



# Tower Bell

APRIL, 2009

## Thoughts for Holy Week from the Interim Pastor

Many striking feelings and thoughts pack the time from Palm/Passion Sunday to Easter. They are among the most intense days of the Church Year. These events not only shook the world but have left an indelible impression upon the hearts of people of all ages. Our church will reflect their meaning in a number of ways. We hope you will enter into the drama of them and like the disciples be transformed into joyful and confident witnesses to Jesus Christ.

**PALM/PASSION SUNDAY** is the last Sunday in Lent and the first day in Holy Week. As a Christian observance, it dates back to about the 10<sup>th</sup> century. It is a day of contrasting emotions as worship moves from one portion to the next.

**Part I** focuses on “**The Triumphal Entry**”. As Jesus came near to Jerusalem, people of all ages who had heard of his power and great teachings came out to greet him. Some held aloft branches of palm trees. Others laid them or even their cloaks on the road before him as they joyfully sang and cried out, “*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.*” Come see our palm processional led by our children and the Chancel Choir and join our singing of “*Hosannas*” (God save us). It will truly be a time of celebration.

The mood quickly changes in **Part II** with “**The Tears**” of Jesus as he looked down on the city and said, “*If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace!*” The sermon, “**JESUS WEPT**” deals with the questions of why Jesus wept and the things for which he would weep today. Do we know and will we do the things that make for peace?

**The final portion, “The Passion”** focuses on the drama of the Upper Room, the tension of the trial and then the turmoil of the cross. As one hymn writer put it, “*Ride on! Ride on in majesty! In lowly pomp ride on to die.*” We leave this service in silence remembering what lies ahead. As individuals or families let me encourage you to talk to or share with to family member(s) or friends about your thoughts and feelings about these events and what they mean to you in your faith journey.

On **MAUNDY THURSDAY**, we gather for a **Communion/Tenebrae** service. “**Maundy**” is derived from the Latin word, MANDATUM, meaning commission. It refers to the great commission of Jesus after **the Last Supper**—“*A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another.*” The service begins remembering and celebrating

the final supper Jesus shared with his disciples in the context of the Passover.

The second movement in worship is the **Tenebrae** which is Latin for “darkness” or “shadows”. It is an adaptation of an early Fourth Century Service. Scripture readings by Elders, the gradual extinguishing of lights, hymns and anthems sung by the Chancel Choir will remind us of the shadows of the cross and the death of our Lord and Savior. An atmosphere of quiet reflection makes this one of the most impressive and impactful services of the church--a vital and necessary prelude to the joy of Easter.

**EASTER is THE FESTIVAL OF DAWN**, as Clement of Alexander put it, when “**Christ turns our sunsets in sunrise.**” The **Cross** becomes a reverent and holy symbol before which the world bows in adoration, and the **Empty Tomb** becomes proof of the resurrection and our expectant adventure into life eternal.

Exuberant sounds will be heard from the very beginning of our worship. Easter lilies will witness to the resurrection and honor those who have entered into the Church Triumphant, into our “*Father’s house of many mansions.*” Sermon, scripture and music will capture the Good News, “*Made like him like him we rise, Ours the cross, the grave the skies...Alleluia!*”

Join us for our Festival of Dawn when together we will proclaim--

**"CHRIST IS RISEN!  
HE IS RISEN INDEED!  
HALLELUJAH!"**

**Peace,  
Bob**

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## 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."

The first major event to celebrate the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of First Presbyterian Church of South Bend will be on Sunday, May 3. (May 3, 1834 was the date of the first organizational meeting at the home of Horatio Chapin.)

In keeping with our theme, "Celebrate the Journey," we will have a 19<sup>th</sup> Century Worship Service at 10:45 a.m. on that day. Liturgy and music will be similar to that used for the first years of the church.

The service will be followed by an old-time, after-church picnic (in the Social Hall), organized by the Congregational Life Committee. Joyce Schalliol is chairman of this event.

