

Tower Bell

January, 2010

Dear Friends,

2010 is almost here! It will be filled with opportunities for spiritual growth—living from the inside out, and for using your God-given gifts to shape and reshape the world around us, to be points of light and to press forward with new determination. In the words one writer,

*I am the new year,
I am an unspoiled page in your book of time.
I am your next chance at the art of living.
I am your opportunity to practice what you have
learned about life.
All that you sought and didn't find is hidden in me,
waiting for you to search it out with new
determination.
All the good that you tried for and didn't achieve is
mine to grant when you have fewer conflicting
desires.
All that you dreamed but didn't dare to do,
all that you hoped but did not will,
all the faith you claimed but did not have,
these slumber lightly, waiting to be awakened by
the touch of a strong purpose.
I am your opportunity to renew your allegiance to
Him who said, "Behold, I am making all things
new."
I am the new year.*

To begin this new year, I want to thank you for the love, kindness and support I've felt not only during this Christmas season but throughout my stay as your interim pastor. You are a wonderful congregation destined for even greater things as you journey ahead.

For example, the Mission Study Team, formed in May of this year has completed its work with an extensive report. Special thanks to this group for its commitment to this valuable task that highlights the strengths, concerns and needs of First Presbyterian Church, its mission and vision. In addition, the session has developed goals which come out of this study. Once approved by the Presbytery Committee on Ministry, this report will be available in the Library.

Then, during the next month, please pray for your Church Nominating Committee as it works to nominate Deacons and Elders and a Pulpit Nominating Committee!

This means my work is coming to end and this new year will bring a new pastor who will serve you with energy, intelligence, imagination and love.

The Session, also at its November meeting, enthusiastically approved our church to be part of a missional transformation process over the next few years with other congregations in our Presbytery. It's about spiritual formation and renewal, Bible study, discipleship and discovering new, compelling and shared visions for the future.

It is an invitation to a journey and like Abraham and Sarah, as you go forward, remember God has placed in your hands two lamps—the lamp of memory and the lamp of hope. With the lamp of memory you can look at where you have been, “the rock from which you have been hewn”. You can see how God, the potter, has formed and reformed you, the church and world around you. Value and cherish the light of those memories, learn from them.

Next move forward with lamp of hope which lights the way to new adventures, horizons, occasions and duties. Along the way, my prayer for you is that of the Apostle Paul to the church in Ephesus,

“that according to the riches of God's glory you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through God's Spirit...that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith...and you may be filled with the all the fullness of God.”

(Ephesians 4:16-19)

Wishing each of you and 1st Presbyterian Church a blessed and glorious 2010 filled with the fullness of God's Love.

**Peace,
Bob**

Jubilee Christmas "Joy-Filled All the Way"

by Pastor Lindsey Carnes

When you visit our house and stick around for a while you will notice that the Carnes family often mixes up the words to familiar songs. Our daughter Annabeth has taken to singing her own original lyrics and even little 2 year old Sammy has noticed that the ABC's, Ba Ba Black Sheep, and Twinkle Twinkle Little Star share the same tune. This year, my one of my favorite Christmas songs has taken on a new character. After Jubilee Christmas my Christmas soundtrack changed from "Jingle All the Way" to "Joy-Filled All the Way."

This year was an extra special year for the 30 families who participated in Jubilee Christmas. Like so many families, the families referred to us through St. Vincent de Paul have struggled with the changing economic climate and the last two years have not been easy. The sense of "Joy-Filledness" and thankfulness covered the afternoon of gift wrapping toys and new or slightly used clothes donated by our four South Bend Presbyterian Churches. Many hosts expressed to me that "there was something different this year."

My favorite Jubilee Christmas memory is a tradition now in our family. Our children select tags off the Giving Tree in the Parlor and select gifts for a child close to their same age. Our Christmas begins with "Joy-Filled" giving.

Everyone can participate and be blessed by Jubilee Christmas. No matter your ability level, physical restrictions, or financial situation there is a place for you to help with Jubilee Christmas. Phone call reminders, Giving tree tag hangers, gift sorters, clothing folders, letter writers and organizers, gift buyers, cookie bakers, grocery gift card purchasers are just some of the ways to join in.

Thank you to Bonnie Shaffer and Gwen MacGregor for organizing and sorting the collection of the toys. Thank you to our cookie bakers whose delicious treats were hosted during our fellowship and gift wrapping time December 12 at Sunnyside Presbyterian Church. Thank you to the 18 church members who helped host our guests and wrap presents. Many thanks to those who were able to financially contribute by purchasing the toys, gift certificates for the teenagers, and grocery gift cards for each family.

