



Tower Bell

NOVEMBER, 2008

From The Pastor's Desk....

ATTENTION ALL SAINTS!

Saint never meant perfection. In fact in the Epistles of the New Testament, it is taken for granted that all Christians are holy, and all who profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are his "saints". Saints are those who are pointed in the right direction, who with God's help in Jesus Christ faithfully seek to pursue higher paths and to sing songs of praise in word and deed. As the Apostle Paul put it, "*Not that I am perfect, but I press on toward the mark.*"

The early church in 837 C.E. developed the festival of "**All Saints Day**" to honor and show respect for martyrs who died in pursuit of their faith. It was held each year on November 1st. Eventually, this tradition was broadened to include all those who have gone before us in faith (departed saints). In medieval England, the festival was known as All Hallows, hence the name *Halloween* (=All Hallows eve) for the preceding evening.

Today in some countries, children go door to door singing rhymes or traditional songs in memory of the dead and are treated to special breads or cakes. Mexican children run through the streets with lanterns and ask for coins. These traditions may be the forerunner of trick-or-treating. In Poland and Germany, the custom is to visit and perhaps decorate the graves of loved ones.

On **November 2nd**, First Presbyterian Church will celebrate **All Saints Day and Stewardship Dedication Sunday** as a part of our worship service. Our service will begin by paying tribute to members and others we have known who have entered into the "Church Triumphant". Members will also be encouraged to name family and friends who have gone before us in faith. Special candles will be lit, and we will join together in a Litany of Thanksgiving & Dedication.

Later in the service, we will dedicate our **tithes, pledges, time and talents** in gratitude for the overflowing blessings we have received. To borrow from mathematics **THANKS=GIVING**. May the strength of this church be seen through our commitments. God in Jesus Christ and his church are counting on each of us. Yes, our "cup runneth over" and happiness is ours for the giving.

This day might also be a good time for families to get out those old photographs and talk as a family about relatives past and present. Or perhaps you might pick out someone in the Bible you would consider a saint and talk about why you feel that way and what you have learned from that individual about living the faith. In a lasting tribute, let us put into our lives and reveal through our giving the eternal qualities, the "Godly" principles, they revealed.

As the sunshine shined through the stained glass windows of a church, a father said to his little son, "Those windows show pictures of the saints. Do you know who the saints are?" The boy, looking up at the brilliant windows, said, "Yes. The saints are the ones the sun shines through." And so they are!! **To God be praise and glory, and may the SON shine through us!**

In Thanksgiving,
Bob Agnew

Stephen Ministry

Most people are much more open to giving care than to receiving it. When a person is giving care, he or she is in a position of strength, stability, and authority. When a person is receiving care, he or she may feel he/she is acknowledging weakness, insecurity, and vulnerability.

As a result, there are countless people today who, though they really could benefit from a Christian friend who would listen and care for them, instead tough it out on their own. They remain the strong silent type, or wear a smile across a face that is holding back a flood of tears. Society encourages this (particularly for men). To ask for help is to admit weakness. To show weakness is to admit inferiority.

But God did not create us to be independent. We were created to be interdependent. God's Word is clear on this all the way back to Genesis: "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him" (Genesis 2:18). The New Testament underscores this theme with more than 50 verses that contain the words "one another." These verses include admonitions such as "love one another," "encourage one another," "build up one another," and "pray for one another."

What these verses **don't** say is that only **we** are to love, encourage, build up, and pray for other people. The "one another" wording gives them a reciprocal meaning. It also tells us that we are to allow other people to love, encourage, build up, and pray for us!

It is most difficult for people to ask for help. Whether it is because of guilt, shame, inadequacy, or fear of rejection, many would much prefer to suffer alone than ask for help.

But suffering alone is not God's intent for us. Jesus promises, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). We can receive this promised rest when we turn to one another for comfort and help.

Our Stephen Ministers know all about receiving care. Many of them have been on the receiving end of care at an earlier point in their lives – something that has motivated them to give care now. They know how difficult it is to ask for help, but they also know the great personal and spiritual growth and healing that follows.

They know how to respond in a loving, caring, and nonjudgmental manner. They are equipped, ready, and waiting to provide the comfort and care God very much desires you to have.

If you find yourself now or in the future facing difficulties in life, don't succumb to society's norm of remaining strong and suffering alone. Take the courageous step of seeking help. Open your heart to receiving God's love and grace through another person.