***Fried chicken and ham will be provided, as well as Birthday Cake, lemonade and other beverages. Those attending are asked to bring a salad or vegetable casserole. Donations will be accepted at the door.***

Reservations are required. To make a reservation fill out a gold card and place it in the offering plate, or call or e-mail the church office.

Special activities are being planned for the children. Kindergarten through fifth grade children will create time capsules during Faith Steps Sunday School that day. They will fill the "capsules" with items about the Church today that represent what they would like people to know in the future.

Club 345 will conduct a Scavenger Hunt through downtown South Bend to learn about the history of the area at the time of the founding of First Presbyterian Church.

*Dr. Patrick Furlong, Professor of History at IUSB, will present a three-part adult education series in May on 175 years of South Bend history. The dates and topics are: April 26, "South Bend, 1818-1861: A Small Town on a Small River," May 3, "The Churches of South Bend and Vicinity, 1828-1861," and May 10, "Presbyterians in Indiana before the Civil War."*

Future programs include a multi-week series on Oct. 11, 18 and 25 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.

The anniversary observance will conclude with a Grand Celebration service on October 11, followed by a special meal and activities for children and adults of all ages.

...Nancy Shephard, Event Coordinator



**Do you Know...where our church  
cornerstone is and what's inside of it?  
See the display in the Narthex**

Important information from  
your Personnel Committee

## Child Protection Policy

At First Presbyterian Church of South Bend, we believe that the spiritual, emotional, and physical well being of children is vital. To this end our Session has approved new operating policies for all children's and youth ministries.

The Child Protection Policy is intended to ensure that Church activities involving children are consistent with the teachings and example of Jesus Christ and with the Christian tradition of nurturing vulnerable children.

The new policy aims to protect our children, our adult volunteers and our staff from abuse and from opportunities for false accusations.

The policy was developed to establish a proactive policy to help keep children and adults safe on Church property and at Church activities. Need for such a policy was fueled by national awareness of numerous incidents of child sexual abuse and accusations of child sexual abuse in church settings.

Whether substantiated or not, these have had a profoundly devastating effect on the individuals and churches involved. The church, as a trusting, loving and open place, is particularly vulnerable to this problem.

The policy includes everything from worker to child ratios, open door requirements, field trips, overnight procedures and discipline.

At least two adults are required to be with children and youth at all times. At no time should one adult be alone with one child or youth.

All nursery, child and youth workers will be required to fill out and sign a volunteer application.

Criminal background checks are required for all paid staff and supervisory volunteer positions, including nursery coordinators and supervisory-level positions such as middle school/high school teachers/leaders. Background checks will not be required for those volunteers whose contact with children and youth is occasional.

**Details of the new guidelines will be explained during an Adult Education Chapel Class at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 17.**

## ADULT EDUCATION

CHAPEL CLASS FOR APRIL – 9:30 A.M. to 10:30 A.M.  
**APRIL 5 – CHOCOLATE FOR LENT – KEEPING ON**

“Chocolate for Lent” is the topic of the Chapel Class’ Lenten study that concludes today, Palm Sunday. Using clips from the film *Chocolat*, this unique approach to the season offers the space for deeper insights into self-discipline, self-giving, acceptance, and maturing in Christ. Linda Fox is the facilitator.

### **APRIL 12 – EASTER BRUNCH**

On Easter morning, enjoy a Brunch in the Social Hall from 9:30 A.M. to 10:30 A.M.

**APRIL 19 – LEARN MORE ABOUT UPCOMING MISSION OF THE QUARTER PROJECTS: HABITAT FOR HUMANITY PLUS STONE SOUP AND THE SOUP KITCHEN AT FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SOUTH BEND**

Habitat for Humanity is the Mission of the Quarter for April, May, and June. Stone Soup plus The Food Pantry and Soup Kitchen, both housed at First United Methodist Church of South Bend, will be the Mission of the Quarter for July, August, and September. Representatives of these groups will present information about their programs during the April 19 Chapel Class. Please come to learn more these important ministries in our community.

