



Tower Bell

MARCH, 2009

INTERIM PASTOR'S REPORT

When facing a challenge, what words would you most like to hear—from another person—from the Lord?

I am with you! "Surely, I will be with you always."

(Matthew 28:20)

I will help you! "I will ask the Father, and he will give you another helper...you will know them because he abides with you, and he will be in you." (John 14:16-17)

Take courage! "But take heart! I have overcome the world."

(John 16:33)

Then after meeting a challenge what words would you like to hear? "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Matthew 25:21)

The 2008 Annual Report reflects the challenges and excitement of the First Presbyterian Church—of people who have heard our Lord's words and have reached out in ministry. To each and every one of these people, members and staff, I give my heartfelt thanks for without your commitment, energy and skills unselfishly given, there would be no annual reports.

If you have not yet picked up your copy, I hope you will, and that you will read these reports. Then if you find something that surprises you, or that someone did something of which you were not aware, that you will go the next step and tell him or her you appreciated it. For projects big or small it is the "small" thanks that count the most. Enjoy your look at the past but let it ever be said that the windows of our church look out on the future—God's future and ours.

My six months of ministry with you as Interim Pastor have been exciting and fruitful. You are a wonderful congregation and I am grateful to journey with you in a shared ministry. You have a rich heritage from your early beginnings. Many people have helped form and reform this church to where it is today, and like any church, there have been peaks and valleys. Along the way, we are called to "celebrate the journey" to praise the Lord! You continue to move forward with your five developmental tasks—coming to terms with history as you celebrate your 175th Anniversary, discovering a new identity, allowing needed leadership change, committing to new leadership and direction, and renewing denominational linkages.

During the coming months, we will be doing a Mission Study (one of requirements before a church can form a Pastor Nominating Committee), which includes examining our history, reflecting on our context of ministry, exploring the programs and processes of our church and eventually writing a mission statement. A Congregational Life survey and focus groups will be done to gather information from as many as possible.

Being an interim is both challenging and rewarding. Three areas have taken major blocks of my time--Worship, Pastoral Care and Administration. The first two are somewhat self-explanatory. The third, administration, is also time consuming—a regular ex-officio member of worship, finance, personnel, Stephen Ministry, Children's Center board and the 175th anni-

versary committee; moderating session meetings; meeting with staff; writing newsletter articles; reviewing and helping revise various operation manuals be it child care, staff or wedding policies, etc. The overall responsibilities can be demanding dealing with difficult problems. I am also an active member of Presbytery serving as moderator of the Interim Ministry Team and as a result on Council. In the midst of all this, I am strengthened by the immeasurable power of God's grace and encouraged by the many ways God is working in and through you.

Past is prologue and the future lies before you. Jesus said, "I will build my church." Like a ship unfurling its sails, as you continue the process of seeking a new pastor, may you open yourselves to God's indwelling Spirit, which gives direction, power and presence.

Remember to use along the way words like. *I am with you! I will help you! Take courage! Well done!* And surely, the Lord will be with us and we will be blessed! To God be praise and glory!

Bob Agnew

Stephen Ministry

Our lives are delicately balanced. A small shift in one area of life can set us off balance. A major change can send us spinning out of control.

Stephen Ministers can help when life gets out of balance. They listen and care, and most importantly, bring the stability of Jesus' love and grace into people's lives, your life or that of someone you know has shifted out of balance, consider Stephen Ministry. For more information call Nancy Shephard at 272-0909.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

For sixty years, One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) has been a treasure for Presbyterians. Since 1949, it has given us opportunities to ensure that our gifts can help others live fuller lives.

Whether they go to families who suddenly lose everything in war or natural disaster, or to communities that have been struggling for years against hunger and poverty, our gifts to OGHS can help our brothers and sisters change their lives. And to the extent that they bring us a step closer to placing our reliance on God rather than only on ourselves, they can change our own. On **Palm Sunday, April 5**, we want to invite you to celebrate this sixtieth anniversary of One Great Hour of Sharing by doubling what you have normally given to this offering.

**Happy Birthday FPC
"Celebrate the Journey."**

That is the theme of our year-long celebration of the 175th Anniversary of First Presbyterian Church of South Bend.

We will be having various celebrations throughout the year to mark this important anniversary. All areas of the church are involved and many volunteers are working hard to plan these events. Details will be provided as they become available.

A booklet condensing 175 years of history of First Presbyterian Church is being assembled and will be provided to all members. This project is being led by Eve Pierce.

