

Chibanzi CCAP (Church of Central Africa Presbyterian) and its 16 Prayer Houses need a maize mill!

- **Feed a Family for 8 weeks for \$100**
- **Feed a Family for a year for \$650**
- **Purchase a Portion for \$1,000**

contribute to the total cost of \$16,000 for the mill

Undesignated gifts to the 2008 Christmas offering will be divided between "Mill the Maize" for Chibanzi C.C.A.P. in Malawi and "Christmas Joy" of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Gifts may also be designated for either cause. This offering will be received on Christmas Eve, but gifts may be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church in advance or by the end of the year. Thank you for your support.



## Hands-On Opportunities in Our Community

In the movie “Pay It Forward” (2000), a young boy played by Haley Joel Osmet is given an assignment to change the world and put it into action by his social studies teacher Kevin Spacey. The boy plans to do a good deed for three people who must each do good deeds for three other people. They cannot expect anything in return except selflessly “pay it forward” and do something for someone else. This starts a chain reaction of unexpected consequences and generosity.

More than 2,000 years ago God selflessly sent Jesus to be born as the greatest gift our world would ever receive. As an adult, Jesus would selflessly give up his life so that we might have eternal life. Jesus’ disciples shared about Jesus with others who would “pay it forward” to future generations. Those Christians continued to share about Jesus, build schools and orphanages, fought for human rights, sought the welfare of the powerless and exhibited glimpses of the Kingdom of Heaven on earth.

When Jesus was born wise men traveled a great distance to bring him gifts full of meaning and significance. Expenses might be tight for you this holiday season. Here are some things you might consider as holiday gifts to those you love and people you don’t even know.

- Consider giving family and friends meaningful gifts that you create.
- Give the gift of yourself, your time or your skill.
- Find ways to give to others in our local community.
- Participate with the Deacons and Mission Committee projects.
- Take a tour of St. Margaret’s House for Women and eat a meal with the women.
- Donate soda can aluminum pull tabs to the Ronald McDonald House of Memorial Hospital which helps families of sick kids.
- Choose a name from the Giving Tree at church and purchase a small gift for a Jubilee Christmas family through St. Vincent DePaul.
- Host a Jubilee Christmas family on December 13 and help the parents wrap gifts for their children.
- Clean out your garage and donate tools and building supplies to “Re-Store” Mishawaka and South Bend, proceeds benefit Habitat for Humanity.
- Make a casserole or serve dinner with the Deacons at Hope (Rescue) Mission.
- Help Deacons deliver turkeys to needy families and seniors at La Salle Park Homes.
- Deliver poinsettias to church members on our Care and Concern list. Pick up flowers after the Christmas Eve service.
- Help Northern Indiana Food Bank sort donations.
- Love God and serve others as you give thanks to God for the great gift of Jesus Christ this Christmas season.

--Pastor Lindsey



## CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

### WINTER WONDERLAND

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

“Winter Wonderland,” our fabulous Christmas “coffee/tea” will be held in the Social Hall on Sunday, December 21 following the 10:45 A.M. worship service. Besides an array of Christmas treats, plus cookie decorating for children, our Praise Band will provide Christmas music. Mark your calendar now and be sure to stay for this popular seasonal event.

Of course, we need lots of cookie bakers and would appreciate it if you would call Barb Fick, the event chair, at 255-2122 to let her know how you will help.

This event is sponsored by the Congregational Life Committee. For additional information, please contact Mary Carol Ringler (574-283-0676), Chair of the Committee, or Phyllis Wezeman (574-234-4159) or [pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org](mailto:pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org) at Church.



### POINSETTIA ORDERS BY DECEMBER 7

At Christmastime our chancel is always so beautifully decorated with Poinsettia plants. Those who wish may purchase a poinsettia in memory of a loved one or in living tribute to someone. **Please complete the form found in the church bulletin the next few Sundays and return it with a check to cover the number of plants you have ordered. Each plant is \$6.00. Payment must be received in the church office by December 7<sup>th</sup> if your name is to be included in the “2008 Poinsettia Insert” this holiday season.**



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

## CHILD CARE INFANT NURSERY & TWOS/THREES CLASS

Sunday Child Care is provided from 9:15 A.M. to 12:15 P.M. -- during the Christian Education Hour and the Worship Service. Please pick up your child/children before attending the Fellowship time.

