



# Tower Bell

June, 2009

## Confirming Our Faith



This past year, four mid-high students of our church started a journey to learn more about their faith and their church. **Cynthia McLeod, Jena Chapman, Marte Eggleston and Nathan Spear** met twice a month on

Sunday afternoon to study scripture and explore theology. We learned about our church government and what membership within the church means.

There is one important aspect to Confirmation Class that sometimes we forget. Confirmation Class is not an introduction to the Christian Faith. Nor is it a drawn out test so that our students can participate in Communion. Confirmation Class is a process in which our students are allowed an opportunity to confirm a faith that has been a part of their lives for a long time.

As Presbyterians we believe that our faith is given to us by Christ not earned or cobbled together by ourselves. All of our students were baptized previously. During that baptism their personally faith was publically shared. Some of our students were baptized as infants and the promise of faith for their lives was shared by our church and their parents. Others were baptized at a later age where it was their own choice to display their faith in a public way.

During this Confirmation Class we have sought to examine that promise of faith. What does this faith mean to me? How do I live this faith out? From where did this faith come from? What does membership mean and how do I serve my church and participate in God's mission in our community?

We also spent a lot of time asking how we develop that precious gift of faith. Prayer is a glorious tool that Christians need to use daily in order to ground themselves in Christ and promote spiritual growth. Participation in congregational worship is crucial because it is commanded in scripture and because we experience God and hear the word most clearly when we are gathered as the People of God.

In April we also attended a Presbytery wide Confirmation Retreat. During this time we interacted with thirty other Presbyterian youth who worshiped throughout northern Indiana. All of these students had been apart of a confirmation class in their own churches. This taught us about ourselves as we discussed and grappled with theological and spiritual issues. It also taught us that the church is much larger than our own Sunday morning experience. The church, Christ's Church is called and gathered by the Holy Spirit to be the image to the world of God's mysterious grace.

It is that mysterious Grace that we celebrate this month as we recognize four youth of our congregation who have spent this past year exploring their faith and their church and now choose to become further connected with our community as

members of First Presbyterian Church of South Bend.

We celebrate a faithful God and the faithfulness of the young people of our church who continually seek to discern God's call in their lives and their role in God's church.



## Graduating High School Seniors

**Alex Marsh** graduates from Penn High School. He excelled in a variety of activities and sports. This year Alex was senior class Vice President and was captain of the varsity basketball team this past season. Alex served as a Youth Elder on Session for 2007-2008. Alex will be attending the University of Notre Dame in the fall to study architecture.

**Matt Williams** graduates from Clay High School. He is one of the class valedictorians. Matt played tennis for four years, was captain his junior and senior year, and received a 1st Team All Conference award for doubles, as well as the Kiwanis Award. Matt also ran track for three years. He participated in National Honors Society, Spanish Club, and Student Council. During the last of his four years in the Clay Orchestra, Matt was the first chair violist. He was a freshman mentor for two years, receiving the Mentor of the Year award this spring. Matt served as a Youth Elder for 2008-2009 on Session and Worship Committee. Matt is planning to attend Indiana University Bloomington in the fall and hopes to major in Biology and Mathematics.

### Other high school graduates include:

**Nicholas Buzalski**—Edwardsburg High School

**Christine Gordon**—Clay High School—She will attend IU Bloomington in the Fall majoring in Human Biology

**Mulungama Khonje**—Riley High School. She will attend Ivy Tech.

### Adult Graduate Program Completed

**Amy Moore** completed an Elementary Transition to Teaching Program and is now licensed to teach Kindergarten through 8th grade. The program is designed for people who already have a Bachelor's Degree and transitions them to teach. She is currently in her 2nd year of teaching Physical Education at St. Joseph.

### Other College Graduates include:

**Keith Chirambo**

**Edina Namwali**

## OUTREACH

### REACH OUT!

*"Things" do not satisfy, but hands that reach out in friendship do!*

Fullness of life comes to us when we reach out to others and have God as our helper.

Life in 2009 leads us into various kinds of wilderness experiences such as job pressure, a family heartache or perhaps it is a wilderness of physical or mental suffering.

An attitude of relying on Him gives life an optimistic tone as we face our own wilderness(es), knowing that we have His promise to lead us through safely.