Have you noticed the old photos posted in the Narthex? Alma McClelland has been gathering photos and remembrances from several generations of church members. She will be adding more photo posters as the year progresses, so keep your eye out for new pictures. See how many faces you can recognize.

The two major events are well along in the planning stages. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend:

May 3, 2009 – 19th Century Worship Service at 10:45 a.m. Liturgy and music will be similar to that used for the first years of the church. (May 3, 1834 was the date of the first organizational meeting at the home of Horatio Chapin.) A celebration luncheon, organized by the Congregational Life Committee, will follow the service.

Oct. 11, 2009 – Grand Celebration service at 10:45 a.m., followed by a special meal. There will be activities for children and adults of all ages.

A special video presentation is being prepared for this anniversary year. Children and youth are planning special activities, as well as our music groups and the Malawi Association. The Redbud Committee also is planning special events.

Adult Education started off this special year with a three-part series in January entitled "Happy 500th Birthday, John Calvin – A Look at Calvin's Theology." Presented by Dr. Randall Zachman, Professor of Theology at the University of Notre Dame, the series provided an examination of the major theological themes of Calvin's theology, in honor of the 500th anniversary of his birth.

Future programs include a multi-week series in May on 175 years of South Bend history by Dr. Patrick Furlong, Professor of History at IUSB, and a multi-week fall series by our own Dr. Les Lamon of IUSB on the history of the Presbyterian Church USA and how it has affected our church. Beth Lamon is preparing a program on the Art and Furniture of our church.

Nancy Shephard, Chair of the 175th Celebration

FPC Malawi Association will hold its next meeting on Sunday, March 29 at 12:00 noon in the Board Room

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS....

You are invited to join Presbyterian Women at Geneva Center on Friday and Saturday, March 13th and 14th for **Let's Learn Together!** Bring comfortable clothes, a Bible, a friend or two, knitting or crochet needles (if you have them), and a willing spirit. Contact Robert Ferkins, 574-277-3502 or ferkins@sbcglobal.net

MISSION COMMITTEE

MISSION OF THE QUARTER

Ronald McDonald House Family Room at Memorial Hospital

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 and fruits; trash bags (8 gal & 13 gal); gallon and quart size Ziploc bags; laundry detergent; stamps; white copy paper (8 1/2 x 11).**

Pull for Ronald McDonald House Charities – Pop Top Banks Available near the church office and in the Narthex.

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.

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

Africa Bags Village Cooperative

We need to form an Africa Bags Committee to administer the product that comes to our church for sale in the congregation and the community. If you would be willing to part of this group, please call or email David Norman, Mission Committee Chair, at 574-291-2511 or dnorman@tpna.com or Phyllis Wezeman at 574-234-4159 or pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org.

Nursery School/Orphan Center & Feeding Program/Kitchen

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. Through Ministry of Hope in Malawi, who oversees this work for us, the budget for 2009 is \$14,482. The Committee is considering this need and has enough for the first quarterly installment.

Shallow Wells

Praise God! Because of the clean water from the 11 shallow wells installed in 2007-2008 and the twenty new wells in process during 2008-2009, there was NO CHOLERA OUTBREAK in Chibanzi this season!!!

ADULT EDUCATION

CHAPEL CLASS FOR MARCH – CHOCOLATE FOR LENT.

“Chocolate for Lent” is the topic of the Lenten study that will be held in the Chapel from 9:30 A.M. to 10:30 A.M. for six Sunday mornings. The schedule includes:

March 1 -- Giving Up
March 8 – Giving Out
March 15 – Getting Wise
March 22 – Getting Real
March 29 – Growing Up
April 5 – Keeping On

Using clips from the film *Chocolat*, this unique approach to the season creates the space for deeper insights into self-discipline, self-giving, acceptance, and maturing in Christ. Delving into the delicious depths of humanity, “Chocolate for Lent” offers a Lenten program like no other! Indulge the cravings of your soul – and participate as often as you can. There will be handouts each week. Linda Fox is the facilitator.

GROWING CHRISTIANS CLASS THE BIBLE JESUS READ

“The Bible Jesus Read,” the Growing Christians class facilitated by Pete Amos, is a video Bible study based on the popular book by Philip Yancey. It meets in the Social Hall from 9:30 A.M. to 10:30 A.M. on Sunday morning. 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.

