



Tower Bell

FEBRUARY, 2009

Slow Down and Fast



Ash Wednesday, February 25th, will mark the beginning of the Season of Lent. For many centuries Christians have recognized the forty days before Easter (not counting the Sundays) as a period of preparation for Easter. For many of us Presbyterians, this season is a bit confusing. This is because many of the traditional ways of celebrating the season come out of the Catholic Tradition. The practice of fasting during Lent, not eating meat, of giving up certain foods, privileges or activities are kept by many Catholics and Christians of other traditions. As Protestants we find ourselves wanting to remain distinct from our Catholic and other non-Reformed brothers and sisters, however we still need meaningful ways to celebrate the season.

Many of you have deprived yourself from a certain food or activity during Lent. I have given up chocolate one season. Another year I gave up watching movies, which happened to be the year that the digitally re-mastered Star Wars movies were released, now that was a trial! The giving up of a luxury has definite psychological, emotion and spiritual benefits. However, Presbyterians believe it is vital that we know the reason behind the practice. Without firm theological reasoning behind the exercise the benefit would be incomplete and does not recognize the holistic nature of our Spiritual Life.

The most direct Biblical background for the practice of Lent is the 40 days which Jesus spent in the wilderness directly after his baptism. There he fasted and was tempted by the devil. By fasting during Lent we are identifying with the self-denial of Christ. However it is important to remember why Christ ventured out into the wilderness. It was to prepare for his public ministry and ultimately for the cross. Lent prepares us for Easter in the same way that Advent prepares us for Christmas. Whereas Advent is a time to wait for the coming of the promise, Lent is a time to prepare and identify with that promise which is Christ. Easter is the time we celebrate Christ's victory and our participation in his ministry to the world and Lent is the time we reflect on what that means for our lives. During the season of Lent we exchange John the Baptist's demand for repentance with Jesus' invitation to join him in the ministry of self-denial.

I would encourage you to practice some sort of fast this season. Engage in this sort of spiritual practice if it produces prayer, penitence and service to others. For instance, simply giving up chocolate for the season can be very meaningful if you choose to engage in prayer every time you notice the lack of chocolate in your life. Better yet, covenant to pray for another

person or situation every time you think about chocolate. In this way your fasting will slow you down and give you the space for prayer, preparation and penitence. If you choose to deny yourself something for a season, try to replace it with something spiritually beneficial. Let your fast slow you down so that the love and life of Christ will come more clearly into focus for you this season. Christ has prepared the way, are you prepared to follow?

...Pastor Robbie

Early Worship Service

There is an additional opportunity to worship the Living God here at FPC. You are invited to join us **8:30 am, every Sunday in the Chapel**. We will gather for an informal worship setting. The sermon is interactive and we use video media in order to worship and hear the Word of God in a different way. Come and join us, all are welcome.

**CHILD CARE FOR FEBRUARY
INFANT NURSERY & TWOS/THREES CLASS**
Sunday Child Care is provided from 8:15 A.M. to 12:15 P.M. -- during the Chapel Service, the Christian Education Hour, and the Sanctuary Worship. Please pick up your child/children before attending the Fellowship time.

8:30 a.m. Chapel Service

9:30 a.m. Christian Education for all ages

10:45 a.m. Worship Service

11:45 a.m. Fellowship Time

February 1

**Dr. Bob Agnew, preaching
Communion Service**

February 8

Dr. Bob Agnew, preaching

February 15

Dr. Bob Agnew, preaching

February 22

Rev. Lindsey Carnes, preaching

ADULT EDUCATION

CHAPEL CLASS

9:30 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.

FEBRUARY 1

“ALL THE ANIMALS”

Gather in the Social Hall for an Intergenerational Event presented by Bendix Woods County Park. It is sponsored by Adult Enrichment’s Eco-Stewards and the Children’s Ministries Committee.

FEBRUARY 8 JUDAISM AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Sarah Nerenberg, a local environmental engineer and chair of the Sinai Synagogue Environmental Committee, will lead a discussion on the Jewish textual (Torah and Talmudic) basis for protecting the environment. This will include a look at contemporary Jewish values (including *Tikkun Olam* – repairing the world), the Sabbatical year, and the principle of *Bal Tashchit* (Deuteronomy 20:19-20 – do not destroy or waste).