**On December 24<sup>th</sup>, Child Care will begin at 6:45 P.M. and be offered during our 7:00 P.M. Christmas Eve service.**

## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS GIFT TO THE CONGREGATION

During our 10:45 A.M. Worship Service on Sunday, **December 14**, our Kindergarteners through Fifth Graders will present the Children's Christmas Gift to the Congregation. In keeping with the theme of the Children's Message series this season, "Bethlehem Bakery," they have created bread-dough ornaments.

## CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

A Children's Library is located in The Gathering Place on the lower level of the Education Wing. It is open during selected Second Hour sessions for Pre-Kindergarten through Second Grade children. Resources are available for self check-out by Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> Graders at any time.

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGES FOR DECEMBER

"Bethlehem Bakery" is the theme of our Children's Message series for December. It connects the process of making bread with the message of these seasons -- that God took steps in preparing the world to receive Jesus, the Bread of Life, born in Bethlehem -- the "house of bread." Just as bread making involves preparing a recipe, sifting the ingredients, blending the mixture, working the dough, baking the loaf, and sharing the results, so also God's process involved preparing a place, sending the prophets, arranging the plans, empowering the people, giving the gift, and sharing the story.

## CLUB 345

Club 345 is a once-a-month creative arts group for third, fourth, and fifth graders and a way for young people to explore and express their faith in dramatic ways. On Friday, December 12, the group will hold its Christmas Party. Families will be called with details. For additional information, please contact: Dru Wrasse, Chair, Children's Ministries Committee --269-695-1026 or [wrassedru@yahoo.com](mailto:wrassedru@yahoo.com) or Phyllis Wezeman, Director of Christian Nurture --574-234-4159 or [pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org](mailto:pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org).

## FAITH STEPS SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER

During our Faith Steps lessons for December, we will "look" at Jesus' Birth in a variety of ways. Children will experience the Christmas story as they hear and see it in a fresh focus. They will draw pictures in response to the question, "What do you see in the manger?" as well as learn parts and practice songs

that will be incorporated into the Family Christmas Service on **Sunday, December 14**. On **December 7**, we will merge the drawings, narrative, and music in preparation for our dress rehearsal on **Saturday, December 13**.

On **December 21**, K-5<sup>th</sup> children will view a video of the Family Christmas Service in the Cinema and on December 28, there will be an all-church Christmas movie in the Chapel.

## FAMILY CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2008 - 10:45 A.M.

Children and youth of the church will offer "What Do You See In the Manger?" during the 10:45 A.M. service.

## REHEARSAL ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2008 - 9:00 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.

Although preparations for the Family Christmas Service will continue on Sunday, **December 7**, our rehearsal on **Saturday, December 13** from 9:00 A.M. to 11:30 A.M. will be the only run-through of the service that we will have in the Sanctuary, so please make every effort to be present. On the morning of December 14, all participants will gather at 9:30 A.M., during the Faith Steps Sunday School Hour, to costume and warm-up for the service.

## FEATURING FIRST KIDS BULLETIN BOARD

Our "Featuring First Kids Bulletin Board," located on the wall near the Social Hall, displays nametags for our Pre-Kindergarten through Fifth Grade children. Pre-Ks through Fifth Graders should pick up their nametags when they arrive at church, wear them throughout the day, and hang them on their "grade" ribbon before they leave the building.

## FIRST FOUNDATIONS

"First Foundations" Scripture booklets for children in Kindergarten through Second Grade and for young people in Third Grade through Fifth Grade were distributed to families and include the Faith Steps Sunday School verses for the year. Parents are encouraged to help their children learn God's Word "by heart."

