



Tower Bell

Dear Friends,

Spiritual formation is a catch phrase in today's culture. We talk about it, read about it and hear sermons on it, but it can be an elusive subject difficult to define. What does it mean to you? To me it is the process of becoming more conscious of God's presence and how that relationship affects my view of the world and how I live. It is **the challenge to experience God** through worship, Bible study, prayer and in the everyday moments of life—cooking or eating a meal, riding to work or school, visiting with family and friends.

A few years ago for part of a sabbatical, I stayed at the Abbey of Gethsemane near Bardstown, Kentucky. One of its most noteworthy monks was Thomas Merton, an acclaimed spiritual writer, poet, social activist and proponent of inter-religious dialogue. He wrote,

"Every moment in every person's life on earth plants something in his/her soul...**brings with it germs of spiritual reality**... Most of these unnumbered seeds perish and are lost because people are not prepared to receive them."

Yes, God is in the numerous activities of daily living. We just need to learn to notice. Too often, busyness gets in the way. In the midst of such times, God calls us to slow down. **"Be still and know I am God,"** says the Psalmist." Job is encouraged to **"Stop and consider God's wonders."** Jesus set an example and told his disciples to **"Come away by yourselves and rest awhile."**

Kenneth Boa in his book, *Face to Face, Praying the Scriptures for Intimate Worship* writes: **"The key to a growing relationship with a personal God...is time invested in speaking to God in prayer and listening for God's voice...The better we know God the greater will be our willingness to respond in trust and obedience."**

During the coming weeks of summer, take time to slow down and to listen for the still, small voice of God. Find time each day to look for God in everyday events. God is there, and **God is waiting for you to notice!**

Blessings in Christ,

Bob

Memorial Garden

Spring flowers have come and gone in our Memorial Garden at the front of the church. The 800 bulbs opened just in time for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, and were followed by the spring flowering trees. The day lilies and other summer flowers will be in bloom soon.

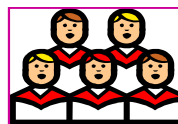
Our Memorial Garden is a peaceful and living place where members of our church and their loved ones can be memorialized. The Garden is provided as a pastoral service to the church's members and their immediate families. It is intended for the inurnment of members of First Presbyterian Church and their immediate families.

Cost of space in the Garden is \$1,500 for one niche, and \$2,500 for two niches. For further information, or to request an application, contact Nancy Shephard at 272-0909, or the church office at 234-4159.

The Memorial Garden was made possible by the generous donations of several church members, totaling more than \$166,000. Funds received from the sale of niches will be put in a trust fund to guarantee the perpetual care of the Garden. The Garden was professionally designed by Foegley Landscape, Inc., who will be in charge of perpetual care.



Summer is coming soon. If the weather hasn't convinced us of the fact we can be grateful for the extended cheering sunlight.



The **Chancel Choir** has been faithfully singing for several months and will soon be taking a hiatus through August.

The **Chancel Ringers** are meeting faithfully and will present their talents in the next couple of weeks. I cannot express my appreciation for the faithful and dedicated members of both ensembles. It has been a pleasure working with talented and enthusiastic people. The services for Christmas and Easter exceeded my expectations and I pray that those who listened were blessed.

On another note, Min Ah Lee, a soprano in the Chancel Choir will be present a benefit recital on **Wednesday, June 9 at 7:00 p.m.** here at the church. This summer she will be studying in Austria for a couple of weeks and this recital will help defray her education costs. She will sing selections by Mozart, Rossini, Schubert, Bach, Gounod, Debussy and more. Be sure to invite your friends who love music. There is no charge though contributions are welcome.

Bradley Krueger, Director of Music

ADULT SMALL GROUPS

COPING WITH LIFE ALONE SERIES

The Coping with Life Alone Series assists men and women who have suffered the loss of a spouse by death or endured the death of a marriage by divorce or separation from their spouse. The series provides a safe environment where grieving spouses are able to express their deep feelings with sensitive facilitators who themselves have suffered the death of their marriage. Each of the six sessions begins with prayer, a short talk or video on the subject, a time of reflection, and a group discussion. First Presbyterian Church of South Bend is one of the supporting congregations for this program.