FEBRUARY 15

“IN PRAISE OF SLOWNESS”

In response to Carl Honore's book *In Praise of Slowness*, the Eco-Stewards will offer a small panel discussion.

Participants will connect the concept of slowness to sustainability. How does the consumer economy and its obsession with speed, in Honore's view, discourage green thinking and how, conversely, does slowing down encourage environmentally conscious habits? A three-person panel of contemplators will address these and other questions sparked by this important book.

FEBRUARY 22

PANCAKE PARTY

This year we're celebrating “**Shrove Tuesday**” on **Sunday morning**, between the two services. Come for an hour of good food – pancakes, sausage, fruit, and beverages – plus music by John Wallace’s jazz trio and activities for children.

For additional information on the Chapel class offerings, 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.

GROWING CHRISTIANS CLASS

9:30 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.

Social Hall

THE BIBLE JESUS READ

A Video Bible Study based on the popular book by Philip Yancey, facilitated by Pete Amos

In “The Bible Jesus Read,” Yancey encourages participants to consider how Hebrew Scripture -- what Christians call the Old Testament -- is relevant to their own lives. His premise is that although many Christians consider the New Testament more important than the Old, the New Testament was written after Jesus' earthly ministry, making the Old Testament "the Bible Jesus read." Hebrew Scripture was the greatest influence on the mind and spirit of the founder of Christianity, a fact that, in the author's estimation, obligates Christians to know it well.

FEBRUARY 8

Understanding the Old Testament

FEBRUARY 15

Job: Seeing in the Dark

ADULT SMALL GROUPS

DAVE RAMSEY’S

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY COURSE

“Dave Ramsey’s 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 next thirteen week course will begin on **Wednesday, February 4 and continue through Wednesday, April 29**. Each week, the group starts 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. For additional information, or registration materials, contact: Pete Amos -- 574-247-0628 or AmosFamily51@aol.com or Phyllis Wezeman -- 574-234-4159 or pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org.

ECO-STEWARDS

Eco-Stewards will meet at 6:00 P.M. on the 2nd Tuesday, **February 10**, at The Side Door Café, Martin’s at Erskine Plaza (Ireland Road off Miami) and on the 4th Tuesday, **February 24**, at The Side Door Café, Martin’s on SR 23 and 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 or Phyllis Wezeman at 574-234-4159 or 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 next date is Friday, February 20**. The format is: 6:00 P.M. – 8:45 P.M. – Child Care provided in the Pre-K Room on the Second floor of the Education Wing; 6:00 P.M. – 8:45 P.M. – Date. **Cost is \$5.00 per child**. For additional information or a reservation, which is due by Monday, February 16, 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 Chapel, 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 February date is **Tuesday, February 17**. Child care is available by reservation. For additional information, contact Phyllis Wezeman -- 574-234-4159 or pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org.

FOOD FOR THE SOUL

Join us for "Food for the Soul," as Edie Sutton of Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service returns to First Presbyterian Church's Social Hall on Tuesday, **February 3, 24 and March 3**. From 11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M., there will be Coffee and Gathering, Cooking School, and Lunch. And, for those who would like to stay from 1:00 P.M. to 1:30 P.M., there will be a Psalm study.

Edie's Program will feature "Cooking for Diabetes ... and Healthy Eating Tips for Everyone." It will include Snacks, Desserts, Main Dishes, and Sides. For additional information, contact: Phyllis Wezeman at 574-234-4159 or 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 or Phyllis Wezeman at 574-234-4159 or pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org.



TUESDAY EVENING WOMEN'S

BIBLE STUDY

Our Tuesday Evening Women's Bible Study, at the home of Ruth Roll, meets every Tuesday evening at 6:30 P.M. 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

WOMEN'S GUILD -- FEBRUARY

The Women's Guild is an association of Christian women who gather for Bible Study, Prayer, and Service. It is modeled after the Women's Guild of The Church of Central Africa Presbyterian in Malawi and it is an extension of the Presbyterian Women's groups of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The Saturday, **February 28th** meeting will be at the home of Ruth Roll, 3026 Woodmont Drive, South Bend, Indiana, with fellowship from 3:45 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. and Bible Study and Prayer from 4:00 P.M. to 5:30 P.M. For additional information, contact Mlekwa Mwachande – 574-289-5371 or Phyllis Wezeman – 574-234-4159 or pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org.