## PRE-KINDERGARTEN SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS FOR DECEMBER—9:30 A.M. - 10:30 A.M.

DATE	LESSON
12/7/08	Shepherds & Angels (Pre-K Room)
12/14/08	Preparation for Family Christmas Service (Pre-K Room)
12/21/08	Birth of Jesus (Pre-K Room)
12/28/08	Christmas Movie (Chapel)

For additional information about the Pre-K Sunday School class, please contact:

Peggy Van Laere, Coordinator -- 574-271-5661 or [FAMVAN@aol.com](mailto:FAMVAN@aol.com) or Phyllis Wezeman, Director of Christian Nurture -- 574-234-4159 or [pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org](mailto:pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org).

## SECOND HOUR FOR DECEMBER

Second Hour is a Faith Formation Program for Kindergarten through Second Grade children. It begins after the Children's Message in the 10:45 A.M. Worship Service, and is held from approximately 11:00 A.M. to 11:45 A.M.

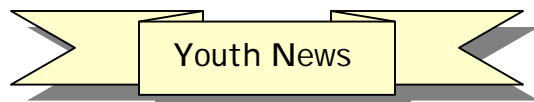
**December 7**, Music – Gretchen Klanke, Leader (Music Room)

**December 14**– Family Christmas Service (Sanctuary)

**December 21 & 28** – Remain in Sanctuary for Christmas Services (Sanctuary)

## WORSHIP FOR CHILDREN

Children of all ages are invited to participate in worship with their parents or caregivers on Sundays and on Special Days throughout the year. Children's messages will be shared during the service. Following the Children's Time in the 10:45 A.M. service, Pre-Kindergarten through Second Grade girls and boys may leave for Second Hour classes in the Education Wing or they may return to sit with their families. For Pre-Schoolers, Worship Bags are available in the hallways.



### Help bring festive beauty to the sanctuary

Mid high and senior high youth and their families are encouraged to help decorate the church for Christmas, **November 23**. Sign up at church to help bring food and so we know how many people are coming. Talk to Pastor Robbie if you want visit the bell tower and to help hang lights from the rafters of the sanctuary.

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### Got acting skills or are you a good reader?

Mid high volunteers needed as narrators for the Family Christmas Service, December 14. The rehearsal is December 13. Contact Phyllis for the script.

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### Sending love and prayers through the mail

College care packages were sent the first week of November to **19 students!** The new student received a copy Max Lucado's shortened book *3:16*. Each student received a scrap booked Bible verse.

*Thank you to the congregation for the donations of food and school supplies. Many thanks to Marty St. John, Pam Proctor, Sue Marsh, Dottie Taylor & Donna Rehbein who helped to package the boxes. Thank you to Sue Marsh who brought fresh cookies and brownies.*

Please be praying for FPCSB college-aged students including Justin Amos, Sarah Carleton, Natalie Dreyer, Amanda English, Alex Klanke, Kim Klanke, Jenny Lawson, Adam Marsh, Melissa Rosencrantz, Amy Voth, Jeff Wojcicki and New

freshmen: Elizabeth Ehlers, Emily Ehlers, Kaitlyn Fewell, Janet Mwachande, Theresa Rosencrantz, Grace Somanje, and Christian Sasanno (Culver Academy for high school, sophomore).

Please let Pastor Lindsey know about graduations, honors, or if you know of a student we should include.

## CHILDREN'S CENTER ANNOUNCEMENT

The Children's Center of the First Presbyterian Church is pleased to announce that Angie Langenbrunner has been nominated for the Teacher of the Year Award by CW Television (formerly WSJV Television Channel 28).

On **Friday, November 21st**, a representative will interview Angie at 10:00 a.m. It is truly an honor to be nominated by a parent! CW will choose a winner from all of the teachers nominated between now and May of 2009.

Angie joined the Children's Center staffing September of 2004. She currently works as the Lead Teacher with two and three-year-olds. Congratulations Ms. Angie!



## From the Organist...

First Pres organist, Jonathan Hehn, will be giving an organ recital on **Sunday, December 14th** at 5:00 at the Debartolo Performing Arts Center on the Notre Dame campus. The program will include a concerto by Handel (with orchestra) and works by Bach, Reger, Messiaen, and Rheinberger. There will be two versions of the program notes -- one for the musically well versed, and one in plain English. Admission is free, so bring your whole family to support Jonathan!