Let's share the peace and fellowship that we enjoy as a church family by inviting a friend, neighbor or family member that may be facing their own wilderness to join us in worship. They too, can know the blessings that our church offers to the community.

The Outreach Committee needs your help in getting the word out and extending the hand of friendship to those around us. So, please look around and invite that neighbor or friend to visit with us so they can see, first hand, the joy that is available as we worship together at First Presbyterian Church.



### Check out the new bulletin board for community events.

The old Presbyterian Players coat check board by the social hall entrance has been converted into a Community

Events bulletin board. Thank you to the Outreach Committee and many thanks to Robbie for lending his carpentry skills to cut a nice molding. If there's an organization, event, or fundraiser that you'd like to share bring your flier to the church office. Please no business solicitations or money making opportunities.

### Have you met our new members?

Come read about them and see their pictures near the social hall, so that you can greet them and help them feel welcome at our church. Be on the look out for other visitors sitting near you too.

### Outreach Lunch Groups:

MidTown/South Group will meet Wednesday, **June 10 at 11:30** at Allie's Cafe, 2323 Mishawaka Ave.

North Side Group will meet Tuesday, **June 16 at 12:00** at American Pancake House, Roseland.



## A NOTE FROM THE DEACONS:

The following people prepared casseroles and/or served at Hope Ministries from January through May:

Judy Eaton (4)  
John and Jan Mihelich (3)  
Don and Joann Sproleder (3)  
Eve Pierce (3)  
Dave Norman (3)  
Willie and Jean Meiss (2)  
Pam Proctor (2)  
Nellie Namwali (2)  
Alma McClelland (2)  
Edie Parker (2)  
Bruce and Cathy BonDurant (2)  
Norman Bone (2)  
Dottie Taylor (1)  
Mike Byers (1)  
Ann and Anita Schwarz (1)  
Bonnie Shaffer (1)  
Gwen Lofgren (1)  
Marty St.John (1)  
Dixie Thurin (1)  
Donna Rehbein (1)  
Gail Carleton (1)  
Judy Cordill (1)  
Sue Marsh (1)

We extend a sincere thank you to all of you for your unselfish help to the homeless in our community.

Anyone wishing to help during the next 5 months should contact Bruce BonDurant. His phone is 232-2386. Email at [bj1160@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bj1160@sbcglobal.net).

## PW News

Remember to place your Baby Kits in the Collection Box in the Church Library by **Sunday, May 31**. Items to be included are listed in your annual PW booklet. All are welcome to join in final assembly on Tuesday, June 2, at 10:30 a.m. in the Parlor. Call Roberta 574-277-3502.

### REMINDER!

**FRIDAY, MAY 29th 6:00 p.m.**  
**McClelland's Spring Potluck**  
**Please call Alma (269-663-8875) by Wednesday, MAY 27.**

## ADULT EDUCATION

### CHAPEL CLASS FOR SUMMER – THE ALPHA COURSE

**During the summer schedule, with worship at 9:30 A.M., the Adult Education Committee will feature the ALPHA course from 10:45 A.M. to 11:45 A.M. in the Chapel.**

ALPHA offers the opportunity to explore the Christian faith in a relaxed, non-threatening setting. It is low-key, friendly, and fun. ALPHA gives participants an overview of some of the basic teachings of the Christian faith. The material is appropriate for new Christians, seeking non-Christians, and life-long believers. ALPHA began more than twenty years ago at Holy Trinity Brompton, an Anglican church in central London, England. The course is now used by thousands of churches worldwide, including many congregations in the Reformed tradition.

ALPHA is a series of video presentations on key issues relating to the Christian faith. Titles include:

Sunday	Session	Topic
05/31/2009	Introduction	Christianity: Boring, Untrue & Irrelevant
06/07/2009	Session I	Who is Jesus?
06/14/2009	Session II	Why Did Jesus Die? How Can I Be Sure of My Faith?
06/21/2009	Session III	Why & How Should I Read the Bible?
06/28/2009	Session IV	

Come for any or all of the sessions. Refreshments will be served. Child care is available, if the Church is notified in advance. For additional information, please contact: Phyllis Wezeman at 234-4159 or [pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org](mailto:pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org)

## ADULT SMALL GROUPS

### COPING WITH LIFE ALONE SERIES

COPING WITH LIFE ALONE is a six week series for persons acutely grieving the recent death of a spouse or the recent death of a marriage by separation or divorce. **The next classes will be offered on Tuesdays, June 23 and 30 and July 7, 14, 21, and 28, from 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.,** at Clay United Methodist Church (New Campus), 52866 N. Ironwood Drive, South Bend, Indiana. **The cost is \$25.00 for the series.** For further information, contact Phyllis Wezeman at 234-4159 or [pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org](mailto:pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org).