ADULT ED EXTRAS!

GO & GROW OUTING **Friday, February 6, 2009**

Guided Tour

The Siegfried H. Horn Museum

Institute of Archaeology

Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI

Lunch at Baguette de France;

Shopping at the Apple Valley market

Time: 9:00 a.m.—Leave Church—Return Mid-afternoon
Church bus and car pools)

Cost: \$8.00 per person (Lunch on your own)

For additional information, or to sign up, please contact: Phyllis Wezeman at 234-4159 or pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org.

STRATFORD TRIP

Mark your 2009 calendar for the annual trip to the Stratford Shakespeare Festival in Ontario, Canada: **Thursday, September 10 through Sunday, September 13**. Watch for additional information in upcoming publications or contact Phyllis Wezeman at 574-234-4159 or pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org.

CHOCOLATE FOR LENT—A NIGHT TO GET READY!!!

Since "Chocolate for Lent" will be the theme of a five week Bible study in the Sunday morning Chapel class for the month of March, and "Know Chocolate for Lent" will be the focus of our Children's Message series during the season, we're holding "A Night to Get Ready" on Friday, **February 20, 2009**. It will begin with a meal from 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the Social Hall—bring your own sandwiches; we'll have chocolate desserts—and chocolate candy making as well. Then, adults will watch the movie *Chocolat*, which is feature din the study, in the Social Hall. Children will go to the Cinema to watch "*Willie Wonka*." As always, R.S.V.P.s to the church office will be helpful.

ALIVE TO GOD IN JESUS CHRIST

40 Daily Readings for the Purposeful Presbyterian.

For personal study during Lent, Alive to God in Jesus Christ has been released by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as a way to nurture an intellectual and spiritual understanding of Jesus Christ and to explore ways that our faith is lived out in daily life and in the world. If you are interested in borrowing or ordering a copy of the forty daily readings, please contact Phyllis Wezeman at 574-234-4159 or pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org.

MICHIANA WORKSHOP ROTATION MODEL

NETWORK MEETING

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2009

[Note: Rescheduled from Tuesday, January 13, 2009
due to weather]

12:00 NOON – 1:30 P.M.

Sunnyside Presbyterian Church

115 S. Frances Street; South Bend, Indiana

Topic: Age Groups and the Workshop Rotation Model

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE



“PANCAKE PARTY – ‘SHROVE TUESDAY’ ON SUNDAY February 22, 2009

9:30 A.M. – 10:30 A.M. (Social Hall)

Come for all you can eat pancakes,
sausage, fruit cup, and beverages. Good jazz
music and special activities. Make a reservation so we have
enough food! Donations are welcome. Call the church office
(574-234-4159), sign up on a gold card and drop it in the offering
plate, or email pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org.

FPC MALAWI ASSOCIATION

The FPC Malawi Association will hold its next meeting
on Sunday, **February 1 at 12:00 Noon** in the Board Room.

Special guest will be the Rev. Dr. Winston R. Kawale, former
General Secretary of the Nkhoma Synod of the Church of Central
Africa Presbyterian in Malawi. Dr. Kawale, who visited and
preached in August, 2005, was given a scholarship to attend the
Calvin Symposium on Worship and the Arts in Grand Rapids,
Michigan and will visit South Bend on Sunday and Monday.

A BIG THANK YOU FROM WOMEN’S GUILD

A big thank you to all the people who helped the
Women’s Guild when we hosted our Guest Evangelists
Chimwemwe Kalua and Miriam Kamoto from Malawi in the
Chapel. We sure had a good turn up and we were blessed. This
was made possible by our guys behind the curtains. Special
thanks to Mr. Ken Tyler, Pastor Ken Wezeman – popularly
known as Abusa Chimutu – and also thanks to our new deacon
Keith Chirambo and not forgetting the Women’s Guild members
and friends who prepared the food. It was yummy. God bless all
of you.

...Sincerely, Chrissy (Matupa) Kadzamira.