Beginning the 1st Sunday of Advent, the organ preludes will be taken from the "Orgelbüchlein" (Little Organ-book) by J.S. Bach. This book is a monumental collection of hymn preludes for use during the liturgical year. There are four preludes intended for Advent; you will hear one on each of the four Sundays preceding Christmas. Look in the bulletin for more detailed information on each week's prelude.

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## A Rutter Christmas Special

On **December 7** at 10:45 a.m., our Chancel Choir and the Sunnyside Choir will present a service or scripture readings, and Carols by John Rutter. These settings with harp, flute, organ, and horn are sure to get you in the spirit of Christmas!  
...Gretchen Klanke, Director Or Music

## New Members join FPCSB

Please welcome the following new members to our congregation.



**Jonathan Hehn** joins us by Letter of Transfer. He is married to Kelly who studied Arts Administration and who currently works at Conn-Selmer in Elkhart. They own a dog named Salena. Jonathan is a native of Georgia and grew up in the PC(USA). He studied organ performance at Florida State University and is a new graduate student in sacred music at Notre Dame. Jonathan currently plays at Notre Dame's Basilica and is our new organist.



**Patricia Mkasuaka** joins us by Reaffirmation of Faith. She is from Malawi in central Africa. Patricia is a secretary by profession and currently works in the health care field doing supportive care. She enjoys watching movies and reading when she finds time.



**Melissa Ness-Nyirongo and Lumbani Nyirongo** join us by Reaffirmation of Faith. Melissa and Lumbani were married at FPCSB in February 2008. Melissa received her BSN from Goshen College and enjoyed working in a variety of nursing settings from the NICU, Obstetrics, Pediatrics and School Nursing. Melissa is a Registered Nurse who works for the South Bend Community School Corporation as a Health Services Coordinator. Lumbani has his diploma in Computer Systems Design and Programming and currently

works as an installer for Weaver Heating and Cooling. They both enjoy working out and are active in the FPC Malawi Association.



**Christopher "Chris" Ross** joins us by Profession of Faith. He spent four years at IUSB pursuing a double degree in Psychology and Computer Science. He studied for his German language certificate during a summer session at the Sprachenzentrum at Der Universitat Weimer in Weimar, Germany. Eight months ago, Chris started a printing and design company in Granger. Digital Media Mavens, LLC caters to small businesses, non-profits, as well as average customers that find larger corporate companies daunting. Chris also sings with the FPCSB Chancel Choir as a tenor.



**Candice Kazemba** joins us by Reaffirmation of Faith. She is married to Alex Manda and they have two daughters, Alexandra "Xandie" (8 yrs) and Makayla (3 mo). Candace is from Malawi and has been in South Bend for 10 years. She enjoys reading and helping with the children's ministry.



**John and Wendy Mott** join us as Affiliate Members. They have three children, Collin, Bailey and Ellie.

## Why Stephen Ministry?

We have many needs for care in our congregation and community: people experiencing divorce, grief, a terminal illness, loss of a job, relocation, an empty nest, retirement, hospitalization, loneliness, and many other stresses or challenges.

Often people with needs suffer silently or do not request or receive the level of care they really need. Even though we have three pastors, it is impossible for our pastors to meet every single need of every single person.

Stephen Ministry expands the care First Presbyterian Church can offer by equipping and organizing members to provide Christian care. This gives us a larger pool of people with the gifts, skills, and calling to bring Christ's love and care to those who most need it.

For more information on Stephen Ministry call Nancy Shephard at 272-0909, or Dr. Bob Agnew at 234-4159.

## FPC MALAWI ASSOCIATION MEETING

The FPC Malawi Association will hold its next meeting on Sunday, November 30 at 12:00 Noon in the Board Room.

We were privileged to host Charles Gwengwe, Executive Director of Ministry of Hope in Malawi, from the evening of November 1 through the afternoon of November 3. It was good to have Charles give a first-hand update on our partnership with them for the operation of the Chibanzi Nursery School.

## OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH CHIBANZI C.C.A.P. IN MALAWI, AFRICA

### Africa Bags Village Cooperative

A shipment of bags is on the way and we hope to have them for sale at the Alternative Christmas Gifts Fair in the Social Hall on Sunday, December 7 from 9:30 A.M. to 10:30 A.M. Please plan to purchase these bags that "give twice" as Christmas gifts for family and friends.