The March schedule includes:

March 1 – Deuteronomy: A Taste of Bittersweet
March 8 – Psalms: Spirituality in Every Key
March 15 – Ecclesiastes: The End of Wisdom
March 22 – The Prophets: God Talks Back
March 29 – Advance Echoes of a Final Answer

FOR PERSONAL STUDY DURING LENT 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.

ADULT SMALL GROUPS

DINNER & DEVOTIONS

Five Wednesday evenings in Lent

Time

5:45 P.M. -- 6:15 P.M. – Buffet Dinner
Come early and visit or come just in time to eat
6:30 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.
Devotion through Music

Location

First Presbyterian Church of South Bend -- Social Hall

Program

Wednesday, March 4

Music by Craig Heitger, Trumpet & Gretchen Klanke, Flute

Wednesday, March 11

Music by Children & Youth of the Church

Wednesday, March 18

Music of Holy Week—Phyllis Wezeman

Wednesday, March 25

Music by the FPC South Bend Praise Band

Wednesday, April 1

Music by Chris Ross, Soloist

For additional information, watch the “Church Chatter” or contact: Phyllis Wezeman, Director of Christian Nurture

ECO-STEWARDS

The Eco-Stewards group has suspended their second and fourth Tuesday of the month meetings at The Side Door Café at Martin’s Supermarket until further notice. Watch the Church Chatter and the Tower Bell for updates on future meetings and other activities, including a “Gifts” event. 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, March 6. 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, March 2, contact Phyllis Wezeman -- 574-234-4159 or pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org.

ETHNIC EATING

Our next quarterly Ethnic Eating adventure will be held Friday, April 17 at "Taste of LaLumiere." This annual event at the Rolling Prairie school features forty to fifty tasting stations with foods from around the world prepared by their international students, chefs, faculty, and staff. It will take place from 7:00 P.M. to 9:30 P.M. (Central time), so those wishing to ride in the bus or to carpool are asked to meet at Church at 6:30 P.M. for a 6:45 P.M. departure. Tickets are \$15.00 (in advance). If you plan to attend, please contact Kathleen English at 574-329-3324 or katmanduh@hotmail.com or Phyllis Wezeman at 574-234-4159 or pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org BEFORE APRIL 1 (the absolute deadline for advance purchase) and give either of them a check for \$15.00 per person payable to LaLumiere School.

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 March date is Tuesday, March 17. Child care is available by reservation. For additional information, contact Phyllis Wezeman -- 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. The group is studying the book *Living in the Power of the Holy Spirit* by Charles F. Stanley. 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

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, **March 14th** 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. The current study is the Gospel of John.

The Guild invites all women of the Church, as well as friends, to participate in their annual **Good Friday Overnight Prayer Vigil**. Held in the Chapel, gathering will take place from 11:00 P.M. to 11:30 P.M., with Scripture, devotions, and music

on "The Seven Last Words of Christ" running from 11:30 P.M. until 6:30 A.M. Breakfast will be served at 6:30 A.M. and the event will conclude by 7:00 A.M. For additional information about monthly meetings and/or the Prayer Vigil, contact Mlekwa Mwachande – 574-289-5371 or Phyllis Wezeman – 574-234-4159 or pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org.

ADULT EDUCATION EXTRAS

GO & GROW OUTING TO TULIP TIME IN HOLLAND, MICHIGAN TUESDAY, MAY 5

Celebrate spring with an outing to "Tulip Time" in Holland, Michigan on Tuesday, May 5. Tentative plans include: 8:45 A.M. – Leave Church in the bus and minivans; 10:30 A.M. – Windmill Island; 1:00 P.M. – Lunch at Morrow's home; 3:00 P.M. – Dutch market, Klompen dancers, Centennial Park flower beds, and other stops; 5:00 P.M. – Leave for South Bend. Cost for the day will be around \$10.00 -- \$15.00 per person. Watch for updates in our Church publications. Contact Phyllis Wezeman (574-234-4159 or pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org) to sign up or to ask questions.



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. A list of performances is available. Watch for additional information in upcoming publications or contact Phyllis Wezeman at 574-234-4159 or pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org.

A Note from the Outreach Committee:

As a way of making a more personal contact with our church family, the Outreach phone calling committee will be contacting each of you soon. This is our way of saying hello, answering any questions you might have, and sharing with you about all of the special Lenten Events that will be forthcoming. God Bless.

- The Mid/South Lunch Group will meet Wednesday, March 11, at 11:30 at Cira's Restaurant.
- The NorthSide Lunch Group will meet Tuesday, March 17 at 12:00 at American Pancake House, Roseland.