The six week summer series will be held on Wednesday nights from June 9 through July 14 from 6:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M. at Grace United Methodist Church, 3012 Twyckenham Drive, South Bend, Indiana. Topics for June include:

Wednesday, June 9, 2010
“Being Alone, Loneliness, Stress”

June 16, 2010
“Coping with Grief”

June 23, 2010
“Discovering and Trusting Self”

June 30, 2010
“Changing Relationships with Family and Others”

There is a charge of \$25.00 for the series. For additional information, please contact Phyllis Wezeman at 574-234-4159 or 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, that collects and sells books to fund literacy initiatives worldwide ... continues to collect books. **Please deposit them in the new collection bin in the back parking lot, just off the William Street entrance.** For each book from that bin sold by B.W.B., our Malawi schools receive fifteen percent of the total. 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.

ETHNIC EATING

Ethnic Eating will hold its next outing on **Saturday, June 26 at Luisa’s Café and Swedish Bakery in Harbert, Michigan at 12:00 Noon** Join this fun group for a delightful summer adventure while you enjoy delicious food and wonderful company. For those that would like to carpool, maybe in the church bus, we’ll meet in the back parking lot at FPC, SB at 11:00 A.M. In order to make reservations with the restaurant, please contact Kathleen English at 574-329-3324 or katmanduh@hotmail.com or Phyllis

Wezeman at 574-234-4159 or pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org by **Sunday, June 20.**

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 -- 574-234-4159 or pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org.

TUESDAY EVENING WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY

Our Tuesday Evening Women’s Bible Study (aka Thursday morning), at the home of Ruth Roll, continues each week at **6:30 p.m.** They are studying the book “Getting to Know the Book of the Christian” by Chuck Miller. 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

“Ties to Malawi” is a small group for persons interested in arts, crafts, or sewing. It generally meets once a month to create handmade items from recycled men’s neckties and donates the proceeds to mission projects in Malawi. Since several people are doing prep work and sewing at home, the next meeting of the group will be announced in the Church Chatter. The group is in need of discarded jewelry, especially necklaces and pins. Please leave donations on the table on the Colfax Porch or in the Church office. For additional information, please contact 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.). Meetings are held one Saturday a month, from 10:30 A.M. to 12:00 Noon. **June 12 is the next meeting at Mercy Nyirenda’s house.** The group is currently studying the Gospel of John. For additional information about monthly meetings contact Mlekwa Mwachande – 574-289-5371 or mzatimbewe@yahoo.com or Phyllis Wezeman – 574-234-4159 or pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org.

BIBLE READING GUIDE

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 through December 31, 2010

MISSION COMMITTEE

Mission of the Quarter-Children's Dispensary

Our "Mission of the Quarter," which will end in June, is the Children's Dispensary. This community agency's mission is to enhance the learning and enrich the lives of people with special needs. We will be collecting and assembly "birthday party packages" for over 150 boys and girls who participate in the Children's Dispensary's program on a regular basis.

Please bring any of the following items and leave them on the table on the "Colfax Porch" or in the Church office. Thank you for your generosity.

- Aluminum pans, 9" x 13", Birthday candles*
- Cake mix - any flavor, Can of frosting - any flavor*
- Decorations - like bottles of colored sugar or sprinkles*
- Roll of streamers - any color.*

Tai Chi for Arthritis

**Class begins: Monday, July 12, 2010
10 a.m. to 11 a.m. in the Chapel
Cost: 8 weeks—\$35**

Best proven exercise for everyone, but especially seniors! Wear comfortable loose clothing. Shoes should be non-marking and flat soled, like old-fashioned Keds, light and form fitting to the foot (Cross trainers will feel clunky).

A waiver is required to be signed by everyone taking the class. There is a waiver by The Arthritis Foundation and one by the instructor. You don't have to have Arthritis to get the health benefits of its slow and gentle movements.

Register with Phyllis Wezeman, by calling: 574-234-4159

Debra Leonard, Instructor—574-674-9896

Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) Report

We've met weekly since forming in late March and have used the Congregation Reflection Process/Mission Study results as a starting point to formulate our *Church Information Form*. Our Session and the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry have both approved our *Church Information Form*, and the information from the form is now being entered into the Church Leadership Connection, our denominational website for calling pastors. We will soon receive *Personal Information Forms* from prospective pastors that closely correlate what we are looking for, and at that time we will begin the selection process.