### ECO-STEWARDS – JUNE MEETING

Eco-Stewards monthly meeting, which takes place at The Side Door Café at Martin’s Supermarket in Erskine Plaza, will be held the second Tuesday of the month, June 9 at 6:00 P.M. 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).

## ECO-STEWARDS – BOOK DRIVE



Our Adult Enrichment Committee’s Eco-Stewards Group, in cooperation with Better World Books ... an international company, warehoused in Mishawaka, Indiana, that collects and sells books online to fund literacy initiatives worldwide ... is coordinating a BOOK DRIVE during **June, July, and August.** Bring books of any type to Church and place them in the collection bins in the church office and the narthex.

Invite family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, and others to contribute as well! 20% of items sold through Better World Books will be donated to literacy programs: 15% to

Chibanzi C.C.A.P. Nursery School/Orphan Center & Primary School and 5% to Better World’s “Books for Africa” Program. Questions? Contact the Church Office at -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).



### TUESDAY EVENING WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY...

at the home of Ruth Roll, meets every week at 6:30 P.M. **June Tuesdays include: 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30.** Linda Fox is the facilitator. For additional information, contact Linda Fox at 277-6317 or [billorlynn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:billorlynn@sbcglobal.net) or Phyllis Wezeman at 234-4159 or [pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org](mailto: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.). Meetings are held the second Saturday of the month, from 3:45 P.M. to 6:00 P.M., at the home of Ruth Roll. **The June date is Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup>.** The group is currently studying the Gospel of John. For additional information about monthly meetings contact Mlekwa Mwachande – 289-5371 or Phyllis Wezeman – 234-4159 or [pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org](mailto:pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org).

## ADULT EDUCATION EXTRAS

### STRATFORD TRIP

Our annual trip to the Stratford Shakespeare Festival in Ontario, Canada is set for Thursday, September 10 through Sunday, September 13. Tickets are ordered and rooms are reserved. If you are still interested in participating, contact Phyllis Wezeman at 234-4159 or [pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org](mailto:pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org), to see if seats and lodging are still available.



## LOOKING AHEAD...

### **Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University**

Pete Amos will facilitate this series on Wednesday nights this fall. Preview sessions will be held during the summer.

### **Eight Great Dates**

"**Fireproof Your Marriage**" will be the theme of the 2009-2010 Eight Great Dates Series. The once-a-month sessions, from September through April, will include a catered dinner and child care.

### **Family at Heart**

Family at Heart, beginning in September, will be in the form of a once-a-month brunch with a program around the theme "Issues Families Face."

### **Ties to Malawi**

A new small group for those interested in arts, crafts, or sewing will meet once a month to develop handcrafted items from recycled neckties.

## FAITH STEPS SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR JUNE

Faith Steps, our Workshop Rotation Model Sunday School, will be offered for Pre-Kindergarten through Fifth Grade children immediately following the Children's Message in the 9:30 A.M. service and conclude at the end of worship. The summer theme will focus on "The Great Commission." There will also be once-a-month opportunities for children's library and missions.

The June schedule includes:

### **June 7**

Missions [Art Room] Dru Wrasse, Teacher  
Nellie Namwali, Shepherd

### **June 14**

Children's Library [Children's Library]  
Judy Eaton, Guest Reader; Phyllis Wezeman, Shepherd

### **June 21**

The Great Commission -- Art [Art Room]  
Peggy Van Laere, Teacher  
Margo Shearman-Howard, Shepherd

### **June 28**

The Great Commission -- Games [Tent]  
Nellie Namwali, Teacher Ann Phambana, 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.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL -- 2009

"**Crocodile Dock: Where Fearless Kids Shine God's Light**" is the theme of our 2009 Vacation Bible School. It will be held **Monday, June 8 through Friday, June 12**. There's always the need for many extra hands – so if you would like to help with a crew, registration, or snacks, please let us know. If you have co-workers, family, friends, and neighbors with children age four (by June 1) through those who have recently completed fifth grade, please invite them to pre-register. Please contact Phyllis Wezeman at 234-4159 or [pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org](mailto:pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org).