**APRIL 26 – A LOOK AT SOUTH BEND 175 YEARS AGO**

To help celebrate the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of First Presbyterian Church of South Bend, area historian Dr. Patrick Furlong will present a three-week series:

**April 26 – South Bend, 1828-1862:**

**A Small Town on a Small River**

**May 3 – The Churches of South Bend and Vicinity, 1828-1861**

**May 10 – Presbyterians in Indiana before the Civil War.**

Plan to attend any or all of these informative sessions.

## ADULT SMALL GROUPS

### **DINNER & DEVOTIONS FOR LENT**

Come for the last of our five week Wednesday night series, “Dinner & Devotions for Lent,” when our musical program will be offered by Chris Ross, a soloist with our Choir. A soup supper is provided from 5:45 P.M. to 6:15 P.M. in the Social Hall and the devotion through music takes place from 6:30 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.

### **ECO-STEWARDS**

“Friday’s Gifts,” **April 24** from 6:00 P.M. to 8:30 P.M., will be a special event for the entire congregation hosted by Adult Enrichment’s Eco-Stewards’ group. What better way to unwind after a week of work than by sharing a meal with friends and learning several new skills? The evening will begin at 6:00 P.M. to 6:30 P.M. with dinner followed by three or four exciting “spring” themed workshops – all provided by our own talented members. Workshop topics for the first gathering will be listed in an upcoming issue of the “Church Chatter.” So, mark the date on your calendar, come out, sup, and take home a new skill. Friends and Family are welcome to attend this event.

Eco-Stewards monthly meetings, which take place at The Side Door Café at Martin’s Supermarket, will be listed in the

Chatter in the future. For additional information, contact: Alisea McLeod, Eco-Stewards Coordinator, at 574-288-4784 or [aliseamcleod@hotmail.com](mailto:aliseamcleod@hotmail.com) or Phyllis Wezeman at 574-234-4159 or [pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org](mailto:pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org).

### **EIGHT GREAT DATES**

First Presbyterian Church offers an exciting program - EIGHT GREAT DATES -- to help couples of all ages place a priority on their marriage. **The next date is Friday, April 10.** 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 Noon on Monday, March 6, contact Phyllis Wezeman -234-4159 or [pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org](mailto: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 329-3324 or [katmanduh@hotmail.com](mailto:katmanduh@hotmail.com) or Phyllis Wezeman at 234-4159 or [pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org](mailto: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 April date is Tuesday, April 21.** Child care is available by reservation. For additional information, contact Phyllis Wezeman -- 234-4159 or [pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org](mailto:pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org)

### **PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**

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

### **SPRING BIBLE STUDY**

A four week spring Bible Study for Adults of all ages will be held at the home of Robert and Malou Audi from 7:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. for four Wednesday nights: **April 29, May 6, 13, and 20.** Watch the Church Chatter for details on the content. Everyone is welcome.







## CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

### BIG HEARTS BUNCH

Thanks to your help, the Big Hearts Bunch – our caring kid's club for third, fourth, and fifth graders – prepared Easter baskets for 134 children of LaSalle Park Homes and one for Freedom, the daughter of our Habitat for Humanity homeowner. Thirty-one children and adults stayed to prepare the baskets and the project was completed in record time!

We invite you to watch the after-Easter sales and purchase small stuffed animals, baskets, and grass at discount prices for the Big Hearts Bunch to use next year. We have room to store them, so please bring the items to the Church office and we will pack them away for 2010.

### CHILD CARE FOR APRIL

#### INFANT NURSERY & TWOS/THREES CLASS

On Palm Sunday, April 5, 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. For the remaining Sundays of April (12, 19, and 26) Child Care will be offered from 9:15 A.M. to 12:15 P.M. – during the Christian Education Hour and the Sanctuary Service. Please pick up your child/children before attending the Fellowship time.