The response to the Giving Tree was so great that we also identified children from the Children's Center here at church who were in desperate need of winter jackets and mittens. Thank you for helping support this much needed addition to our giving this year.

So, if next year's Christmas Rush has you feeling down, add a little "Joy-Filled All the Way" by lending a

hand to our effort as a congregation to extend to others the love and joy of Christmas through giving our time, energy, efforts and giving to others in need.

A note from the Deacons meeting

At their last meeting, the Deacons decided on the charities they would be supporting for Fall/Winter 2009. They each will be given \$500.

Jubilee Christmas, Hope Ministries, Food Bank of Northern Indiana, St. Vincent de Paul Society, Habitat for Humanity, Reins of Life and Broadway Christian Parish.

From the Finance Office:



Thank you to all who have so generously given to support the church and our ministries this year. As of 12/15/09, we have received \$ 339,844 of our \$ 395,380 in pledges. Please remember to turn in your year-end donations so they may be included on your 2009 giving statement.

Notre Dame Concessions Fundraiser

Thank you to all those who have volunteered their time at the Notre Dame Basketball Concession Stand. As you know, every year we raise thousands of dollars for ministry at Redbud Trail Retreat, the Children's Center and 21st Century Scholars. This fundraiser is manned by faithful volunteers who sell hotdogs, candy, soda pop and popcorn for hours on end. Many people commit to several games through the season and a few brave souls sign on for all of the 19-20 games that are played in the Joyce Arena on the Notre Dame Campus. How wonderful it is to work with such a dedicated group of people.

Sincerely

Pastor Robbie Carnes

Mark your calendars for the next Outreach Lunches:

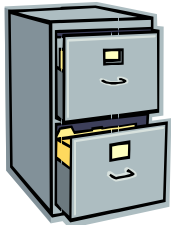
Mid Town/South Lunch Group at Allie’s Café,
Mishawaka Ave., at **11:30 a.m., Wednesday, January 13, 2010.**

North Lunch Group at American Pancake House,
Roseland, at **12:00, Tuesday, January 19, 2010.**

Have You Noticed?

- *Have you noticed our worship services are alive with new music and enthusiasm?
- *Have you met our new choir director and organist?
- *Have you noticed the blue shirts for sale before and after our worship service?
- *Have you seen the beautiful holiday decorations in our church?

The Outreach Committee would like to wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year.



From our Archives: Information found while organizing our old newsletters

In 1944, the Service Men’s Committee, a special group from the Session, originated “The Latch String” to carry news and information to the men and women of our church who were in the Armed Services.

Publication ceased when the war ended in 1945. Several copies are on display in our library in the back pages of our 175th Album.

Then, in 1948, “The Tower Bell” made its debut at the 13th Annual Turkey Dinner which made publishing funds available. The name was decided by a committee.

In September, 1996, the name was changed to “The Outlook Express” and was published bi-monthly. In September, 1997, the name was changed to “First Reflections”. The congregation asked to have “The Tower Bell” back and it was revived in February, 2001.

A note from Keith Chirambo:

Hi Phyllis and Lindsey

I hope all you guys are fine. I am fine and slowly getting used to life back home.

I just want to take this time to thank you guys for all the wonderful experiences I had as a member of FPC South Bend. It was a wonderful and beautiful experience being a member of that congregation. I learnt a lot by just being a member and by also serving in the church. The learning experiences I gathered from there are priceless.

Once again thank you all, and give my thanks to the Pastors, the deacon committee and the whole congregation for making my stay in South Bend worthwhile. Hope to be seeing you guys in the future.

Wishing you all Gods blessings and wishing FPC South Bend all the best in its endeavors as it continues to do the Lords work.

Many thanks and God bless you all

Keith and Keisha

JANUARY 24, 2010

CHICAGO STAFF BAND OF THE SALVATION ARMY LEADS US IN WORSHIP AND AN ALL-CHURCH POTLUCK FOLLOWS

The **Chicago Staff Band** is a 36 piece brass choir including percussion which also performs as a male chorus. Its goal is to compliment our worship service with its innovative music and quality performance and to lead our music at the 10:45 A.M. service. The Salvation Army Church will also join with us for worship that morning.