MISSION COMMITTEE

SINCERE THANKS

The Mission Committee wishes to express sincere
thanks to the congregation for their generous gift of \$4,200.00 in
the Christmas Offering toward the \$16,000 needed to purchase
and install the maize mill for Chibanzi C.C.A.P.

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

Africa Bags Village Cooperative

Nine “Africa Bags,” made by the people of Chibanzi C.C.A.P.,
are left from our current shipment. This truly is a gift that “gives
twice” as half of the \$10.00 price is used to pay the workers and
provide support for feeding programs. Contact the church office
for purchase information.

Partnership between Chibanzi C.C.A.P. and FPC, South Bend

Our Partner Church in Malawi continues to operate the
Nursery/Orphan Center, Kitchen, and Feeding Program for up to
300 Pre-Kindergarten children six days a week. Ministry of
Hope in Malawi, who oversees this work for us, has asked us to
determine our level of support for 2009 and the Mission Commit-
tee is considering this request, however, nothing is currently in
the budget or in an account for this work.

Work is near completion on Grades One and Two of
the Primary School and the teachers’ houses and pit toilets are
under construction. Funds in the Chibanzi account will pay for
this work.

Twenty new wells have been dug and pumps are in the
process of being constructed and installed. We work in partner-
ship with First Presbyterian Church of Urbana, Illinois and Jenes
C.C.A.P. in Domasi, Malawi to accomplish this miracle of water.

MISSION OF THE QUARTER

Ronald McDonald House Family Room at Memorial Hospital

The Mission Committee is designating Ronald McDonald Family
Room at Memorial Hospital for the quarter of January, February
and March.

The congregation is invited to collect the following items and
place in the Narthex.

**Individual snacks (chips, pretzels, etc.); individual cereals;
granola bars; individual puddings & fruits; trash bags (8 gal &
13 gal); gallon and quart size Ziploc bags; laundry detergent;
stamps; white copy paper (8 ½ x 11).**

Pull for Ronald McDonald House Charities Pop Top Banks Available.

Recycled beverage tabs help support your local Ronald
McDonald House program, a temporary “home-away-from-
home” for the families of seriously ill children being treated at
nearby hospitals. Banks are available in the narthex for you to
use during our “Mission of the Quarter” project. Please help
yourself and return it by the end of March.

Thanks for participating.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

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 5th Graders at any time.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGES FOR FEBRUARY

Children's Messages for February will focus on the special days of the Church Year and the Calendar Year plus the Scripture themes used in worship.

CLUB 345

Club 345 is a once-a-month group for third, fourth, and fifth graders and a way for young people to explore and express their faith. **The February outing, February 17 at 4:30 P.M., will be a "Behind the Scenes" tour of the costume shop and theaters at the DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts at the University of Notre Dame.** Please let us know how many will attend. Meet in the Lobby of DeBartolo by 4:15 P.M. For additional information, please contact: Phyllis Wezeman, Director of Christian Nurture -- 574-234-4159 or pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org.

COMMUNION EDUCATION EVENT FOR SECOND GRADERS & THEIR FAMILIES

Our annual Communion Education event for Second Graders and their parents will be held on **Sunday, February 22 at 12:00 P.M. in the Social Hall.** It is designed to introduce children to the Sacrament in a variety of ways as they prepare to participate in this important observance of the Christian church.

FEATURING FIRST KIDS BULLETIN BOARD

The new location of our "Featuring First Kids Bulletin Board," is on the wall by the Church Office and 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.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Mark your 2009 calendar with the dates for this year's Vacation Bible School (V.B.S.): **Monday, June 8 through Friday, June 12.** Our theme is "Crocodile Dock: Where Fearless Kids Shine God's Light." Get ready for a fun week -- and watch for details in the Church Chatter and the Tower Bell.

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. For Kindergarten through Fifth Graders, Children's Bulletins may be found on the literature rack in the "Children's Corner" or distributed with the bulletins.