Our Stephen Ministry offers the opportunity of a very confidential relationship with someone who will listen to you and provide you with the care and encouragement you need, while Christ works inside to bring rest to your weary, burdened heart.

For more on Stephen Ministry at First Presbyterian Church contact Nancy Shephard at 272-0909, or Dr. Bob Agnew at 234-4159.

ADULT EDUCATION

CHAPEL CLASS—SUNDAY MORNING

9:30 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.

November 2

PRAYERS FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Join together for prayer before the national elections take place on Tuesday.

November 9

POST-ELECTION REFLECTIONS

Reflect on the results of national, state, and local elections with local news analysts.

Tim Harmon, Managing Editor, *South Bend Tribune*, Coordinator

November 16 & 23

THE EBB AND FLOW OF THE CHURCH YEAR

Discover ways in which observance of the seasons of the liturgical cycle will enrich your life, your family time, and your worship experiences.

Kevin & Meleah Ladd, Facilitators

November 30

FAMILY ADVENT FESTIVAL

Create a crèche and view nativity sets from around the world.

Children's Ministries Committee, Facilitators

[Social Hall]

For additional information, contact: Pete Amos (574-247-0628 or AmosFamily51@aol.com) or Linda Fox (574-277-6317 or billorlynn@sbcglobal.net), Co-Chairs, Adult Enrichment Committee or Phyllis Wezeman, Director of Christian Nurture -- 574-234-4159 or 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! The class, which started September 10, will meet in the Social Hall every Wednesday in November – except the night before Thanksgiving, the 26th. 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.

Mark your calendar. 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.

ECO-STEWARDS

Eco-Stewards meets at 6:00 P.M. every 2nd Tuesday at The Side Door Café, Martin's at Erskine Plaza (Ireland Road off Miami) and every 4th Tuesday at The Side Door Café, Martin's on SR 23 at Ironwood. 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

ECO-STEWARDS OUTING*

Museum of Science and Industry
Chicago, Illinois & The Smart Home – Green & Wired

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2008 - All Day!!!

9:00 A.M.

Leave from Church Parking Lot /Church Bus & Car/Van Pools

10:00 A.M./10:30 A.M.-- 11:45 A.M.

Visit Museum Exhibits – on your own/in small groups/with your family & friends

12:00 NOON

BRING YOUR LUNCH!!!

We have an eating area reserved

1:15 P.M.

Tour the Smart Home

AFTER TOUR UNTIL MUSEUM CLOSSES AT 4:00 P.M.

Visit Museum Exhibits

5:00 P.M.

Dinner -- El Milagro Taqueria & Tortilleria

[Cost: On your own -- but extremely reasonable]

[If we have less than 20 people]

Adults	Seniors (65 and older)	Children (3-11)
\$23.00	\$22.00	\$12.75

[If we have more than 20 people]

Adults	Seniors (65 and older)	Children (3-11)
\$19.00	\$18.00	\$14.00

Plus contributions to gas, parking, and tolls

RESERVATIONS/PAYMENT MUST BE MADE BY WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Contact:

Phyllis Wezeman - 574-234-4159 or

pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org

* THIS IS THE CLUB 345 OUTING FOR NOVEMBER

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. Couples discover how to use marital dating to build and maintain a thriving relationship as they play, work, and grow – together. Couples have the opportunity for a "date" once a month. The format will be: 6:00 P.M. – 8:45 P.M. – Child Care – with dinner and activities; 6:00 P.M. – 8:45 P.M. – Date.

The 2008 "Eight Great Dates" program will be run in cooperation with the Children's Center of First Presbyterian Church of South Bend's Parent's Night Out Program. It will include dinner for each child plus activities and crafts. The cost is \$12.00 per child and reservations are required by the Monday prior to the date. Mark your calendar for the next "date" which is Friday, November 21. Plan to participate as often as possible! For additional information or a reservation, contact Phyllis Wezeman -- 574-234-4159 or 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. It teaches the language and ethic of play in a deep and powerful way. The leader, Indi Dieckgrafe, is Professor of Dance, Saint Mary's College and a national InterPlay leader. The November date is Tuesday, November 18. Child care is available by reservation. For additional information, contact Phyllis Wezeman, Director of Christian Nurture -- 574-234-4159 or pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org.