Immediately following this worship service the Congregational Life Committee will host an All-Church Potluck as we offer hospitality to the members of the **Salvation Army Band and the Salvation Army Church of South Bend.**

Congregational Life will provide barbeque/sloppy joe sandwiches. The congregation is invited to bring a salad or a dessert – large enough to serve at least 12 people. **The Committee will be cooking and setting up on Thursday, January 21 at 1:00 P.M. in the Social Hall. Feel free to come to help!**

Reservations are requested, so please use a gold pew card to sign up and let us know how many are coming and what you will be bringing. If you prefer, call or email the Church with the information – 574-234-4159 or pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org. For additional information, please contact Joyce Schalliol, Chair of the Committee, at 584-546-3411 or jschallio1@aol.com or Phyllis Wezeman at 574-234-4159 or pwezemanfpcsouthbend.org.



by Pastor Robbie Carnes



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

BIG HEARTS BUNCH

The Big Hearts Bunch, our Caring Kid's Club for Third, Fourth, and Fifth Graders, will stay after Church on **Sunday, January 10** for lunch in the Social Hall and a service project. They will make the "monthly" chicken casseroles for Hope Ministries, our Mission of the Quarter. All Third-Fifth Grade families – and anyone else willing to assist – are urged to stay to help with this worthwhile project.

CHILD CARE [INFANTS & TWO'S/THREE'S]

An Infant Nursery and a Twos/Threes Class is offered every Sunday from 9:15 A.M. to 12:00 Noon. Janet Mwachande is the attendant, assisted during each shift by regularly scheduled, nurturing volunteers.

CHILDREN'S LIBRARY



"Check out" the great books in the Children's Library, Room 221, on the second floor of the Education Wing. "Check out" of books is on the honor system. Judy Eaton is the Librarian.

EFFECTIVE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY FROM URGENCY TO ACTION

On **Tuesday, February 9**, our Church will host an event called "From Urgency to Action: Effective Ministry with Children," led by The LOGOS Ministry. There will be a choice of a daytime session, from 11:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M., including lunch, OR an evening session, from 6:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M., including dessert. We urge every parent, every leader, and every person interested in the future of children's ministry in this congregation to attend one of the sessions. It will also be open to churches in our community and in our presbytery, so help spread the word. For additional information, please contact Phyllis Wezeman at 574-234-4159 or pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org.

If you have a young person in the house you may have noticed that you hardly ever see them. Middle School and High School Students are involved with many different types of activities and the youth of First Presbyterian Church are no exception. We have many students who are actively involved with theater. Several of them have participated in their own school's drama productions. We also have some youth and other members who have participated in the South Bend Civic Theater. Our youth's talents extend far beyond the bounds of the theater. Many of our youth have music skill and are involved with various school and community musical groups. We have French Horn players (my personal favorite), flute players, saxophone, bagpipes, piano, oboe, baritone and cello. Our youth share their musical talents with the community through school bands, orchestra, community choirs and through other groups.

This article can hardly begin to scratch the surface of the talents and interest of the young people of our church. However, I do need to mention sports. Not only do our young people have musical skills, acting prowess and academic promise, (some of our youth have taken projects to State finals!) they are active in sports. We have hockey players, swimmers, football players, softball players, volleyball players. If you have heard of a sport, they play it! There are practices before school and after and many of the games are on the weekends and through out the week. It is humbling to learn of the extent of the skills and talents of the youth that call our church home. How wonderfully and mysteriously God has made them.

We apologize to Gary Hoover, for leaving his name off the College Care list. We really didn't forget you!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

FAITH STEPS SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR
JANUARY
9:30 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.

Faith Steps Sunday School, our 9:30 A.M. to 10:30 A.M. Workshop Rotation Model Program for Pre-Kindergarten through Fifth Grade children and youth, will focus on the New Testament story of "Jesus and Nicodemus" during January. The schedule includes:

January 3

All-Church Event
Epiphany Festival
[Social Hall]

January 10

"Nicodemus"
Computer
[Computer Room]
Leandra Allen, Teacher
Nellie Namwali, Shepherd

January 17

"Nicodemus"
Drama
[Drama Room]
Margo-Shearman-Howard, Teacher
Nellie Namwali, Shepherd

January 24

"Nicodemus"
Games
[Tent]
Peggy Van Laere, Teacher
Margo Shearman-Howard, Shepherd

January 31

"Nicodemus"
[Cinema]
[Cinema Room]
Dave Eggleston, Teacher
Nellie Namwali, Shepherd

FEATURING "FIRST KIDS" BULLETIN BOARD

Our Featuring "First Kids" Bulletin Board is located on 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.