Dave Sykes & Pete Amos, Co-Chairs

Congratulations and Best Wishes

Diane Brasie & Dr. Bob Agnew will be married on May 29, 2010 in Cincinnati, Ohio. An informal reception will be held for them on **Sunday, June 6, 2010 after worship**. Cake and punch will be served. Cards of congratulations appreciated, but please no gifts.



IN MEMORY OF:

*David Fuller—April 28, 2010
Lavetta J. Stankus—May 18, 2010*



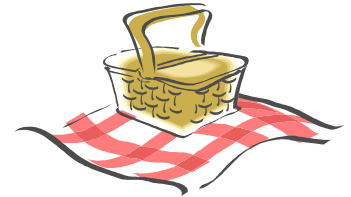
Outreach Lunch Groups

Midtown/South Group will meet **Wednesday, June 9 at 11:30 a.m.** at Allie's Café on Mishawaka Avenue.



Northside Group will meet at Bob Evans Restaurant on **June 15 at 12:00 p.m.**

SUMMER CHURCH POTLUCK



**SUNDAY, JUNE 27
5 to 8 p.m.**

**At Alma and Larry McClelland's
65773 Dailey Road
Edwardsburg, MI**

Please call Alma at 269-663-8875 for directions and food choices. Maps to their house can be picked up in the church office.

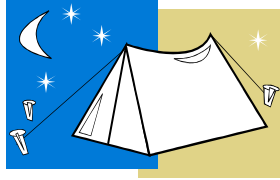
JUNE 13—New Members to be received

New members will be examined at 8:45 a.m. by Session and received into worship at 9:30 a.m.

**Next Tower Bell Deadline is
June 21st.**

REDBUD DATES!

Mark your calendars!



Family Camp—Memorial Weekend—**May 29th—31st**

New Members Day at Redbud—**June 20th**

Family Camp—**July 4th Weekend**

All-Church Worship Service—**July 11th**

Day Camp—**July 12—16th**

Family Camp—Labor Day Weekend—**September 4– 6**

Halloween Party—**October 17**—After church

Close Camp on Saturday, **October 23rd.**

Please contact Mike Byers– 259-7617 -for additional information on any of these events.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



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

During the summer worship schedule, an Infant Nursery and a Twos/Threes Class is offered every Sunday from 9:15 A.M. to 10:45 A.M.

Janet Mwachande is the attendant, assisted each week by regularly scheduled, nurturing volunteers, including:

June 6 – Carol Mwachande

June 13 – Perry Hunt

June 20 – Fran Telfer

June 27 – Ann or Anita Schwarz.

FAITH STEPS

During the summer schedule, children – pre-kindergarten and up – attend the beginning of worship with their families. After the children's message, pre-ks through fifth graders may leave for Faith Steps Sunday School. The summer's theme is "Disciples, Apostles, and Us" and each week will focus on one of Jesus' original "thirteen" disciples, as well as the apostle Paul, and how their lives challenge us to live as Jesus' disciples today.

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.

"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.

K-2 OUTING—JUNE 28

Kindergarten, First, and Second Graders are invited to a South Bend Silver Hawks game on **Monday night, June 28. We'll meet at the ticket office at 6:30 P.M. for the 7:00 P.M. game.** Ks – 2s will be our guests for **\$1.00 Monday:** a ticket, a hot dog, and a pop. Families and friends are welcome, of course, at the \$1.00 rate as well. Please contact Peggy VanLaere at 574-271-5661 or FAMVAN@aol.com or Phyllis Wezeman at 574-234-4159 or pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org **BY SUNDAY, JUNE 20 to make a reservation.**

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JUNE 14 through JUNE 18

Our 2010 Vacation Bible School, "High Seas Expedition: Exploring the Mighty Love of God" will be held from **9:30 A.M. to 11:45 A.M.**

Monday, June 14 through Friday, June 18. There will be a **family night on Wednesday, the 16th.** Children age 4 by June 1 through those that have completed Fifth Grade are welcome.

Mid-highs, Senior Highs, College students, and adults of all ages are needed to use their gifts in this important ministry of our congregation. How is God calling you to be involved? Please contact Phyllis Wezeman at 574-234-4159 or pwezeman@fpcsouthbend.org for further information.



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 9:30 A.M. service. Following the Children's Time, Pre-Kindergarten through Fifth Grade girls and boys may leave for summer Faith Steps Sunday School in the Education Wing or they may return to sit with their families.