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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. Anyone may suggest the name of a person for whom a prayer shawl could be made. Patterns are available. For additional information, contact: Gretchen Klanke – 574-273-9484 or gret4music@aol.com or Phyllis Wezeman at 574-234-4159 or pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org.

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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, November 11 and Tuesday, November 18. The group will not meet on Election Day, November 4, or the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, November 25.** Linda Fox is the facilitator. For additional information, contact Linda Fox at 574-277-6317 or billorlynn@sbcglobal.net or Phyllis Wezeman at 574-234-4159 or pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org.

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WOMEN'S GUILD SCHEDULE -- NOVEMBER

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.).

Meetings are held one Saturday morning a month at Ruth Roll's home, 3026 Woodmont Drive, South Bend, Indiana, 9:45 A.M. to 10:00 A.M. – Refreshments and 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon – Prayer and Study. **The next meeting is Saturday, November 8, 2008.**

For additional information, contact Mlekwa Mwachande 574-289-5371 or Phyllis Wezeman – 574-234-4159 or pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org



ADULT EDUCATION EXTRAS

GO & GROW

Quarterly ... or so ... Outings
to promote
Faith ... Fellowship ... Food ... Fun

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2008

Cornwell Turkeyville U.S.A.

Marshall, Michigan

10:00 A.M.

Leave from Church—Parking available behind the building

12:00 Noon

Buffet Dinner

Soup, Salad, Turkey, Stuffing, Potatoes & Gravy, 2 Vegetables, Turkey entrée, Cranberries, Rolls & Butter, Dessert, Beverages

2:00 P.M. - Play

Christmas Visions

Join four families that discover the true meaning of Christmas – each in their own way. The show includes lots of favorite holiday music – guaranteed to put you in the mood for the season.

COST: \$36.00 [includes tax and tip for buffet]

For those who ride the church bus or carpool with someone – add \$5.00

TRANSPORTATION: Church bus Car/Van pools

RESERVATIONS

Phyllis Wezeman – 574-234-4159 or

pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY

Guided tour - Horn Museum of Archaeology at
Andrews University
Shopping at Apple Valley Market
Lunch in Berrien Springs

MAY

Tulip Time in Holland, Michigan

STRATFORD TRIP – 2009

The dates for the 2009 Adult Ed Extras trip to the Stratford Festival in Ontario, Canada have been set for **Thursday, September 10 through Sunday, September 13.** A block of rooms is being held at the Queen's Inn and plays will be selected in January. If you would like to be on the list to receive information about this outing, please contact Phyllis Wezeman at 574-234-4159 or pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

BIG HEARTS BUNCH

The Big Hearts Bunch, our Caring Kids' Club for Third, Fourth, and Fifth Graders, will meet Sunday, November 9 from 12:00 Noon to 1:30 P.M. to make their traditional mixes for the families of Jubilee Christmas. The gathering, held in the Board Room and the Tent, will begin with lunch and continue with church member Bonnie Shaffer, Jubilee Chairperson, sharing information about this holiday event which helps forty families in our community.

The "Big Hearts" would be grateful if the congregation would help them collect supplies. Items needed, such as bags of brown rice, dried lentils, and split peas, have been written on recipe cards taped to the doors of the Sanctuary. Please take one or two cards, purchase the item(s), and return them to the church office by Sunday, November 2. Thanks for your help.

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CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS GIFT TO THE CONGREGATION

During our Faith Steps Sunday School time, 9:30 A.M. to 10:30 A.M. on Sundays, November 2 and 9 we will be making our annual Children's Christmas Gift to the Congregation. In keeping with the theme of the Children's Message series this season, "Bethlehem Bakery," we will create bread-dough ornaments. Since we have a lot to do in a short amount of time, we invite Dads and Moms to help both weeks.

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CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

A Childrens' 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 5th Graders at any time.

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CHILDREN'S MESSAGES FOR OCTOBER

Children's Messages for November will focus on seasonal themes: All Saints' Day, November 2 – Phyllis Wezeman; November 9 – Lindsey or Robbie Carnes; November 16 – Judy Eaton; Thanksgiving Day, November 23 – Phyllis Wezeman, and First Sunday in Advent, November 30 – Phyllis Wezeman.

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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.

For Pre-Schoolers, Worship Bags are available in the hallways.

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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. For the November outing, the group will join the Eco-Stewards for the November 22 trip to the Museum of Science and Industry and the Smart Home:

Green & Wired.