**On Maundy Thursday, April 10,** Child Care for infants through three-year-olds will be provided from 6:45 P.M. to 8:15 P.M. and on Good Friday, April 11, it is scheduled from 11:45 A.M. to 12:45 P.M.

### CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

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

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGES

KNOW Chocolate for Lent, our Children's Message series for Lent and Easter will continue with the following themes during April: **April 5 (Palm Sunday) – Know So; April 9 (Maundy Thursday) – Know By; April 10 (Good Friday) – Know That; and April 12 (Easter Sunday) – Know Who.** Church Year and seasonal themes will be featured the rest of the month.

### 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 April outing, **Sunday, the 19th from 12:30 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.,** will be an outing to Prairie Wind Farm and Nature Retreat in Lakeville, Indiana. 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 --234-4159 or [pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org](mailto:pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org).

### FAITH STEPS SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR APRIL

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 stories of Palm Sunday, Easter, and Emmaus during the month of April. Children will explore and experience these accounts in Cinema (Dave Eggleston, Teacher) on the **5th**; Art (Dru Wrasse, Teacher) on the **19th**; and Cooking (Dianne Wojcicki, Teacher) on the **26th**. Nellie Namwali, Ann Phambana, and Margo Shearman-Howard alternate as Shepherds. On Easter Sunday, **April 12**, children will attend the Brunch in the Social Hall with their parents.

### 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](mailto:pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org).

### HOLY WEEK FOR CHILDREN

#### Palm Sunday

Children of every age – from birth through youth – are invited to participate in the Palm Sunday processional for the 10:45 A.M. Worship Service. Gather in the Social Hall at 10:30 A.M. to line up. In addition, Pre-Ks through Fifth Graders are invited to play "Amazing Grace" on Kristal Bells for this service.

#### Maundy Thursday and Good Friday

Special activities for children, Pre-K through Fifth Grade, will take place at Church on Maundy Thursday, **April 9, during the 7:00 P.M. service of worship and on Good Friday, April 10, during the 12:00 Noon service.** All activities will take place in the Art Room on the second floor of the Education Wing.

#### Easter Egg Hunt

Our annual Easter egg hunt, for children birth through fifth grade will take place on **Sunday, April 12 at approximately 10:15 A.M.** – at the conclusion of the Easter brunch. It will begin in the Social Hall and will be organized by two age groups – Birth through Pre-Ks and K-5<sup>th</sup>.



## PRE-KINDERGARTEN SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS FOR APRIL

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 April are: **April 5** – Palm Sunday & Easter (Carolyn Schult, Teacher), **April 19** – Jesus and the Children (Peggy Van Laere, Teacher), and **April 26** – Zacchaeus (Peggy Van Laere, Teacher). On **April 12, Easter Sunday**, children will attend the Brunch in the Social Hall with their families. For additional information about the Pre-K Sunday School class, please contact: Peggy Van Laere, Coordinator – 574-271-5661 or [FAMVAN@aol.com](mailto:FAMVAN@aol.com) or Phyllis Wezeman, Director of Christian Nurture – 574-234-4159 or [pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org](mailto:pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org).

## SECOND HOUR FOR APRIL

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. On Palm Sunday, **April 5**, and Easter Sunday, **April 12**, children are invited to remain in worship with their families. The schedule for the rest of the month includes: **April 19** – Missions to make lunches for the Center for the Homeless and **April 26** – Church Year: Easter.

## 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



## YOUTH EVENTS AND INFORMATION

Everyday we meet people and interact with them. Some of them are complete strangers and others are our dearest friends. Everyday God orders our steps and uses us in ways that we cannot possibly imagine. Oswald Chambers, a prolific writer, orator, professor and missionary, wrote that God rarely reveals how he uses us in other people's lives because we would begin to think too highly of ourselves if we knew the truth.