"Did you Know? "That the church bell, which now hangs in our bell tower was first used in our second church? It was cast in New York State in 1938 and was weeks in transit by boat through the Erie Canal, across the Great Lakes to the mouth of the St. Joseph and by river to South Bend.





CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

BIG HEARTS BUNCH

Once again, the Big Hearts Bunch – our caring kid's club for third, fourth, and fifth graders – will prepare Easter baskets for over 125 children of LaSalle Park Homes.

We invite you to help supply small stuffed animals, wrapped candy (lots), and Easter grass for the Big Hearts Bunch to use to create the baskets. We have enough baskets – thanks to “sale” shoppers. Items are needed BY March 8 – at the latest and may be left in the Church office. Thank you for your support.

CHILD CARE FOR MARCH

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 our Sanctuary Worship. Please pick up your child/children before attending the Fellowship time.

On Sunday, March 1, Child Care for infants through three-year-olds will continue until the conclusion of the Congregational meeting.

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

Know Chocolate for Lent: Know [Word of the Week like Where, How]

Know Chocolate for Lent

2-22-09 -- Ash Wednesday: Know What – Phyllis Wezeman

3-1-09 -- First Sunday in Lent: Know Where – Phyllis Wezeman

3-8-09 -- Second Sunday in Lent: Know How – Judy Eaton

3-15-09 -- Third Sunday in Lent: Know Which

3-22-09 -- Fourth Sunday in Lent: Know When

3-29-09 -- Fifth Sunday in Lent: Know Why

4-5-09 -- Sixth Sunday in Lent
(Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday): Know So

4-9-09 (During Children's Program not Worship Service) --
Maundy Thursday: Know By – Phyllis Wezeman

4-10-09 (During Children's Program not Worship Service) --
Good Friday: Know That – Phyllis Wezeman

4-12-09 -- Easter Sunday: Know Who – Phyllis Wezeman

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 March outing, **March 14th**, will be a trip to the Mousetrap Puppet Theater in Shipshewana to see the show “*American Puppet Idol*” at 4:00 P.M. We'll determine departure time and transportation once we see how many are going. For additional information, or to make a reservation, please contact: Phyllis Wezeman, Director of Christian Nurture --574-234-4159 or pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org.

FAITH STEPS SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR MARCH

Faith Steps, our 9:30 A.M. to 10:30 A.M. Workshop Rotation Model Sunday School for Kindergarten through Fifth Grade children, will focus on the life of Peter during the month of March. Children will explore and experience the story in Art (Dru Wrasse, Teacher and Margo Shearman-Howard, Shepherd) on the **1st**; Music (Gretchen Klanke, Teacher and Nellie Namwali, Shepherd) on the **8th**; Drama (Margo Shearman-Howard, Teacher and Ann Phambana, Shepherd) on the **15th**; Computer (Leandra Allen, Teacher and Nellie Namwali, Shepherd) on the **22nd**; and Tent (Nellie Namwali, Teacher and Margo Shearman-Howard, Shepherd) on the **29th**.

FEATURING FIRST KIDS BULLETIN BOARD

Our “Featuring First Kids Bulletin Board” has moved to the wall near the Church Office. It 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.

FOURTH GRADE OUTING

Our annual Fourth Grade Outing to the “Passion Play” will take place Saturday, **April 11**. We will attend “The Easter Story through the Eyes of Peter” at the Blue Gate Theater in Shipshewana, leaving from Church at 12:00 Noon. Ticket prices are \$9.00 for children and \$18.00 for adults. For additional information or to make a reservation, please contact Phyllis Wezeman at 574-234-4159 or pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS FOR MARCH

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. The Bible stories for March are:

March 1 -- Jesus Stills the Storm (Peggy Van Laere, Teacher),

March 8 – Jesus Feeds 5,000 People (Carolyn Schult, Teacher),

March 15 – Jesus Heals a Blind Man

(Peggy Van Laere, Teacher),

March 22 – Mary and Martha (Carolyn Schult, Teacher) **March**

29 – The Lost Sheep (Peggy Van Laere, 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 MARCH

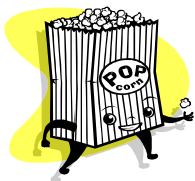
Second Hour is a Faith Formation Program for Kindergarten through Second Grade children. It begins after the Children's Message in the 10:45 A.M. Worship Service, and is held from approximately 11:00 A.M. to 11:45 A.M. The schedule includes: March 1 – Music (Gretchen Klanke, Teacher), March 8 – Missions (Jennifer and Mike Byers, Teachers), March 15 – Children's Library (Peggy Van Laere, Guest Reader), March 22 – Church Year: Easter (Gail Carleton, Teacher), and March 29 – Church Year: Easter (Phyllis Wezeman, Teacher).