Sincere thanks to everyone who supported our annual Malawi Meal, a fundraiser to help meet the educational and nutritional needs of the children and staff of our Nursery School/Orphan Center and Feeding Site/Kitchen in Chibanzi, Malawi.

DELEGATION FROM MALAWI TO VISIT SOUTH BEND

From Friday, June 4 through Monday, June 7, the General Secretary of the Nkhoma Synod of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (C.C.A.P.), Rev. Davidson K. Chifungo, together with the Vice Moderator, will visit South Bend. They will worship with us on Sunday, June 6.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that the first member of First Presbyterian Church of South Bend from Malawi, Mphatso "Terry" Namwali, joined the congregation on May 18, 1997? Since that time, 84 children and adults from Malawi have become members of our Church.

"HEARTS AFIRE" AWARD FROM URC

First Presbyterian Church's FPC Malawi Association, Mission Committee and Staff received a United Religious Community's "Hearts Afire" Award at the National Day of Prayer Breakfast on Thursday, May 6, 2010.

Nominated by Indi Dieckgrafe, a URC Board Member, here is a copy of the letter that Indi submitted for the award.

April 23, 2010

United Religious Community
501 N. Main Street
South Bend, IN 46601

Greetings!

For the "2010 Hearts Afire Award," I would like to nominate a group of six people from First Presbyterian Church of South Bend, Indiana who have been instrumental in developing and directing our "Malawi Ministry."

With the first Malawian joining in May, 1997, First Presbyterian Church of South Bend, Indiana has, to date, received eighty-five children and adults into membership. It is estimated that over 1,500 people from this country in southeast Central Africa currently reside in the Michiana area.

Since 2004, our Church has not only ministered to and with the Malawians in our congregation and this community, it has formed a partnership with the Chibanzi Church of Central Africa Presbyterian in Malawi and the Nkhoma Synod of the C.C.A.P. – a denomination in the central region with a membership of over 1.2 million adults, plus children and youth.

First Presbyterian Church's partnership includes:

Nursery School/Orphan Center and Feeding Site Kitchen – which educates and feeds nearly 300 children six days a week

Primary School – opening to educate grades one and two with additional buildings in the future

Shallow Wells – fifty-six shallow wells have been installed to provide clean water to this remote region

Africa Bags – cloth bags are made and sold as an income-generating activity for the projects

HIV and AIDS Courses – programs have been implemented using indigenous methods such as art, dance, drama, music, and storytelling.

The group that coordinates our Malawi projects includes the first three chairpersons of the FPC Malawi Association, our current Mission Committee co-chairpersons, and our Director of Christian Education.

FPC Malawi Association Presidents

- Mr. Emmanuel Mwachande – First President
- Mr. Mphatso "Terry" Namwali – Second President
- Mr. Jeremy Namwali – Current President

Mission Committee Co-Chairpersons

- Mr. David Norman – Co-chair
- Ms. Mercy Nyirenda – Co-chair

Director of Christian Education

- Mrs. Phyllis Wezeman
- [Coordinator of Malawi projects]

To further explain the partnership projects in which First Presbyterian Church of South Bend is involved, through the dedication and direction of these six people, we are attaching three supplements which tell more of the story..

Thank you for your consideration. I am excited to nominate these people whose hearts truly are afire – both in our congregation and in Malawi, "the warm heart of Africa."

Sincerely,

Mrs. Indi Dieckgrafe

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

YOUTH NEWS!

Thanks to all youth who participated and congregation members who supported Youth Sunday!
The youth worked hard to put it on and enjoyed being leaders of the service.



We do celebrate our High School graduates including Jordan Amos (Adams), Brandon Fewell (Penn), Caroline Mwchande (Adams), Christian Sassano (Culver), Ian Spear (Riley), and Ryne Trowbridge (Penn). We look forward to the future of these wonderful young members.

Two of our High School youth will be attending Triennium this summer. It is an awesome experience for our youth to get to know other youth from our area and across the country. Four days of small groups, fun activities, daily worship and time to meet and hang out with new friends!

Upcoming Events!

MidHigh: Monday Night **June 21** at Dreyer's. 6-8 pm. Don't forget your suit!

Senior High: Silver Hawks game on **June 18**. Meet at church at 7 pm.

Cookout at Proctor's on July 11 for both groups of youth!

We're looking forward to a summer of fun, fellowship and growing together.

If you have any questions, please contact Sarah Proctor.