Wouldn't it be wonderful to know how God has intertwined our lives with each other and how our very existence has affected others for good? This is what the Senior High Sunday

School class is discussing as they watch the movie, *"The Five People You Meet in Heaven"*. This is a movie about an individual's experience in Heaven as he gets an opportunity to see how God has used him throughout his life and how what he thought was meaningless and ordinary was life-giving to those around him and full of purpose.

We want our youth to know that their life means a great deal. Their presence here in this church body is life giving to all of us and full of purpose. God does not reveal every detail of his plan to us in this life, but that does not mean that he is not working throughout and using all who are willing to participate in God's mission in the world.

Please note the following dates:

## Confirmation Retreat:

April 24th-26<sup>th</sup>, The Geneva Center [Rochester, Indiana], cost: \$95. This retreat is for our confirmation students and any other youth who is interested in learning more about their faith.

## The Mission Trip to Benton Harbor

June 14-18<sup>th</sup> We will be working with several other churches and Habitat for Humanity. Other details to follow.



## Redbud Report

Spring is almost here. This means that everything at Redbud is beginning to awaken and we need to be ready for it! The trees are almost ready to start budding and the animals are stirring from their long winter naps. The Redbud Committee has been busy in planning for an exciting schedule of events.

One of our biggest projects this year is to continue to maintain and increase the usability of the Redbud property. If you have skills in gardening, carpentry or simply love the outdoors please note the dates below and join us as we work to improve and enjoy this wonderful gift that God has given us.

Also know that Redbud Trail Retreat is a property owned by our church. If you or a group within our church would like to include Redbud in your ministry please do not hesitate to contact Mike Byers or Pastor Robbie Carnes. We invite you to come and find God in the Woods!

## REDBUD DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

**April 25<sup>th</sup>** Opening Weekend, come and help us clean and prepare for the ministry season.

**July 3rd-5<sup>th</sup>**, Fireworks and Family Camp. Come and camp up at Redbud for the weekend and watch the local fireworks from the lawn!

**July 19<sup>th</sup>**, Redbud Outdoor Worship Service, the entire congregation is welcome to worship outdoors and enjoy lunch together as we Praise God and commission those who will serve at Redbud Summer Camp.

**July 20th-24<sup>th</sup>**, Redbud Summer Camp. Experience what wild, wonderful, truth God has for us as we study the word and experience the woods!

**September 4th-5<sup>th</sup>**, Labor Day Family Camp. Families of FPC are invited to camp at Redbud for the weekend.

## House Committee Report

The House Committee recently approved the expenditure of \$4,609, plus electrician's cost, to replace the two 57 year-old ranges in the Kitchen with a new range and oven. Several proposals were received from various local vendors and it was determined that a new electric Vulcan range with four burners, warming bin, and oven would best meet the needs of the church and Children's Center.

The Committee also discussed various options for saving the church money in its annual lawn maintenance expenditures. \$8,000 is established in this year's budget for the hiring of a lawn maintenance service to mow the west, north and Colfax side grass lots (Kenny push mows the grass area around the perimeter of the main parking lot). The company also edges the sidewalks at least monthly and performs periodic pruning of trees and shrubs.

Instead, the church is looking to use a small part of this budget to purchase a lawn tractor so that Kenny can mow all of our lots. In addition, the Committee is looking for members to help in three different ways:



- 1.) **Adopt a garden:** Volunteer to take over a planting bed surrounding the church property (except the landscaping in conjunction with the Memorial Garden). Purchase and plant annuals or perennials in existing non-grassed planting beds. Care for these plants throughout the growing season by periodic weeding and fertilizing.



- 2.) **Join the "Cutting Edge" team:** Volunteer to join a group of members to operate the church's edger (or bring yours) to periodically trim grass from the sidewalks and then clean up by using the church's blower to clear the sidewalks of grass debris.