For additional information, please contact: Dru Wrasse, Chair, Childrens' Ministries Committee --269-695-1026 or wrasse@dru@yahoo.com or Phyllis Wezeman, Director of Christian Nurture --574-234-4159 or pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org.

FAMILY ADVENT FESTIVAL

Our annual Family Advent Festival will take place on Sunday, November 30 during the Education Hour -- 9:30 A.M. to 10:30 A.M. – in the Social Hall. In keeping with the Children's Message series theme, "Bethlehem Bakery," we will spend the hour learning about crèches from around the world – and we invite you to bring any that you might have for display that morning – and making "bread dough" or clay nativity sets to take home.

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FAMILY CHRISTMAS SERVICE

PREPARATION ON SUNDAYS, NOVEMBER 16, NOVEMBER 23 & DECEMBER 7 – 9:30 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.

During our Faith Steps lessons on November 16 and 23, 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.**

REHEARSAL ON SATURDAY,

DECEMBER 13, 2008 – 9:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.

This will be the only run-through of the service that we will have in the Sanctuary, so please make every effort to be present for the rehearsal.

FINAL REHEARSAL & FAMILY CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE -- SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2008 – 9:30 A.M. – 11:45 A.M.

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

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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. This is a great way to help the congregation get to know "First's Kids."

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FIRST FOUNDATIONS

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

FAITH STEPS SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER

Faith Steps, our 9:30 A.M. to 10:30 A.M. Sunday School for children in Kindergarten through Fifth Grade, is a rotation model program that helps young people explore Bible stories in the ways that God has gifted them to learn. During November, children will focus on the New Testament story of "Jesus' Birth." The schedule includes:

November 2 & 9

Childrens' Christmas Gift to the Congregation
Dru Wrasse, Coordinator
Nellie Namwali, Shepherd – 11/2
Ann Phambana, Shepherd – 11/9

November 16

Jesus' Birth – Art
Faith Steps Leaders, Teachers
Margo Shearman-Howard, Shepherd

November 23

Jesus' Birth – Drama
Faith Steps Leaders, Teachers
Margo Shearman-Howard, Shepherd

November 30

Family Advent Festival [Social Hall]
Childrens' Ministries Committee, Leaders

PRE-KINDERGARTEN SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Sunday – 9:30 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.

Pre-K Room [Room 214, Second Floor, Education Wing]

DATE	LESSON	TEACHER
11/2/08	The Flood	Peggy Van Laere
11/9/08	Abraham	Carolyn Schult
11/16/08	God Takes Care of Joseph	Jackie Nehrer
11/23/08	Thanksgiving	Peggy Van Laere
11/30/08	Family Advent Festival	Childrens' Ministries Committee

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

Peggy Van Laere, Coordinator – 574-271-5661 or FAMVAN@aol.com; Dru Wrasse, Chair, Childrens' Ministries Committee – 269-695-1026 or wrasseedru@yahoo.com
Phyllis Wezeman, Director of Christian Nurture – 574-234-4159 or pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org

SECOND HOUR FOR NOVEMBER

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.

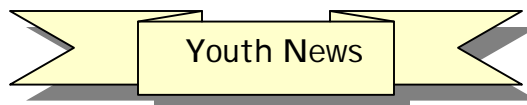
November 2, 2008 – Music – Gretchen Klanke, Leader
[Music Room]

November 9, 2008 -- Children's Library – Cathy BonDurant, Guest Reader
[Tent]

November 16, 2008 – Missions – Jennifer Byers, Leader
[Tent]

November 23, 2008 – Church Year – Gail Carleton, Leader
[Tent]

November 30, 2008 – Church Year – Phyllis Wezeman, Leader
[Tent]



Did you know there is a Youth Elder here at FPCSB? His name is **Matt Williams** and he sits on various Committees and is a full member of Session. Did you know that Jordan Amos is a Youth Deacon who sits on various Church Committees and serves with the Board of Deacons? The Youth of FPCSB are a vibrant part of our ministry here in South Bend.

*This month we look forward to our Confirmation Class (11/9). We will be discussing the 'Salvation Story' and what God has done for the Creation whom He loves.

*Please also note that on **Nov. 16th**, the youth will be packaging brown bag lunches for the Center for the Homeless in the Youth rooms at 12pm. This is a wonderful way to serve others in our community.

*On **Nov. 23rd** the Youth are planning on helping Hang the Greens. We will meet after service for a light meal and then concentrate on getting our sanctuary ready for the season. Hope to see you there!