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Mark your 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.



Thank you Faithful Servants!

Many thanks to those who faithfully served at the Notre Dame Men's Basketball Concession Stand. Your service has raised well over \$5,000 (and counting!) for various ministries and missions of FPC. The work is hard and we are very grateful for your efforts. Our faithful volunteers are: *Darren Allen, Donna Canter, Dick Cordill, Kathleen English, Doug Farnwald, Steve Girard, Doug Hemphill, Terry McCann, Alma and Larry McClelland, Carter, Clifford and Carl McLeod, Willie Meiss, Nellie Namwali, Joyce Schalliol, Jim Schlobohm, Jon and Jen Smoker, Don and Joann Sporleder, Tom Walker, and David Wojcicki.*

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

MARCH 8

DON'T FORGET TO MOVE YOUR CLOCKS FORWARD.



YOUTH EVENTS AND INFORMATION



This past Fall, both Pastor Lindsey and I wanted the Mid High group to study the life of Jesus. What I had assumed was that there would be serious bible study and the youth of our church would be excited about studying the word of God.

When our faithful Sunday School teachers, Greg and Mary Jane Lawson, told me that they wanted to watch the musical 'Godspell' during the Sunday school hour, I was a little skeptical. How can a Broadway musical be a sufficient tool to teach the Gospel to young people?

As I sat down in a overstuffed couch in the Mid High Room, I was quickly convinced. 'Godspell' is a musical production, but it follows the Gospel of Matthew to a tea. I sat with the bible open to Matthew and read along with the musical. Pretty soon several of the mid high students grabbed bibles as well in order to follow along. The life of Jesus was being studied in a serious way.

This past month the Youth of our church went together to see 'Jesus Christ Superstar' at the Morris Theater. This musical was adapted from the Gospel of Mark. How marvelous that our youth are being exposed to culture and learning about Scripture and the Gospel at the same time. Surely God is speaking His Word in ways that may surprise us.

Pastor Robbie

COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES at Easter Time

It's hard to hug a college student when they travel away for school. The next best thing is to send a note or help donate items for care packages. Twice a year we gather donations for individually wrapped snack foods and small school supplies.

You can also help by donating large empty shoe boxes, money towards postage, help pack and address the boxes, or by writing a personal note. Contact Pastor Lindsey or leave items in the church office.

Donations Needed by Palm Sunday, APRIL: 5.

Young Adults Knock 'em Down at Strikes and Spares

Seven of us had a great time bowling with scores ranging from 40's to 100's. Keep an eye on the Church Chatter section of the Sunday bulletin for our next event..You may speak with Pastor Lindsey or Nellie Namwali.

Help for Difficult Times

UTILITIES If you will not be able to pay your utility bills this winter, or know someone who cannot, call as soon as possible to get in the system. Call for an appointment before you go to the office. If you qualify for help your gas will not get turned off until March. The bill will still need to be paid.

REAL Services Energy Assistance Program

232-6501 1131 S Michigan St South Bend

OTHER NEEDS

Contact the following organizations in the order listed. It will save you time and travel.

CALL 2-1-1 United Way Referral Network (good place to start)

Your Township Trustee Office

Call first. Come in for application, guidelines & appointment.

If you get refused by either or both of the above agencies, save and take the papers to the next resource. You need to prove that you have been to those office/offices.

Salvation Army (Call first to discuss needs)

Mishawaka 255-1787

1026 Dodge St Mishawaka 46544

9:00--noon on Thursday

South Bend 233-9471

540 S Carol St South Bend 46601

9:00 – noon, Mon/Tues/Wed/Fri

Stone Soup (they can also refer you to other resources)

Main Office at First United Methodist Church 246-0364

333 N Main St South Bend 46601

Albright Methodist Church Mishawaka

504 W Mishawaka Ave 46545

URC Advocacy Center (rent, utilities, misc.)