### Nursery/Orphan Center

A written report from Ministry of Hope will be shared at the next meeting.

### Primary School

Per an update from Malawi, we've been informed that 90,000 bricks have been molded and fired by our faithful partners at Chibanzi C.C.A.P. and they began constructing the two teachers' houses at the site of the Primary School on Monday, November 10. It is the goal to open Grades One and Two in January, 2009.

### Shallow Wells

In cooperation with our partners at the Domasi Church of Central Africa Presbyterian in the Southern part of Malawi, who work with First Presbyterian Church of Urbana, Illinois and Marion Medical Missions, our hard-working friends from the Chibanzi Church of Central Africa Presbyterian have completed the digging of the twenty new wells and have constructed all of the pumps for them. Since the first rains have started, they are working to complete this huge project within the next few weeks.

**ADULT EDUCATION  
CHAPEL CLASS  
SUNDAY MORNING  
9:30 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.**

**December 7**

**ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS FAIR (Social Hall)**

TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES and local Agencies/Organizations will be present. Learn more about “gifts that give twice” and purchase Christmas presents that help others.  
Alisea McLeod, Coordinator

**December 14 & 21**

**TEN THOUSAND TALENTS, ONE GIFT:  
AN ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION  
(Chapel)**

Remember the real reason for giving as we celebrate the birth of “The Greatest Gift” and consider how we can give gifts of “talent and time” rather than gifts that cost money.  
Alisea McLeod, Facilitator

**December 28 CHRISTMAS MOVIE (Chapel)**

For additional information, contact: Pete Amos (574-247-0628 or [AmosFamily51@aol.com](mailto:AmosFamily51@aol.com)) or Linda Fox (574-277-6317 or [billorlynn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:billorlynn@sbcglobal.net), Co-Chairs, Adult Enrichment Committee or Phyllis Wezeman, Director of Christian Nurture --574-234-4159 or [pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org](mailto:pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org).

**ADULT SMALL GROUPS**

**DAVE RAMSEY’S FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY**

Financial Peace University is a biblically based, video driven small group study that teaches families to beat debt, build wealth, and give like never before! This semester’s class continues in the Social Hall on **Wednesday, December 3 and 10**. The group begins with a meal from 5:45 P.M. to 6:15 P.M. and holds the session from 6:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M. Pete Amos is the facilitator. Due to interest, we will also offer the “Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University” course in 2009. It will begin Wednesday, January 7 and run for 13 weeks. Watch for the dates of Preview Sessions. For additional information, contact: Pete Amos -- 574-247-0628 or [AmosFamily51@aol.com](mailto:AmosFamily51@aol.com) or Phyllis Wezeman -- 574-234-4159 or [pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org](mailto:pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org).

**ECO-STEWARDS**

Eco-Stewards will meet at 6:00 P.M. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, **December 9**, at The Side Door Café, Martin’s at Erskine Plaza (Ireland Road off Miami). Come talk, dine, and grocery shop in one trip! For additional information, contact: Alisea McLeod, Eco-Stewards Coordinator, at 574-288-4784 or [aliseamcleod@hotmail.com](mailto:aliseamcleod@hotmail.com) or Phyllis Wezeman at 574-234-4159 or [pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org](mailto:pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org).

**EIGHT GREAT DATES**

First Presbyterian Church offers an exciting program -- EIGHT GREAT DATES -- to help couples of all ages place a priority on their marriage. The 2008 “Eight Great Dates” program will be run in cooperation with the Children’s Center Parent’s Night Out Program. It will include dinner for each child plus activities and crafts. **The cost is \$12.00 per child**. Mark your calendar for the next “date” which is **Friday, December 19**. The format is: 6:00 P.M. – 8:45 P.M. – Child Care – with dinner and activities; 6:00 P.M. – 8:45 P.M. – Date. For additional information or a **reservation, which is due by Monday, December 15**, contact Phyllis Wezeman -- 574-234-4159 or [pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org](mailto:pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org).