Redbud Trail Retreat

... is now closed for the winter. We have turned off the water and closed up the cabins, lodge and bathhouse. Although we have to wait until spring to enjoy the property again there is a lot of planning that needs to take place in these cold months. We are busy mapping out Summer Camp, Redbud Worship Service and Family Camp. The Redbud Committee desires for our Church family to be able to enjoy Redbud as much as possible and this means that we need your advise and involvement. It also means that if you have an idea about how Redbud can be used or if you would like to experience God in the Woods for yourself—all you have to do is ask.



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.

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

Africa Bags Village Cooperative

On October 5, after the education hour in the Social Hall, people had an opportunity to buy the first sixty cloth bags made by the people of our partner congregation, Chibanzi Church of Central Africa Presbyterian in Malawi. This cooperative village project was started during our Mission Trip this July and provides employment and a small stipend to people from the main station church and its sixteen prayer houses – who share one treadle sewing machine. Nearly half of the money from the sale of the bags goes back into projects in the Chibanzi community.

As we receive shipments of Africa Bags we will make the congregation aware of their availability for purchase and for consignment. This is truly a “gift that gives twice” – to our Christian brothers and sisters in Malawi and to the care of God’s world.

Nursery/Orphan Center

Our Nursery School, completed in 2005-2006, has an average attendance of 160 young children a day. On some days, this number has reached 300! Through a partnership with Ministry of Hope in Malawi, we are able to feed two meals a day plus a snack to the children in the kitchen facility that was built in 2006 and 2007.

Primary School

Blocks for Standard One and Standard Two are nearing completion and construction of two small teacher’s homes are underway. Working with the Primary School Advisor for the Dowa District of the Ministry of Education of Malawi, plus the Education Department of the Nkhoma Synod, we hope to begin operations in January, 2009. The area is expecting a large number of children in Grade One and Grade Two since there has never been a school in this area.

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 are in the process of digging the next twenty (!!!) shallow wells for the areas of their sixteen prayer houses and the main station church building. Besides digging, it means molding bricks and preparing every part of the operation so the pumps can be made and installed before the first rains of the season. What a blessing this “clean water” project has been to ALL involved – those who have contributed the funds and those who are benefiting from this life-giving resource!

Nkhoma Synod HIV and AIDS Programme Department

As a result of the six four-day courses led by our mission trip 2008 team, each Presbytery in Nkhoma Synod has contract people who are already working with their congregations to continue the process of educating their 1.2 million adult members in the central region of the country. If you would like additional information, or would like to see pictures of new project between Nkhoma AIDS and the educators of the Museums of Malawi, please contact Phyllis Wezeman as she would love to share them with you.

TO: **First Presbyterian Church**

FROM: **REV. GEORGE KALENGO, REV. BRIAN KAMWENDO, REV. SAM GASELA, AND FAMILIES**

SUBJECT: **APPRECIATION FOR DONATION AND HOSTING**

DATE: **10/10/08**

This letter serves to convey our profound gratitude and heart-felt thanks to the entire Church and its membership for your kind donations of clothes and food, transportation, and for hosting us on the 4th and 5th October 2008. We are really grateful and appreciative of your philanthropic gesture to us all.

For your gifts, it reminded us of Matthew 25:35, “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

For the Dinners hosted by Kevin and Indi in their house and by the Malawian friends who gave us gifts and a party in the Church, plus the lunch on Saturday and the breakfast on Sunday hosted by Phyllis, Sue, Dave, another Dave, Mule, Aussie, and Agatha, it reminded us that we are all one regardless of color, creed, nationality, male or female in the Lord. In Heaven, we will be all the same, fellowshiping with one another and Triune God. Galatians 3:28, “For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile- the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him.”

For our drivers, David for picking us up and Stephanie for taking us back, we enjoyed the journey and are grateful to God for safety along the way.

For putting up a night at David Wezeman and his family, it reminded us of a widow who gave Elisha an upper room to sleep, II Kings 4:10, “Let us make a small room on the roof and put in it a bed and a table, a chair and a lamp for him. Then he can stay there whenever he comes to us.”

This is a little way of trying to show how much appreciative we are and also how we enjoyed your company, hospitality, and love. and care. We truly saw the love of God in your midst.

Most of all we want to thank Organizer, Phyllis -- with great support from Ken. Thank you so much for this and for your tireless work in Malawi. May the Lord bless you, abundantly.