FAITH STEPS SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY

Faith Steps, our 9:30 A.M. to 10:30 A.M. Workshop Rotation Model Sunday School for Kindergarten through Fifth Grade children, will co-host the **"All the Animals" Celebration in the Social Hall on February 1.** Noah will be the Bible story for February, in Computer on the 8th (Leandra Allen, Teacher) and in Tent on the 15th (Nellie Namwali, Teacher). On **February 22**, K-5th graders will participate in the "Pancake Party" in the Social Hall with their families.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS FOR FEBRUARY

The Pre-K Class for children who have turned four but who have not started Kindergarten meets every Sunday from 9:30 A.M. – 10:30 A.M. in Room 214 of the Education Wing. On **February 1**, however, Pre-K children will participate with their parents in the "All the Animals" event in the Social Hall and on February they will join their families for the "Pancake Party" in the Social Hall. The Bible story on **February 8** is "Jesus Heals a Little Boy," with Carolyn Schult as teacher and on **February 15** it is "Jesus Heals a Lame Man" with Peggy Van Laere as teacher. For additional information about the Pre-K Sunday School class, please contact: Peggy Van Laere, Coordinator – 574-271-5661 or FAMVAN@aol.com or Phyllis Wezeman, Director of Christian Nurture – 574-234-4159 or pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org.

SECOND HOUR FOR FEBRUARY

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. The schedule includes:

February 1 – Music,
February 8 – Missions,
February 15 – Children's Library, and
February 22 – Church Year.

YOUTH EVENTS AND INFORMATION

Hug A Deacon



Wednesday, February 11, 2009, 8 p.m.

Jesus Christ Superstar is coming to the Morris Performing Arts Center. See Pastor Lindsey for details or email her at lcarnes@fpcsouthbend.org

- Confirmation classes continue in the Youth Rooms at 12:00 noon
February 8 & 22
March 8 & 22

Look in the Church Chatter every Sunday for additional event information and announcements.

Presbyterian Women

You are invited to join Presbyterian Women at Geneva Center on **Friday and Saturday, March 13th and 14th** for **"Let's Learn Together!"**
Reservations due by February 21st

Bring comfortable clothes, a Bible, a friend or two, knitting or crochet needles (if you have them), and a willing spirit.

Please contact Roberta Ferkins at 277-3502 or 298-2082 or ferkins@sbcglobal.net for more information

Spring Gathering—April 25
Geneva Center, Rochester, IN

DID YOU KNOW?



Did you know that the first woman to serve as a church elder was Charlotte Partridge in 1942? No other women served until 1966 when Jo Coy and Mary Martin were elected to the Board of Deacons. In 1970, Mary Jane Erhardt was ordained as an Elder. In 1971, Ernestine Raclin and Cynthia Schmidt were elected to the Board of Trustees

It has been a busy year. The Deacons have been active serving the church and the community through compassionate ministry, hospitality, and giving.

Donations were given to Hope Ministries (formerly Hope Rescue Mission), Center for the Homeless, St. Vincent de Paul, Luvability Ministries, Northern Indiana Food Bank, Hannah's House, Habitat for Humanity, 21st Century Scholars, South Bend Advocacy Center/NIPSCO Winter Heating Assistance, and more. We have begun partnering with the Mission Committee to further support local ministries such as Hannah's House and Habitat for Humanity.

- Thank you to those who prepared and served casserole with us at Hope Ministries.
- Thank you for your continued donations of non-perishable food and toiletries for local ministries.

Many of the Deacons helped support the Stewardship Drive by pledging early and making phone calls to the congregation. Deacons and congregation members delivered Easter lilies and

Christmas poinsettias to their Care and Concern list. For the holidays, the Deacons delivered turkeys to La Salle Park Homes for Thanksgiving and sponsored the Christmas Party for gifts for the children. The Deacons also gave out Christmas gift cards to needy families and children's jackets. We supported Jubilee Christmas through our giving financially and by hosting families.

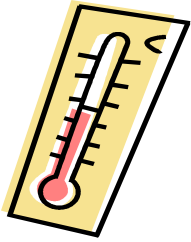
Each week, the Deacons host Fellowship Time after church, encouraging hospitality and fellowship.

The Deacons actively serve on Session Committees. Beginning in December with monthly Communion, the Deacons set-up, clean-up and now help the Elders and Pastors serve Communion.

We have been blessed to serve, pray, worship and fellowship with you. Have you thought about hugging a Deacon lately, or maybe just say "thank you" and look out for the ways you can help us compassionately care for our congregation and Community?

Blessings for 2009!
Moderator Bruce BonDurant, Pastor Lindsey Carnes, and the Board of Deacons.