**FAMILY AT HEART – INTERPLAY GROUP**

Family at Heart, our parent education group, held the third Tuesday of the month from 8:30 A.M. to 10:00 A.M. in the Tent, is in the format of an INTERPLAY GROUP this season. InterPlay is easy, fun, and life changing. The leader, Indi Dieckgrafe, is Professor of Dance, Saint Mary’s College and a national InterPlay leader. The December date is Tuesday, December 16. Child care is available by reservation. For additional information, contact Phyllis Wezeman -- 574-234-4159 or [pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org](mailto:pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org).

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**

Our “Prayer Shawl Ministry” is a group of people who work individually in their homes crocheting or knitting tangible symbols of the presence of God in our lives. While each shawl is being created, prayers are offered silently for the person in need. When the shawl is completed, it is delivered to the recipient. For additional information or to suggest the name of a person for whom a shawl could be made, contact: Gretchen Klanke – 574-273-9484 or [gret4music@aol.com](mailto:gret4music@aol.com) or Phyllis Wezeman at 574-234-4159 or [pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org](mailto:pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org).

**TUESDAY EVENING WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY**

Our Tuesday Evening Women’s Bible Study will meet at the home of Ruth Roll, beginning at 6:30 P.M., on Tuesday, **December 2 and Tuesday, December 9**. Linda Fox is the facilitator. For additional information, contact Linda Fox at 574-277-6317 or [billorlynn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:billorlynn@sbcglobal.net) or Phyllis Wezeman at 574-234-4159 or [pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org](mailto:pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org).



**WOMENS’ GUILD**

The Womens’ Guild is an association of Christian women who gather for Bible Study, Prayer, and Service. It is modeled after the Womens’ Guild of The Church of Central Africa Presbyterian in Malawi and it is an extension of the Presbyterian Womens’ groups of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The Saturday, **December 6<sup>th</sup>** meeting will be at the home of Ruth Roll, 3026 Woodmont Drive, South Bend, with refreshments from 3:45 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. and Bible Study and Prayer from 4:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. For additional information, contact Mlekwa Mwachande – 574-289-5371 or Phyllis Wezeman – 574-234-4159 or [pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org](mailto:pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org).

Tower Bell is a monthly publication of First Presbyterian Church of South Bend. We welcome all visitors!  
 Visit our website: [www.fpcsouthbend.org](http://www.fpcsouthbend.org) or contact us at 574-234-4159

First Presbyterian Church  
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 South Bend, Indiana  
 46601  
 Return Service Requested



**FINANCE/STEWARDSHIP**

**Making Your End-of-Year Gift Go Further**

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 is being extended through 2009 as part of the Emergency Stabilization Act. It is an opportunity for church members age 70 and a half and older who own an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) to direct gifts of up to \$100,000 to the church from the IRA without reporting the transfer as income. The contribution must be transferred directly from the IRA to the church. Historically any withdrawals from an IRA would be taxed prior to making a gift. Now a contribution can be made directly from the IRA without being taxed. This is just one more way along with gifts of stock that members can consider as a significant way to support their community of faith, particularly as the end of the year approaches. As always, consult your tax advisor.

Information provided by [www.pcusa.org/cfcs/](http://www.pcusa.org/cfcs/).

**Stewardship Drive Update**

As of 11/12/08, we have received 130 pledges totaling \$267,521 towards our 2009 stewardship campaign.

<p><u>SUNDAY SCHEDULE</u></p> <p>9:30 Christian Education                  10:45 Worship Service                  11:45 Fellowship Time</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>December 7</b>                  A Cantata of Rutter Carols                  with the Sunnyside Choir                  10:45 a.m.                  Dr. Bob Agnew, preaching</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>December 14</b>                  Family Christmas Service                  10:45 a.m.                  Dr. Bob Agnew &amp; kids</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Christmas Sunday,                  December 21                  10:45 a.m.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dr. Bob Agnew, preaching</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Christmas Eve                  Family Candlelight Service                  6:30 p.m. Pre-Service Music                  7:00 p.m.—Service</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>December 28</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Rev. Lindsey Carnes,                  preaching</p>
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