THANK YOU ALL.

**YOU ARE INVITED
TO MEET**

**CHARLES GWENGWE,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
MINISTRY OF HOPE – MALAWI, AFRICA**

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2008

12:15 P.M. – 12:45 P.M.

Fellowship Time and Presentation

OR

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2008

10:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.

Tea and Talk

Presentation will begin at 10:15 A.M.

BOTH OPPORTUNITIES

First Presbyterian Church * Social Hall

Ministry of Hope, founded in 1999 by the son of a pastor in Nkhoma Synod of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian, has developed programs for orphaned and vulnerable children that include:

Feeding centers

Christian worship & discipleship activities

Educational scholarships

Two crisis nurseries for infant orphans

Ministry of Hope partners with First Presbyterian Church of South Bend to operate and oversee the Nursery/Orphan Center at Chibanzi C.C.A.P.

They purchase and transport the food and oversee the cooks, teachers, and volunteers from the congregation that operate these programs

Mr. Gwengwe has a Masters of Arts in Organizational Leadership, and previously served as the General Secretary of Evangelical Association of Malawi and as National Literature Secretary of Scripture Union of Malawi. He recently received an award from the UN Millenium Campaign for the role he played in initiating Micah Challenge Malawi, a movement that aims at deepening Christian commitment toward the poor. For further information, please contact: Phyllis Wezeman – 574-234-4159 or pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org

Phyllis' Ponderings...

BIBLE BASICS: JAMES

James, the twentieth book of the New Testament, begins like a general letter but actually reads more like a first century sermon. Some commentators propose that the introduction may have been a dedication to a published sermon and others suggest that James is actually a collection of short sermons on different topics. In style, James is closer to the Book of Proverbs in the Old Testament than it is to any other book of the New Testament. In content, James includes little doctrine. Although Jesus is seldom referred to or quoted in the book of James, Christ's teaching on the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) underlies much of the message of the five chapters.

James has often been called a "how-to" book on Christian living. It offers practical advice on how the Christian faith is to be demonstrated on a day-to-day basis. Each of the five chapters provides a different emphasis: Chapter One: Confident Stand -- What a Christian has; Chapter Two: Compassionate Service -- What a Christian does; Chapter Three: Careful Speech -- What a Christian says; Chapter Four: Contrite Submission -- What a Christian Feels; and Chapter Five: Concerned Sharing -- What a Christian gives. (Editors. *Life Application Bible - New Revised Standard Version*. Iowa Falls, IA: World Bible Publishers, Inc., 1988, p. 2173.)

While there is some question about the authorship, most Biblical scholars conclude that James, the brother of Jesus, wrote this New Testament book. Although there are many men named James mentioned in the Bible, Scripture references to the sibling of the Savior who became the leader of the Jerusalem church are contained in Mark 6:3; Acts 12:17; 15:13; 21:18; First Corinthians 15:7; Galatians 1:19; 2:9, and Jude v.1. It is commonly believed that part of the reason that this book was accepted into the canon was because James was the author.

James was written to Jewish Christians throughout the Roman Empire, as well as to Christians everywhere to emphasize that faith must be put into practice. It encourages believers to endure temptations and trials (Chapter 1); join works with faith (Chapter 2); control the tongue (Chapter 3); seek spiritual graces versus material treasures (Chapter 4); and pray for the sick and evangelize the lost (Chapter 5).

Study the book of James and remember that faith affects the way a Christian lives and put James' principles into practice.



Welcome our new church organist!

We are delighted to announce that **Jonathan Hehn** has joined the FPC staff as Church Organist. You may have heard Jonathan as he accompanied worship several times in the past month, and made the organ sing!.

Jonathan is a Florida native with several years experience as organist/choirmaster in the Presbyterian church in Florida and as a music teacher in the Florida Catholic School system. His familiarity with several diverse forms of worship music will enrich our worship experience here at FPC. He holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Organ from Florida State and an American Guild of Organists Choir Master Certificate, and is currently enrolled in Notre Dame's Master of Sacred Music program.

Jonathan has also served on the Theology and Worship Committee for the Presbytery of Florida, which adds yet another dimension to all that he brings with us. In discussions with the Personnel Committee and the FPC staff, Jonathan impressed us all with his positive approach and commitment to the intentional role of music in the worship service. We are truly fortunate to have him on our staff.