Signify how often you wish to do this (bi-weekly or monthly) when you sign-up.

- 3.) **Participate in the up-coming spring cleaning day:** Join us for a morning of spring clean-up to sweep, trim, prune, and pick up debris on our grounds after it has awoken from a long winter's nap. Date and details will be forthcoming.



Meanwhile, please email Doug Marsh, House Committee Chair, at [dmarsh@nd.edu](mailto:dmarsh@nd.edu), if you are interested in helping with any of these three opportunities to help us maintain a beautiful presence in downtown South Bend.

## Mission Committee

Mission for the Quarter—April, May, June

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

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EXTRA MISSION WORK OPPORTUNITY

“Christmas in April”

Rebuilding Together 2009

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2009

Yes, that's right it's Christmas in April (**now known as Rebuilding Together 2009**) Saturday, April 25, 2009. We will be working in the River Park neighborhood on South Bend's east side on the Community Volunteer Day. The work day begins at 8:00 a.m., and lasts until mid-afternoon. The FPC Mission committee is again participating in Rebuilding Together 2009 for South Bend and needs volunteers. This is great community outreach for FPC and more importantly, helps others in the community by making small repairs to their homes. Types of work include light landscaping, painting, and small carpentry on the homes of low income, disabled, and elderly people in the community. Come join us for a day of fellowship and community outreach. Volunteers must be over age 16. If you can make it, contact Dave Norman at 291-2511 or [dnorman@tpna.com](mailto:dnorman@tpna.com). We actually have a house to work on already! For more information, look for bulletins around the church

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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 be part of this group, please call or email David Norman, Mission Committee Chair, at 291-2511 or [dnorman@tpna.com](mailto:dnorman@tpna.com) or Phyllis Wezeman at 234-4159 or [pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org](mailto:pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org).

Mission Trip to Malawi – 2009

Several members of our congregation are making plans for a Mission Trip to Malawi this **June**. The specific purpose of this trip will be to work with all groups and individuals involved in any aspect of the projects with our partner congregation, the Chibanzi Church of Central Africa Presbyterian, to formulate a strategic plan to develop and sustain the Nursery School/Orphan Center and Feeding Site/Kitchen, the Primary School, the Shallow Wells, the Africa Bags Projects, the HIV and AIDS

Program, and other things. If you are interested in being part of this trip – or one in the future – please contact Phyllis Wezeman for additional information. **Every traveler pays his or her own expenses.**

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

Visit our website: [www.fpcsouthbend.org](http://www.fpcsouthbend.org)

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



Congregation to Participate in Congregational Life Survey,  
April 26, 2009

As part of our Mission Study, we will be using the U.S. Congregational Life Survey. It helps identify First Presbyterian Church's unique strengths in comparison to other congregations and to find ways to build on those strengths. Almost 300,000 worshipers in more than 2,000 congregations across the U.S. have participated in this survey.

The survey asks worshipers about four fundamental building blocks of congregational life – spirituality and faith development, involvement in groups and leadership roles in the congregation, community involvement, and congregational priorities and future directions.

Our answers are completely confidential; unless we choose to share our results with others, no one outside our congregation will see our worshiper's answers.

The survey is designed to be given in worship on a typical Sunday. Every worshiper who is at least 15 years old will be invited to take part, including ushers, people in the choir, and others who help lead the service.

Most worshipers can complete the survey in 15 minutes. On April 26, 2009, we will be taking this survey as part of our two worship services. This is an excellent tool to give us a snapshot of our church and to learn about the kind of leadership you desire for a Pastor/ Head of Staff.

**YOUNG ADULTS  
MOVIE NIGHT**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 17**

**8:00 p.m.**

Hosts: Nellie Namwali,

Robbie & Lindsey  
Carnes

Location:

At the Carnes' home  
121 W. Lawrence Street  
Mishawaka, IN 46545  
TALL Yellow House