## V.B.S. STAFF NIGHT

Our V.B.S. Staff Meeting, for all leaders involved in "Crocodile Dock" will be held on **Monday night, June 1** at 6:30 P.M. in the Board Room.

## 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 9:30 A.M. summer service, Pre-Kindergarten through Fifth Grade girls and boys may leave for Faith Steps classes in the Education Wing or they may return to sit with their families. For Pre-Schoolers, Worship Bags are available in the hallways.



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

### **CHILD CARE FOR JUNE**

#### **INFANT NURSERY & TWOS/THREES CLASS**

During June, Child Care is provided from 9:15 A.M. to 11:45 P.M. Please pick up your child/children before attending the Fellowship time. Janet Mwachande is the attendant every week, assisted by faithful volunteers.

### **CHILDREN'S LIBRARY**

Our Children's Library has moved to Room 221 on the second floor. In addition to books it will feature a display of items from Malawi. Currently, it is open during selected Faith Steps and Second Hour sessions for Pre-Kindergarten through Fifth Grade children. Watch for the Grand Opening!

### **CHILDREN'S MESSAGES**

Children's Messages during the summer season will focus on the theme "**The Fruit of the Spirit:**

**Pentecost Apple-ications.**" Each week a unique use of an apple will connect with one of the Fruit of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5:22-23. The series was developed by Ann Liechty and Phyllis Wezeman

### **FIFTH GRADE OUTING TO CHICAGO**

Our annual Fifth Grade Outing to Chicago (for those who have just completed fifth grade) will take place this summer. Watch the "Church Chatter," as well as email and mail, for details.



Greetings!

**Vacation Bible School. CROCODILE DOCK: WHERE FEARLESS KIDS SHINE GOD'S LIGHT, will be held Monday, June 8 through Friday, June 12.**

**On Wednesday of V.B.S. week, June 10, we will hold a Family Night – “Bayou Blast” -- in the Social Hall from 5:30 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. It will feature a “Cajun” Meal plus activities, games, and music.**

Indi Dieckgrafe has agreed to coordinate the meal for this night of outreach for the families of our Vacation Bible School children. And, we are asking if you would please bring one item for our “New Orleans” menu. We will need the following items:

**Red Beans & Rice**

**[With Smoked Sausage or Vegetarian]**

**12 people to each bring a batch to feed 12 or more people**

**[Note: Zatarain's Red Beans & Rice Mix – available at any grocery store -- is fantastic]**

**Hot Dogs**

**6 people to each bring 2 packages**

**Hot Dog Buns**

**6 people to each bring 2 packages**

**Fruit Salad**

**10 people to each bring a batch to feed 12 or more people**

**French/Italian Bread**

**8 people to each bring 2 loaves (sliced or unsliced)**

**Cookies – Any kind**

**6 people to each bring 2 to 3 dozen**

Yes, this is an ambitious project. But the congregation has always come through for programs in the past – and we know we can count on your help this time as well.

We would greatly appreciate it if you would sign up to bring at least one thing. Please contact Bonnie in the Church office 234-4159 or [btyler@fpcsouthbend.org](mailto:btyler@fpcsouthbend.org) to let us know what you will bring/make. We'll give you details of delivery prior to June 10. And, if you could share an hour or two to help Indi that night, let us know that as well.

Sincere thanks for your support of the ministries of First Presbyterian Church of South Bend.

Gratefully,

Phyllis Wezeman

## CELEBRATE THE JOURNEY!

Our Journey got off to a good start with the historical worship service and old time church social on May 3 commemorating the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first organizational meeting of our church. Thank you to everyone who participated in that occasion.

**Dr. Bob Agnew** conducted the worship service as it would have been at the time of the founding of our church in 1834. He quoted from 19<sup>th</sup> Century editions of the Presbyterian *Book of Order*, including sections explaining that members of the congregation were “not to smile” on Sunday. Though it was difficult, Dr. Bob was able to keep a straight face throughout the service.