Mishawaka 215 Union St 46544 254-4068

9:00 – noon, Tuesday and Thursday

South Bend 117 N Lafayette Blvd 289-5830

9:00 – noon, Mon, Wed, Fri

Other Referrals for Assistance

St. Vincent DePaul 234-6211

230 E Sample Street South Bend

The Center for the Homeless 288-4842

813 S Michigan South Bend

Food Pantry First United Methodist Church 233-9463

333 N Main Street South Bend 46601

2:00–4:00 p.m. Mon–Thurs

TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES

Penn Township Trustee Jeff Dean 256-6210

210 E Russ St Mishawaka 46545

8:00--noon; 1:00--4:30 p.m. Closed Wed mornings.

Centre Township Trustee 291-7766

19971 Kern Rd South Bend 46614

German Township Trustee

51755 Portage Rd South Bend 46628

Warren Township Trustee 288-8702

59330 Crumstown Hwy, North Liberty, IN

Union Township Trustee 784-3110

507 S Michigan St Lakeville, IN

Jubilee Christmas 2008

“The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.”
Psalm 126:3

In December our church hosted the 25th year of Jubilee Christmas together with Sunnyside, Westminster, Memorial and Ridgedale Presbyterian Churches. It was a joyous event as we worked together to provide Christmas presents for forty local families that had been identified by St. Vincent de Paul as needing extra help. Jubilee parents gathered in the Social Hall with their host partners to wrap three gifts for each child while they enjoyed fellowship and Christmas cookies. In addition to the specially selected gifts each family received Martin’s grocery certificates, a nourishing soup mix prepared by our Big Hearts Bunch, a Bible and a plate of homemade cookies. Teens received gift cards and everyone had a chance to select gently used clothing. Four lucky families went home with an additional surprise after winning a bike raffle. As she was leaving, one young mother remarked that this would be the best Christmas her kids had ever had. Christmas morning became a true celebration for the Jubilee families as they were able to share the bounty with their children.

Jubilee Christmas is one of our biggest missions and requires dozens of volunteers. There are many to thank beginning with our pastoral and office staff for providing support and encouragement: *Rev. Bob Agnew, Revs. Robbie and Lindsey Carnes, Phyllis Wezeman, Bonnie and Ken Tyler and Carla Fay.*

Delicious cookie bakers: *Sue Marsh, Lavetta Stankus, Lanh Hemphill, Malou Audi, Rikki Tuesley, Ann and Anita Schwarz, Jan Mihelich, Donna Pfeil and Sarah Proctor, cookie organizer.*

Jubilee Family Hosts: *Ann and Anita Schwarz, Edie Parker, Roberta Ferkins, Donna Rehbein, Eve Pierce, Kathleen English, Keith Chirambo, Nellie Namwali, Judy Eaton, Cathy, Tracy, Ian and Nathan Spear, Bruce and Cathy Bondurant, Doug and Pam Marsh, Greg and Mary Jane Lawson, Guy and Marty St. John, Carolyn Sassano, and Arletta Wright*

Toy Organization: *Kathy Cates and Arletta Wright*

Thursday Set Up: *Alisea McLeod, Bea Frame, Char Ford, Judy Gruber, and Gwen MacGregor*

Registration: *Pam Proctor and Vicki Toothaker*

Musical Accompaniment: *Gary Nicholls*

Hand knit caps and mittens: *Dottie Taylor*

Soup Mixes: *The Big Hearts Bunch*

Bicycle Donation: *Greg and Mary Jane Lawson*

And finally a big thanks to the Deacons and Mission Committee for providing major financial support and joyful appreciation for the entire congregation for purchasing toy and gift requests and donating funds to make everything possible.

Bonnie Shaffer, Jubilee Christmas Chairman

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

- Session called for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation at its January meeting, 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.

SESSION REPORT FOR 2/26/09

- Clarification: The change in the Articles of Incorporation for the Children's Center consisted of the deletion of Article V so that the board is no longer required to consist only of active members of Session. The Corporation is still an incorporated not-for-profit entity.
- Session approved the 2009 budget which will be presented to the Congregation for its approval at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation.
- The current financial situation was discussed including consideration of a capital fund campaign.
- A new Child Care Policy was approved.
- The schedule for summer worship was approved:
 - A single service at 9:30 a.m. during the months of June, July, and August.
 - Sunday worship on July 19 will be at Redbud Retreat.
 - Easter services will include April 9, Maundy Thursday Tenebrae service at 7:00 p.m. and Good Friday at noon.
- The position of Church Organist is now open and new candidates are being interviewed.
- Reports on the last Presbytery meeting were given.
- A new Young Adults Group has been started.
- The projects for the Mission Committee include the Ronald McDonald house for January, February, and March, and Habitat for Humanity for April, May, and June.