Please help welcome Jonathan to our church family!

DEACON UPDATE

Due to increased attendance, the Deacons will return to purchasing and providing all of the refreshments for Fellowship Hour.

The Deacons would like to thank the congregation members who helped bring snacks to supplement the Fellowship Hour during September and October--Sue Galassi, Donna Rehbein, Marty St. John, Leandra Allen, Lois Freisner, Edie Parker, Staci Norman, Carol Clarisey, and Kathy Cates. We really enjoyed the homebaked goodies!

You might have noticed our efforts to become "eco-friendly" by using the mugs and plates from the kitchen.

OUTREACH NEWS

The Outreach Committee is blessed to have Lindsey Carnes (Pastoral liaison) and Robbie Carnes and Roberta Ferkins who are updating FPC to the 21st Century! Sermons and the Tower Bell are now available at www.fpcsouthbend.org. Check it out! The site is getting many 'hits'.

Adding to our 'community of believers' is our goal. Our congregational demographics show that we especially need to attract young families. Also, nearly 200 of our active list members rarely or never attend and need our outreach. Members with needs are referred to a pastor or deacon. Our Ambassadors give informational packets to visitors and will be delivering a baked item to those visitors who sign our Visitor Cards. The committee needs everyone's participation in inviting unchurched friends and neighbors and making our visitors feel welcome. A new members' class is being offered and those wishing to join will be accepted on November 9. Elder Elaine Neely is Chairperson

LUNCH GROUPS

The Mid/South Lunch group will meet Wednesday, November 12 at 11:30 a.m. at Cira's Restaurant, 2007 Miami Street in South Bend.

The NorthSide Group will meet Tuesday, November 18 at 12:00, at American Pancake House in Roseland.

Church Women United

World Community Day.

Ladies, please join us **November 7, 2008**, 11:00am Annual meeting; 12:00 Noon Luncheon; 1:00pm Program, at First AME Zion, 801 North Eddy St, South Bend. Speaker: Rev Timothy A. Rouse, Pastor of First AME Zion. Theme: "God's Wisdom Sets Us Free". This celebration explores how we can reach out with God's wisdom and love to those behind bars, whether made of steel or of human limitations. Please RSVP for lunch: Carolyn 232-2018 or to Mamie 233-6923.

REPORT OF SESSION MEETING OF October 23, 2008

The following actions were taken by Session at its meeting on October 23, 2008.

- Session approved the plans for the Stewardship drive for 2009.
- Session approved the recommendation of the Worship Committee to begin a pilot program of a Praise/Contemporary service on the Sundays of November 9, 16, and 23 from 8:30 to 9:15 a.m. The 10:45 a.m. service will continue as usual.
- A new confirmation class led by Robbie and Lindsey Carnes has begun this month. Five young people are enrolled.
- A New Members Class is under way.
- The years program at Redbud Retreat ended with the Halloween party.
- A note has been received from the three pastors from Malawi thanking us for our hospitality during their visit in early October.
- Nancy Shephard has volunteered to serve as coordinator for our 175th year celebration.
- Session approved the allocation of the Christmas offering on Christmas Eve of 50% to the "Mill the Maize" project and 50% to the support of the denomination specific retired pastor fund.
- Congregational Life reported that the next two events will be the Hanging of the Greens on November 23 and the Winter Wonderland Christmas Coffee on December 21.
- A monthly Communion Service is celebrated monthly at St. Paul's Retirement Home.
- Jonathan Hehn has accepted the position of Church Organist effective October 19, 2008. He is very well qualified and also is knowledgeable about Presbyterian liturgy and polity.
- In the future, the Friendship Books will be used rather than the cards.
- Year to date we have received \$ 223,923 in pledge income. Our goal for the year is \$400,000

THE SEASON OF ADVENT

It's not difficult for us to identify with the little girl who said to church school teacher, "I want a God with some skin on Him!" The good news of the Advent/Christmas season is that God is not a figment of our imagination, a theory, a ghost or apparition, but comes as a person in Jesus of Nazareth. Advent means "coming to". In the words of John, *"The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory."*

Originally Advent did not have a fixed length. It developed from a period of fasting and worship prescribed for those who were candidates for baptism on Epiphany. In the 5th century, Advent had grown to 40 days from November 11 to Christmas Eve. Then in the 9th century it assumed its present form and began with the Sunday occurring on or nearest the feast of St. Andrew (November 30).