CHURCH NOMINATING COMMITTEE



Stewardship Update

As of this printing we have received 180 pledges totaling \$373,080 towards our 2009 goal of \$400,000.

Christmas Joy Offering Totals

Thank you for your generosity.

Christmas Joy offering total received on Christmas Eve was \$1,393.50.

Maize Mill offering received on Christmas Eve was \$4,633.50.

Per Capita

The per capita amount for 2009 is \$32.05 per person.



Pledge Envelope Boxes

If you have not picked up your envelope boxes they will be mailed out.

ANNUAL REPORT TIME AGAIN!



Committee Chairs— please have your Annual Reports into the Church Office by **February 13**, preferably by email, to btyler@fpcsouthbend.org. If you are unable to email, please bring a hard copy ready for print or a flash drive or floppy disk to Bonnie Tyler.

Thank you again for your assistance.

A note from our Outreach Committee



To all our members and visitors, please remember to sign in the Friendship Ritual Book every Sunday. Also, remember to wear your nametags.



MidSouth Lunch Group will meet Wednesday, **February 11** at 11:30 at Cira's Restaurant, 2007 Miami Street in South Bend.

The North Group will meet Tuesday, **February 17** at 12:00 at American Pancake House in Roseland.

One of the treasured joys and responsibilities of belonging to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is the election of our officers and leaders. Your Nominating Committee, made up of 2 Elders, 1 Deacon and 5 at-large members, is commissioned to select candidates for the office of Elder and Deacon and for the at-large members of 2009-2010 Nominating Committee. These names will be brought forward at the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, March 1, immediately following the 10:45 worship service. The committee would appreciate any suggestions you might have for nominees. When nominating please take in consideration the following:

CHURCH INVOLVEMENT

- Regular worship attendance
- Financial support of church
- Participation in church activities
- Offices held
- Services Rendered

CHRISTIAN LIVING IN DAILY LIFE

- Within the family
- At work
- In the community

PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS AND SKILLS

- Freedom and willingness to attend meetings
- Cooperativeness
- Openness to learn
- Ability to follow through
- Maturity in judgment
- Readiness to listen

Four words that might sum up the above are Commitment, Faithfulness, Willingness and Openness. On the basis of these, I suggest the name(s) of:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Please list names of people you wish to nominate and the office or position you feel they would best serve. Send this information to the church office marked NOMINATING COMMITTEE or place names with information in the offering plate on Sunday. The committee will have its first meeting on Wednesday, January 28th.

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

Report of Recent Session Actions

- Approved changes in the bylaws of the Children's Center.
- Approved a modified Covenant of Closure for Rev. Terry McBride. As of December 2008, the Session and Rev. McBride affirm their desire to create clearer boundaries between the two organizations.
- Approved the setting up of Flexible Health Spending Accounts for all full-time staff.
- The Personnel Committee is proceeding with a time/work analysis for all staff. The purpose is to identify the activities on which staff spends time and effort.
- Approved the resumption of the early 8:30 a.m. service as of January 11, 2009.
- Approved Special Worship Services on: Ash Wednesday, February 25 at noon in the Chapel, Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service on April 9 at 7:00 p.m., and Good Friday April 10 at noon in the Chapel.
- For Christmas Eve, we received a Peace Candle from Bethlehem and Session resolved that we gladly receive this light as a sign of our willingness to be channels of peace by our words and actions.
- Plans are being drawn up for our 175th Year Anniversary ("Celebrate the Journey") Nancy Shephard chairs the Committee.
- Some self-studies in preparation for the formation of a Pastoral Search Committee will begin in the Spring..
- Session elected the following elders to serve on the Nominating Committee: Pam Proctor, Chair and Pete Amos.
- **Session called for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation to be held Sunday March 1, 2009 immediately following the 10:45 a.m. Worship Service in the Sanctuary for the purpose of receiving annual reports; reviewing 2009 budget; approving terms of call for associate pastors, hearing the report of the Nominating Committee; electing Elders, Deacons and members of the 2009-2010 Nominating Committee; and acting upon any other business pertaining thereto.**
- As of January 22, 2009, pledges in the amount of \$373,080 have been received. Our goal is \$400,000.