**Special thanks go to Joyce Schalliol, event chair, and members of the Congregational Life Committee who arranged and served the “picnic” lunch, including Mary Carol Ringler, committee chair; Bonnie and Harry Shaffer, Kathy and Terry Cates, Dianne and Dave Wojcicki, Sandy Zeiger, Barbara Fick, Phyllis and Ken Wezeman, and Dave Dunlap.**

Our children participated in special activities too on May 3, including making time capsules and a tour of Copshaholm, the historic home of the Oliver family.

**Brian Hoover**, our new church organist, was introduced to the congregation that day, and presented an organ recital after the lunch. His program featured period music from the last 175 years, including Baroque, Late 18<sup>th</sup> Century, Early 19<sup>th</sup> Century, Late 19<sup>th</sup> Century and 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

The photo posters prepared by **Alma McClelland** will continue to be moved around in the church so all members and guests can view the faces of those who shaped our history.

**Many other activities are being planned for this anniversary year, ending with a Grand Celebration on October 11. Check future *Tower Bells* for details.**



Did you know that during the tenure of Dr. Henry Webb Johnson, in the late 1800's, First Presbyterian Church was 'mother' to Sunnyside, Ridgedale and Westminster Presbyterian churches? In 1919, under the direction of Dr. Charles Lippincott, our church financially assisted the Hungarian Presbyterians and they became what is now Memorial Presbyterian Church on Portage Avenue.

## SAFE CHILD FORMS



Forms to be signed by parents and volunteers who work with children are being mailed to all those involved in the child/youth programs of First Presbyterian Church.

The forms are required by the new Child Protection Policy adopted by Session earlier this year. Details were outlined to parents and volunteers recently during a special adult education program, which included a question and answer session.

Also, arrangements are being made to provide Basic First Aid and CPR training as suggested in the new policy. Details of these trainings will be made available soon.

Forms to be signed by all volunteers include a Volunteer Application and Application Supplement, and Guidelines for volunteers in various age groups.

Criminal background checks are required for all supervisory volunteer positions, which include teachers, coordinators and group leaders. (Background checks will not be required for those volunteers whose contact with children and youth is occasional. However, a person who has undergone a successful background check will always supervise those individuals.)

Forms to be signed by parents (for each child) include a Child/Youth Information Form, Child/Youth Medical Information and Release Form, and a Photo Release Form. Parent//Guardian Permission Forms for Child/Youth Activities must be signed prior to any off-site activity.

The Child Protection Policy was formulated by the Personnel Committee and approved by Session on February 26, 2009.

**Among its provisions are requirements that at least two adults be with children and youth at all times, and that no child is ever left alone in the church or on church property. At no time should one adult be alone with one child or youth.**

The new operating 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.

Volunteers in church summer programs, including Vacation Bible School and Redbud programs, must complete the required application forms prior to the start of those programs.



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

## REDBUD SUMMER



Special thanks to the Boy Scouts Troop 584 and Dave Norman for their efforts at Redbud in May. The troops worked on a trench to help ease some of the excess water. They also worked on cleaning up the rope swing area and raking/clearing the areas around the cross and steps to the docks. Thanks for all you did! June is a great time to visit Redbud.

**Check the church bulletin for June events.  
June 14th-18th...**

**Robbie Carnes** and the youth will be working on a project with Buchanan Church. The youth group will use Redbud that week for their overnight accommodations. They'll also work on some camp projects.



Over the next 2 weeks, look for pictures at church from the 1st annual Redbud Photography contest. WE NEED YOU, THE CONGREGATION to vote on them. Winners will be determined by the number of votes they receive.

**Coming in July:  
All Church Worship: July 19th  
Day Camp: Week of July 20th**

Respectfully submitted, Mike Byers Chair-Redbud

## **SUMMER WORSHIP**

**June - July - August**

**9:15 a.m. -10:45 a.m. - Birth - 3 yrs  
(Nursery)**

**9:30 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary)**

**Pre-K-5<sup>th</sup> -Sunday School (Education Wing)**

**10:30 a.m. - Fellowship Time (Social Hall)**

**10:45 a.m. - Alpha Course - Adult Ed  
(Chapel)**

**THE NEXT TOWER BELL DEADLINE  
IS JUNE 22.**