FIRST FOUNDATIONS SCRIPTURE BOOKLETS

"First Foundations," the booklets containing suggested Scripture passages to learn by heart and Faith Steps memory verses have been distributed to Pre-K through Second Graders as well as Third through Fifth Graders.

PICTURES, PLEASE

Children and Youth – of all ages! Would you please bring your new school picture (or any recent picture) to Church and put it in Mrs. Wezeman's box in the office or slide it under her door. We'll be launching a "Prayer Partner" project between children, youth, and adults.



PRE-K CLASS

Our Pre-K class, for children who have turned four by September 1 but who have not started Kindergarten, is held as part of Faith Steps Sunday School from 9:30 A.M. to 10:30 A.M. each week. Children attend the 10:45 A.M. service with their families, participate in the children's message, and may leave for Second Hour or may remain in worship with their caregivers.

SECOND HOUR

Second Hour for January will include Children's Library time and Mission projects as well as fun activities to learn about the Sacrament of Baptism. Check the bulletin boards for locations.

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. For Pre-Schoolers, Worship Bags are available in the Narthex which may be used during worship and returned to their rack at the end of Church. Children's messages will be shared during the 10:45 A.M. service. Following the Children's Time, Pre-Kindergarten through Fifth Grade girls and boys may leave for Second Hour in the Education Wing or they may return to sit with their families.



FPC MALAWI ASSOCIATION

The FPC Malawi Association of First Presbyterian Church of South Bend is grateful for the news that International Health and Development, an office of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), has granted \$27,105 to Nkhoma Synod of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian for a cooperative program between the staff of their HIV and AIDS Programme Office and the educators of the Museums of Malawi. Based on two pilot projects conducted in 2008, a one-week program that uses the rich cultural practices of Africa such as dance, drama, and music to address the negative cultural practices that promote the spread of HIV, will be conducted in six to seven presbyteries of the Synod. This is an amazing gift, as well as an affirmation by our denomination, of the HIV and AIDS work through “creative methods” being developed in Malawi.

MISSION COMMITTEE

The Mission Committee wishes to thank the congregation for their generous support, through the Christmas Joy Offering, of the Chibanzi Nursery School/Orphan Center and Feeding Site/Kitchen. The donations of school supplies are also appreciated.

MISSION OF THE QUARTER – JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH – HOPE MINISTRIES

For many years, First Presbyterian Church of South Bend had made chicken casseroles once-a-month for Hope Rescue Mission -- now called Hope Ministries. During January, February, and March, we will learn more about the work of this community agency and collect supplies that they need for their operation as well as for their residents. These include:

For their operation

Cleaning supplies, Coffee, Healthy snacks for children, Laundry detergent (powdered), Paper towels, Sugar, Toilet paper, Trash bags – all sizes

For their residents –

Deodorant for men and women, Diapers and pull-ups, sizes 4-6, Hair products for African Americans; Maxi-pads; Razors for men; Socks for men and women

Also, gently used items would be appreciated such as:

Alarm clocks, Bath towels, Pocket dictionaries

Donations, which are greatly appreciated, may be left on the table on the Colfax Porch or in the Church Office. Thank you.

ADULT EDUCATION

CHAPEL CLASS

The Sunday morning adult education Chapel Class, held from 9:30 A.M. to 10:30 A.M., covers various themes and topics. During January the sessions will include:

January 3 – Epiphany Festival [Social Hall]

January 10, 17, 24, 31 –

**Four sessions with Dr. Randall Zachman
Soren Kierkegaard: Introducing
Christianity into Christendom**

Soren Kierkegaard (1813-1855) lived at a time when everyone was thought to be a Christian as a matter of course, simply by being born in a Christian family in a Christian nation (in his case, the Lutheran nation of Denmark). Kierkegaard described this state of affairs as “Christendom,” and thought that Christendom represented the eradication of Christianity. He therefore set for himself the daunting task of getting people who already thought they were Christians to consider what it might mean actually to become a Christian. These four classes will examine some of the major elements of his strategy to reintroduce Christianity into Christendom, by focusing on the themes of what he called his “second authorship,” all of which was published in his own name between the years 1846-1851.

Dr. Randall Zachman, from the Department of Theology at the University of Notre Dame, will be the facilitator.

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 thirteen week course will be held on Tuesday nights, beginning at the end of January and running through the end of April. Watch the “Church Chatter” for the dates of Preview Sessions. Tell others about this important opportunity, especially during these severe economic times. Pete Amos is the facilitator.