According to the liturgical calendar, **November 30, 2008** marks not only **the beginning of Advent but also the Christian year**. It is the New Year's Day of the Church Year. Thus it introduces a season of preparation and anticipation of God's coming in Christ into our lives and world in new and exciting ways.

The mood of Advent is captured through the lighting each Sunday of the Advent Wreath. The greens and candles remind us that this is a season to make room in our hearts for the rebirth of our Lord and Savior. So together let us open our hearts and prepare the way of Lord through worship and the activities of First Presbyterian Church. Our next Tower News will highlight those events and activities.

In the words of Alexander T. Coyle,

"Advent is for preparing for Christmas..."

Our ears to hear the delicate rustle of angel wings,

Our eyes to see the star,

Our feet to hurry to the stable,

Our knees to bow humbly before Him,

Our minds to comprehend,

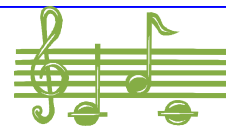
Our hearts to adore."

Yes, "O Come, O Come Emmanuel (God with us)."

In expectation,

Bob Agnew

Music for Advent



Advent is a time of preparation for all of us. We prepare for times with family and friends, for holiday parties; for all that the season brings us. As a church family, we prepare for the coming of Christmas.

Our Chancel Choir is preparing a service to help you get your hearts and minds ready for the coming of Christ. On December 7 in our sanctuary our Chancel Choir and the Sanctuary Choir from Sunnyside Presbyterian will bring you a service of joy through the singing of carols by John Rutter. Rutter lifts the spirit of the season with beautiful messages set in delightful melodies to lift any spirit to the hope and promise of Christmas Day.

Please join us for this service of organ, harp, and voices as we all come together for the coming of Jesus!

We wait for the blessed hope –

The glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. From Titus 2:13

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

WARM UP FOR THE HOLIDAYS – A CHILI LUNCH FAMILY ADVENT

"HANGING OF THE GREENS" FESTIVAL

Let's get ready to celebrate the Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany seasons by sharing food and fun at our "Warm up for the Holidays – Chili Lunch" on Sunday, November 23 from 11:45 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. Sign up on the poster in the Narthex to bring you favorite crockpot of chili or a salad or a dessert. Bread and beverages will be provided.

After lunch adults and youth will get busy "hanging the greens" and decorating the church for everyone to enjoy during these festive seasons. Child Care will be provided for Infants and Toddlers. Pre-K through Fifth Graders will remain the Social Hall for seasonal activities.

Mark your calendar now and be sure to stay for this fun event. Families, couples, and singles are welcome.

This event is sponsored by the Congregational Life Committee. Mary Carol Ringler is Chair of the Committee and Bonnie Shaffer is Chair of the "Hanging of the Greens" festival.

Jubilee Christmas is Coming to 1st Pres

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

Mark your calendar for **Saturday, December 13th**. Our church is hosting the event, so we will need lots of extra help. Look for the Giving Tree in the parlor in November. 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 7th**. 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 13th and for a variety of other jobs. Contact Bonnie Shaffer 269-445-8708 or bgshaffer@aol.com or sign up on the sheet located in the November church bulletins.

First Presbyterian Church
333 West Colfax Avenue
South Bend, Indiana
46601
Return Service Requested

SECOND WORSHIP SERVICE

The Session, on the recommendation of the Worship Committee, approved adding a second worship service (Praise Service with band) at 8:30 a.m. on November 9, 16 and 23rd in the Chapel. The preacher of the day will be leading both services.

The Worship Committee and Session will review in December to see how this service broadens and expands our worship within our congregation.

In addition, December provides times for the congregation to worship as ONE as we support our choir and music program in the Cantata on December 7th, our children and families in the family service on the 14th, and worship together at the Christmas Eve Family Candlelight Service. All these services are opportunities to be "lost in wonder, love and praise."

To God be the Glory in Jesus Christ.

NOVEMBER

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:30 a.m. Chapel Service

9:30 Christian Education

10:45 Worship Service

11:45 Fellowship Time

November 2
Communion Sunday
Stewardship Dedication
Sunday
Dr. Bob Agnew, preaching

November 9
Dr. Bob Agnew, preaching

November 16
Rev. Robbie Carnes,
preaching

November 23
Thanksgiving Sunday
Dr. Bob Agnew Preaching

November 30
Dr. Bob Agnew Preaching