ECO-STEWARDS – BOOK DRIVE

Our Adult Enrichment Committee’s Eco-Stewards Group, in cooperation with Better World Books ... an international company, warehoused in Mishawaka that collects and sells books online to fund literacy initiatives worldwide ... will continue to collect books. Please leave them on the table on the Colfax porch or on the counter in the Church Office. For additional information, contact: Alisea McLeod, Eco-Stewards Coordinator, at 288-4784 or aliseamcleod@hotmail.com or Phyllis Wezeman at 234-4159 or pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org.

EIGHT GREAT DATES ... FOR COUPLES

“FIREPROOF YOUR MARRIAGE” -- a marriage enrichment program based on the movie *FIREPROOF*

Couples have an opportunity for a “date” the second Friday of each month – January through April. **The next one will be Friday, January 8.**

The format will be:

6:00 P.M. – Child Care and Children’s/Youth Activities (Meal Provided)

6:00 P.M. – 6:45 P.M. – Dinner for Adults in the Parlor [Come when you can!]

7:00 P.M. – 8:30 P.M. – Video/Discussion and Dessert

8:45 P.M. – Child Care and Children’s/Youth Activities
End

Cost: \$5.00 per family per night. Reservations required BY the Monday prior to the date!

ETHNIC EATING

Ethnic Eating, a quarterly culinary cuisine group for adults who enjoy food from around the world, will hold its next gathering on Friday, January 15 at 6:30 P.M. at The Great Wall in Elkhart. This popular Chinese restaurant is located at 610 Nappanee (CR 19). For additional information, or to make a reservation, please contact Kathleen English at 574-232-3846 or katmanduh@hotmail.com or Phyllis Wezeman at 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 Phyllis Wezeman -- 234-4159 or pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org.

THURSDAY MORNING WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY

Our Thursday Morning Women’s Bible Study, at the home of Ruth Roll, will meet **January 7, 14, 21, and 28**. They will study the book “The Red Sea Rules” by Robert J. Morgan. 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

TIES TO MALAWI

A small group for persons interested in arts, crafts, or sewing meets once a month to create handmade items from recycled men’s neckties and donate the proceeds to mission projects in Malawi. The next meeting of the group will be **Wednesday, January 20 at 10:00 A.M.** in the Board Room. Sewing experience is NOT required.

WEDNESDAY LUNCHES

Due to anticipated winter weather, the Wednesday Lunch series is not scheduled for January.

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.). Meetings are held one Saturday a month, from 10:30 A.M. to 12:00 Noon, at the home of Ruth Roll. The January date is the 9th. The group is currently studying the Gospel of John. For additional information about monthly meetings contact Mlekwa Mwachande – 289-5371 or mzatimbewe@yahoo.com or Phyllis Wezeman – 234-4159 or pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org.



In Memory of:

Jill Jahnke Roberts—10/10/2009

Jene Bennett—11/21/2009

Howard Goodhew—12/9/2009

Please remember that permission is needed to keep the church informed of anyone who is in the hospital or needs a Pastor or Deacon to call on them.

The church office does not get information from the hospital anymore due to HIPPA. We apologize if we have not visited with you, but we have no way of knowing unless you, a friend or family member tells us.

Thank you.

Tower Bell is a publication of First Presbyterian Church of South Bend. We welcome all visitors!

Visit our website: www.fpcsouthbend.org or email: info@fpcsouthbend.org

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

ADULT EDUCATION EXTRAS

DEVOTIONS

The “2010 Bible Reading Guide – Embodying Hope,” produced annually by the American Bible Society, is available on the literature tables to use as a guide for daily devotions. **Please pick up a copy and use it from January 1 through December 31, 2010.**

GO & GROW OUTINGS



“Go & Grow,” an Adult Ed Extra, will coordinate a “Behind-the-Scenes Tour” of the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center at the **University of Notre Dame on Tuesday, February 2.** Gather in the DeBartolo lobby between 10:15 A.M. and 10:30 A.M. The guided tour will begin at 10:30 A.M. and we will be shown the theaters as well as the costume, lighting, prop, and scene/set rooms and shops. Following the tour, we will go to Sorin’s, the restaurant at The Morris Inn on campus, for lunch. There is no charge for this outing, however lunch is “on-your-own.”

Save the date...

The **May** “Go & Grow” Adventure will be “A Spring Day in Grand Rapids” – tentatively set for **Tuesday, May 4.** Once again, we will take a motor coach with plans to visit the Gerald R. Ford Museum, have lunch, and enjoy the beauty of the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park. Watch for details in the “Church Chatter” and the “Tower Bell.”

THE NEXT TOWER BELL
DEADLINE IS
January 18